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'White Christmas' canceled due to construction delay

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In a letter to Grosse Pointe Theatre Board President Danielle Caralis and GPT board members, Paul Schaap, president of the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, announced the theater group's performances of "White Christmas" will not be performed as scheduled.

"Despite extensive efforts to keep our construction project on schedule, we have encountered unforeseen obstacles that have resulted in delays beyond our control," wrote Schaap, lead donor of the project and its namesake. "It is with sincere regret that I acknowledge these delays now prevent Grosse Pointe Theatre from moving forward with the production on the scheduled December 2025 dates at the Schaap Center."

The URIF is a charity formed in 2012 to raise funds for the construction of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts.

"Grosse Pointe Theatre is heartbroken to announce that our production of Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas' has been canceled," Caralis wrote in a statement to the Grosse Pointe News. "On Dec. 1, we received official notice from the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation board and Dr. Paul Schaap that the Schaap Center would not be complete in time to

See DELAY, page 10A



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM KOLOJESKI

One chill dude

A drop in temperature didn't stop Grosse Pointe Farms resident Tom Kolojeski from casting his reel like it's mid-July. He bagged this muskie just before Thanksgiving at Farms Pier Park and was quick to share with us his mid-November mastery.

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Permit parking begins

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — On-street permit parking in a residential area bordering a performing arts center in the final stages of construction on lower Jefferson is being implemented, but won't be enforced until the facility opens.

Even then, because some residents may be tardy in displaying parking permits, police will use a guiding hand rather than strict enforcement to protect curbside spots for residential usage instead of patrons attending shows and exhibitions in the center's 435-seat theater and two galleries.

"We are giving permit parking free of charge," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "Two permits

See PERMIT, page 2A

Pearl brings back free holiday parking on The Hill

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Returning for a second season of spreading Christmas cheer is free two-hour parking on The Hill, compliments of Pearl.

Following the success of last year's endeavor, the boutique is sponsoring free two-hour parking at the street meters on Kercheval in The Hill Business District from Thanksgiving through Christmas. The shop will reimburse the city for lost meter revenue.

"I can't even tell you how many people came into the store to thank us for doing that last year," store manager Gigi Badalamenti said, calling it a feel-good type of promotion.

The small business also noticed a positive impact on holiday shopping during the inaugural season of free parking last December.

"It absolutely was a win-win," Badalamenti said. "People will shop if they can get a spot."

The city of Grosse Pointe Farms also continues to provide free two-hour parking along Mack Avenue.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Custom bags cover the street meters in The Hill Business District, compliments of Pearl.

POINTES OF VIEW

What's on every-one's mind in Grosse Pointe?

Get in on the conversation.

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Erica Harrison
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Big Apple designer returns to small-town roots



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Getting in the Christmas spirit

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — When the Park lost Chloe Zimmeth to college and a career in Chicago, she proved that Thomas Wolfe was wrong about not being able to go home again.

“No matter how long you’re away, you come back and it always feels like home,” she said.

Zimmeth returned to the Park the week of Thanksgiving. Her stay included escorting daughters, Paige, 3 years, and Cate, 10 months, to the Christmas tree-lighting ceremony Saturday, Nov. 29, in the roundabout on Kercheval at Wayburn.

“Our friends that have moved away are back,” Zimmeth said. “It always feels like home coming back.”

Jim Bostock, director of public safety, estimated 300 people attended the event, for which a block of Kercheval was closed to motor vehicles.

Shery Cotton, matriarch of the family that provided the tree and sponsored blocks of lighted sidewalk trees, s’mores stations and fire warming pits, didn’t waste time flicking the switch that set the scene



PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

Shery Cotton, sponsor of the Grosse Pointe Park Christmas tree in the traffic circle at Kercheval and Wayburn, lit the tree in a flash.

aglow.

“Is everyone ready?” she asked.

A couple city officials milled around the tree in anticipation of giving speeches when Cotton’s 10-point countdown hit

zero and — flash — hundreds of pupils constricted in testament to the start of the Christmas season.

“I like it,” cried a toddler.

“If this isn’t a Hallmark



Police estimated 300 people attended the tree lighting.

snow globe, I don’t know what is,” said Mayor Michele Hodges, describing the setting. “What a beautiful community to share this with. Thank you so much to the Cotton family. We don’t get many opportunities to publicly thank them, but they live the spirit of Christmas all year long with all the wonderful things they do; pure generosity, constantly giving, constantly sprinkling glitter all over.”

Activities leading to the lighting included the third annual Little Builder’s Santa’s Workshop, a hands-on crafting activity for children provided by Waref Hawasli, owner of

Pointe Hardware Group. Workshop participation was so great in prior years that, this time, Hawasli staged it in a tent on Kercheval.

“It was an incredible turnout,” he said, a little winded from being at the center of the whirlwind. “I think we had 1,000 or more people come through the tent.”

He’s already planning for next year.

“It was the right approach to take it out of the store and into the street,” Hawasli said. “We’re going to improve on it next year, but I think we’ve reached a good point to build upon, but not make it bigger. That was a lot of people. But it was fun.”

City hops on pool trend

Neff Park pool set for operations, lifespan study

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — As the Farms and Shores look to undertake significant pool complex replacement projects at their respective parks, the City is wading into a \$4,000 feasibility study of the Neff Park pool to determine the full extent of its condition, assets and needs.

“Our parks and rec coordinator mentioned when they opened the pool this year, there were some questions from state regulators on some things that we had to do to open the pool,” City Manager Joe Valentine said. “And going into next year, there was some concern we may

See POOL, page 3A

PERMIT:

Continued from page 1A

per household and, also, a guest pass they’re allowed to put in their

car.”

Impacted roads are Hampton and the 1000 blocks of Wayburn, Maryland and Lakepointe. All are near the forthcoming Schaap

Center for the Performing Arts.

Enforcement hours are 5 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

“Those parking areas are for residents only,”

Sizeland said.

Each residence and multifamily unit are eligible for two permits each.

Jim Bostock, director of public safety, anticipates permit stickers being displayed in a vehicle’s left windshield. Temporary permits for residents’ visitors are likely to be issued as placards for dash display.

“Permit parking enforcement will not start until the center opens,” Bostock said.

“Public safety will give some grace when the Schaap Center opens because there are going to be a few hiccups here

and there,” Sizeland said, “We’ve been in touch with the Schaap Center. When promoting their parking lots, they’re instructing people to not park on city residential streets.”

A united city council approved the arrangement in October.

Since then, residents in the permit zone should have received by mail an informational notice, set of sticker permits and requests for proof of residency, vehicle registration and a description of their vehicle.

“We asked residents to please provide us their information so if we need to contact them, we can,”

Sizeland said. “We want to make this as easy as possible — here are the stickers, put them on your car.”

The only fee is to replace lost stickers at \$10 each.

“We’ll put up ‘no parking’ signs delineating the amount of hours for permit parking only,” Sizeland said.

Parking lots for the center are on Maryland, 44 spaces; at city hall, 88 spots; and 44 spots in Detroit for center staff and performers.

Under the information section of the center’s webpage, schaapecenter.org, the permit parking area is “restricted residential permit parking.”

In related action, the city is measuring traffic flow in the center district.

“Traffic study is taking place,” Bostock said. “Another one will be taken after the center opens.”

Officials of the center reported its opening this month delayed until a date to be determined.

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‘A Crystal Christmas’

Three-generation team wins War Memorial’s first gingerbread house decorating contest

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

When The War Memorial team told participants in its inaugural gingerbread house decorating contest they could bring their own additional edible supplies, the Sandercott family thought of a pretty cheerful use for their leftover Halloween candy.

Licorice lined the walkway, Nerds provided the eyes of the marshmallow snowmen and Sour Patch Kids played in the yard of their gingerbread house.

This winning entry was the vision of 6-year-old Farms resident Walter Sandercott, accompanied by his mom, Jenny, and grandmother, Anita.

“We told Walter he had full say, so his little 6-year-old vision was lots of snow, kids playing, snowmen and Sour Patch Kids,” Jenny Sandercott said. “He really wanted to use his Sour Patch Kids from Halloween for the kids playing.”

The concept was further enhanced by Anita’s mixture of sea salt and coconut to create a crystallized snow effect — thereby inspiring Walter to come up with the name of their entry: “A Crystal Christmas.”

“I liked putting the snow down,” Walter Sandercott said, when asked his favorite part of decorating the house. “... And it got me excited for Christmas.”

When their initial attempt “had a little crash,” the three-generation team learned the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Above, “A Crystal Christmas” was the vision of 6-year-old Walter Sandercott, who competed on a team with his mom, Jenny, and grandmother, Anita. Below, the winning entry, “A Crystal Christmas,” features marshmallow snowmen, a licorice-lined walkway, Sour Patch Kids playing in the front yard and snow made of coconut and sea salt.



hard way an expert tip to gingerbread house decorating: decorate all the sides before assembling them.

Still, they stayed in the game and spent every

last second of the allotted three hours completing their second attempt at “A Crystal Christmas” to perfection.

“We were borrowing frosting,” Jenny

Sandercott recalled. “If anybody had frosting left, we were scraping every last bit of frosting.”

Perhaps it was for the best.

“Last year we also made a gingerbread house at a different place (Mini Picassos) and I ate so much frosting I couldn’t even eat it for a whole entire year,” Walter Sandercott said. “(This year), I didn’t eat any frosting, but I did eat a little candy.”

For her part, Anita Sandercott is no novice to the pressure of a little community competition. She has won the gardening competition in the Trial Gardens at The War Memorial a number of years.

“She said doing the gingerbread house might be harder and more stressful than the Trial Garden,” Jenny Sandercott said. “That was when (the first house) collapsed. But we persevered.”

A total of six teams competed in The War Memorial’s inaugural gingerbread house decorating contest Saturday, Nov. 16, including one family who split into two teams to compete against each other.

Jennifer Sutton, director of public programs and special events, said the event was intentionally kept small for its first year, but War Memorial staff is ready to expand it come 2026.

“One of the other groups did a gummy bear theme,” she added. “They called it ‘Gummy Bear Land’ and there were gummy bears all

over the picture and they had this cute little path and lights they created out of candy. It was super cute.

“There was another one that was called ‘Sleds Away’ and they created a sled hill and made a little person sliding down a hill on a piece of chocolate that looked like a sled. It was really creative. People had some really, really good ideas.”

Community voting proclaimed “A Crystal Christmas” the winner, which was announced during The War Memorial’s Tree Lighting Ceremony a week later and earned the Sandercotts four complimentary tickets to this month’s Breakfast with Santa.

“When we were at The War Memorial for the lights, I saw a helicopter there,” Walter Sandercott said, when he learned of Santa’s iconic helicopter entrance to Breakfast with Santa, “and when we looked at the roof, Santa (disappeared) so he could have been in the helicopter.”

The Sandercott family most certainly intends to take part in the community gingerbread house decorating contest again next year, Jenny Sandercott confirmed.

“Walter already has plans,” she added, hinting at visions of Starbursts and gumdrops.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 8

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe informational and annual planning meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

POOL:

Continued from page 2A

have some struggle getting the approvals we needed based on the status of our equipment. So that was really a catalyst to move in this direction and get this going.”

The comprehensive assessment will identify systems that are deficient or in need of repair; enable the development of an optimized routine maintenance schedule to preserve the lifespan of old and new machinery and their components; and give the city a clear understanding of portions of the pool that are inefficient with resources, such as water usage, heating and sanitizing chemicals.

Its purpose is to set up the city with a structure of required repairs and modernization of the aquatic center, as well as a timeline for expected future repairs and modernization.

“We’ve had some surprises over the last couple years,” Valentine said. “We don’t like surprises, so we’ll try to avoid that as much as we can. ... We really need to get a handle on what our exposure is with that pool.”

The full assessment should take 30 to 45 days, enabling the city to enter into a proactive maintenance program and prioritize any identified

issues as it begins planning for the next fiscal year budget.

“Other communities are in the stage of replacing their pools,” Valentine said. “We’re probably not far from that, but at the same time, if we do the right maintenance, we can extend the life of our equipment as well.”

He clarified that while it’s a possibility the assessment could come back with a recommendation to fully replace the pool, “based on the initial conversations, there’s some things we can do to improve and extend the life of our current equipment. ... The initial assessment is that our structure is strong, but some of the systems need to be updated and

replaced.”

City council voted unanimously during its November meeting to award the work to Baruzzini Aquatics, which also is contracted for work on the Farms and Shores new aquatic facilities.

While the \$4,000 cost is a non-budgeted expense, city administrators believe it will be offset by the expected future savings in maintenance, repairs and resource efficiency.

“I think with neighboring communities building some new pools, this is a question that’s going to come up — what is the lifespan of this current pool?” Councilman Seth Krupp, M.D., said. “And I love that we’re going to

extend this one as much as we can and get all the value out of it, but I think one other thing that would be really nice is to start to draw a little bit of a line in the sand (with) what is the lifespan of the pool, even with the improvements in maintenance, and start thinking about ways we need to fund a big investment like that, perhaps through charitable contributions and city funds and everything else.”

Valentine concurred. “That’s exactly the approach we’re looking to take,” he agreed, “so we can come back here when we talk about the budget next year and have at least some numbers or some estimates we can present.”



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From the Big Apple to Grosse Pointe

Designer returns to her roots

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

When Erica Harrison moved to New York City at age 18, she was chasing more than a dream. She was chasing culture, creativity and a driven vision that extended far beyond the suburban streets of Grosse Pointe. “I moved to New York at 18 to go to Parsons,” Harrison said. “It was like a complete culture shock. I came from Grosse Pointe; it was just like a

bubble. When I lived in New York, I was in an apartment in Greenwich and it was like dropping me in hot oil. But it was awesome and it was really exciting.” Harrison spent nearly 15 years in New York immersed in the design world, first at Parsons School of Design and then in the inner circles of iconic and well-known brands like J.Crew and Ralph Lauren. Her rise began with a part-time role at Melet Mercantile,

a private vintage showroom that catered to high-profile stylists, celebrities and designers. “I had coffee with Bruce Springsteen,” Harrison said. “And I met all these heavy hitters.” That gig led to an offer she couldn’t refuse. While still in school, she was hired as a stylist for a J. Crew’s men’s catalog. “I figured, why not work? Why spend another \$100,000 on school?” Harrison said. Soon after, she was

tapped to help launch J.Crew’s children’s line, working under Todd Snyder and Jenna Lyons, and helping dress a multitude of people with impressive status. One memory truly stood out to her. “I dressed the Obama girls,” she said. “I remember this one time we were outside J.Crew at like 11 p.m at night. We had dressed all the rigs and screwed them down into the truck bed of the semi and then I was just thinking about how the President, his wife and all the kids would come in and see this.” This job introduced her to the world, literally and figuratively, and gave her next-level experiences as they traveled off-season for next season’s clothing lines. “We traveled constantly,” she said. “Argentina was probably my favorite. We’d have to shoot cold-weather clothes in summer, so we’d go to the mountains or to Switzerland or up in the glaciers. I did it for three years and I got experiences I never could’ve on my own dime.”

Eventually, Harrison transitioned to working for Ralph Lauren, where she spent a decade not just designing but storytelling through fashion concept design. “I was a women’s concept designer,” Harrison said. “I didn’t design jackets; I created worlds for Mr. Lauren to walk through. It was all vintage and antique and storytelling. I would go through coffee-table books, movies, image archives at the New York library for hours and to get inspiration for a season.” Working under Ralph Lauren taught her precision, discipline and how to bring beauty to life through clothes. “They call it the University of Ralph Lauren,” Harrison said. “They can rip you down as fast as they build you up. If a color is off by even a shade, the whole wall comes down. Ralph never told you what he wanted; he trusted his workers to do the job right.”

Eventually, life called her home. Harrison relocated to Grosse Pointe Woods for familial matters. “Children, children, children,” she said. “That’s what brought me back.” Now a mother of three boys and a full-time interior



COURTESY PHOTOS

Erica Harrison

rior designer, Harrison is rediscovering her creative spark in new ways through her firm, Hudson & Sterling. She launched the business shortly after giving birth to her second son as she was itching to get back to her creative side. “I started it when I was pregnant,” she said. “The launch was a month after he was born. I just needed to feel creative again.” Her design philosophy is deeply informed by her fashion background: Every room, like every collection, tells a story with timeless elegance. “I always say interiors are like canvas artwork,” Harrison said. “The base is everything. The walls, the floors, the layers, they prime the canvas so the paint, the furniture, the vibe can land.” Her projects span the state, giving soul to a multitude of homes: a historic estate in upstate Michigan and homes in Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe Park. “One of my clients in Bloomfield bought an old house that someone had flipped to be new. We’re making it old again,” Harrison said. “We’re adding character, bringing back the molding, giving it soul again.”

Another exciting upcoming project for Harrison, a farmhouse in Petoskey, has become a personal favorite, bringing back a natural home to its roots. “It brings me back to my Ralph days,” she said. “We’re putting in pine floors just to make them creaky. It’s going to be a cinematic farmhouse dream.” But Harrison isn’t interested in being all things to all people as she has a specific keen eye to a sense of interior design. “In the beginning, I took on any client for the work,” she said. “Now, I only work with people whose vision I align with. I’m not going to fill a home with only Pottery Barn. That’s just not me.” For her, timelessness and taste are non-negotiable. “You want it to be your client’s taste, but it has to

be your taste level,” Harrison said. “There’s a difference. It doesn’t have to be expensive, but it has to look expensive. Otherwise, you’re not doing your job.” The name Hudson & Sterling comes not from trends or industry buzzwords, but from an old-school appreciation for things that endure — materials, textures and stories. “Everything I saw here was white and new,” she said. “I wanted to bring back richness, depth, something layered, some-

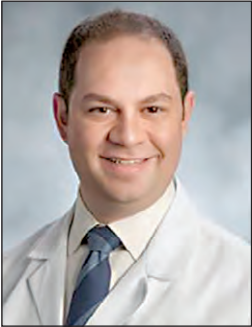


thing lived in.” Back in Grosse Pointe, Harrison admits she doesn’t always blend into the typical mold. “I found my niche of girls from New York and L.A. and honestly, it’s been the best,” she said. While she’s grateful for her city years, she wouldn’t trade them for her current season of life. “I wouldn’t want my kids raised in New York,” Harrison said. “Here, they get to be kids. It is wholesome seeing them have the same upbringing just like I had.” Even now, the creative spark that took her from styling celebrities to designing luxury homes still burns bright. “I love that moment when it all comes together, when the client walks in and sees it,” Harrison said. “That’s what I love. That’s the payoff.” Harrison equates her success to her work ethic and sets out to empower those in her industry to do just the same. “Pick what you really want to do and work as hard as you can in everything you do, because it can change into something else quickly,” she said. “You really can be anything if you have the work ethic and you love it. Don’t give up.”



Above and right, examples of Harrison’s design prowess.

Radiation for Osteoarthritis: An Old Idea with New Promise



By Dr. Ronald Levitin

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, often causing pain, stiffness, and difficulty with everyday activities. Standard treatments such as medications, injections, physical therapy, or surgery can be helpful, but not every patient finds lasting relief. Recently, researchers have been re-examining an older treatment option: low-dose radiation therapy. Unlike the higher doses of radiation used

to treat cancer, low-dose radiation is given at levels much lower than those used in oncology. The goal is not to destroy tissue, but to reduce inflammation inside the joint and surrounding tissues. Inflammation is one of the key drivers of arthritis pain and swelling.

Studies in Europe, where this treatment is more commonly used, suggest that a series of very gentle radiation treatments can relieve pain in as many as 80% of patients with osteoarthritis. Some patients notice improvement within weeks, and benefits may last for months or even years. For individuals who have exhausted other non-surgical options, this may be a valuable addition to their care.

Importantly, the risks at these low doses appear to be minimal. The chance of side effects such as skin irritation, fatigue, or long-term complications is much lower than with cancer treatments. Still, doctors weigh potential risks against benefits, especially in younger patients who may live many decades beyond treatment.

In the United States, low-dose radiation for arthritis is not yet widely offered. Most large studies have come from Europe, and U.S. guidelines are still evolving. Ongoing research is examining which patients benefit most, which joints respond best, and how long the improvements last.

At Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital Radiation Oncology - Lenox Twp. location, Dr. Ron Levitin now offers low-dose radiation therapy for patients struggling with painful osteoarthritis. While not a cure, it may represent a safe and promising option for restoring mobility and improving quality of life. Patients interested in learning more should schedule a consultation with Dr. Levitin to see if this approach is right for them.

Dr. Ronald Levitin is Board-Certified in Radiation Oncology and practices at the Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital Radiation Oncology - Lenox Twp. at 36555 26 Mile Road, Suite 1500. Consultations may be scheduled by calling (947) 523-4030.



Grosse Pointe News

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

City of Grosse Pointe

Floor food

When a man attempted to leave Kroger in The Village without paying for approximately \$200 worth of groceries at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, a confrontation with the manager led to the bags ripping and groceries spilling onto the ground. The suspect fled in a white GMC Acadia without the items.

Michelin Man

A 24-year-old Detroit man was arrested at 12:30 p.m. Black Friday, Nov. 28, as he exited The Village Lululemon with \$500 worth of jackets concealed under his jacket. He is a suspect in numerous retail frauds from multiple Lululemon stores throughout metro Detroit. — Laurel Kraus Report information about these and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Park

Witnessed

The owner of two RedMax leaf blowers saw someone steal them from his vehicle parked curbside in the 1300 block of Berkshire at 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26. The loss totaled \$500. The suspect, a black man of unknown age, wore black clothing. “(The victim) observed the suspect leaving in a white Ram Rebel pickup truck,” police said.

Smokey stove

A wood-burning stove at a house in the 700 block of Middlesex vented its byproduct into the dwelling early Monday, Dec. 1. Public safety officers responded at 3 a.m. “The bottom of the stove had come apart inside the residence,” according to an investigator. “Fire was extinguished. A positive pressure ventilation fan was used to clear smoke out of the home.” — Brad Lindberg Report information about these and other crime to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 82-7400.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Head-on collision

A Kia Niro turning left from southbound Moross onto Mack drove directly in front of a Toyota Corolla traveling north on Moross, causing a head-on collision at 6:19 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22. Neither party was seriously injured and the driver of the Kia, a 31-year-old Roseville woman, was cited for falling to yield causing an accident.

Swallowing evidence

For riding a bike in the oncoming lane of Mack against the flow of traffic at 2:09 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, a 38-year-old Mio

man was stopped and found to have drug paraphernalia in his fanny pack. While being transported in a patrol car, the man told officers that when he saw them pull up to him, he swallowed approximately one gram of crack cocaine that was wrapped in a piece of paper. The man immediately was transported to an area hospital. He also was cited for interfering with traffic and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Disturbing finds

Officers were called to Hall Place for a report of suspicious circumstances Sunday, Nov. 23, after homeowners found bloody toilet paper, used pregnancy tests, emergency contraceptives, a ripped-open stuffed animal and other disturbing items behind their shed near the property line.

Stolen Kia

A locked 2019 lime green Kia Soul was stolen from a driveway in the 400 block of Moran at 12:27 a.m. Monday, Nov. 24.

ID fraud

A 61-year-old Farms man received an envelope in the mail from the post office Monday, Nov. 24, which contained a driver’s license with his name and address, but a different birthday and photo.

Picturesque romance

When pulled over for driving on Mack with high beams continually activated at 8:52 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, a boyfriend and girlfriend both were arrested on active warrants. The 28-year-old Detroit woman had a warrant for aggravated assault in Warren and another for assault and battery in Oakland County. The 32-year-old Detroit man had a warrant for domestic violence in Redford Township and another for child support in Oakland County.

Bite the hand that feeds

A 54-year-old Woods woman placed a tan pit bull mix in her vehicle after finding him wandering near Hillcrest and Ridge at 4:47 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28. For her trouble, when she went to grab the dog by the harness, it nipped her hand. The owner was able to provide documentation to prove the dog is vaccinated.

Intoxicated

A 33-year-old Detroit man driving recklessly along Mack at 1:34 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1, was pulled over and arrested for operating under the influence. A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.21 percent. — Laurel Kraus Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Use your turn signal

A 53-year-old Farms woman was cited for failure to signal while changing lanes around 4:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, after an officer spotted her passing other vehicles on southbound Lakeshore near Fairlake. —Ted O’Neil Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen paint

The manager of a paint store in the 19800 block of Mack reported a case of retail fraud Tuesday, Nov. 18, that occurred in May. The manager told officers a person who identified himself as “Robert” picked up paint and other items worth \$513 and charged them to the account of another painter. The manager also found out the same person carried out the same fraud at four other paint stores.

Stolen 2015 Hyundai

A resident reported her 2015 Hyundai was stolen from the parking lot of her apartment around 10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20. Security footage showed several people around the car before it was driven away. —Ted O’Neil Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Nurse sentenced for tampering

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Ten months following 54-year-old Travis Eskridge’s federal indictment on drug charges, he was sentenced Nov. 25, to two years in federal prison for tampering with a consumer product, specifically the Schedule II controlled substance fentanyl. He was sentenced by United States District Judge Susan K. DeClercq. The case was investigated by agents of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In his guilty plea Eskridge, of the Park, admitted tampering with vials containing fentanyl, a powerful narcotic pain reliever. He reportedly knew the drugs were intended to be administered to patients in the emergency room of Ascension St. John Hospital, where he worked as a registered nurse until caught and fired in August 2022. “When nurse Eskridge placed tampered vials back into the hospital’s

medical supply, he exposed patients in desperate need of pain relief to continued suffering,” said U.S. Attorney Jerome F. Gorgon Jr., in a statement issued by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Michigan. “This is a reprehensible crime. No medical professional should torture a patient. I credit the hospital and the FDA investigators for their work in exposing this crime.” “Emergency room patients trust they will be administered the pain relief drugs that the doctor ordered,” said Special Agent Ronne Malham, FDA Office of Criminal Investigations, Chicago Field Office. “We will continue to pursue and bring to justice healthcare professionals who violate their position of trust and jeopardize patients’ health and well-being by tampering with their pain medications.”

Streetscape strategy favors businesses

By Brad Lindberg Staff Writer GROSSE POINTE PARK — Renovation of the Charlevoix business district streetscape next year will be done in two separate but equal stages. Doing so prevents the entire four-block stretch of road from being closed for the duration, according to city officials. “The road will be closed to vehicles and constructed in two segments, Alter to Lakepointe first, then Lakepointe to Beaconsfield,” according to a written outline by Cindy Paparelli, assistant city manager, soon to be appointed director of the Tax Increment Finance Authority. Renovating Charlevoix is a TIFA undertaking costing \$3.8 million. Nearly half the total, \$1,811,344, comes from a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. Another \$1 million of construction is expected to be drawn from the city budget for road and infrastructure work asso-

ciated with the new streetscape. “When one segment is closed, the other will be open,” Paparelli said. “Though closed to vehicles, sidewalks will be open at all times to access businesses.” “Sidewalks, the street — everything’s going to be torn up and replaced,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “It will impact businesses for deliveries as well as customers going there. To help businesses and promote that they’re open for business, we wanted to make it fair and separate the project half and half.” “Working in partnership with our business community is core to what we do,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “Preserving access while improvements are underway ensures a continuation of business, while also making certain our residents don’t miss out on all the wonderful things our businesses have to offer.” “One of the TIFA’s goals is to heavily promote the Charlevoix business district during construction, making sure we have signage to please visit Charlevoix, check out the businesses, go have a drink and eat some food,” Sizeland said. “On-street parking will be maintained outside of work zones,” Paparelli said. Contractors will be See FAVORS, page 8A



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Enough is enough

Even the most casual observers of the Grosse Pointe Public School System know the relationship between the current board majority and Superintendent Andrea Tuttle is strained. We believe the blame lands squarely on the shoulders of President Colleen Worden.

The most recent example came at the board meeting Monday, Nov. 24, when Dr. Tuttle said Ms. Worden instructed her not to include Trombly Elementary School in the first series of bond projects, which she denied while effectively calling Dr. Tuttle a liar.

Dr. Tuttle added there was another administrator in the room who could vouch for her, but did not name that person. The relationship is so strained, Dr. Tuttle said she would record future meetings with Ms. Worden in order to protect herself.

It is not without deep reflection that we believe Ms. Worden should step down from the board or, at the very least, resign the presidency and not accept any nomination to remain as president at the board’s organizational meeting next month.

Here are other examples that helped lead us to our conclusion.

If readers had a chance to attend — or have since watched the video — of Dr. Tuttle’s evaluation last month, it seemed obvious it was an orchestrated hatchet job by four board members. For her not to receive solid 3s across the board on every metric strains credulity. Dr. Tuttle has right-sized the district, something Ms. Worden has called a “false narrative,” and saved it from near financial ruin.

Even the optics of the meeting were telling. On one side of the table sat Dr. Tuttle and Trustees Tim Klepp, Ginny Jeup and Sean Cotton, the latter of whom owns the Grosse Pointe News. On the other side were Ms. Worden and Trustees Laura Hull, Clint Derringer and Valarie St. John.

Cotton and Jeup rated Dr. Tuttle a solid 3 — the highest score possible on a school superintendent’s evaluation — while Klepp gave her an average score of 2.7. Ms. Hull was at 2.4, Mr. Derringer at 2.2 and Ms. Worden and Ms. St. John both at 1.9. At one point, Ms. Jeup even remarked that she hoped the public, “can see what is going on here.”

Dr. Tuttle ended up with a final average score of 2.7, or 90 percent, high enough for an “effective” rating, the highest a superintendent can get under Michigan law.

After the evaluation, Ms. Worden said she scored Dr. Tuttle the way she did due to her “inability to pivot” to the new board and help “meet its direction, needs and goals.” Dr. Tuttle responded by asking what that different direction was.

We agree. Does the current board majority have some type of agenda yet to be fully unveiled that is focused on things school boards usually do not focus on? Dr. Tuttle also noted she felt like the current board majority “does not want me here because I worked so well with the prior board.”

During her comments at the conclusion of the last board meeting, Dr. Tuttle addressed Ms. Worden.

“You stated I refused to follow the direction of the new board,” she said. “I am genuinely unaware of what the new board’s direction is. When I was hired in February of 2024, I was given clear directions and have continued to follow that guidance. I am curious to know where I missed the mark.”

Dr. Tuttle said those directions included fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, safety and security, facility improvements and multi-year contracts with bargaining units. She has succeeded in each area.

“In the interest of full transparency and our shared commitment to serve this community, would you please clarify the direction the board expects me to follow, because you have yet to do that,” Dr. Tuttle ended.

Ms. Worden said the evaluation was an opportunity to give feedback and claimed she felt “attacked” by what was said.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

A drive along Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores during Thanksgiving week proved a peaceful moment — and provided a spectrum of color for which to give thanks.

Another example comes from a board meeting in June 2024, when Ms. Worden said she would not support the 2024-25 fiscal year budget due to what she claimed was a lack of details. The budget included some \$5.5 million in cuts, primarily related to the end of approximately \$4.5 million in COVID-related federal funding.

That coincided with a decline to the district’s finances and fund equity until fiscal responsibility came into place after the 2022 elections. A majority of the cuts came from not filling 18 vacant teaching positions.

Dr. Tuttle at the time said she believed the budget could be balanced in future years by not filling vacant teaching positions since the district was below the state average for student-to-teacher ratio. The budget did not cut any student programming and included step increases and a 1 percent pay raise for teachers and staff.

GPPSS and the Grosse Pointe Education Association, along with its affiliate unions, eventually agreed to two-year contracts with a 2 percent raise and step increases for teachers after an audit showed the 2023-24 budget ended with a \$1 million surplus. A step increase is equivalent to a 4.2 percent salary increase.

The 2024-25 budget, according to a recent audit (see story, page 9A), added \$3.8 million to the district’s fund balance, bringing it to 14.6 percent, the highest it has been since 2021.

During a meeting Nov. 18, 2024, the board voted 6-0, with Ms. St. John excused, to give Dr. Tuttle an evaluation rating of “effective.” The board then went into closed session to discuss Dr. Tuttle’s contract.

Once back in open session, with Ms. St. John present, she and Ms. Worden were the only “no” votes in a 5-2 decision to extend Dr. Tuttle’s contract by two years. It included 2 percent annual raises and an appeal process for future evaluations.

Ms. Worden called the vote a “late-night, back-room deal” that did not offer the public an opportunity to comment. At 1 a.m. that night, however, she sent Dr. Tuttle an email advising her not to sign the new contract and instead wait for the new board to be seated. Late-night indeed. Earlier this year, tension mounted at a board meeting during a discussion about the salary range as the district sought a new chief financial officer. The position, officially titled “assistant superintendent for finance and business operations,” was listed on the district’s website with a salary range of \$133,777 to \$164,440.

Dr. Tuttle wanted to raise that to between \$180,000 and \$200,000.

“We asked for data of similar-sized and surrounding districts and I did not receive that,” Mr. Derringer said. “I’d like to see evidence we’re unable to attract candidates at the current range.”

“What more evidence do you need?” Dr. Tuttle asked. “We’ve been sitting without a CFO for six months. I don’t know what else to tell you.”

The role was being filled by a consultant. The district did hire a CFO in March who left within two months.

“Was it the salary range that attracted her to apply?” Derringer asked.

“I’m not going to answer that,” Dr. Tuttle replied. “She stayed a very short time. There are other reasons people leave. I’m not going to say it at this table because I think it might be disparaging to the district.

“I’m not going to say anything further,” she continued. “You either want to raise it or you don’t.”

Mr. Derringer then said while the district aims to be in the top 1 or 5 percent in the state, it uses state averages when it comes to teacher-to-student ratios and the same should be done for administrator salaries.

“I don’t want to be preached at,” Dr. Tuttle said. “I don’t want you to continue preaching at me and trying to belittle me in front of everyone at this table.

“If you want to vote no, vote no, end of conversation,” she added. “I’m going to walk away if you continue to preach at me.”

Mr. Derringer responded, saying, “To finish my questions,” at which point, about 14 minutes after the discussion started, Dr. Tuttle said, “I’m going to respectfully walk away from the table. I’ve had it.”

Ms. Worden sat by silently the entire time, not showing any leadership to try and calm the situation.

It is for these reasons, at a minimum, we believe Ms. Worden should either resign from the board or step down as president. Knowing the board majority would not support Mr. Cotton or Ms. Jeup for the role, we think Mr. Klepp should be the next president.

He has shown the ability to think independently on a host of matters. Given his financial acumen — he currently serves as board treasurer — we believe he would be a good choice for president and return the civility and respect toward Dr. Tuttle she absolutely deserves.

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.

With gratitude

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the 50th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade such a joyful success.

See LETTERS, page 7A

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Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Windy	Cloudy
0% SUNRISE 7:44 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	0% SUNRISE 7:45 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	10% SUNRISE 7:46 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	20% SUNRISE 7:47 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	10% SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	10% SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	10% SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 4:59 pm

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I SAY By Anne Gryzenia

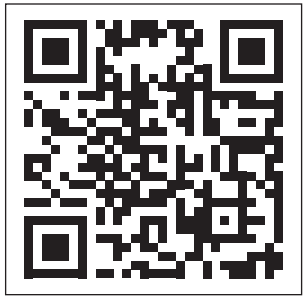
Looking to you for what’s next



At a time when so many newspapers across the country are shrinking, shuttering and struggling to survive, we at the Grosse Pointe News feel incredibly fortunate. Thanks to our loyal readers and advertisers, we continue to evolve and grow and — four years in a row — earn the title of Newspaper of the Year (as well as take home the overall Excellence in Advertising Award). But thriving doesn’t mean we don’t face challenges. Lately, ongoing USPS delays have kept us all on our toes. Some weeks, staff members (from all departments) will jump in their cars to

hand-deliver papers to those who didn’t get theirs on time. We don’t mind — it’s just one little thing that makes a community paper special. We are constantly brainstorming and thinking about what the next best idea might be for the Grosse Pointe News. In the last few years, we have started many new projects, but we would like to hear from YOU. What would make the Grosse Pointe News more valuable, enjoyable and essential for you each week? I know I have some ideas. Did you know we have an app? What could our app do to make your life easier? Would you like it to have games? Weather? Alerts? Dining options? Retail or services recommendations? Something else? And as for sports or features, what if subscribers could type in their child’s name and every article they’ve ever been mentioned in pops up immediately — like a

digital scrapbook you could also print out? We know our community is full to the brim of smart, thoughtful and creative people. Whether you’re a longtime subscriber or just picked up your first copy, your input matters. Please tell us: What features, tools or experiences would make the Grosse Pointe News even better for you? Please take a few moments to email any and all ideas to media@grossepointenews.com — or use the QR code provided. Thank you for your time, your loyalty and your suggestions to keep the GPN the best community paper in Michigan.



LETTERS:
Continued from page 6A

This milestone celebration would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, whose commitment to the community ensures that this beloved tradition continues to thrive. We are equally grateful to the many participants — from school bands and community groups to volunteers — whose creativity and enthusiasm brought the parade to life. Special recognition goes to the Sunrise Rotary and Lions clubs for their dedicated service, as well as to our police and fire departments for keeping us safe throughout the event. We also thank the departments of public works for their tireless efforts in preparing and maintaining the parade route. Together, these contributions reflect the true spirit of Grosse Pointe: a community that comes together to celebrate, support one another and create lasting memories for families.

JENNY BOETTCHER
President
Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce

Jump the shark?

To the Editor:
I’ve been thinking about when Colleen Worden’s school board presidency jumped the shark. Was it before she even had the title, back when she sat on the finance committee and somehow thought a \$1 million gain was a loss? Was it the late-night email to Dr. Tuttle demanding she not sign

her contract? Nothing says good leadership like 1 a.m. panic emails. Was it when, as president, she took a sledgehammer to transparency by handpicking committee members like it was “Survivor” and then abolishing the finance committee altogether? (You know, the one committee that might’ve helped with that whole “confusing a gain for a loss” thing?) Was it when she shut down Ginny Jeup mid-meeting? Or when she flat-out lied about a vote on hiring legal counsel, then got caught? Or maybe it was when she stood by while another trustee berated Dr. Tuttle out of the room, then blamed Dr. Tuttle for leaving? And then there’s Trombly. First, she says that part of the district is inconsequential. Then on Nov. 20, she yells at Dr. Tuttle and calls her a liar for saying Colleen told her not to include Trombly in the bond list. Dr. Tuttle calmly points out someone else was in the room. Colleen’s defense? “Show me in writing.” So now we can’t even hold her to her own words? We’re supposed to believe the person who’s been against the Trombly project from day one suddenly wanted it prioritized? It’s time to cancel the Colleen Worden Show. Our schools deserve better.

NADYA THOLE
Grosse Pointe Park

Stick to facts

To the Editor:
Based on the behavior of GPPSS Board Trustees Colleen Worden and Valarie St. John during

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle’s recent evaluation (per the Nov. 27 Grosse Pointe News), one thing seems clear: No matter what the facts are, if Trustees Sean Cotton and Maureen Jeup support someone, Worden and St. John are against them. Worden and St. John’s approach to rating Dr. Tuttle’s financial stewardship is a clear example. It’s an easily provable fact that Dr. Tuttle improved GPPSS’s financial condition. With her team, she eliminated the prior superintendent’s operating deficit, improving fund equity and leading to a bond rating upgrade. She accomplished this through tough but necessary expense adjustments, over strenuous objections from Worden and St. John and public attacks from their supporters. Despite this, in their evaluation they decided to rate Dr. Tuttle as if all the good financial news never happened. In other words, Worden and St. John wanted so badly to criticize her for anything and everything, they were willing to deny reality. This fits a pattern those two trustees have displayed since assuming board leadership positions this year. They seem compelled to criticize or overturn almost everything the previous board leadership did, whether the results were beneficial or not. This is no way to run a high-achieving district. They should focus on objective analysis of facts instead of obstructing other trustees and administrators.

MIKE VETHACKE
Grosse Pointe Park

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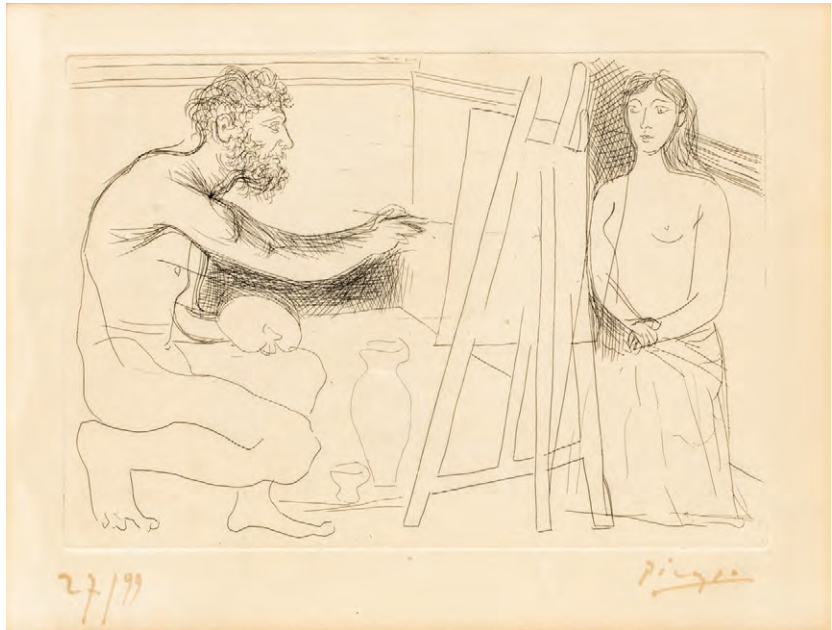


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Just in time for holiday shopping, Small Favors, 17112 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, is celebrating the opening of its toy store, right within the current storefront. Owners Betsy Enders and Kasey Malley saw the growing demand for a fun place for kids and were inspired to expand their toy and games section to be a whole new side to the store. Learn more at shopsmallfavors.com.

New businesses



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE CHAMBER

JJ's Custard Co., a chain of specialty ice cream shops, has made its most recent mark in its largest store yet, at 15229 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Specializing in quality frozen treats, the JJ's family strives to provide quality service with unique and delicious offerings for dessert lovers of all ages. Learn more at custardco.com.



Haven Dental Spa, 19535 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, offers patients a calm environment that combines traditional oral care with spa services. Dr. Elizabeth Kossak and Courtney Nason, NP-C, are thrilled to offer a variety of services to new patients and look forward to connecting with the community. Learn more at havendentalspa.com.

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Grosse Pointe News

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FAVORS:

Continued from page 5A

solicited for bids around the start of the new year. "Construction is scheduled from mid-April to late September 2026," according to Paparelli. "We are going to be setting up a separate email communication for businesses and residents who want to sign up for construction updates," Sizeland said. He said all relevant paperwork has been filed with the Michigan Department of Transportation. From a compliance standpoint, we sent all our documents," he said. "We're still projecting to start the project in April." Evidence of recent water main installation in the district will extend into the streetscape renewal. "Asphalt patches on the street and sidewalk will remain through winter until the streetscape construction begins," Paparelli said. Other aspects of construction are being worked out. "The portion (of Charlevoix) nearest Alter Road is within Detroit and final permitting approval is pending," Paparelli said. "DTE (Energy) will need to relocate five streetlights, portions of their gas distribution main and oversee the electrical service. These matters are on schedule."

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BoE faces tough decision on state grant money

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is applying for a state grant that funds school resource officers and counselors, but may change its mind by the end of the year.

The money comes from a program known as 31aa, but includes a new provision requiring school districts to waive “any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a mass casualty event.” That essentially means waiving attorney-client privilege.

The law defines a mass casualty event as involving significant injuries to three or more people, including fatalities. The change came about in light of the deadly shooting at Oxford High School four years ago.

Three dozen school districts have filed lawsuits in state and federal courts challenging the law’s constitutionality.

John Kava, an attorney with Collins & Blaha, updated the board on the sta-

tus of the lawsuits at its meeting Monday, Nov. 24.

“The deadline to opt in is Dec. 4,” he said. “The courts have agreed to make a ruling by Dec. 19. You then have until 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 30 to opt out.”

The district would receive about \$900,000 this school year if it chooses to accept the money.

“We would absorb that money through our general fund,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle assured the board in the event it chooses to opt out. “I would never get rid of our school resource officers or counselors. I would never recommend getting rid of those supports and security.”

Tuttle also said she did not think the board had the power to unilaterally waive attorney-client privilege for every employee in the district.

The board plans to meet with Kava in closed session Monday, Dec. 8, ahead of its regular meeting for an update. Kava said several districts have passed resolutions authorizing their superintendents to opt out of the grant by the deadline if the courts uphold the law.



COURTESY PHOTO

Turkey trot

Pierce Middle School recently hosted its 54th Turkey Trot half-mile race, orchestrated by fifth-grade teacher Brian Benz. Pictured are the winners. Front row, from left, are Benz, Margaret Czoikowshi, Lizzy Seng, Jake Goulet, Fitch Adams, Anna Fontecchio, Adalyn Hernadez, Michael Zarzycki, Ozzie Choma and former Pierce gym teacher and Turkey Trot founder Jerry Keith. Back row, from left, are Avery Miller, Monroe Anderson, Blake Denner, Jonno Kappes, Emma Ford, Sally Robarge, Richard Buffa and Jordan St. John.

GPPSS receives clean audit

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System received an unmodified, or clean, audit for the 2024-25 fiscal year, which is the highest rating an audit can have.

“We had no findings in assessing your internal controls,” Lisa Vargo of Plante Moran said at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Monday, Nov. 24. “The same applies to the federal program we tested.”

The district’s revenue for the fiscal year was \$104 million. Of that, \$68 million, or 71 percent, came from the state. Another \$23 million was

from local property taxes, with the rest being county and federal dollars.

The district’s expenditures were just over \$100 million. Vargo explained the actual numbers were \$97.3 million in revenue and \$93.5 million in expenditures after accounting for \$7 million in what she termed “pass through dollars” from the state were received and then returned to the state for the Michigan Public School Employees’ Retirement System.

Of the expenditures, \$49 million went toward salaries and another \$35 million for benefits.

The 2024-25 budget, which passed by a 5-2 in June 2024, with then-Trustees Colleen Worden

and Valarie St. John voting no, started off with a \$1 million deficit. It ended up with a surplus, allowing the district to add \$3.8 million to its fund balance.

“It showed a significantly better performance than what was called for in the original budget,” said Keith Szymanski of Plante Moran.

The district’s fund balance now stands at \$14.6 million, or almost 15 percent. It was expected to have been at just under 10 percent. It was 10.1 percent in 2023-24 and 8.8 percent in 2022-23. It had been as high as 18 percent in 2020-21.

The board voted 7-0 to accept the audit.

Artist Katie Ninivaggi opens exhibition at Liggett’s Manoogian Art Gallery

The Manoogian Art Gallery at University Liggett School presents a new exhibition of recent works by Grosse Pointe Farms artist Katie Ninivaggi, on view now through Dec. 19.

Ninivaggi, known for her luminous and contemplative depictions of the natural world, brings to this exhibition a refined body of work that reflects her decades-long exploration of light, water and botanical forms. Her paintings — primarily oils, complemented by watercolors and selected ceramic pieces — continue her tradition of capturing the delicate interplay of nature’s elements with both technical skill and emotional depth.

A graduate of Northwestern University — she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in art — and Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she earned a juris doctorate degree,

Exhibition details

Artist: Katie Ninivaggi
Location: Manoogian Art Gallery, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods
Dates: Now through Dec. 19
Admission: Free and open to the public
For more information about gallery hours or purchasing artwork, email msolak@uls.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

The work of Katie Ninivaggi will be shown through Dec. 19.

Ninivaggi spent many years practicing corporate law before returning to her artistic roots full time in the early 2000s.

Since then, she has established herself as a respected regional artist, creating work for private collectors and commissions while maintaining an active studio practice in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she also teaches occasionally and fires her ceramics in her home studio kiln.

Her artistic achievements have been recognized with multiple awards, including:

- ◆ First Place, New Canaan Society for the Arts Juried Art Show (watercolor), 2003

- ◆ Honorable Mention, Silvermine Guild Juried Art Show, New Canaan, Conn., 2000

- ◆ First Place, Grosse Pointe Artists Association Juried Show (watercolor), 2004

This exhibition marks Ninivaggi’s return to the Manoogian Art Gallery, where she previously exhibited in 2010. Her new collection reflects a deepened focus on water as a subject — waves, reflections, ripples and horizon lines — which has become central to her work the past five years.

Beyond her artistic practice, Ninivaggi is an avid reader, traveler and dedicated mother and

See ARTIST, page 10A

Strategic planning feedback sought

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is seeking community input as it begins updating its strategic plan.

“Stakeholder feedback will be an important part of the planning process,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said. “Community members, parents, students, teachers and all district staff members will have the opportunity to give input on the strengths of the district, opportunities for improvement, barriers for implementation and their vision for the district.”

The survey can be found at masb.jotform.com/team/ldess/grossepointesp26.

Questions include:

- ◆ What are the current strengths of the district?
- ◆ What are some areas of improvement that

should be considered by the district?

- ◆ What current barriers exist that would make it difficult for the district to implement new initiatives or make any significant changes?

- ◆ What is your vision for the district?

- ◆ What three words best describe the ideal district in three to five years?

- ◆ If you could do only one thing to improve the education of students in

the district, what would it be?

The district’s strategic plan was last updated in 2021.

The GPPSS Board of Education voted unanimously at its first meeting in October to contract with the Michigan Association of School Boards to assist at a cost just shy of \$11,000.

Debbie Stair, assistant

See SURVEY, page 10A

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10A | SCHOOLS

Drive to succeed

Maire Elementary School recently hosted a Thanksgiving food drive, with help from the Grosse Pointe South High School varsity hockey team. Coordinated by the Maire student council, families at Maire collected nonperishable side dishes, which were picked up by The Family Center board members Gary Colett and Marianne Langlois, then delivered to the hockey team after a practice. The team then packed the food into individual bags donated by Trader Joe's so each family had all the fixings needed for a hearty Thanksgiving dinner. Each bag also included information about a local turkey drive. The bagged sides were distributed to various Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods and Detroit schools for them to hand out to families.

The South hockey team poses with bags stuffed full of Thanksgiving side dishes.



Above, a handful of Maire Bears with the collected food items.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAMILY CENTER



The Family Center board members Gary Colett and Marianne Langlois delivered collected food for packaging.

SURVEY:

Continued from page 9A

director of leadership development at MASB, said at the time research has shown school districts perform better when school boards focus on five main areas: community leadership, policies, accountability, vision and relationships. “The most important, when it comes to a strategic plan, is vision,” she said. “What is it we want this district to be as

we look to the future?” Stair said the process is meant to identify four to five main goals for the district to focus on over the next five years. “We used to do plans for 10 to 15 years, but you can’t plan that far ahead anymore,” she noted. “Things change so fast that you have to be agile and able to adapt.” Stair said MASB typically does strategic planning in 18 to 20 districts per year. The process is expected to take about five months.

ARTIST:

Continued from page 9A

grandmother. She frequently visits her four adult children and

grandchild and continues to serve the community as a pro-bono attorney. “We are delighted to welcome Katie back to the gallery,” said the

exhibition organizers. “Her work resonates with viewers of all ages and backgrounds, offering a sense of stillness, beauty and connection to the natural world.”

Law enforcement getting access to GPPSS cameras

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Public safety departments in the five Pointes and Harper Woods soon will have access to security cameras in all Grosse Pointe Public School System buildings under certain circumstances.

The GPPSS Board of Education approved the measure 7-0 at its meeting Monday, Nov. 24, with a resolution stating, “Law enforcement access is strictly limited to an ‘articulable and significant threat’ as defined under FERPA (Family Educational Rights Privacy Act), meaning an actual, impending or imminent emergency that threatens the health or safety of students or other individuals.”

Routine security monitoring, minor disturbances or investigative purposes are not allowed. Each activation must be documented by law enforcement and provided to the district within 48 hours. Logs shall include: ◆ date, time and school site, ◆ cameras viewed, ◆ name and agency of the authorizing official and all viewers,

◆ rationale for access and ◆ outcome or deactivation time. The agreement does not allow for facial recognition, which Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said none of the departments have, nor can departments record. John Kava, an attorney with Collins & Blaha who drafted the resolution, said the district records footage and stores it for 30 days, so if public safety departments need to review anything, they could obtain it with a subpoena. The resolution originally only mentioned the four departments that cover cities with schools in them, but board members agreed to add Grosse Pointe Shores due to its proximity to Grosse Pointe North High School and Harper Woods due to mutual-aid agreements departments have with each other. Police can automatically access the system under what the district has termed an “active assailant” situation, applying to a verified active shooter, kidnapping or bomb threat. Verbal approval from the district is required in instances such as credible threats, missing or endangered persons or ongoing violent acts on campus.

DELAY:

Continued from page 1A

bring our show to our audiences. We will be issuing full refunds to our subscribers, as well as single-ticket purchasers. “As disappointing as this setback is, we know there is a bright future for GPT at the Schaap Center,” she continued. “We have learned in the past few years that our strength comes when we work together, that we can be flexible in our art form and that our audiences will support us through the hills and valleys of our trajectory.

Upon completion, this remarkable venue will allow us to stretch our creative wings to fly. “We stand on the shoulders of a 78-year legacy in this community and are confident that when the Schaap Center is turnkey-ready, we are poised to bring another 78 years of exceptional performances to this region and beyond.” “I want to express how deeply saddened I am that these circumstances have impacted your organization; a beloved community institution that has enriched Grosse Pointe for 78 years,” Schaap wrote. “I recognize the tremendous amount of planning, passion and anticipation surrounding ‘White Christmas,’ and I share the disappointment felt by your cast, crew, members, staff, sponsors and patrons.” To further support GPT, Schaap pledged \$100,000 to GPT to “assist in navigating the unexpected challenges posed by the cancellation and allow you to continue fulfilling your mission of bringing exceptional community theater to our region.” He further promised further transparency in providing construction updates. — Jody McVeigh

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Grosse Pointe Garden Center celebrates 75th anniversary

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

For decades, the ever-changing gardens that grace a section of the lakeside lawn at The War Memorial have been a focal point for visitors, whether simply strolling the grounds or pausing for the perfect photo opportunity.

The plots — the Trial, Veterans and Arbor gardens — were created and are cared for by members of the Grosse Pointe Garden Center, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Origins

In 1949, the Alger family gifted their home, known as The Moorings,

to the community as a civic and cultural center. It briefly operated as a branch of the Detroit Institute of Arts before becoming a memorial for war veterans.

“Mrs. Alger, when she sold the house, was concerned about what would happen to the gardens, which were designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman,” said Alaine Bush, a GPGC trustee. “Nine garden clubs volunteered to keep them up.”

Alger arranged that her former bedroom be set aside as the Garden Room, where the clubs could meet.

“The room we still use to this day for meetings was her bedroom,” Bush noted.



The Trial Gardens in 1983.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GPGC

The first meeting featured Vincent DePetris, a local, nationally known horticulturist, florist and gardener, who was appointed chairman of the Grounds and Garden Committee, along with the presidents of nine garden clubs: Garden Club of Michigan, The Little Garden Club, Women’s Farm and Garden, Junior League Gardeners, Grosse Pointe Garden Club, Ibex Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Park Garden Club, Pointe Garden Club and Grosse Pointe Woods Garden Club.

“These women were so ahead of their time,” Bush said. “They jumped in with both feet. Women didn’t do that in 1949, 1950. They were so involved and so passionate. ... They created something that evolved to what we are today. This organization is still here 75 years later and still going strong.”

By November 1950, the Grounds and Gardens Committee transitioned into the Grosse Pointe Garden Center and created its mission: to promote education, beautification, horticulture and conservation through community projects and programs. At its December 1950 meeting, the idea of creating a “test garden” was suggested.

Trial Gardens

By June 1951, a location was selected and in January 1952, landscape architect Eleanor Roche was hired to design the 40-by-80-foot garden. She designed it to resemble a wagon wheel with spokes separating it into 10 garden plots. During its June 1952 dedication, a historic millstone was placed at its center.



The Trial Gardens in 1955.

“The Trial Garden was meant to test new varieties of annuals and bulbs from seed catalogs,” Bush said. “Seed catalogs would send things to the Grosse Pointe Garden Center to plant so the public could see the specimens actually growing.”

Also in 1952, public membership to the GPGC became available for \$1.

In 1953, Roche designed a second garden near the lake. A year later, the space was

planted with 36 varieties of herbs and fragrant plants; it was a popular destination on the back lawn.

“There were many landscape changes to The War Memorial back lawn — a privet hedge was added in 1952, taxus yew hedges and crabapple trees were planted in 1966,” Bush said. “It changed the landscape so much, the area where the herb garden was kept flooding. In 1990, the

Herb Society of America (Grosse Pointe Unit) moved it to the four spots around the millstone. They came up with four themes: culinary, medicinal, fragrant and wedding, which are still the themes today.”

Landscaping additions also led to the “wagon wheel” being re-proportioned into nine plots rather than 10. The spokes, originally gravel

See GARDEN, page 6B



A view of the Veterans Garden.



The millstone

Made of rare granite found only in France, the stone at the heart of the Trial Gardens was brought to America by French settlers around 1763. It was one of two working millstones in the grist mill at Windmill Pointe.

During the War of 1812, the 1.5-ton stone was dragged out and sunk in Lake St. Clair to prevent the British from using it to grind wheat into flour for making bread when they attacked Detroit.

After the war, the stone was retrieved from the lake and purchased by the family of George Lauhoff, who donated it to The War Memorial as a centerpiece for the Trial Gardens.

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2B | OBITUARIES/CHURCHES

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.

Francis A. McCarroll

Francis A. McCarroll, 79, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025. He was originally from Grosse Pointe Park, where he lived and worked for several decades.

Frank, as he preferred to be called, was born May 22, 1946, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Frank J. McCarroll and Julia (nee Byrne) McCarroll, both now deceased. He grew up in a loving, loud and boisterous home as the oldest of seven children, with his younger brothers, Gerald, Patrick and the late Joseph, along with his younger sisters, Mary Louise, Julie Ann and the late Kathleen “Katy.” He and his siblings often spent summers with their maternal grandparents on their farm in Woodsley, Ontario. In 1968, Frank married Karen Lee Beeby. They had two children together, Marya in 1972, and Francis Ryan in 1973.

After high school, Frank acquired a number of degrees and certifications, including graduating from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 1969; U.S. Army Advanced Infantry Training in Fort Jackson, S.C., in 1970; U.S. Army Infantry Officers Candidate School in Fort Benning, Ga., in 1970; U.S. Army Airborne School in Fort Benning, Ga., in 1970; U.S. Army Airborne Jump Masters School in Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1971; and graduating from the Detroit College of Law in 1976.

Frank was incredibly proud of his service in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne. He was a first lieutenant who served as the weapons platoon leader in A Company, 2nd Battalion 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal in 1972, for meritorious service. He made more than two dozen jumps and used his quick wits to survive a particularly harrowing jump when his parachute failed to open.

Frank was a trial attorney and small business

owner and started his own firm, the Law Office of Francis A. McCarroll, in Grosse Pointe Park, in 1988. He worked in several office spaces around the “Cabbage Patch” until he went into semi-retirement in 2014. He enjoyed engaging with community members and assisting them with their legal needs. He was a successful trial attorney and defense arbitrator. Frank also was a natural storyteller with a gift for the use of language in and out of the courtroom. A fellow lawyer used a transcript of one of Frank’s many successful trials as data for a Ph.D. dissertation. The result was an important contribution to the understudied field of persuasive discourse in adversarial contexts.

Frank enjoyed reading, writing, music and photography. He was an avid collector of guns and antique weapons. As a young man, he loved horseback riding and camping. He felt most at home in nature and spent much of his retirement at his cottage in Remus, Mich., on Lake Twentyeight, where he enjoyed connecting with his neighbors, building fires and hanging out with his various dogs. He was a lifelong lover of animals and had 12 dogs over the years. His last dog, Jack, was his all-time favorite canine companion.

Frank was especially honored to serve more than a decade as the commander for the Frederick M. Alger American Legion Post 372, now headquartered at The War Memorial. His dedication to serve and support veterans was one of his highest values and he relished in the camaraderie of his fellow legionnaires.

Frank was a joker and shared his particular sense of humor in a variety of ways. Whether it was telling a tall tale, doing the Monty Python silly walk, making an off-color joke, sharing a favorite comic strip or tickling his grandkids with “the old upper-downer,” he loved to make others laugh and smile. His smile, laugh and the twinkle in his eye will be missed by all who knew him.

He will be especially

missed by his closest family who survived him, including his partner, Karen; children, Marya and Frank; his siblings and their spouses, Mary Louise, Julie (George), Gerry (Sandy) and Patrick (Susan); grandsons, Nicholas, Franky, Max and Leo; and all his nephews and nieces.

Visitation will occur from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. An opportunity to share remembrances will occur at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Legion, Post 372. Checks may be mailed to the Frederick M. Alger American Legion Post 372, c/o The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Contact Commander David Douglas at david.glorys.guns@gmail.com for more information.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Carmen Pozniak

Carmen Pozniak, 79, passed peacefully Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, surrounded by the warmth of her family.

Born April 7, 1946, to Eloy and Sylvia (nee Chapala) Trevino, Carmen blossomed into a woman of grace and elegance. Her life was a living testament to the quiet power of compassion and the enduring warmth of a loving heart.

For 58 years she shared a beautiful partnership with her cherished husband, Richard Pozniak. Their bond was a cornerstone of love and stability. Together, they nurtured a family whose joy multiplied through their children, Kerry Pozniak (Lucy), Eric Pozniak and Dana Pozniak Dondero, and extended through grandchildren, Karin (Josh), Finnius, Rocco, Tanner and Dalton, and the tender laughter of great-grandchildren, Noah, Mason and Ivy.

Carmen was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe and member of



Francis A. McCarroll



Carmen Pozniak



Carolyn Ann Kaczmarek

the St. Clare of Montefalco community. All those who met her know how special she was. She was kind to everyone, caring and always rooting for the underdog. She touched so many and truly loved her family and friends. Carmen always put everyone else first, even up to her last breath. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A memorial visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, with a scripture service at 7 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A memorial Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.. Her family will receive guests starting at 10 a.m.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Carolyn Ann Kaczmarek

Carolyn Ann Kaczmarek, 81, a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025, after a long illness.

Carolyn is survived by her sister, Kate Schuch; sons, Paul, Jason and Dan Fontella; granddaughters, Danielle Huffman and Amelia Fontella; and great-grandsons, Preston Huffman and Barron Huffman. She was predeceased by her parents, Chester and Irene; brother, Chet; and friend, Gene Perye.

Carolyn loved her family and the holidays, traveling and occasional trips to casinos. After she retired as a contract specialist from the U.S. Army TACOM, she enjoyed playing bridge and spending time gardening in her backyard. There were frequent bus trips around the country with her friend, Gene, and Mediterranean cruises with her sister, Kate. She rescued several greyhounds from the tracks and gave them loving homes in their retirement.

Carolyn was happiest when surrounded by family. There were frequent family dinners, as well as game days playing cards and board games with her sons and sister. She was a happy

and outgoing person, always smiling and willing to chat with anyone about almost anything. She was generous, giving and supportive of her sons as they made their way through the world.

Visitation will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m.

Anthony Adam Swider III

Anthony Adam Swider III, 35, known simply as Adam, passed away suddenly of natural causes Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. He was lovingly surrounded in his final moments by his family and closest friends during a brief hospitalization in Danbury, Conn. As Queen Elizabeth once said, “Grief is the price we pay for love.” Adam’s life was a testament to that love and his absence leaves an immeasurable void in the hearts of all who knew him.

Born Nov. 8, 1990, in Royal Oak, Adam was the cherished eldest son of David Allen and Deborah Krystie Swider of Grosse Pointe Shores and the brother of David Spencer Swider II of New York City. From an early age, Adam’s brilliance and curiosity shone brightly. He excelled as a student at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, University Liggett School and the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. His academic journey led him to the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, where he was honored with pre-admission to business school as a high school senior.

Adam’s professional career in finance was marked by innovation, leadership and rapid success. Beginning at Capital One Bank in McLean, Va., his team developed two patents in digital banking technology, pioneering the tap-and-pay systems that millions of people use worldwide today. His career flourished with roles at Citibank, Bank of New York Mellon and most recently as an executive director at Wells Fargo Bank. Beyond his accomplishments, Adam was admired for his integrity, vision and the kindness he extended to



Anthony A. Swider III

colleagues and friends alike.

Music was one of Adam’s greatest joys and he played classical, contemporary and jazz piano at an early age. At 15 years old, he launched a thriving DJ business that earned him the National Association Young Entrepreneur Award. His love for sound and rhythm was matched only by his devotion to his alma mater; his joyful cry of “Go Blue!” was a constant reminder of his loyalty to the University of Michigan.

Adam’s true legacy, however, lies in the love he gave and the joy he brought to others. He was a warm, authentic soul, thoughtful in debate, quick with humor and deeply compassionate. Though he did not marry or have children of his own, he embraced his role as a devoted godfather with affection and guidance to Addison Sullivan, 18; Leighton Waslenko, 7; and Grant Waslenko, 3. In recent years, Adam found peace and happiness in Roxbury, Conn., where he delighted in the rolling hills, quiet forests and calmness of nature. His appreciation for nature reflected the gentleness of his spirit and his ability to find joy in life’s simplest gifts.

Though Adam’s life ended too soon, his family chooses not to dwell on the question of why. Instead, they remember why he lived: to inspire, love, laugh and leave the world brighter than he found it.

A concelebrated funeral memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pregnancy Aid Detroit, 15847 8 Mile, Eastpointe, MI 48021, pregnancyaid.detroit.org/support.

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HOLIDAY Angels

Caretaker families may need a little help during holiday season

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

As someone who has cared for more than one senior relative, the best advice I could ever give: While you are taking care of your loved one, also take care of yourself.

There is probably no busier time of the year than the holiday season. We may tangle with the clock on a good day of holiday prep, pushing ourselves harder than we should. If you are a caretaker to someone else, every list of things to accomplish is compounded.

While wanting to provide the very best of days for those who rely on you, it's easy to crash and burn out long before thier needs do. As I often would share with others, there's a reason airline attendants tell you to put on your oxygen mask before you try to help anyone else — because you can't help them if you are out of commission. That's the hard truth.

Many caretakers find themselves in the position of not only assisting an elderly relative, but caring for their own children and families simultaneously. One person can only be stretched so far before they find themselves struggling. The added stress and activity of the holidays often is the final straw. It's impossible to do it all.

After my mom passed away, my father needed care. He had suffered a stroke and was doing well but needed daily support. We found a wonderful assisted living facility to cover the basics, but the reality is, that is just the beginning of senior care. I soon found that my regular visits were absorbed with taking care of bills, straightening out medical insurance issues, researching and buying mobility aids, getting groceries and personal staples and escorting him to doctors' appointments.

I tried to make sure he was entertained too — with frequent outings to his favorite restaurants or to movies or other fun activities. Since I lived 45 minutes away (so he could be near another relative), many precious hours were spent just driving to get to him.



Even though I was single with no kids, I had a high-profile job that went way over 40 hours per week and juggled several other family responsibilities along with my own physical disabilities. One by one I cut things out of my life to free up my time for dad, but it wasn't enough. When every holiday season approached, the pressure mounted. I would hit a wall and my own health started to suffer.

I needed help. Not for everything, but just to give me some wiggle room to catch my breath — and to focus on enjoying his company during the holiday season instead of running around town with a handful of to-do lists.

Thankfully, I found a great companion care business with kind, trained personnel to come to our rescue. The company we went with was staffed with a lovely team of ladies in their middle years, still young and strong, but old enough to understand the compassion and resources earned from life experience.

They cheerfully grocery shopped, sometimes with Dad, sometimes on their own. They joked with him and drove him to appointments. They took him out for whatever treat he was craving at the moment. They drove around the neighborhood to look at Christmas lights. They made sure his fridge was cleaned of any expired goods and the little kitchenette he had in his room was tidy. They cared.

Most importantly, they became his friends. Sometimes they even called off the clock to just say hello and see how he was doing. What had started out as temporary holiday help became a cherished permanent leg of his care team and friend circle.

We were lucky that he saw the same few ladies more often than not, so it wasn't a new face every time. They got to know him and love him. I got to really spend quality time with him instead of rushing around on frantic. We were able to truly enjoy our last Christmas together instead of it being a blur of checklists.



When he was admitted to the hospital, they were the first to visit his bedside. When he passed on a cold January afternoon, they were the first to offer their condolences.

They were one of the best things to happen during one of the worst times of my life.

I share my story only because there may be some in the same situation and on the fence about reaching out for help. We feel a tremendous amount of pressure and, dare I say, guilt, when we think of having a “stranger” care for the ones we love.

For those who can manage it all, that's fantastic and you are blessed. For those who are at their tipping point, know that these “strangers” don't stay strangers. They are replaced at some point as new friends. Friends who understand, care and give both you and your aging loved one the gift of important quality time together while they tend to some of the more rote details on your behalf.

When I was burned out and stressed, I could not be the daughter I wanted to be to my dad. With their help, I could again. We had fun together in his last few years.

For loved ones still in their own homes, companion care can be the very thing that keeps them there a little longer. So whether still at home or in an assisted living facility where you need a little more holiday or regular help, companion care is a resource to be explored. Just research and be sure you are comfortable with the people you are asking into your loved one's life.

Depending on the type of help you need, there are several companion care companies in the area you can check out. Find the one that clicks for you.

Visiting Angels

Their mission is to empower local seniors to navigate the later years gracefully. They staff compassionate helpers who can make a big difference in quality of life. Their process includes having a coordinator near you schedule an in-home care consultation to learn about your loved one's needs, environment and preferences. Then they'll build a care plan around your loved one's personal routines and schedule. The types of care they offer are varied, so ask for what you need. They will be happy to explain and match a program to your needs.

Here are just a few of their services:

Personal care

A personal caregiver can help with essential daily tasks such as feeding, hygiene or light housekeeping.

Respite care

Designed to give you a break and relieve your caregiving duties for an afternoon, a day or a week, allowing you to focus on other personal responsibilities or work obligations.

Companion care

A companion caregiver can be a friendly, familiar face for a game of cards, a chat over tea or sharing a favorite TV show to help a loved one get through the day with joy while you are at work. Call them at (586) 777-9217 for more details.

Visiting Angels is located at:
20311 Mack Avenue #1,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
visitingangels.com/grossepointe

Home Instead

Caring for Grosse Pointe's elderly since 2007, Home Instead has provided more than 300,000 hours of in-home care for hundreds of local families. Consultants design a care plan that fits your loved one's lifestyle with a consistent caregiver who you come to know and trust. Home Instead believes that quality home care is about more than meeting basic needs; it's about building relationships, offering companionship and ensuring that each client can continue to enjoy life in the comfort of their own home.

Their dedicated Care Pros provide assistance with daily routines, offering specialized care for health conditions or simply a friendly face to brighten the day.

Home Instead offers flexible scheduling and a wide range of options, from a few hours a week to 24/7 care. Their HonorCare app also helps keep you in the loop throughout the day regarding your loved one's well-being. To contact them, call (313) 879-2383.

Home Instead, Home Care Services of Grosse Pointe is located at:
18514 Mack Ave., Ste. 101
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
homeinstead.com

Right at Home

Right at Home provides a range of in-home care options for seniors and adults with disabilities. They understand that everyone's needs are different, so care plans are uniquely tailored to each individual. Whether it's helping with dressing and hygiene, keeping up with medication reminders or simply providing transportation to medical appointments, they want to be there to help seniors face any of life's challenges.

Staying on a routine can provide a sense of security to the elderly and Right at Home can help everything stay on track, with all the warmth of home. Caregivers also are trained to help with a number of specialized services for chronic medical conditions like Alzheimer's Disease, diabetes and Parkinson's Disease.

For more information, call them at (586) 777-7993.

Right at Home is located at:
18000 Mack Ave., Ste. B
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
rightathome.net/grosse-pointe



4B | SENIOR LIVING

Feeding a need

Staff, officials and volunteers of The Helm, the city of Harper Woods and Eastern Market distributed 120 boxes of fresh produce to Harper Woods seniors experiencing food insecurity during a drive-thru pick-up event Friday, Nov. 14, behind Harper Woods City Hall.

The event was created when Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle contacted Krista Siddall, executive director of The Helm, for help providing food to Harper Woods seniors. Through a grant received from the Mary Thompson Foundation, The Helm was able to contract with Eastern Market to create 120 fresh produce boxes of fruit, root vegetables and leafy greens.

The city and The Helm worked to get the word out to Harper Woods seniors that the produce was available, to register to receive the food and then pick up their produce box.

All 120 boxes of produce were distributed within two and a half hours.



Seniors line up behind Harper Woods City Hall to receive their box of fresh produce.

COURTESY PHOTOS

The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall, left, and Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, right, load a fresh produce box into a vehicle.



From left, Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall and Harper Woods Councilwoman Geri LaPratt at the fresh produce food box event.



Staff from The Helm, Harper Woods officials and volunteers and Eastern Market staff at the fresh produce food box event.



Discover the
Melodic Charm
of Grosse Pointe



Take a look at this cover from our sheet music collection! "Hang Your Hat in Detroit" was published by Jerome H. Remick & Co. in 1910. Remick also had a "hat" in Grosse Pointe at 257 Ridge Road (his home designed by Albert Kahn in 1929).



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The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

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www.gphistorical.org
development@gphistorical.org

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site to find out more.



Do you like history? Would you like to volunteer? Scan to learn more!

Memorial Church presents Christmas in Blue Dec. 14

The December concert of the Music at Memorial series at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is one that combines the joyful carols of the season re-envisioned by contemporary sacred jazz

composer Will Todd. Todd's arrangement of these jazz carols were especially written for Andrew Earis and the Choir of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The carols vary from standard swing and beautiful ballads to syncopated grooves and mystical harmonies that Todd masterfully crafts in his works.

The Sanctuary Choir at GPMC will partner with local musicians — Waldon Reed on bass, Jonathan Blanchette on drums and Max Bowen on guitar — in bringing these jazz carols to life.

Along with Todd's jazz carols, the choir also will perform select choral works Todd composed for choir alone that will bring moments of serene contemplation during this holiday season.

This afternoon of music takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the sanctuary of GPMC, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A light reception will follow.

The concert is free and all are welcome to attend.



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- Light housekeeping & nutritious meal prep



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homeinstead.com



Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Six things I’d change if I could

Other than ending all wars, conquering a lot of nasty diseases and rethinking the Electoral College, I would — if I could — put the kibosh on a couple of minor irritants. For starters: I want no more phone calls from robots named Rachael telling me there’s nothing wrong with my credit card, but ... oh ... would I give her my Social Security number, just in case ...?

Car dashboards

Dashboards have gotten out of hand. Drivers need to consult a speedometer, a fuel gauge and the radio. That’s it! Today’s cars have so many gewgaws and gadgets, drivers spend more time fiddling with buttons and manipulating levers than they do watching the road ahead. My car has a screen that I can touch (or talk to) when I want to use

the phone, find a favorite radio station or consult a map. It also came with a 506-page booklet instructing me in the subtle uses of all these doodads. I never read a word of it. Instead, I punch buttons and flip levers until I get the result I want. My car has a camera. I can see my rear license plate and watch myself back up while the “Obstacle Distance Indicator” beeps and buzzes and tries to make me STOP, FOR GOD’S SAKE, YOU’RE GOING TO CRASH! My car used to think I was too close to a brick chimney on the right (I wasn’t) or to a chest-high hedge on the left (I wasn’t). I backed out of that driveway for more than 20 years using my own two eyes and two side mirrors. So there. I only hit the chimney twice.

I remember being thrilled when new cars came with cup holders so I didn’t have to hold that cold can of Diet Coke between my thighs. While it’s nowhere near the luxury category or even top-of-the-line, mind you, my car came equipped with heated seats with separate controls for the driver and front passenger, keyless entry, remote start, cruise control, rear window defrosters, graduated controls for heating and cooling and fan speed and more. All these things have buttons to push or flip or slide up and down or check on. Important warnings are OK. “Fasten seatbelts” and “Low tire pressure” are useful. But who needs a flashing light for something like “Horn Control” or “Requires Registered Technician” or “See Owner’s Manual”?

Bagels

Would bagels be bagels without the holes? I wish they’d make them without holes because when I’m spreading cream cheese on a perfect, delicately toasted bagel, the cream cheese keeps falling through the hole.

TV commercials for drugs that warn: Do not take if you are allergic

There must be a law that requires this statement, which is so bare-faced obvious, every time I hear it I mumble, “Duh ...” to myself.

Film clips that have a “LIVE” notation at the top of the screen

They’re film clips. It already happened. It’s not “live” anymore. It’s recorded. Delete “live” or add “recorded earlier.”

Ironing

Who invented ironing

anyway? Did Plato and Socrates and all those power-hungry Roman emperors wear wrinkled togas or did they have someone (a slave, probably) who showed up every Tuesday to do the ironing?

I looked this up. Greeks in the 4th century B.C. used a heated metal object that looked like a rolling pin to put pleats in their robes. This brings up another baffling question: Who invented pleats? And why?

Presses for ironing and smoothing clothing were unearthed in Pompeii. Irons as we know and hate them were invented in 1882. Steam irons came along in 1926. All this flattening equipment was historically only used for special outfits worn on fancy occasions like weddings and funerals. Ironed clothing was not required for everyday knock-around-the-house stuff.

Airline boarding procedures

I think airlines could fly more planes and make more money if they boarded passengers more efficiently. Why not last rows first, then work forward, row by row? I Googled this, too, because it seems so blatantly obvious. Apparently, it’s not such

a good idea after all. Various airlines have tried different boarding methods. The problem, as usual, is those dog-gone passengers. As people climb aboard, they want to stow their carry-ons in the overhead bins or under the seats. The middle and aisle passengers have to wait for the person at the window seat to show up and settle in. The aisle gets clogged with those waiting and the process drags on. The method just doesn’t work. One airline tried boarding people with carry-on bags first, hoping to get that chore over with. It was unsuccessful. Another airline tried boarding those in the window seats first, then middle seats, then aisle seats. But people objected to being separated from their traveling companions even for a brief time. Another airline tried letting everyone line up and climb aboard willy-nilly. None of these methods turned out to be any more efficient than the current one. And “No, Rachel, I will not give you my Social Security number. Ever. And if you don’t stop bothering me, I’m reporting you to the robot police.”



GPCC winter concert is Dec. 7

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus will perform its winter concert, “Winter Song,” at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. GPCC music director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi programmed the concert to offer a range of music that includes holiday songs, as well as pieces that characterize winter via the dramatic southward flight of geese, the chaotic beauty of a winter blizzard, the majesty of northern lights and the serene calm and stillness that follow a storm.

Adult tickets to “Winter Song” are \$20 and tickets for children 12 and younger are \$5 at the door. Adult tickets also may be purchased online for \$22 at grossepointecommunitychorus.org/ticket-info. Rehearsals for the 2026 GPCC spring season begin Tuesday, Jan. 6. Online registration for the spring season begins in December. The season will culminate with a concert Saturday, May 2, at the Schaap Center in Grosse Pointe Park. For more information about the spring season, visit grossepointecommunitychorus.org.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods, presents its final “Lunch, Laugh and Learn” of 2025, on Thursday, Dec. 18. For the third season, the church welcomes the Judelaires, who will perform holiday favorites. The program begins at noon followed by a chili, cornbread and coleslaw lunch. Reservations for lunch are required and space will be limited. To secure a seat, call the church office at (313) 884-4820 by Tuesday, Dec. 16.



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GARDEN:

Continued from page 1B

paths, were restored to their original width in 1968, then replaced in 1972 with brick walkways, which were restored again in 2024-25.

For years, Trial Garden plots were planted by the garden clubs with donated seeds and bulbs, but eventually the clubs took over the plots and planted them according to annual themes, Bush said. The plots are judged three times each growing season on theme interpretation, construction and design elements, horticultural elements and maintenance. The winning club gets to select the following year’s theme.

“It’s a competition, but it’s a friendly competition,” Bush noted.

Following the pandemic, fewer garden clubs were willing to participate in the Trial Gardens and, in 2021, the largest plot became a three-year perennial test plot.

“Times have changed and garden clubs have declined in number,” Bush said. “Since COVID, it’s gotten worse. One plot didn’t have a club, so for four years it was a perennial test garden; the goal was to find out what was sustainable and what did well.

“In spring of 2024, the



The Hillside Garden became the Veterans Garden in 2012.

80th anniversary of D-Day, we decided to try a Victory Garden,” she continued. “Victory gardens were big during World War I and World War II.”

The garden was a success, yielding more than 40 pounds of tomatoes and 610 peppers, along with radishes, Swiss chard, garlic, herbs and edible flowers.

“There are recipes on the Garden Center website using Victory Garden ingredients that were made in our test kitchens,” Bush said.

Veterans Garden

Near the Trial Gardens sits the Veterans Garden, formerly called the Hillside Garden. It was original to The Moorings and maintained by volunteers.

In 1972, the Hillside Garden was redesigned with new retaining walls, pathways and plantings

by landscape designer Robert Neveux.

“The Hillside elm tree died in the 1970s — Dutch elm disease,” Bush said. “We hired someone to help, because that tree provided shade and now everything was in the full sun.”

In 1983, further renovations were made to the Hillside Garden, including the addition of the Milly’s Way path, named in memory of Mildred Allen, who helped create and grow the Trial Gardens. However, a growing lack of volunteer care eventually led the Hillside Garden to fall into disrepair.

“In 2007, two ladies (Lynn Lutomski-Kiley and Mary Northcutt) were asked to start the Veterans Garden,” Bush said.

With approval from The War Memorial, a goal of \$50,000 was set; however, the economic downturn of 2008 quelled the effort. The project leads also both were diagnosed with cancer, casting the project further into limbo.

“In 2009, the Garden Center reached out to two Advanced Master Gardeners, Debbie Graffius and myself, and asked, ‘Can you fix this?’” Bush said. “We started working on it and by 2011, it looked great. The Garden Center formed a Veterans Garden Committee and dedicated it in 2012.”

The Veterans Garden was designed by landscape architect Gertrude Jekyll, who approached designing gardens as if they were a three-dimensional canvas, Bush said.

“Gertrude was an Impressionist,” she added. “She also was into native plants. She’d say she was working with nature, not against it. So when we designed the garden, we brought in natives.”

Both native and non-native plants fill the 40-by-60-foot tiered Veterans Garden, which has three retaining walls to create separate spaces tied together by color and texture. Two paths in the garden lead to benches, inviting visitors to sit and take in their surround-

ings.

The first chairwoman of the Veterans Garden Committee, Marieke Allen, was a staunch supporter of veterans after her hometown in the Netherlands was liberated from German occupation during World War II.

In 2012, a path — for which personalized pavers honoring veterans were sold — was installed along the lower level of the garden to raise funds for future garden repairs. When Allen passed away in 2024, a plaque honoring the Veterans Garden founders — Allen, Lutomski-Kiley and Northcutt — was placed in the garden.

Its two pathways were restored and its main retaining wall was replaced this year.

Arbor Gardens

The Garden Center’s Perennial Arbor Gardens started in 2010, when Graffius and Bush took over maintenance of the perennial bed closest to the lake.

“In 2015, we removed the taxus yew hedges that were planted in 1966,” Bush said, “creating new beds along that edge of the gardens. New wrought-iron arbors were added as a gateway from the lawn to the Trial Gardens.”

The area was revamped again in 2023, in preparation for the installation of “Les Braves II,” a replica of the D-Day sculpture on Omaha Beach.

The Arbor Gardens were designed with native and pollinator plants installed by Bush.

“People just love all of the gardens,” she said. “This is the only public access to the lake in any of the Grosse Pointes. People not only come to enjoy the lake and all they do at The War Memorial, but you can’t come to an event here without seeing people walking through the gardens.”

More than meets the eye

While arguably the most visible, the gardens are just a fraction of what the GPGC was formed to do.

“They show how heavily, through our work and financially, the Garden Center has invested in The War Memorial, to help support this area of The War Memorial,” Garden Center President Marsha Goan said. “They (the founders) set a foundation and it’s impressive how we’ve built upon that.”

What the club is today extends beyond multiple garden plots and into the community. Since 1953, the GPGC has hosted its annual Grosse Pointe Garden Tour, inviting ticket-holders to browse various private gardens throughout the Pointes for ideas and inspiration.

“Originally we had house tours and would look at a few gardens,”

said Ginny Brown, co-chair of the tour and Garden Center treasurer. “Then we merged with the Grounds and Garden Committee and then started just doing the garden tours.”

“It has grown tremendously over the years,” Bush said. “It went from a few houses and gardens to now seven or eight gardens with artists, music, vendors, refreshments, docents, Master Gardeners, a gift shop.”

Added Goan, “People come from outside of Grosse Pointe. We see 700 to 800 people over two days.”

The tour has led to several Garden Center memberships.

“I was asked to be on the garden tour,” Goan said, “and by being on the tour, you’re asked after that to be on board. I was retired; I wasn’t looking for anything more to do. It’s a very impressive group of women on the board. We’re definitely a working board. We all wear more than one hat.”

“I joined after I retired from teaching in Detroit,” Brown said. “I joined the Deeplands Garden Club, then Marieke dragged me into the Grosse Pointe Garden Center in 2010 and I haven’t left.”

“Our group works so well together,” Bush said, noting the GPGC’s 16-member board of trustees. “Once you’re on it, you’re kind of a lifer.

“... This has allowed me a creative outlet I would not have had otherwise,” she added. “Eleanor Roche and Gertrude Jekyll did this over 100 years ago and are still so inspiring.”

In addition to its annual summer tour, the Garden Center also hosts public lectures about gardening and conservation topics, as well as hands-on workshops — both in the classroom and in gardens — throughout the year.

It also awards scholarships to recent Master Gardener graduates, as

Award winners

The Trial Gardens

In 1955, the GPGC was given an award of merit by the Michigan Horticultural Society for its Trial Gardens, for sustained superior performance for a four-year period. In 1958, the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan awarded it a Special National Achievement Certificate for outstanding accomplishment in the field of horticulture and for “meritorious service in establishing and maintaining the Trial Gardens.” In 2016, Keep Michigan Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, awarded the Trial Gardens the Michigan Award for outstanding contribution to beautification.

The Veterans Garden

The Veterans Garden received a Michigan Award from Keep Michigan Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, in 2015, for outstanding contribution to beautification. In 2018, the Veterans Garden was certified as a Monarch Waystation and is included in the Worldwide Monarch Waystation Registry.

Both the Trial Gardens and the Veterans Garden are on the Grosse Pointe Garden Center’s annual garden tour.

well as to high school seniors who plan to study a field related to gardening.

“It isn’t just garden design,” Goan said. “It’s things that are connected — horticulture, environmental science, sustainability, natural resources. This is our investment in the future.”

So esteemed is the Garden Center, when the Detroit Garden Club disbanded, it asked the GPGC to continue its Legacy Seminar series, which next occurs March 7, and features entomologist, ecologist and conservationist Doug Tallamy.

More resources — including its events calendar, gardening articles and photo galleries — may be found on the GPGC website, gpgardencenter.org.



Views of the Arbor Gardens.



The 2025 Trial Gardens winners.

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Judge rides out his term

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Carl Jarboe’s 31 years as municipal judge was more fun than could fit into his four-hour retirement party.

“I could have gone another term, but 31 years is enough,” Jarboe said.

He didn’t run for reelection Nov. 4. His term ends in January. John Parnell Jr., the only candidate for the seat, takes over then.

“It’s time for younger people to come in,” Jarboe said during the party Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 29, at the Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park. “Younger people have to take responsibility. They are stepping up with Mr. Parnell. We’re leaving the court in very good hands with John Parnell

Jr. I’ve been mentoring him. I think he’s going to be an excellent judge.”

Woods Municipal Judge Theodore Metry, first elected 15 years ago, remembered being a young lawyer arguing a case before Jarboe.

“He was always fair,” Metry said. “That’s all you can do.”

Metry added the experience to his repertoire of learning.

“You have to be even-handed,” he said.

Russell Ethridge, retired a few years ago from 25 years as City of Grosse Pointe municipal judge, said he and Jarboe had a good partnership.

“As he and I frequently discussed, he was the law west of Cadieux and I was the law east of Cadieux,” Ethridge said. “Our departments worked together closely.

There was a lot of mutual coverage. I enjoyed having Carl as my partner in crime.”

“Judges Jarboe and Ethridge were the deans of municipal judges,” Metry said. “I learned from them to listen to everybody, hear what they have to say and be even-handed.”

“As everybody knows, Judge Jarboe is one of the longest-serving municipal judges in the state,” said William Giovan of the Farms, retired chief judge of Wayne County Third Circuit Court and member of the singing quartet, the Forum Shoppers.

“I’m going to miss my staff and meeting on a regular basis the citizens of Grosse Pointe Park,” Jarboe said. “I appreciate the trust and confidence they put in me these many years.”



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Jarboe family, from left, children, Clare Baker and Matt Jarboe; wife, Liz Jarboe; the judge; daughter, Christine Hughes, holding grandson, Ben Hughes; and daughter, Jaqi Pate.



The Forum Shoppers entertained during Jarboe’s retirement party. From left are David Montera, Enel Kinsey, Michael Sawicki and retired judge William Giovan.



Jarboe, second from right, stands with his court staff, from left, Court Administrator Jamie L. Ferszt, Deputy Court Clerk Linnae Bellaver, Probation Officer Steve Johnson and Deputy Court Administrator Meghan East.



25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES & ENRICHING LIVES

ASK THE EXPERTS By Angela Cipriano, Financial Coach

5 ways to keep holiday spending in check — without losing the joy

The holidays are meant to be a time for joy, not financial stress. Yet, for many, the excitement of the season quickly can turn into anxiety when the credit card bills arrive in January. Here are a few tips to help you avoid the New Year stress and embrace the holiday season fully, without breaking the bank.

1. Start with a realistic budget.

Start by determining how much you comfortably can spend without dipping into savings or relying on credit. Remember to account for all expenses: gifts, travel, parties, even wrapping paper. By giving every dollar a purpose, you’ll feel more confident and in control.

2. Make your list and check it twice.

Before you hit the stores, set a limit for each person and stick to it. Remember, thoughtful gifts don’t need to be expensive, just meaningful.

3. Support your local businesses and shop with heart.

Buying from small businesses in Grosse Pointe keeps your dollars close to home and often results in more unique gifts.

4. Get creative with gift-giving.

Think outside the box with handmade gifts, family experiences or charitable donations. Start new traditions

that focus on connection over consumption. Consider hosting a dinner, game night or family movie night to focus on togetherness rather than expense.

5. Focus on what really matters.

Aligning your spending with your values will keep the joy at the center of your holiday celebrations. This can feel more rewarding and memorable than material items.

A joyful holiday season doesn’t come from how much you spend, but from how you feel. When your money choices reflect your values, every gift, meal and moment become more meaningful — and that’s the true spirit of the season.

I wish you a season filled with generosity, gratitude and genuine joy — without the January stress!

Angela Cipriano is a local financial coach dedicated to helping individuals and families achieve their financial goals and gain confidence and clarity around their money. Learn more at aiocoachingmi.com.

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

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GROSSE POINTE

Gabby

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

Pushing the winter blues aside until spring

Dear Gabby: I hate winter. There, I said it. Ever since daylight savings time hit, I have been knocked into a black-hole-level funk. It is dark by 5:30 p.m., I have not put on real clothes in weeks and my motivation is somewhere under a pile of fleece blankets. How do I shake off the gloom and feel like a functioning human until spring? — Dragging in the Park

Dear Dragging: Listen, winter in Michigan is not for the faint of heart. Every year we all pretend to be shocked that it gets dark early — as if this is not an annual tradition

dating back to the dawn of time. You are allowed a slump. The question is how to get out of one. Start small. Put on mascara once a week. Swap the sweatpants for leggings that can pass as pants if nobody looks too closely. Take a 15-minute walk, even if you have to mutter complaints the entire time. Habit experts call this “building momentum.” I call it doing the bare minimum to avoid melting into the couch. Build at least one thing into your weekly routine that feels like a treat: hot yoga, a new book, a Starbucks peppermint

mocha you refuse to feel guilty about. Winter is easier when you sprinkle in things that remind you that you exist outside of work and chores. And finally, start marking the calendar. As soon as Dec. 21 hits, the days begin getting longer again. You are not stuck. Spring will come and so will your will to wear jeans again. Holding the flashlight. — Gabby

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



Look for the beauty around you

DEAR ANNIE: I have lost most of my family and many close friends, and I struggle with depression myself. There are days when the silence in my house feels almost too loud. Over time, I have learned how to be alone without completely falling apart. I have a pet who has been a lifeline for me. This little creature depends on me, greets me at the door, curls up beside me and gives me a reason to get up and keep

going. That steady love has pulled me through some very dark mornings. Every day when I wake up, I ask myself, “Do you want this to be a good day or a bad day?” I always choose “good,” even when my heart feels heavy, and I try to act in ways that support that choice. Recently, my neighbor died from cancer. She tried so hard to stay alive. Watching her fight made me see how precious this gift of life really is. When I asked

my husband if he ever gets depressed, he said no, because he does not live in his own head. His advice is to stop dwelling on the negative and go look for beauty instead. Bird watch, cook, bake, garden, get a cat, get two, notice the small things. I want to encourage people who feel hopeless to choose life and to seek out beauty, but I worry it will sound too simple or dismissive of real pain. How can I share what has helped me without

sounding preachy or naive about how hard depression really is? — Struggling

DEAR STRUGGLING: You are not silly or naive. You are a survivor who has figured out how to keep putting one foot in front of the other. Pets, beauty, routine, asking for a “good day” when you wake up — those are real tools. Keep them. But depression is more than a mindset. It is an



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

illness, and illnesses deserve treatment, not just willpower. The most powerful message you can share is this: “Do what you can at home, but also ask for help.” Encourage people to talk to a therapist, counselor or psychiatrist. You do not lose any strength by seeing a professional. You simply add another person to your team. Choosing life is brave. Choosing help is, too. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. **COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM.**

The bacon jam burger is a fan favorite at Telly’s Place

In 1982, Evans Telegadas arrived from his homeland of Greece and quickly became a business owner in Grosse Pointe Woods when he purchased Nightingale Cocktail Lounge on Mack Avenue. The purchase also included the attached storefront, which was the original Sinbad’s Hair Salon. Some years later, Telegadas took advantage of the opportunity to expand and knocked down the wall between his cocktail lounge and the old hair salon. In 1989, his local watering hole became big enough to welcome 140 guests. The signage outside also changed, becoming Telly’s Place — a nod to the nickname he was given by his softball teammates. Family was important to “Telly.” I’m told his brother, Frank, was quite a fixture at the place, serving as manager, greeter and the entertainment crew. Current owner Jimmy Brennan shared a few fun stories with me. “To this day I still hear great stories about him,” he said. “He was the one always running around shaking babies, kissing hands. ... He used to get up and sing like Frank Sinatra.” Jimmy now shares ownership with Ty, Evans Telegadas’ son. Ty began working for his father as a young teenager, bussing tables. He literally grew up there. “He served. He bartended. He managed,” Jimmy said of Ty earning his ownership. “You name it, he did it, so he certainly put his time in.” As for Jimmy, his journey to ownership started in 2008, with his first bartending gig behind Evans

Telegadas’ bar. “I bartended for 3 1/2 years, give or take,” he said. “I think I was probably the best bartender ever in the history of the Milky Way, but that’s just my opinion. I definitely became very close with Evans and his wife, Kim, and Ty for that matter. But I certainly looked up to Evans a lot. I will forever call him bossman.” As the years passed, Jimmy felt an urge to leave the bubble — or what he calls “a one-third life crisis” — and moved to Los Angeles. While the California suntan was appreciated, his hiatus was cut short. “So I got a suntan for about a year and half,” he said, “and then the phone rang and life came calling.” After 31 years of owning Telly’s, Evans and his wife, Kim, were ready to retire. There were only two people they trusted handing the keys to: their son, Ty, and their “surrogate son,” Jimmy. Needless to say, Jimmy was on a plane, heading home in no time. “And here we are, 12 years later,” he said. “Our anniversary is Dec. 1.” Happy anniversary, friends! COVID brought the option of outdoor seating to Telly’s. It was something they never had before, but now tables line Mack Avenue on a patio that seats 32, where patrons may enjoy the warmer months. It’s a great outdoor dining option for sure. This past August, Ty and Jimmy welcomed a new prep chef, Dion, to the Telly’s family. Dion has brought some flavorful flare into the kitchen. The menu is kind of iconic; it’s rarely changed

over the decades — kind of like if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it — so it was quite surprising when they announced seven new items this fall. The Bacon Jam Burger is stacked with diced bacon and sautéed onions in a sweet bacon jam sauce. Jimmy tells me this has become a quick fan favorite. There’s also Telly’s Deli, a layered roasted turkey sandwich with bacon, Swiss and all the fixings, on grilled rye with Thousand Island dressing.



COURTESY PHOTOS
New menu items: NY Strip Sandwich, Cheeseburger Egg Rolls and Bacon Jam Burger.

Let’s not forget the Jamaican Jerk Chicken Wrap — the same favorite salad, but in the form of a wrap sandwich. There’s also a Spicy Chicken Wrap, of which Ty and his wife, Mandy, are big fans. And there’s a New York Strip sandwich, nestled in a hoagie bun with zip sauce. Bang Bang Chicken Tenders are perfect for those who like a kick. What I’m personally most excited about are Cheeseburger Egg Rolls. Jimmy said they’re on point and one of his new favorites as well. Classic Telly’s favorites include chicken quesadillas, chicken Caesar salad — also available as a wrap — and if

you have never had Telly’s spinach dip, you haven’t lived. Enjoy it with Telly’s chips or rolled up in tortillas. The saganaki just hits differently too.



Spinach dip two ways — with chips and tortillas.

In my opinion, there is a sleeper on the menu in which everyone should indulge at least once and that is the Popeye. When dining with my family, there’s at least one of those bad boys on our table. Jimmy said Chef Dion is on top of his game with daily specials and soup. All the originals still are in rotation, like beef barley and clam chowder, but he’s added a few to the mix. “He’s introduced some new ones that I like a lot,” Jimmy said. “My favorite soup is a new one, a chicken fajita soup that’s amazing.”



Chef Dion’s Chicken Fajita Soup.

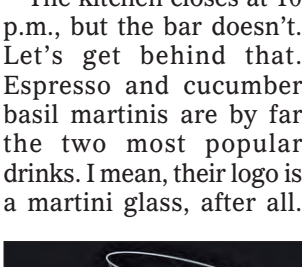
If Jimmy says it’s amazing, I believe him. DoorDash, GrubHub and UberEats are all options for delivery if that is your preference. All of these delicious dishes are prepared



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

with locally sourced products from Eastern Market distributors. Favorites: Chicken Kebab, Chicken Quesadillas and the Popeye. The kitchen closes at 10 p.m., but the bar doesn’t. Let’s get behind that. Espresso and cucumber basil martinis are by far the two most popular drinks. I mean, their logo is a martini glass, after all. Eastown, which recently acquired the rights to sell Yuengling, America’s oldest brewery. Labatt Lite, Bell’s Two Hearted, Stella and Blue Moon are the others. Depending on the season, they might swap out a few to offer options, like an Oktoberfest, winter white or oberon. The coolers are filled with all other domestics and microbrews, as well as everyone’s favorite seltzers. Wines are all locally delivered by Veritas Distributors, Vintage Wine Co., and Great Lakes Wine & Spirits.



Martinis.



Telly’s Place logo.

When I’m at Tellys, one of those two is in my hand. The cucumber basil martini is the best cucumber cocktail I’ve ever had. “We go through a lot of Tito’s,” Jimmy said. “I guess we have really good Tito’s here.” Telly’s maintains five beers on tap, including Yuengling, distributed by

Telly’s is an excellent choice for all game-day viewings. The bar is lined with multiple televisions and there’s honestly not a bad seat in the house. Live entertainment is for special occasions only, but when those special occasions happen, it’s safe to say Telly’s is at capacity. Save the date for Dec. 27, when Telly’s will host Jimmy’s cousin, Joe Fikany, and their friend, Jake. “Should be fun,” Jimmy said. “A bunch of people

See TELLY’S, page 3C

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Every time I buy a cute new winter hat, I seem to be disappointed. I love the way they look, but I either end up with ridges on my forehead for hours after I take it off, my head itches like crazy from the wool or terrible hat hair — so much so that I can’t even take it off when it’s itching like crazy.

As if someone was reading my mind, I saw a hat advertised with satin lining. It was a relatively boring looking hat, but I wanted to try it out. I settled on an Amazon black



hat; I figured it would go with everything and worst case, maybe one of my kids would use it if I didn’t love it. The hat is called the “Zando women’s satin lined beanie” with a price of \$7.49. There are about 20 colors to choose from, so lots of options.

When I received the hat, I thought it looked decent and immediately put it on. I have to say, this hat is comfortable. It’s not too tight, not too loose and the satin is so much more comfortable than a regular wool or synthetic fab-

ric hat. The bottom is cuffed and the shape is like a typical beanie, but it is very flattering.

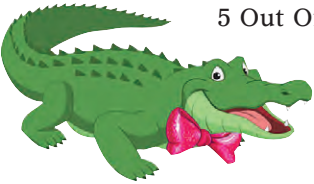
After wearing it hours on end at a sporting event, I almost forgot I was wearing it. And when I took it off, I had no indentations on my forehead and my hair was actually close to how it looked before I put it on.

All in all, I am giving this hat 5 alligators. The price is super low, the look is good, it saves me itch-

ing and annoyance — and I can wear it without wrecking my hair. This one is a winner!

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



Chicken with 40 cloves of garlic

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Chicken with 40 cloves of garlic is one of those recipes that sounds crazy, almost offensive. But I assure you it is not.

This is a French-style braised dish that is slow cooked until the chicken is fork tender and the garlic becomes mild, sweet and silky. The dish can be traced back to Provence where garlic is grown in abundance. So to make use, they would cook a lot of it, low and slow, with chicken until it lost its harsh and spicy bite. The garlic perfumed the chicken while turning into a sweet and spreadable paste. It’s truly to die for.

The braising liquid is made of wine and chicken broth with some fresh lemon juice and sprigs of thyme. It turns into the most delicious sauce spooned over mashed potatoes or rice.

I served the chicken with my favorite roasted potatoes. I peeled and halved yellow potatoes and boiled until soft. It took about 12 minutes. Then I drained the water, put them back into the

pot and shook until the edges were roughed up.

This technique creates a nice crust when roasted. I laid them out onto a baking sheet and drizzled with some melted butter and salt, then roasted until crispy at 450 degrees for about 15 minutes flipping half-way through. They were so tasty alongside the chicken and garlic.

A loaf of crusty bread is necessary to mop up the juice and most importantly to spread the garlic cloves on. Once my kids figured out what to do with the cloves, there wasn’t one left to be had. They loved it!

Pro tip: Most grocery stores like Trader Joe’s sell bags of whole peeled garlic in their refrigerated section. It saves so much time and hassle.

Cheers, Mombeau

Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic

1 tbsp olive oil

2 bone-in, skin-on chicken breasts

4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs

40 peeled and whole garlic cloves

1 small onion, diced

4 sprigs thyme

1 cup white wine

2 cups chicken broth

Juice of ½ lemon

2 tbsp parsley, chopped

Salt and pepper

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Cut each chicken breast in half, through the bone and widthwise. Season each piece of breast and thigh, on both sides, generously with salt and pepper. Heat an oven safe, heavy-bottomed pot with a lid over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil.

When smoking add the chicken skin side down. Brown and crisp the skin for about four to five minutes. Flip the chicken and brown the



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

other side for another three to four minutes.

You may need to work in batches so as not to overcrowd the pan and steam the chicken. Remove the pieces to a plate leaving the fat behind. Turn the pot down to medium heat and add in the garlic cloves and onions.

Season with one teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Let the onions and

garlic brown slightly for about one to two minutes and then pour in the wine.

Reduce the wine by about a third, scraping up any brown bits left behind by the chicken.

Next, pour in the chicken broth and lemon juice. Bring to a low boil and place the chicken pieces back into the pot in an even layer. Lay the thyme sprigs down over

the top. Cover and place into the oven.

Let the chicken braise for one and a half hours. Remove from the oven and let it rest for about five to 10 minutes. Remove the lid and sprinkle in the chopped parsley.

Serve warm on a platter with the juices and garlic cloves spooned over the top or serve straight from the pot!

Aromatic white wines

Wine may be categorized in several different ways, the most obvious being the three basic types — white, red and rosé.

Within each category are several different sub-designations. People who differentiate between different grape varieties like to use several categorizations when discussing them.

The term “aromatic white wine” has been used to describe wines that are characterized by having a wildly floral component, so their aromas tend to be slightly exotic.

More traditional wines

are chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

The semi-aromatics include gewurztraminer (like carnations or gardenias) and riesling (like apple blossoms, fresh limes, pears and several other exotic scents.)

I have always been fascinated with such wines. I especially love them with various Asian cuisines, which frequently include spices like ginger, fenugreek and turmeric.

There are, however, several other white wine grape varieties that have slightly aromatic elements, making them even more mysterious

when they are produced from colder regions and produce wines that cannot be mistaken for more common grapes.

Among the semi-aromatic grapes that fascinate me is pinot grigio, notably those that come from the very cool northern Italian district of Alto Adige. Because the climate is Alpine-cold, the grapes retain a subtle aroma of fresh fennel that can be truly exciting.

However, pinot gris (the same grape) from warmer areas of California often fail to deliver this aroma

because the weather is simply too warm.

Another semi-aromatic grape that has become more popular recently is vermentino, a grape that originates from Italy. Some imported versions display subtle tropical fruit (pineapple?) that can be charming. It has become popular as a warm-weather, patio-pleasing sip.

Viognier (vee’-own-ay) also has taken on its own persona with an aromatic tendency that has been described as “flower basket” spice. Unfortunately, some producers now make it in a richer style, which may avoid some of the exotic aro-



matics it normally has.

Gruner veltliner, a popular Austrian grape, is now being produced by several U.S. wineries. Its basic aroma is slightly like a subtly herbal version of Riesling, with a note of pine forest.

Finally, a wine with a real future here is albarino, which emanates from Southwestern Spain and Northwest Portugal. It has only recently been produced

by U.S. wineries. This cool-loving grape frequently delivers wines that smell a bit like tangerines, nectarines and subtle citrus fruits.

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

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TELLY’S

Continued from page 2C

will be in town for the holidays.”

He’s not lying. If you know Joe, you know it will be fun. If there’s anything Telly’s loves, it’s a full house



Sama, living her best life.

of familiar faces, gathering in joy and cheer. If you find yourself there around midnight, watch your step as Jimmy’s dog, Sama, tends to clock in around that time as night shift security.

Who knew when Evans Telegadas took over a neighborhood cocktail lounge in 1982, gave it his nickname and sold it to family, it would still be the neighborhood hotspot almost 44 years later and counting. Jimmy and Ty have weathered many storms together over the years. Bravo to you both for keeping Telly’s classic, wel-

coming and together as a whole. Again, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!

Follow the Telly’s crew on Facebook at Telly’s Place and on Instagram @tellys.place.

•Fun Fact: Industry nights every Tuesday start soon from 10 p.m. to close. They include half off the bill for food and beverage industry employees; first responders including police, firefighters, EMS workers and dispatchers; hospital workers and active and veteran military members. You all earned it and deserve it.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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Left, Brid Brennan as Annie and James Cosmo as Howard for the 2022 movie “My Sailor, My Love,” written by Jimmy Karlsson and Kirsi Vikman and directed by Klaus Härö.

MOVIE REVIEW
“My Sailor, My Love”
2022 - Not Rated
1 hr 43 min
★★★★☆

There’s a seemingly endless supply of romantic films that feature clever yet predictable dialogue, set in exotic locations, and star picture perfect Barbie and Ken type model actors. So it’s quite refreshing to see a movie come along about the budding relationship between an older couple. Case in point, “My Sailor, My Love.”

It’s the English-language debut for the

award-winning Finnish director Klaus Härö, and what an impressive film it is. The movie was co-written by Jimmy Karlsson and Kirsi Vikman. Robert Nordstrom handled the camerawork and the soundtrack was penned by Michelino Bisceglia. But I’m getting ahead of myself — more about those two later.

The story is focused primarily around Howard, played by James Cosmo (“Game of Thrones,” “Braveheart”). He’s a cantankerous, bitter ex-sea captain, whose failing health forced him

to retire. Howard has reached the point where he gets very little pleasure out of life and is content spending his day doing crossword puzzles in his dimly lit pig sty of an abode. His wife passed away years ago and about the only contact he has with the outside world is the visits from his daughter Grace (Catherine Walker).

Grace, a full-time nurse, stops by on a regular basis to tidy up his home and prepare meals for him. Theirs is a strained



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



relationship, to put in mildly. The two just barely communicate and we eventually learn that while Howard was away at sea when she was a young girl, she had to care for her mother who suffered from clinical depression. So she was robbed of a true childhood. This feeling of resentment is constantly bubbling just under the surface. Finally, because of her busy work schedule, she hires Annie (Brid Brennan), a kindly, soft-spoken widow, to help with her father.

Is Annie ever in for a shock. When she comes to cook for Howard, she’s not met with indifference, he treats her like absolute dirt. He’s so offensive to her, she quits and storms out of the house. At this point you suspect, partly due to the title of the film, that over the course of the next hour or so, the two will eventually fall for each other. Not so. Quite the contrary. Howard quickly realizes the error of his ways, and goes to her to apologize. Thus, the beginning of a sweet romance.

The friendship between the couple brings out a part of Howard that was

buried for years. He’s quickly transformed into a funny, extroverted gentleman who’s just full of life. He takes great joy in telling outrageous yarns to Annie’s grandchildren and there are a couple scenes where we catch him chasing them around his yard. And Annie comes out of her shell as well. Unfortunately, when Grace discovers her father is in a relationship, she’s full of resentment. It’s a side of him she never experienced growing up.

Grace has problems outside of her dealings with her father. She has a less than ideal relationship with her husband Martin (Aidan O’Hare). Because of the long hours she works at her job, and the frequent visits caring for her father, the couple rarely see each other. When he informs her that he might accept a position in Munich, you suspect that it may be the beginning of the end of their marriage. To help deal with the stress in her life, Grace attends group therapy sessions for women. But these seem to have little impact on her and she eventually quits the sessions.

“My Sailor, My Love”

is a quietly beautiful film about relationships, communication, healing, and learning to love oneself as well as others. It’s definitely a dialogue-driven film that touches your soul. The three principals turn in award-worthy performances. Once again, it’s a film that didn’t get the acclaim it deserved

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the setting. The movie was shot on the remote Achill Island off the coast of Ireland. Cinematographer Robert Nordstrom does a wonderful job capturing the stunning beauty of the stark vistas. And the quiet, Celtic-tinged soundtrack by Michelino Bisceglia is the perfect accompaniment to a film shot on the Emerald Isle — it’s a real gem (groan).

If you’re up for a sweet, different sort of romantic movie, don’t miss “My Sailor, My Love.” I must warn you however, be sure to have a box of tissues handy. It is a bit of a tear jerker.

Luckily, there are a bunch of places to catch this one. It’s currently streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card), Tubi, Plex, Prime, and Roku. And to rent on Apple TV, Fandango, YouTube, 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.

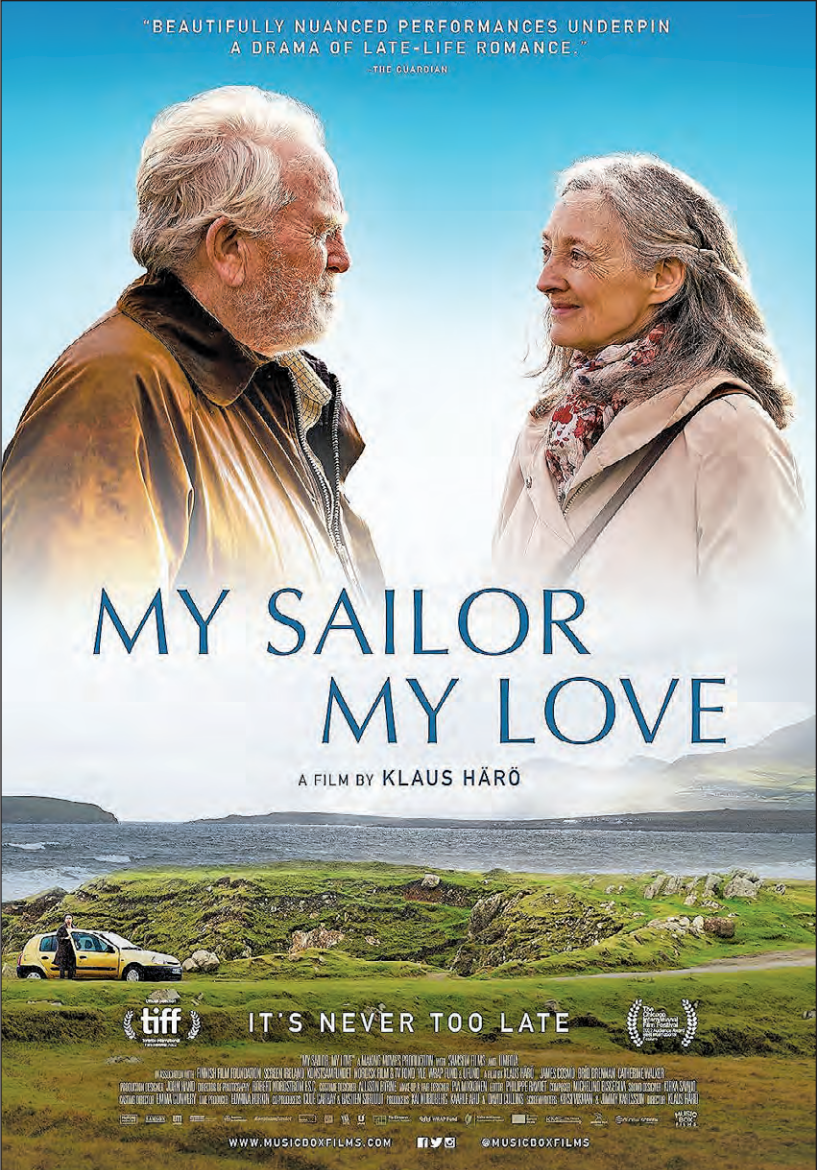
★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ 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 buy it!

If you have any movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com. Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Movie poster.



Celebrating Howard’s birthday.



The couple share a tender moment.



Howard frolicking with Annie’s grandkids.



Taking in the striking Irish scenery.



Harvest time.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

12/4 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

11/27 Solution

Contract Bridge

ABOUT DUPLICATE BRIDGE

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7
♥ J 9 7 4
♦ K 5
♣ A 10 8 4 2

WEST

♠ —
♥ A K 3
♦ Q 10 8 4 2
♣ Q 9 7 6 3

EAST

♠ Q 6 5 4 2
♥ Q 10 8 2
♦ 9 7
♣ K J

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 9 8 3
♥ 6 5
♦ A J 6 3
♣ 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	4 ♠	

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Many players play only rubber bridge and are not interested in duplicate bridge. This is a pity, because there is no doubt that duplicate provides a means for vast improvement of one's game.

The average rubber-bridge player who makes a mistake tends to forget about it quickly or might not even be aware of his transgression. But the duplicate player who makes a mistake cannot escape as easily, since the score slip indicates that other players

who held the same cards did not get the same poor result.

Furthermore, because the duplicate player is competing against contestants at other tables, he is naturally more inclined, as a matter of pride, to do the best he can with the cards he holds.

Consider this deal where at one table, West led the K-A and another heart against four spades. Declarer ruffed, cashed the K-A of diamonds and ruffed the six of diamonds with the seven of spades. East overruffed with the queen and returned a trump, and South later lost another diamond trick to go down one.

At several other tables, South made four spades by playing more carefully. The first five tricks went exactly the same way, but at trick six, South took the precaution of trumping the six of diamonds with the ace! He then cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a club and trumped the jack of diamonds with dummy's seven. East overruffed with the queen, but declarer had the rest of the tricks and his contract.

In rubber bridge, the declarer who failed might not have given his mis-play any further thought or might not even have known he had made an error. But in duplicate bridge, his culpability would be evident, because other declarers had succeeded where he hadn't by finding a superior line of play.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 4, 2025:

You are freethinking, courageous and determined. You can be persuasive with your opinions. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore meditation, prayer or introspection to explore your higher consciousness. This year becomes more exciting as it goes along.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Pay attention to everything you say and do, because today's Full Moon introduces an accident-prone influence for your sign. Avoid controversial subjects. They might turn into arguments in a New York minute. (People are touchy during the Full Moon.) Tonight: Stay calm.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Pay attention to financial matters today -- anything that affects your possessions and wealth -- because today's Full Moon is taking place in your Money House. You might feel torn between hanging on to your money versus paying out an obligation. Tonight: Patience with finances.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today the only Full Moon in your sign all year is taking place, which is why you might feel heightened emotions about everything. The tricky part is, this is how many other people feel as well! All these feelings flying around can trigger arguments or tension. Keep calm and carry on. Tonight: Stay chill.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Today's Full Moon might create tension with work colleagues or your dealings with health care people or your pet. This is because every Full Moon is in opposition of the Sun and the Moon, which can stretch people more than they want to be stretched. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Parents need to be patient with their kids today, and likewise, all LEOs need to be patient with their friends. Today's Full Moon can create divisiveness or irritation, certainly impatience. Now is the time to remember that patience is the antidote to anger. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You might feel caught in a tug-of-war today between trying to please the demands of home and family versus the demands of your career and your reputation in the community. You can't please both. Today, however, I would not ignore the demands of home and family if I were you. Tonight: Observe.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is an accident-prone day for your sign, which means you have to slow down and take it easy. Be aware. Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid a mishap, an accident or a regrettable embarrassment. For starters, avoid arguments. Tonight: Be moderate..

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Financial disputes might arise today because of the oppositional energy of today's Full Moon. Table these discussions for another day to avoid arguments and disappointing results? Frequently, problems increase before a Full Moon, then afterward they diminish. Factoid. Tonight: Check your money..

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the only Full Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which might trigger some tension between you and spouses, partners and close friends. Your best recourse is to be patient. Keep smiling. Go along to get along. This Full Moon energy will dissipate in 24 hours. Tonight: Be patient.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be patient with co-workers as well as with pet-related situations, because today's Full Moon might create problems. In 24 hours, this same problem might almost disappear. Therefore, be patient and let this day unfold with a minimum of tension and anxiety. Take a moment to collect yourself. Enjoy your day. Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Tension with partners, romantic liaisons and children might occur today because of the Full Moon. Therefore, do nothing that will encourage this. Be extra patient with friends, lovers, romantic partners and children. Take it easy. What's the rush? Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

You might feel pulled in two directions today, trying to deal with the demands of home and family versus the demands of your career and your external world. This particular Full Moon urges you to take care of public matters and your career. Stay on top of things. Tonight: Show respect.

BORN TODAY
Musician, businessman Jay-Z (1969), actress Marisa Tomei (1964), actor Jeff Bridges (1949).

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson December 4, 2025

ACROSS

- 1 to none
5 Joins with heat
10 Bearded antelope
13 Bavaria-based automaker
14 Fell face-first
15 Dairy farm sounds
16 Papa's papa, perhaps (In this clue's answer, note letters 5-6 and 8-9)
18 Assistant
19 Rebounds, as sound
20 Longed (for)
22 Place where waves crash
23 Corp. top banana
25 Refuse to share
26 Annual celebration of Hawaiian fashion and heritage (... letters 2-3 and 5-6)
31 Dude
34 Mentor to many Minions
35 Professor's job protection flag
36 Degree for many profs
38 Future flower
39 Deuce in tennis, e.g.
40 Like the land of Cusco and Kuzco
42 Organ you might pierce
43 Roll in a yard?

- 44 "What's cooking, ?" (... letters 2-3 and 6-7)
47 Actress Verdalos
48 Pet doc in UV
49 The "U"
54 Water cooler?
57 Zodiac bull
58 Cheer (for)
59 What city streets typically do (... letters 4-5 and 9-10)
62 Major musical work
63 Wizard's billowy garment
64 Otherwise
65 After-tax amount
66 Harmonizes
67 Mailbox feature

DOWN

- 1 Wise people
2 Stagger
3 State that borders Canada
4 Like a melancholic key
5 Bundles of bills
6 GPS guess
7 Ran
8 "ever stop to think ..."
9 Real eye sore
10 Absolutely losing it
11 Connecting point
12 Took advantage of

- 15 Strand on an island
17 Consider to be
21 "Arabian Nights" prince
23 Bit of cheese in poutine
24 Bird that lays large green eggs
27 "Eww, hard pass"
28 One-eighty
29 Quartet minus one
30 Pay attention to
31 Toot your own horn
32 Home makeover, briefly
33 Thing that's different from the rest
37 Pacific island nation
38 Try to get a reaction out of

- 41 Formal decrees
42 Scrape (out)
45 Excessively
46 Green burrito bowl topper, for short
50 Pieces of fishing tackle
51 Online instigator
52 brothers ("Avengers: Endgame" directors)
53 Positive quality
54 Mineral obtained from leafy greens
55 Deal with difficulty
56 Privately includes on an email
57 Disapproving clucks
60 Charged particle
61 Anatomical pouch

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

11/27 Solution

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12/4

Doubles Down by Frederick Lavoie

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	
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44											46		
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54	55					56				57			
58						59		60	61				
62						63					64		
65						66						67	

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR DOG'S COLLAR LATELY?

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD?

MAYBE IT'S TOO TIGHT

LOOSEN IT, YOU BLOCKHEAD!

© 1978 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

www.snoopy.com

SCAULZ

Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno

This relationship feels a little stale. What if tonight I pull you out of the hat?

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe

GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR, I'M THE CANDIDATE FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

I INTEND TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN THIS TOWN. CAN I COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT?

DON'T BE DAFT, LAD. HE CAUSES MOST OF THE PROBLEMS IN THIS TOWN

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GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

NEXT TIME, DON'T BE SO RUDE WHEN YOU COMPLAIN TO THE AIRLINE ABOUT LOSING YOUR LUGGAGE.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR EXISTENCE ON PLANET EARTH.

YOU'RE GOOD TO GO!

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Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

COME ON. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

HOW CANDY CORN HAPPENED...

DON'T DO IT! —

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

I'M TAKING A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

YOU ACTUALLY HAD AN EDUCATION TO CONTINUE?

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GREG + MORT WALKER

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

"DON'T SAY ANYTHING, LEROY... I HEARD ENOUGH FROM THE PEOPLE BEHIND ME IN THE DRIVE-THRU LANE."

OK, TIME TO GET IN SHAPE!

FIRST THING IS TOUCHING YOUR TOES

I AM TOUCHING MY TOES...

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www.thelockhorns.com

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Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

"DENNIS REALLY TESTED MY PATIENCE TODAY."

"AND LET ME GUESS... YOU FAILED."

YES, I KNOW. I COULD SEE FROM HALF A MILE AWAY THAT YOU WERE DEPRESSED.

The pandemic is over!? Why didn't anyone tell me!?

I knew we forgot someone in that message thread back in 2022 ...

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Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



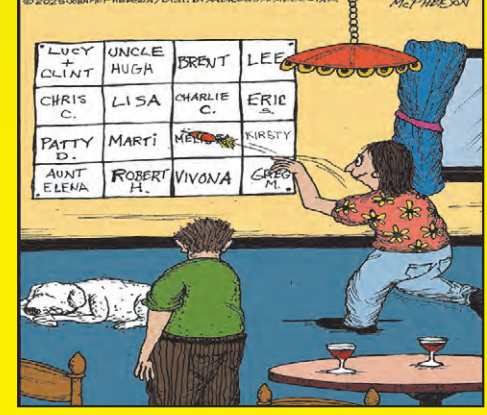
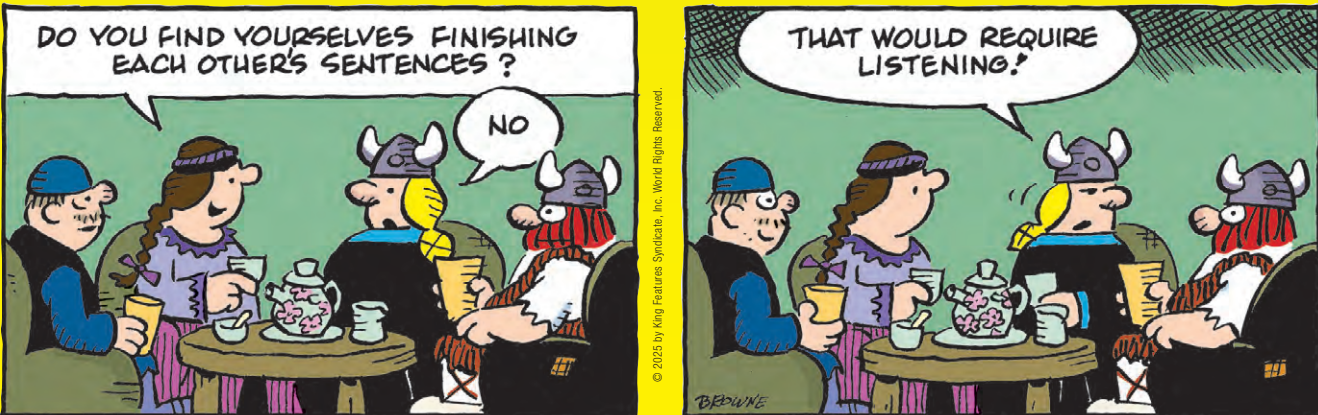
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



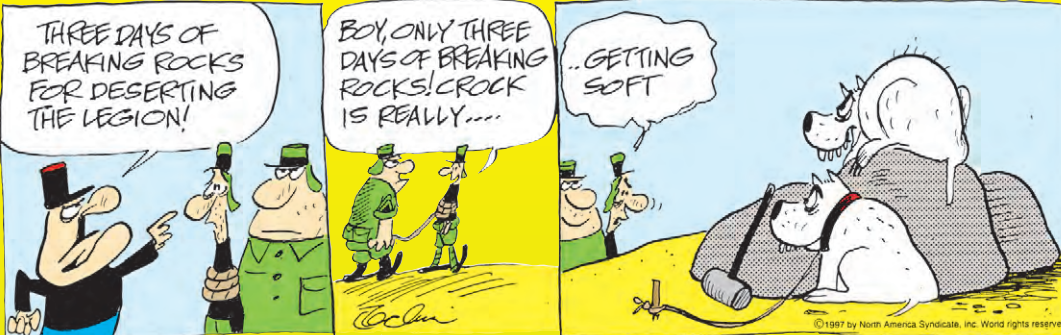
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



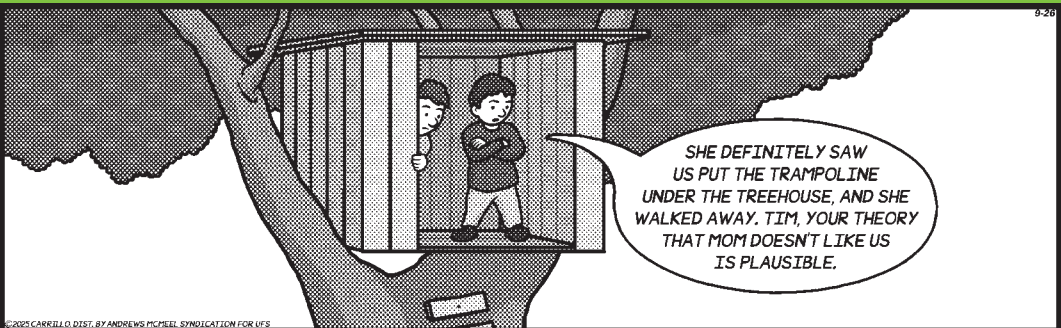
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



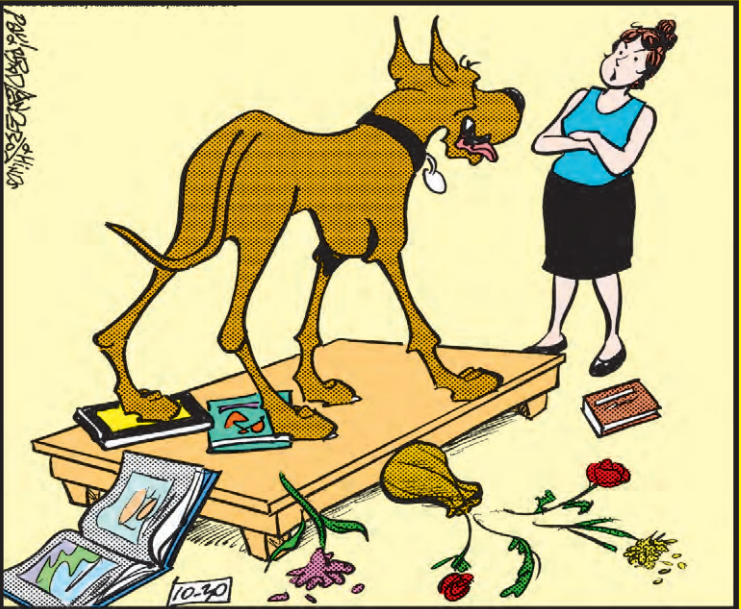
F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"This screwdriver is just my age!"



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All-State honors pour in for fall athletes

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the fall sports season wrapped up and the winter season beginning, awards and accolades for fall athletic achievements are pouring in for several athletes from around the Pointes. More than 30 athletes from Grosse Pointe

South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School have received recognition from their respective sports' coaching associations with All-State honors for their outstanding performances this fall. Five field hockey players representing all three schools received All-State honors from the

Michigan Field Hockey Coaches Association. Harriet Kowalski from South was named first-team All-State, while teammate Evie Wodzisz received third-team honors. Liggett's Olivia Marcero also got a first-team All-State nod, and fellow Knight Maisy Huebner was named to the third team. North's Kinley Arioli received an All-State honorable mention.

In volleyball, a South superstar closed out her Blue Devil career with high honors. Gabby DiVita received first-team All-State recognition from the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association, along with being named Miss Volleyball as the state's top player.

One Blue Devil earned recognition from the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association for her performance on the links this fall. Lyla Hampton got the nod as an All-State honorable mention in Division 2 for South.

Six boys soccer players from around the Pointes made it onto All-State lists for the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association. Camden



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

University Liggett's Olivia Marcero was named first team All-State in field hockey for her performance this fall season.

Bartolino and Jonah Bukovec from South both received honorable mentions in Division 1. North's Jack O'Dell was an honorable mention in Division 2.

After Liggett advanced all the way to the Division 4 boys soccer championship game this fall, three Knights got All-State recognition. Ollie Cooley was named first-team All-State, with Brady Ancona making

third team and Caden Martin getting an honorable mention.

The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association recognized a host of players from the Pointes for their achievements on the court in boys tennis. Matthew Holowinski from South was named Division 2 All-State in singles, while fellow singles player Matthew Bartoszewicz got an

honorable mention. The Blue Devils' doubles team of Max Prather and Henry Logan were doubles All-State honorable mention as well.

As Division 4 state champion, Liggett had plenty of players make the All-State list in tennis. Tise Courtright and Yurii Polnyi were both named Division 4 All-State for singles. Landen

See FALL, page 4D



COURTESY PHOTO

Matthew Holowinski from Grosse Pointe South boys tennis received All-State recognition for Division 2 singles.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Accolades pile up for South's Bryan in record-setting swim season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Just two varsity swim and dive seasons into her high school career, Grosse Pointe South sophomore Caroline Bryan is quickly becoming one of the most decorated swimmers in the

state. Her list of accomplishments seemingly grew longer by the day throughout this season with the Blue Devils, ultimately culminating in a couple of state championships at the recent Division 2 state finals. That was nothing new to Bryan, having won the

state championship for the 100-yard butterfly her freshman season. The pressure was on her this season to reach that peak again and the mental preparation to get there ended up being the most important.

"I was trying to work on being physically in

shape and showing up each day, but what I really worked on was my mentality going into each of my races," Bryan said. "Something that I have always struggled with is confidence. A lot of what I did over the past year, and even into this high school season, was changing my mindset a lot. ... I show up to practice willing to train as hard as I can. I listen to my coach. I work on my mindset and I know that I can't control how other people swim around me, so I need to focus on my own race."

Her own race ended with a time of 54.59 in the state finals in the 100 fly to repeat as state champion. That was not even Bryan's best 100 fly

time of the season. She previously finished with a time of 54.14, setting a pool and school record for South and qualifying for All-American status.

The championship at states was the culmination of 364 days of hard work to get back to that point after what Bryan achieved as a freshman. The pressure was on to defend that title and when she successfully

did, it felt like a weight off of her shoulders.

"When I touched the wall and realized that I was state champ again, it was like a sigh of relief knowing that I was able to achieve that goal again," Bryan said. "You're not only putting yourself out there as a swimmer, but you're putting your team out there and showing that your coaches have helped you get to that moment and your dedication all



COURTESY PHOTO

Caroline Bryan swims the 100-yard butterfly at the 2025 Division 2 state finals Nov. 22, winning the state championship in the event.

Grosse Pointe News



Caroline Bryan

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Swim and Dive

Sponsored by Fairway Packing Co.

Sweet Caroline

- 2025 state champion in 100-yard butterfly and 200 freestyle relay
- Earned All-State status in 100 fly, 200 IM, 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay
- Named to 2025 MISCA Dream Team for 100 butterfly

See ATHLETE, page 2D



SCORE BIG WITH EVERY BITE.



GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Girls Varsity Basketball

Young North girls hoops team focused on continuing growth

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

At the beginning of last season, there were plenty of unknowns for the Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball team. The team did not have any seniors on the roster and a majority of the lineup was freshmen and sophomores. Youth still is a major factor for the Norsemen this winter, but many of the young players from last year’s team are coming back with a year of valuable experience under their belts.

“We’ve got almost the entire team back,” North girls basketball coach Gary Bennett said. “They all had a lot of experience last year and I think they’ve all come back better than they were when we left last year.”

Many of the sophomores and juniors on North’s roster were put through tough tests last season, playing significant roles on a varsity team right out of the gate in their high school careers. That experience alone was enough to make them better coming into this season sim-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Eva Borowski will be the only senior in the lineup for Grosse Pointe North girls basketball this winter.

ply by knowing what to expect. Knowing what the game feels like at the varsity level along with a full offseason of work and development could have a still-young North team ready to compete. “They all got a bit stronger,” Bennett said. “... They kept playing basketball, which is always a good thing. I

think they have more of an idea of what to expect at the varsity level than they did coming into last year, because that was their first year for a lot of them. We’re still young, but we still have a decent amount of experience.”

The most experienced player on this year’s team for North is Eva Borowski. Last year, she

was the team’s only junior and now is the lone senior going into this winter. Borowski has been a leader in the lineup the past few seasons and the example she sets has had a major influence on North’s younger players.

“She’s such a great competitor that she teaches everyone else

how to compete,” Bennett said. “... You have to learn how to compete and how to sustain your effort until the job is done. She’s like a poster child for that. She just works and works and works. ... When other kids see that, they get wrapped up in it. Everybody has improved their effort level coming into the season.”

While Borowski is one of the main veteran leaders, several of the young Norsemen seem ready to step up and take even bigger roles this year. Sophomores such as Emma Barr, Aaliyah Brown, Juliette Laurenceau and Caroline Worden got their share of varsity experience as freshmen last season and exemplify what Bennett has said about the team’s growth. Juniors Aakanksha Nagori and Ella Richardson also will play key roles.

North once again competes in the MAC Red Division, with its league foes including Dakota, Port Huron, Henry Ford II, Eisenhower and Crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South. There will

be tests at every turn this season and a young North team might face some challenges. However, another year of growth could bring success if the team remains focused on steady improvement, even in some of the most basic parts of the game.

“Working hard all the time, especially in practice,” Bennett said. “All of that stuff carries over. When you’re working hard in practice, the people you’re working against have to get better because it’s more of a challenge. ... What feeds off of that is competing. If you’re working hard, you’re really competing. Everyone has to come back offensively better than last year. They have to score better and they have to take care of the ball better. ... We have quite a bit of room for improvement and I say that as individuals. If every individual can improve things like ball-handling skills, we’ll become a better team.”

North tips off the regular season Tuesday, Dec. 9, going on the road to face Utica.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

comes down to that moment.”

The other major highlight from this year’s state finals for Bryan was in the 200 freestyle relay. Bryan, along with teammates Whitney Handwork, Corinne Stencel and Nicole McEnroe, won the state championship in the event. It became one of the most thrilling races of the meet, with South’s team finishing just 0.3

seconds ahead of the second-place squad from Mercy.

“It was like complete chaos,” Bryan said. “We were so excited and jumping up and down. It’s a moment we’ll all remember because it was such a tight race.”

That relay time of 1:34.61 at the state finals gave Bryan and her teammates another All-American nod, along with being All-State. Overall, Bryan earned three All-American and four All-State times this season. She also set

three Blue Devil school records.

Bryan’s talent in the pool is clear, but it is everything outside the pool that helps make it possible. One of the biggest things, she knows, is coaching. Bryan has worked with coach John Fodell ever since she joined the Grosse Pointe Gators swim club in 2019, following her family’s move to Michigan from Ohio. Years of training with Fodell before getting to high school and the team at South helped build Bryan

into the swimmer she has become. It has shown especially when it comes to confidence, with which she admittedly struggles, and Fodell is maybe the best person a swimmer can ask for when it comes to a morale boost.

“He always knows when I need a confidence boost and he never fails to give me one,” she said. “I feel really fortunate that he can pick up when I need a pep talk or just make us smile by telling a dumb dad joke. He has his ‘Fo Magic’ that everyone talks about. He’ll use that ‘Fo Magic’ every once in a while to just make you feel more con-

fidant.”

Fodell and Bryan will continue to work together throughout the winter, spring and summer in the build up to next fall’s season. Hard work both in and out of the pool never stops for Bryan. One of her biggest and most exciting tests beyond the high school season is approaching quickly.

Bryan has qualified to compete in the 2025 USA Swimming Speedo Winter Junior Championships in Indianapolis beginning Dec. 10. Making it there means she is one of the best under-18 swimmers in the country and her

54.14 time in the 100 fly currently is the 15th best nationwide.

Making it to the national stage also is an opportunity for Bryan to begin looking to the future and sharpening her skills among the best as she gets ready for another strong season with the Blue Devils next year.

“It’ll be a very cool experience,” Bryan said about qualifying for nationals. “It’s exciting, but also kind of stressful because a lot of college coaches go to that meet. ... But it’s a cool thing knowing that I might be getting watched by college programs.”

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COURTESY PHOTO

Caroline Bryan holds her state championship plaque on top of the podium after finishing first in the 100-yard butterfly at the 2025 Division 2 girls swim and dive state championships.

Oh, Mercy! Swim & dive state title evades Blue Devils by just 2 points

By Meg Leonard
Guest Writer

Clinging to a 301-297 lead entering the meet’s final event Saturday, Nov. 22, Grosse Pointe South’s girls swim and dive team faced a must win in the 400-yard free-style relay to clinch the program’s first state championship — but fate had other plans.

South’s relay quartet of Whitney Handwork, Quinn Ryan, Mischa Eng and Caroline Bryan gave it every bit of speed and effort they had, but Mercy High School beat the Blue Devils to the touchpad and moved ahead by just two points to capture the Marlins’ third-straight Division 2 state championship by a score of 337-335 at Eastern Michigan University.

The Marlins’ Avery Tack, Campbell Shore, Lyla Collins and Ella Hafner finished the race in 3:26.05, earning Mercy 40 points for first place. The Blue Devils’ second-place time of 3:27.68 earned them 34 points, a point swing and differential that determined the championship.

South entered the state final ranked No. 1, but finished runner-up for the fourth time in the last seven years. Birmingham Seaholm (260.5), Birmingham Groves (155.5) and Ann Arbor Skyline (155) rounded out the state’s top-five finishers, with Groves beating Skyline by just half a point.

The Blue Devils also finished runner-up to Mercy last season, but by a bigger margin of 120.5 points.

Despite the crushing loss, South churned out state champions in three individual races and two relays, while breaking two new school records. Sophomore Caroline Bryan was named to the MSHAA Dream Team.

Any finish in the top eight at finals earns competitors All-State honors. All-American status — both automatic and consideration categories — is earned by meeting time standards that rank in the top 100 in the country. Official status will be determined after swim seasons conclude nationally at the end of the school year.

South’s champions include:

◆ **50-yard freestyle state champion:** Handwork (23.24). Handwork defended her 2024 title in the event and earned All-State status and All-American consideration. She also broke the school record in the event for the third time this season.

◆ **100-yard butterfly state champion:** Caroline Bryan (54.59). Bryan became back-to-back state champ in the event and

earned All-State status and All-American consideration with her latest title. She earned automatic All-American status earlier in the season.

◆ **100-yard backstroke state champion:** Ryan (56.08) Ryan earned All-State status with her win.

◆ **200-yard freestyle relay state champions:** Handwork, McEnroe, Corinne Stencel and Caroline Bryan (1.34.61). The relay team earned All-State and automatic All-American status. It also broke the school record and placed seventh in the Michigan girls high school state meet Top 16 performances.

◆ **200-yard medley relay state champions:** Eng, McEnroe, Stencel and Ryan (1:45.22). The relay earned All-State status, All-American consideration and finished 16th in the Michigan girls high school state meet Top 16 performances.

◆ **MSHAA Dream Team:** Caroline Bryan

Several other South swimmers advanced out of Friday’s preliminary round to Saturday’s championship, earning top finishes and important points for the team. They include:

◆ **200-yard freestyle:** Heidi Bryan (1:56.94) 7th Place and All-State status

◆ **200-yard IM:** Caroline Bryan (2:05.59) 2nd Place and All-State status; McEnroe (2.06.77) 3rd place and All-State status; Lorelei Carr (2:17.91) 15th place

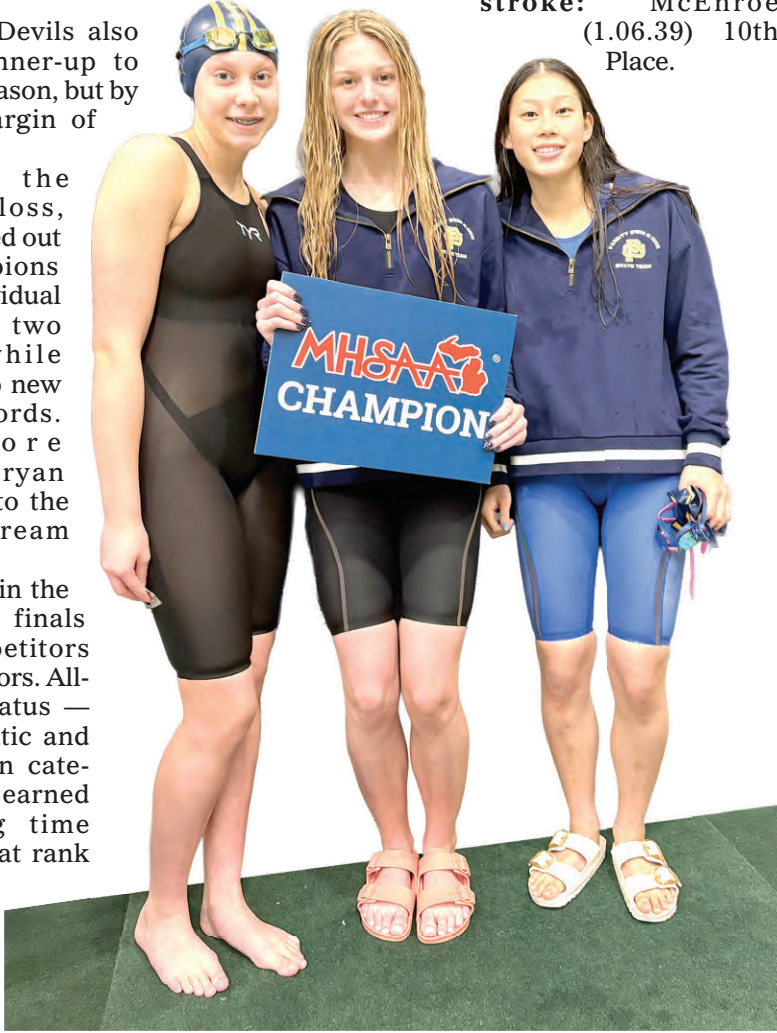


PHOTO BY BETSY ROPKE

South’s All-State backstrokers include, from left, Corinne Stencel, state champion Quinn Ryan and Mischa Eng.



PHOTO BY BETSY ROPKE

The Blue Devils’ 200-yard medley relay team, clockwise top left, Quinn Ryan, Nicole McEnroe, Corinne Stencel, and Mischa Eng stand atop the podium as Division 2 state champions.

◆ **1-meter diving:** Ava Gerhard (361.85 points) 7th place and All-State status

◆ **100-yard butterfly:** Stencel (56.44) 2nd Place and All-State status; Eng (57.84) 5th place and All-State status

◆ **100-yard freestyle:** Handwork (50.92) 2nd Place, All-State status and All-American consideration; Ryan (53.06) 5th Place and All-State status; Heidi Bryan (54.18) 14th place

◆ **500-yard freestyle:** Olivia Colt 16th place (5:29.36)

◆ **100-yard backstroke:** Eng (57.58) 3rd place and All-State status; Stencel (58.59) 6th place and All-State status

◆ **100-yard breaststroke:** McEnroe (1.06.39) 10th Place.

North finishes 17th at D3 state final

Grosse Pointe North earned 53 points and finished 17th overall at the girls varsity swim and dive Division 3 state championship Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Holland Aquatics Center in Holland.

East Grand Rapids High School won the title with 373 points.

Cailey Hard was the Norsemen’s top individual finisher, earning eighth place and All-State status in the 100-yard butterfly in 55.48. Hadley Beal finished 15th in the event in 55.44. Additionally, Beal finished 13th in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:11.53.

Hard earned North additional points by placing 15th in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:01.80.

The Norsemen’s three relay teams advanced out of Friday’s preliminary round. In the 200-yard freestyle medley, Ava VanBecelaere, Beal, Mia Melhem and Kennedy Hasting finished in 13th place in 1:55.57.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Liliana Ivanaj, Hasting, Melhem and Hard placed 11th in 1:42.14.

North took home a top-10 finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The quartet of Ivanaj, Hasting, Beal and Hard touched the wall in 3:44.84, good for 10th place.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE TAXING POWER OF THE CITY AND OF RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, intends to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation capital improvement bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in one or more series, in a total principal amount of not to exceed Seven Million Thousand Dollars (\$7,000,000), for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost to pay all or part of the cost to acquire, construct, furnish and equip various water and sewer system improvements, including sanitary sewer rehabilitation and lining improvements, and water meter replacements, together with all related site improvements, appurtenances and attachments.

BOND DETAILS

The bonds will mature in annual installments not to exceed twenty-five (25) in number, with interest rates to be determined at a public or negotiated sale but in no event to exceed the maximum permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS shall be payable from the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations. It is expected that debt service on the bonds will be paid from water and sewer revenues and other available funds of the City.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

Bridgette Bowdler
Clerk, City of Grosse Pointe Park

GPN: 12-04-25

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE TO BIDDERS – LEE CT & DOYLE CT WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – AEW PROJECT NUMBER 0160-0497. Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of 0.6 miles of water main replacement by pipe bursting and open cutting. The project also includes minor road reconstruction, storm sewer replacement, sidewalk ramp reconstruction, and other miscellaneous work. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Tuesday, November 18, 2025. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 12/4/2025

Ohio State uses strengths to buck Michigan blues

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Before Saturday, Nov. 29, it had been 2,191 days since the Ohio State University Buckeyes had beaten the University of Michigan Wolverines in arguably the most historic and intense rivalry not only in college football, but in all of sports. In those more than 2,000 days, it had seemed like the Buckeyes had trouble getting out of their own way when they saw the winged maize and blue helmets across the field, but not in 2025.

Ohio State played to its strengths, coming to Ann Arbor and flipping the rivalry back in its favor with a 27-9 win.

In the early parts of the game, it looked like the rivalry-game jitters that plagued Ohio State recently against the Wolverines still were there. The Buckeyes' first possession ended quickly when quarterback Julian Sayin threw an interception. However, that only led to a Michigan field goal, the Wolverines' second of the game at that point, resulting in an early 6-0 lead for the



PHOTO BY JOHN T. GREILICK/THE DETROIT NEWS

Ohio State quarterback Julian Sayin throws a pass under pressure from Michigan defensive lineman Enow Etta (No. 17) during the second half. After four-straight losses against the Wolverines, undefeated and No.1 ranked Ohio State defeated Michigan 27-9 in Ann Arbor Saturday, Nov. 29.

home team.

That field goal represented many of the issues Michigan had during Saturday's loss. An inability to finish drives or create any big plays on offense ultimately doomed the Wolverines.

"We didn't execute in the red zone, which ended up being the story of the game," Michigan football head coach Sherrone Moore said after the loss. "... There's no excuse for it. We have to be much better and (Ohio State) out-

played us today."

The setting of Saturday's game seemed to serve in Michigan's favor. Not only were the Wolverines on their home field, but the cold and snowy weather had many thinking that Michigan could use the elements to outmuscle the Buckeyes.

Anyone who follows college football and either of these two programs likely knows some of the narratives that have come with this rivalry in recent years. One of the biggest has

been the fact Ohio State seems to approach games against Michigan looking to prove something. The Buckeyes have appeared stuck in their own head, wanting to beat Michigan at their own game by being the more physical team rather than doing what they usually did best: using speed and skill to win.

This time, Ohio State did both. At times, the Buckeyes were able to turn the game into a track meet, beating the Wolverines with speed,

like when receiver Carnell Tate burned the Michigan defense on a post route for a 50-yard touchdown catch to open the second half. The Buckeyes also were able to grind things out at times, such as going on a 20-play, nearly 12-minute-long drive later in the second half. "(Our players) played really well and strong and physical in this game," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said. "... We wanted to take this rivalry game back and the way that our guys played certainly spoke to that. They played with great passion and great physicality."

It was physicality that won the day for Ohio State; however, not by trying to appear as the more physical team, but by simply being the more physical team. The Buckeyes ran for 183 yards compared to just 100 for Michigan, continuing the recent trend in the rivalry in which the team that rushes for more yards wins.

Ohio State dominated the time of possession, holding onto the ball for 40 minutes. The defense allowed Michigan to convert on third down

just once and Michigan's offense only tallied 163 yards in the game. Freshman QB Bryce Underwood had just 63 yards on eight completions while also throwing an interception.

As Moore said, Ohio State simply outplayed Michigan. There have been years, like this one, where Ohio State has looked like the better team and others where Michigan seems superior. What is always uncertain in rivalries like this is whether the better team will actually win and that has not always been the case.

This year, however, it was. Ohio State was the better team coming into Saturday's matchup and they played like the better team for a full 60 minutes. The Buckeyes now look to the Big Ten Championship and beyond, while Michigan must wait to see to which exotic location it gets sent for a bowl game in December.

The thing is, there is always next year. The countdown clock in both teams' locker rooms has already reset and the spark that makes "The Game" such a fun rivalry is still very much alive.

FALL:

Continued from page 1D

Maltby and Charlie Laethem along with Niko Cooksey and Griffin Marchal were doubles All-State teams. Rene Quint and Lucas Ferguson also earned a

doubles All-State honorable mention.

South's girls swim and dive team earned a variety of All-State times during the Division 2 state finals in late November. Whitney Handwork was the state champion in the 50-yard freestyle and 200 free-

style relay, while also earning All-State status in the 100 freestyle. Caroline Bryan was a two-time state champion, winning the 100 butterfly and as part of the 200 freestyle relay team and also achieved All-State status in the 200 IM.

Quinn Ryan from the Blue Devils was the state champion in the 100 backstroke and as part of the 200 medley relay, and also had an All-State time in the 100 freestyle. Corinne Stencel also was a state champion in the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay, while

also reaching All-State times in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.

Mischa Eng was part of the 200 medley relay championship team and had All-State times in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke as well. Nicole McEnroe had an All-State finish in the 200

IM to go along with her state-title performances in the 200 freestyle and 200 medley relays. Ava Gerhard also earned an All-State finish for South in one-meter diving.

From the Norsemen, Cailey Hard earned an All-State time for North in the 100 butterfly.

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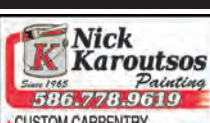
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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Girls Varsity Basketball

South girls hoops ready to hit the ground running

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the start of the 2025-26 season just days away, the wheels have been turning for the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball for some time. The Blue Devils had a team summer camp months ago to begin building up for the season and have had plenty of practices the last few weeks to continue getting up to speed. All of it has given South the confidence that it can hit the ground running this winter with everyone knowing what is expected of them.

“We’ve had some really good practices as far as putting stuff in and everybody knowing what they’re doing,” South girls basketball coach Kevin Richards said. “This has probably been our best pre-season that we’ve had in quite some time.”

One of the biggest hurdles the Blue Devils had to navigate this off-season was the graduation of former star point



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior Morgan Duff, pictured in a game last season against Grosse Pointe North, is set to take over as South’s starting point guard this winter.

guard Maddy Benard. With Benard playing college hoops at Wayne

State University, one of her longtime teammates is now stepping up to assume the role.

Senior Morgan Duff takes over as starting point guard this season. She has starting experience and shared the backcourt with Benard for some time, giving the Blue Devils confidence that she is more than ready to take on one of the biggest roles on the team.

“She really did a nice job this summer of handling the point guard responsibilities and making good decisions,” Richards said about Duff. “She’s shooting the ball very

well right now and we’re hoping that continues.”

‘This has probably been our best pre-season that we’ve had in quite some time.’

KEVIN RICHARDS,
GP SOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH

Another veteran expected to be a major leader for South is Alex Lupo. Like Duff, Lupo has been a fixture in South’s varsity lineup before. Her strong and steady development coming into the season has South hopeful Lupo can be yet another dif-

ference-maker.

“Alex is a jack of all trades because she does everything well,” Richards said. “... Her shot has really improved over the course of four years. She runs the floor. Last year, she did a really nice job finishing on the break for us and we look forward to continuing that.”

Along with Lupo and Duff, junior Ciara Pongratz could be a major factor for South as well. Richards has high praise for Pongratz’s skill and athleticism and thinks her junior season could see her take a major leap.

“She’s as skilled as any kid that I’ve coached,” Richards said. “We’re looking forward to her putting that together in a game. We’ve seen glimpses of it and she can dribble, pass and shoot. We’re really hoping that her game takes off.”

Also poised is potential breakout junior Clara Bachert. She might be the biggest presence in the paint

big team this year in terms of size, but feels like the speed and grit they have can make things difficult for opponents. It also presents the Blue Devils with the opportunity to work with different looks on defense.

South has its work cut out for it this season when it comes to the level of competition it has to face. Having speed and plenty of veterans with their share of experience in big games definitely helps, as the Blue Devils have to navigate the MAC Red Division. Also on the slate are non-league games against challenging opponents like Detroit Renaissance, Romeo and Ovid-Elsie.

Even with the amount of experience the Blue Devils have in the lineup and the level of confidence that brings, there is room for improvement. Development never stops being a goal and while South feels like it has a good head start before the season, it is all about building on that momentum every day if the Blue Devils want to be successful in crunch time.

“We want to compete every night,” Richards said. “We don’t want to be the best team in November and December. It’s nice that we’re moving and everybody knows the system and things that we’re doing. Obviously, we want to be playing our best basketball at the end of the year.”

South begins the season on the road Tuesday, Dec. 9, taking on Romeo.



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Knights triumph over South, retain War Memorial trophy

Last Wednesday, Nov. 26, University Liggett School varsity boys hockey hosted Grosse Pointe South in the second annual War Memorial Classic rivalry showdown. For the second year in row, the Knights were victorious, keeping the War Memorial trophy on Cook Road for another year with a 7-4 win over the Blue Devils.

Landen Maltby, Griffin Marchal and Nick Gould helped power Liggett in the win with two goals each. Luke Slanec also found the back of the net for the Knights. South received goals from Will Gryzenia, Lucas Reynolds, Brewer Puma and Liam O’Donoghue in the loss.