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GPPSS Superintendent Tuttle announces retirement

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Andrea Tuttle announced in an email around 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, that she intends to retire effective Aug. 31, 2026.

"It has been both a joy and an honor to serve as

your superintendent. I am writing to share that I will retire effective Aug. 31, 2026. This timeline aligns with my contractual notification commitment to the board of education and allows for thoughtful planning and a smooth, positive transition for our district and community," she wrote.

Tuttle was selected as

the district's new superintendent in December 2023, on a 7-0 vote, the first superintendent in several years to receive unanimous approval from the GPPSS Board of Education.

She previously spent 14 years as superintendent in Owosso Public Schools and before that was a teacher, coach, technology director and

principal in the Corunna and Ovid-Elsie school districts.

Tuttle went on to write, "Like most retirement letters, I feel compelled to reflect on what our team has accomplished together. During my time as superintendent, we stabilized district finances, growing the general fund from 8 percent to 14 percent while

right-sizing the district without layoffs. Together, we successfully passed a \$120 million bond, a \$110 million sinking fund and an operational and enhancement millage. We expanded curriculum opportunities for students and settled all contracts, including a two-year teachers' agreement with a 92 per-

cent approval rating. I am proud of these accomplishments because they reflect collective effort and trust."

When asked by the Grosse Pointe News if she was retiring from education entirely or just GPPSS, Tuttle replied, "At this time, I have not committed to any other

See TUTTLE, page 8A

Bills would force GPPSS into schools of choice

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Legislation introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives, if passed

and signed by the governor, would force every school district in the state to participate in schools of choice starting this fall, including the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

This means students of families outside the district that don't pay GPPSS taxes — such as the operating millage, sinking fund millage and bond that all passed in the last two years — could apply for enrollment here.

"GPPSS has historically opposed schools of choice and supported local control of public education," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said in a statement. "Our elected board ensures our public schools are aligned with community values and that our curriculum and practices reflect our residents' expectations. Our taxpayers support our

See CHOICE, page 9A

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Park Judge John Parnell, left, receives a gavel and a handshake from retired Grosse Pointe Park Judge Carl Jarboe.

In with new judge

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — So many attorneys and lawmen attended the municipal judge's ceremonial swearing-in, it's amazing anyone escaped with-

out being sued or cuffed.

Two extra rows of chairs were needed in the municipal courtroom to accommodate supporters witnessing John Parnell Jr., the first new Park judge in 30 years, pledge to uphold the oath of

office.

He accepted the judge's gavel, got praised and razzed by those who know him best.

"I'm committed to serving this court with fairness, integrity, respect and humility and upholding the law in a way that reflects the values of our community in Grosse

Pointe Park," Parnell said.

Parnell won the office unopposed last November. He was sworn in officially early January, has been on the bench ever since and, before that, shadowed retiring Judge Carl Jarboe for

See JUDGE, page 3A

Gift something NEW!

Valentine's Day gifting ideas from outside the box

See Section C

The Helm's Active Adult Program to be housed in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — An Adult Day Program in the community may come to fruition as soon as early May, as The Helm has signed a lease agreement to locate the program within the Henry Ford Health Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Campus in The

Village.

The program, similar in concept to child care, offers respite for caregivers by providing a safe environment with trained and professional staff where local seniors can stay for the day enjoying care and activities. It is intended for those 60 and older, with an emphasis on dementia and other forms of cognitive

decline.

"There isn't anything similar in this area," The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said in a release. "We have heard from people for many years that they wanted this type of service. It was the impetus for requesting a senior services millage — so we could offer this program."

The program will fill the 3,400-square-foot former Wilson Senior Resource Center at 648 St. Clair — alongside The Whiskey Six and Edward Jones — which has been empty two years.

Its entrance will be in the alley against The Neighborhood

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Larry VanOverbeke

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
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2026

Whooping it up for Trombly

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — “Open Trombly” advocates urge residents to attend a Grosse Pointe Public School System strategic planning session this weekend and throw their weight around.

“This city serves three elementary schools, hosts two of them and we have a middle school down the street,” said Matt Kahl, a member of Trombly United, a citizens group pushing to reopen Trombly Elementary School in the Park.

He addressed the Park city council Feb. 2, to rally likeminded lobbying at a marathon public schools strategic planning session 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Grosse Pointe North High School library.

“I want you to be confident in your instincts and impulses about primary education,” Kahl told

everyone. “I want you to build some confidence — you are an enormous player building the fabric of this relationship between the city and schools.”

District officials have done yeoman service building frustration among neighborhood school supporters by letting Trombly languish unoccupied since 2020 due to declining enrollment while Pointe parents seek to enroll their children in scant preschool and early learning opportunities.

“It feels like a movement now,” Mayor Michele Hodges said of public dissatisfaction.

Kahl said a survey Trombly United commissioned last year in the school’s catchment zone south of Jefferson Avenue revealed 63.9 percent of households want to send their children to a district preschool but can’t for lack

See TROMBLY, page 8A

Arcos sworn in

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The newest member of the public safety department is now official.

K-9 Officer Arcos was sworn in during city council’s meeting Monday, Jan. 26, standing next to his handler, Public Safety Officer Duncan Gill.

Clerk Paul Antolin jokingly asked Arcos to “raise your right paw,” then read the oath of office others in the department have taken.

“This is his official introduction, now that the initial training is over,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke said.

Arcos is a 2-year-old German shepherd from the Czech Republic and was picked out by Kosanke, Gill and Lt. Tim Harris, K-9 handler in the Farms, last October.

The pair underwent training at a facility in Taylor that included full time for the first month, then two days a week for two months. They will

continue to go once a week.

That training included tracking, building and evidence searches, narcotics detection, handler protection and apprehension.

Gill picked the name Arcos to honor a German shepherd who served with the U.S. Special Forces in Iraq and was killed in action in 2005.

“I wanted to pay homage to him,” he said.

When it was first announced last August the Woods would be getting a K-9 officer through an agreement with the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, Kosanke said several officers expressed interest in being the handler. He asked each of them to write a letter explaining why they were interested, then went through an interview with a panel of other handlers who made a recommendation.

“I’m honored the chief had faith in me to be successful in this position,” Gill said.

He added he’s had several dogs over the years and has a bird-hunting



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Woods Clerk Paul Antolin swears in K-9 Officer Arcos as his handler, Officer Duncan Gill, stands by.

dog named Henry.

“I’ve always had dogs, so this seemed like a natural segue,” Gill said. “It was a process introducing Arcos to Henry, but they get along great.”

Kosanke also thanked Gill’s wife, Sophia.

“They’ve opened up their home and are caring for him 24/7,” he said.

GPAAS is continuing

to raise money to sponsor Arcos.

“We raised the initial \$15,000 to buy him,” said Corinne Martin, founder and executive director of GPAAS.

The next goal is \$100,000 to buy a specially outfitted patrol vehicle for Gill and

See ARCOS, page 5A

HELM:

Continued from page 1A

Club’s parking lot, providing ease of access for a pick-up and drop-off zone.

The space is being subleased from Henry Ford, in partnership with the hospital system and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation.

“We knew what we needed as far as space and this checked those boxes,” Siddall said. “We needed a very large, open space to be able to have people all gather together and do crafts and activities and fitness in one spot. There’s (also) enough rooms there for the other things that we need for the Adult Day Program.

“... There’s minimal

construction, minimal changes that we’re going to have to go through to actually get it to the point where we think it’s a good functional space for us.”

The vision encompasses a check-in area, quiet room, arts and crafts room, tactile exploration room, office space for staff and a caregiver library.

“The piece a lot of people don’t talk about is caregivers’ health outcomes are almost as bad as the people they’re caring for,” Siddall said of the genesis of the upcoming caregiver library, “because they’re overworked, they’re overtired and they don’t take care of themselves because they’re taking care of someone else.”

The caregiver library,

in turn, will provide a space for social workers to meet with families, provide resources and information and build a plan for how caregivers can address their own needs.

The team at The Helm is working with Rush University in Chicago, as well as with a contact at Harvard University, to create a caregiver assessment, caregiver app and to fill the library with the latest research, evidence-based work and information on additional resources throughout the community.

“Let’s say they wanted to get a caregiver in a half a day a week at the house,” Siddall said. “We would be able to provide them with different resources for that. Or we could provide them with some tools to relax, maybe teach them about meditation or teach them



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Helm is subleasing the former Wilson Senior Resource Center at 648 St. Clair to house its new Adult Day Program.

about journaling or all sorts of different things.”

Siddall also is excited about what being located in The Village means for caregivers — from the convenience to further encouragement for care-

givers to get out and take care of themselves.

“When our caregivers drop off a participant, they can just park their car, drop them off and they could go get their hair done,” she envisioned. “Or they could go to Kroger and do grocery shopping. Or they could go get their nails done. Or they could go do a little shopping in The Village or go pick up prescriptions at CVS. It’s all right there.”

Because The Helm has been prepping for the Adult Day Program for well over a year, its development, plans, job

descriptions and handouts already are complete.

It likely still will take a few months to hire the appropriate staff, order equipment, pull permits and conduct a small amount of interior construction. Thus, the program aims to be operational in spring or early summer.

It will begin by piloting eight participants, but ultimately will be able to accept up to 20, with an estimated staff ratio of one staff member per three participants.

“We’ll have a half-day option and a full-day option,” Siddall said, adding the program will run Monday through Friday, “and people will fluctuate. They might come two days in the morning and then one day all day and then not (come) another day. Like (how) child care fluctuates.”

More details regarding the program’s hours, options and costs will become available closer to its opening.

“I have every confidence we’re going to have a really great facility with some of the newest thought processes for tackling this,” Siddall said.

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Chamber breakfast honors small businesses, young entrepreneurs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Three small businesses and three high school seniors were honored during the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce’s annual breakfast, which took place Jan. 29, at The War Memorial.

Following a hot meal on a chilly day, guests heard from three small business owners about the services they offer and what they plan to do with the grant funds.

“Our Small Business Grant Program provides direct, meaningful support to chamber member businesses — the storefronts, service providers and entrepreneurs who give Grosse Pointe its character and vitality,” said Jenny Boettcher, president of the chamber and its foundation. “These grants help businesses grow, innovate and adapt, whether through marketing, technology or special projects that move them forward.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC NOVAK/VISUAL CAKE

“And beyond the financial support,” she continued, “each grant sends a message: We see you. We value you. And we believe in the future you’re building right here in the Pointes.”

Deanna Fisher of Pointe the Way Transportation was the first to give her pitch. Her business provides non-emergency transporta-

tion and ambulatory services to doctor appointments, dialysis, social outings, shopping and other activities. Fisher said she plans to use grant money to create a stronger online presence, while putting some money toward bills, “to provide more rides,” she said.

Next, Ken and Amy Kish, owners of Floor

Coverings International, talked about their flooring business, which includes a mobile showroom that brings flooring samples directly to customers’ homes.

“Our goal in everything we do is to serve the community and to serve our customers well,” Ken Kish said.

The Kishes said they plan to use the grant to

From left, the chamber’s Lisa Frasier and Jenny Boettcher, award winners Grosse Pointe North senior Amy Diallo, Grosse Pointe South senior Henry Chesterton and University Liggett School senior Ruby Noble and Chamber Board Chair Maria Miller.

home, as the nonprofit center where it currently is housed is closing.

“We have to move, but we want to stay local,” Schena said.

The grant will be used to launch a capital campaign not only for a new building, but new Kids on the Go initiatives and an expanded reach.

Attendees voted for their favorite pitch, ranking Kids on the Go first, Pointe the Way second and Floor Coverings International third.

Three students also shared with attendees information about their businesses in advance of earning scholarships for their ingenuity.

“Our Young Entrepreneurs Scholarship Program ... recognizes outstanding high school juniors and seniors who demonstrate creativity, leadership and a passion for entrepreneurship,” Boettcher said. “These students are

increase marketing and sponsor local events.

Lastly, Kristy Schena, founder of Kids on the Go, spoke about her nonprofit, which is entering its 28th year. The organization provides children with special needs, ages 3 to 17, with physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies free of charge.

It is in search of a new

See CHAMBER, page 4A

War Memorial hosts 1st Veterans Resource Fair next week

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — More than 30 organizations will be appearing as vendors at The War Memorial’s first full-scale Veterans Resource Fair from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

While The War Memorial previously has incorporated small resource fairs into events like last year’s Vietnam Veterans Day Welcome Home Luncheon, this will be the first fair fully devoted to connecting those who served with critical support services.

“It’s another way for The War Memorial to



COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees of last year’s Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon browse a small resource fair.

show veterans that we have your back,” said Alex Szwarc, veterans committee chair. “If we can’t directly help you with a veteran question or benefit, we’re going to do what we can — aka this

resource fair — to put you in direct contact with veteran organizations that can further assist you.”

The free event — which also welcomes active-duty service members and families of those who have served or currently are in the military — aims to provide a one-stop

shop for support in employment, housing, healthcare, education, mental health and VA benefits.

“With America’s 250th anniversary upon us, The War Memorial is excited to bring those who have stood watch and served our country together for an evening of information and engagement,” said Maria Miller, president and CEO of The War Memorial, in a release.

Those who attend also will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win two tickets to The War Memorial’s Fever Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles concert Thursday, Feb. 19.

See FAIR, page 5A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, FEB. 9

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 10

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

JUDGE:

Continued from page 1A

nearly half a year.

“From personal experience of working with Judge Parnell, this is the right man for the position,” Jarboe said. “I know him to be well-versed in the law, dedicated to making the right decision and treating people fairly. Most importantly, he shares my philosophy of making life better, whether it be the defendant, victim of a crime, plaintiff in a lawsuit or the community at large; your actions and decisions will affect us greatly.”

“Public service is a privilege,” Parnell said to the room of family, colleagues and friends. “I don’t take that trust the community has placed in me lightly.”

In the front row sat the other Grosse Pointe municipal judges: Charles Berschback (Farms and Shores), Russell Ethridge (City, retired), Theodore Metry (Woods) and David Draper (City).

Draper got in a few digs. He said he initially declined an invitation to the ceremony because it was scheduled on his birthday and he planned to celebrate to the max.

Parnell insisted.

“That blatant disregard will serve him very well on the bench,” Draper said. “Often, a judge needs to read between the lines. When I said the last place you will find me during happy hour on my birthday is a courthouse, he said, ‘I would love for you to attend.’”

“I’m deeply thankful to Judge Draper,” Parnell said. “He was one of my first phone calls when I began this path of running for the bench. He was generous and thoughtful about sharing his experiences. His guidance was invaluable.”

Parnell also thanked Jarboe.

“He helped me understand how this court operates with such efficiency and fairness,” Parnell said. “His willingness to share institutional knowledge left a lasting impression.”

He said judges Metry, Ethridge and Berschback “have been extremely generous with their time, insight and experiences on the bench. They helped me understand what it takes to be successful in this position. That comes down to a couple of things: making sure everyone’s heard and having a tremendous amount of patience.”

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Building a business and family from the ground up

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Larry VanOverbeke decided on a career trajectory for his life when he was around 4 or 5 years old.

“One day I was sitting in my aunt’s chair,” he said. “I can still remember sitting there — and I said to her, ‘So where did you get this house?’”

The answer — her husband had built it — filled him with a child’s sense of disbelief and wonder.

“I was like, ‘There’s no way you built this house. That’s so cool,’” he recalled. “And then that really was it. From that point on, I decided I wanted to build houses.

“And that’s pretty cool, because then you don’t have to go through high school wondering what in God’s name you’re going to do.”

True to his word, VanOverbeke founded his construction and remodeling company, the current iteration of which is Browning Building LLC, at 23 years old in 1983.

His handiwork is visible throughout town and



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Larry VanOverbeke, with daughter, Natalie Vasher, wife, Kelli VanOverbeke, son, Larry VanOverbeke, and daughter, Phelicia Vovos.

spans historic homes, The Old Pony, The Bronze Door, Pierson Clinic and the Grosse Pointe Audiology building, as well as regional institutions like Cranbrook Educational Community’s kindergarten classrooms.

“I actually got paid once to take all the doors off the boys’ dorm at Cranbrook, because they were doing stupid stuff,” he recalled with a laugh.

The Grosse Pointe Woods resident’s work has shaped the community for so long that some of the projects he poured

his time and energy into have long since been covered over or dissolved.

“When I was an apprentice, around 1980, I put the machine shop in at Grosse Pointe South underneath the old tennis courts,” VanOverbeke said. “And now it’s a pool.”

It’s a similar story for three floors of work he put into the former Marquette General Hospital psychiatric unit back in the day.

VanOverbeke recently returned to the area, on his way to a backpacking

trip in the Porcupine Mountains, and learned from a gas station attendant the building had been closed. Another hospital was built elsewhere.

Though it was demolished in 2016, VanOverbeke also once was hired to replace every door in Plymouth’s Detroit House of Correction — all 385.

The prison was active at the time and he was accompanied by an armed guard.

“I learned how to hang a door,” VanOverbeke assured. “You do 385

doors and you know how to hang a door pretty quick.

“And then (later) I have a guy working for me and I’m trying to teach him how to hang a door and he’s fighting me,” he added. “And I’m like, ‘Listen, don’t tell me how to hang a door. I can hang this door in my sleep.’”

Along the way, VanOverbeke met his wife, Kelli, and the two settled down in Grosse Pointe, drawn by the school system. They were blessed with two daughters and a son.

When the 2008 downturn occurred, he went without work for a year, but took it as an opportunity to coach girls lacrosse for his daughter’s team at Grosse Pointe North High School, where he ultimately coached nine years.

“The good thing about coaching girls lacrosse is the families don’t know the rules, so they can’t yell at you for doing stupid stuff,” he joked.

“They have no idea why anything’s going on because the rules are so

convoluted. Honest to God. Whistles are blowing constantly.”

When his daughter, Phelicia, earned a lacrosse scholarship to Manhattan College, VanOverbeke made an effort to be at every game.

“In her four-year career, we might have missed maybe three or four games, but that was about it,” he said.

Nowadays, when he isn’t constructing the community, he may be found metal working, bird hunting or making soap. Recently, he’s been dabbling in lemon-scented soaps.

“My daughter bought some soap from somebody and I really liked it,” he recalled of the genesis of his hobby. “And I said, ‘Well, I’d like to learn how to make that.’”

Otherwise, he’s spending his time building a cottage up north and with his family, which has grown to include six grandchildren.

“I have a brand new granddaughter,” he announced last week. “Willa. She’s a week old.”

CHAMBER:

Continued from page 3A

already imagining solutions, launching ideas and showing us what the next generation of business leadership looks like.”

Ruby Noble, a senior at University Liggett School, spoke about Ruby’s Barkery, which makes freshly baked homemade gourmet dog treats. She started the business at age 9, after her dog, Lucky, had allergic reactions to store-bought treats.

She started baking her own dog treats using organic ingredients and without unnecessary additives and preservatives. The product was

well-received and Noble was encouraged to start selling the goodies. By age 10, she worked her first vendor event.

Amy Diallo, a senior at Grosse Pointe North High School, shared about her business, AMI Crochet. She learned about the ebb and flow of commerce after launching in August, relaunching in September and getting her first order in December.

“It skyrocketed in December,” she said. “It’s only like this because I didn’t give up.”

Grosse Pointe South High School senior Henry Chesterton spoke about Top Dog Detailing, summing up his mobile car detailing business with: “Clean cars, zero

hassle.”

Each student was awarded a scholarship for their enterprises.

“To our grant recipients and scholarship winners, your dedication and creativity inspires us,” Boettcher said. “Thank you for championing local business and shaping the future of Grosse Pointe.”

In addition to the accolades, Boettcher took a moment to introduce the new chamber tool, Proxi, “an interactive digital map designed to increase traffic, market our local businesses and enhance community engagement,” she said. “Proxi will help residents and visitors discover shops, restaurants, services and events



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC NOVAK/VISUAL CAKE

From left, third-place grant winner Ken and Amy Kish of Floor Coverings International; second-place grant winners from Pointe the Way, Susan Mills and owner Deanna Arendoski; Chamber President Jenny Boettcher; Chamber Board Chair Maria Miller; first-place grant winner Kids on the Go’s Ashley Bahr and Katie Shubnell; Chamber Director of Finance Lisa Frasier and Chamber Director of Engagement Abigail Barroso; and Kids on the Go’s Kristy Schena and Michael VanNostrant.

throughout the Pointes, creating even more visibility and connection for our business community.”

She also thanked five members of the chamber’s board of directors whose terms expired in 2025. Among them was Mark Heppner, who served as chairman of the board three years.

“Of all the things I’ve been involved in — and I try to get involved in as much as I can — this chamber board has been such a pleasure to be part of,” Heppner said. “... I’m so proud to be a part of everything that’s happened.

“I’m all about moving forward,” he added, “so I’m pleased to introduce the new chairman of the

board, Maria Miller. I couldn’t imagine a better person coming after me.”

“I’m very honored to be taking on the role of board chair,” Miller said. “We play a pivotal role in the community. We’re here to support our members. I’m thrilled to see all that’s happened so far and excited to build on the strong foundation already in place.”

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The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce staff, from left, Director of Finance Lisa Frasier, President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher and Director of Engagement Abigail Barroso.

City of Grosse Pointe

Student loan fraud

Someone fraudulently applied for a student loan to Oakland University in a Grosse Pointe resident’s name Monday, Jan. 26.

Ran red

After being pulled over for running a red light on Mack at 9:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, a 34-year-old Warren resident was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Check fraud

A 59-year-old Detroit man attempted to pass a fraudulent check at a bank in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The payroll check came from the Village of Milford, where it was confirmed the man does not work.

Lone Star State

Approximately \$2,700 worth of various electronics items fraudulently were ordered in a Grosse Pointe resident’s name at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, and shipped to Texas.

Scam

An unknown person acting as the victim’s pas-

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

tor scammed a Grosse Pointe resident into purchasing 10 Apple gift cards totaling \$1,000 Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Domestic violence

A 25-year-old Grosse Pointe man was arrested for domestic violence at 5:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, after starting a fight with both of his parents and striking one in the face.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Missing thousands

After sending \$12,999 via two automated clearing house payments to purchase an embroidery machine, a local organization last week received notice from the company the payments were never received.

Fleeing

The driver of a blue four-door sedan elected to speed near 80 mph and

run a red light at Kercheval and Kerby, rather than pull over for speeding when an officer activated his lights and siren at 7:54 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.

Drunken

After swerving up and onto the curb at Fisher and Kercheval at 10:52 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, a 63-year-old Chesterfield woman was pulled over and arrested for operating while intoxicated.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Converter III

Once is an accident, twice is a coincidence and three times is a pattern.

That’s not exactly how it works in the world of crime, but the point is made.

The third theft of a catalytic converter in the city since mid-January occurred last week.

This time it happened between midnight and 1

a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in the 1200 block of Maryland, the same block on which the second was reported Jan. 16.

The trend began Jan. 10, two blocks away in the 1200 block of Lakepointe.

In the latest theft, a convertor valued at \$600 was removed from a 2025 Honda parked at the curb.

Mutual aid, fire

Park firefighters lent some hands and a fire truck to put out a house fire in the City of Grosse Pointe Thursday, Jan. 29.

In line with the mutual-aid agreement between the Pointes’ and Harper Woods, Park officers joined the response to a resident’s report of smoke coming from walls inside a house.

“An opening was made in the walls and the fire was extinguished with assistance of (onboard) tank water from Tower One,” an officer said.

Drunken driver

Police arrested a 47-year-old Detroit

woman Friday, Jan. 30, for drunken driving.

An officer investigated her on Middlesex near Korte for failing to use a turn signal.

“(She) smelled of intoxicants and failed field sobriety tests,” police said.

Wanted

The female subject of a felony warrant for embezzling from an elderly victim was arrested Saturday, Jan. 31, as she retrieved her belongings at a residence in the 700 block of Harcourt.

The woman, 59, lives in Detroit, according to police.

“(She was) arrested and turned over to Wayne County,” a Park officer said.

— Brad Lindberg

Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O’Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse

Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Identity theft

A resident in the 1500 block of Anita reported Monday, Jan. 26, that someone tried to use her credit card to order an AR-15 rifle and scope. She learned about it when the company texted her to verify the order.

The instance came shortly after she placed an Instacart order with a local grocery store.

Drunken driving

A 34-year-old Lansing man was arrested for drunken driving after he was stopped on Vernier near Young Lane for improper lane use and no front bumper on his vehicle.

After failing several field sobriety tests, he was given a preliminary breath test, which showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.10 percent.

—Ted O’Neil

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

FAIR:

Continued from page 3A

To register, which is encouraged but not required, visit warmemo.rial.org/events/veterans resourcefair.

“I’m excited to get the ball rolling for hopefully an annual veterans resource fair,” Szwarc said.

The event is sponsored by Verizon, a patriot programming partner of The War Memorial.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Sophia Gill; K-9 Officer Arcos; his handler, Officer Duncan Gill; and Corinne Martin, founder and board president of the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

ARCOS:

Continued from page 2A

Arcos. Martin said GPAAS has aroud \$47,000 left over from when it sponsored a K-9 officer in Harper Woods, a program that was disbanded early last year when their dog retired.

“That money was raised specifically for K-9 purposes, so that’s all it can be spent on,” Martin said. “We were able to transfer it over to Arcos.”

Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation President Lisa Fuller said that group has raised close to \$25,000.

Major donors were edmund t. AHEE Jewelers, Buccellato Development, J. Lewis

and Judy Cooper Jr., Michael and Ariana Gula and the Rutkofske family.

“Our fundraising was in response to a grant request from the city and in conjunction with parallel efforts by GPAAS,” Fuller said. “These gifts will transfer to the city and help reduce the burden on GPAAS for initial program costs.”

Martin said another \$6,800 was raised the evening of Thursday, Jan. 29, during a meet and greet with Arcos and Gill.

“We had about 70 people there and they did great for their first time in a large gathering,” she said. “The people have really embraced having a K-9 officer.”

Main breaks piling up in Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A blanket of snow can live up to its name.

“Snow depth is critical to insulating the soil,” according to authors of a University of Minnesota agricultural blog. “Snow depths of 4 to 10 inches have been shown to pro-

vide effective insulation.”

While specific to the maintenance of crops, virtually across-the-board conclusions by other university extension services are anecdotally relevant to snow’s ability to cloister water mains from breaking during freeze-thaw cycles.

Not in the sense of keeping buried mains

warm and cozy, but in lessening overhead pressure on pipes created by the weight of frost-inundated ground.

The relationship is a consideration for why the Park had four broken mains in January and another three this week. The running total of seven breaks so far this year represents 35 per-

cent of the 15 to 20 total water main breaks registered during an average 12-month period, according to Tom Jenny, public works director.

“But it’s not a typical winter,” he said. “We had no snow at first. We had cold.”

So, there was frost in

See BREAKS, page 10A



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OUR VIEW

Now we know

Last June in this space, we asked the question, “What is their end game?” and wondered if there was some type of ulterior motive for the way certain members of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education were treating Superintendent Andrea Tuttle.

The badgering, the disrespect, the attempts at intimidation. There must be a motive, we presumed, because reasonable, responsible adults with a modicum of decency do not act this way in a professional, public setting. Or in private, for that matter.

Now we know.

Sadly, Dr. Tuttle the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 28, sent out a districtwide email saying she would be retiring at the end of August.

Dr. Tuttle was hired in late 2023 by a 7-0 vote of the board, the first superintendent in several years to be selected unanimously.

She started in early 2024 and the district had one of its best years ever. Dr. Tuttle led efforts to balance the budget, get the operating millage renewed and a new, higher sinking fund passed.

GPPSS and the Grosse Pointe Education Association, along with its affiliate unions, also 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.

Problems between some board members and Dr. Tuttle started to appear around the middle of June that year. Here are some examples we have noted in the past and some new ones.

Trustee Colleen 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 around \$4.5 million in COVID-related federal funding.

A majority of the cuts came from not filling 18 vacant teaching positions and the budget did not cut any student programming, but Ms. Worden was upset because the budget did not indicate which teaching positions were not being filled and at what schools.

“I’d also argue in this situation that we’ve been paying for three superintendents,” Ms. Worden said at the time. “As much as I appreciate Dr. Tuttle, she is paid one of the top superintendent salaries in the state. That’s a slap in the face when we’re only giving teachers a 1 percent raise.”

(This was before the 2023-24 fiscal year budget ended with a \$1 million surplus, allowing for 2 percent raises and step increases.)

Ms. Worden was referring to the fact former Superintendent Jon Dean was paid \$195,000 as part of his separation agreement when he retired in 2023, and the district paid Christian Fenton to act as interim superintendent for five months.

Dr. Tuttle said she was “flabbergasted” by Ms. Worden’s comments.

“I’ve shared with you numerous times how we got to these numbers,” she said. “I take some offense to the fact that you continue to say we have not been transparent.

“Regarding my contract, I applied for this job because I love Grosse Pointe and because of the posting that was put out there,” she added. “I was offered the position and for you to continue to attack that is offensive to me.”

The board agreed in late 2023 to post the job with a starting base salary of between \$275,000 and \$350,000. Dr. Tuttle’s salary is \$310,000 annually.

At an October board meeting, Trustee Valarie St. John commented on what she claimed were violations of the Open Meetings Act on the part of other trustees communicating via email and seemed to imply Dr. Tuttle was complicit.



Pure Grosse Pointe

What you do when you want to build a snowman but it’s too cold? You wait until your driveway is shoveled into a mound of the white stuff so you can decorate that instead of building one from scratch. This “snow blob” was spotted at the end of a driveway on Shoreham in Grosse Pointe Woods.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

“It concerns me that a trustee has no idea what the responsibility of a superintendent is,” Dr. Tuttle said to Ms. St. John, reading from a prepared statement. “You frequently ask me to take actions that fall outside my purview as superintendent. You continue to divide and send divisive emails to all of us. Your repeated attempts to create conflict among board members and expect me to resolve them is counterproductive.”

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 highest possible under state law. 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 original three-year 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.

Which brings us to June 2025, when tension mounted between then-Trustee Clint Derringer — now board president — and Dr. Tuttle during a discussion about increasing the salary range in order to attract a new CFO.

“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.

“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 for performance, it uses state averages when it comes to teacher-to-student ratios and should do the same in setting the CFO salary.

“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. I’m going to walk away if you continue to preach at me.”

Mr. Derringer responded, saying, “To finish my questions ...”

At that 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, board president at the time, did not attempt to intervene. Unfortunate, but perhaps unsurprising since she ended the meeting saying it is “not inappropriate” for trustees to ask tough questions.

Late last year, Ms. Worden effectively called Dr. Tuttle a liar during a board discussion about Trombly Elementary School and why it was not

on the list of 2027 bond projects. Dr. Tuttle explained that Ms. Worden had told her not to put it on the list, which she denied. Dr. Tuttle said there was another administrator in the room when that discussion occurred.

Unfortunately, that person has not had the courage to step forward and defend Dr. Tuttle. Perhaps they see how certain members of the board treat her and do not want a target on their back.

Sadly, Dr. Tuttle then said she felt as if she would need to record all future conversations with Ms. Worden to defend herself.

The last straw, however, may have been the vile and unprofessional behavior of four board members toward Dr. Tuttle during her evaluation last November.

The board scored her across 32 metrics on a scale of 1 to 3 dealing with everything from budgetary matters to personnel issues to student growth. Dr. Tuttle received 3s in several categories, including district image, media relations, delegation of duties and budget development.

But Ms. Worden, for example, scored Dr. Tuttle a 1 in providing the board with information, citing a discussion about universal preschool at the board’s previous meeting.

“You put it on the agenda and there was a flurry of negative information,” Ms. Worden said.

“It was for discussion,” Dr. Tuttle responded. “I told you three times what I was putting on the agenda.”

Under district image, Ms. St. John was the only board member not to give Tuttle a 3, scoring her a 1.

“You don’t represent the district well in some board meetings,” she said. “Walking out of a board meeting is a bad look.”

Average votes by trustees were:

- ◆ Mr. Cotton, 3
- ◆ Ginny Jeup, 3
- ◆ Tim Klepp, 2.7
- ◆ Laura Hull, 2.4
- ◆ Mr. Derringer, 2.2
- ◆ Ms. St. John, 1.9
- ◆ Ms. Worden, 1.9

Despite some of the preposterous scores, Dr. Tuttle ended up with a 2.7 average out of 3, earning her an “effective” rating again.

To quote the hilarious Woody Allen movie “Bananas,” the evening was “a travesty of a mockery of a sham.”

Dr. Tuttle summed up the situation well in her closing comments at that meeting, saying, “It feels like you don’t want me here because I worked well with the prior board. I’m proud of what we as a team have accomplished.”

As we said here last June, to treat this way the person most responsible for rescuing our school district from financial ruin is unconscionable. To force her out would be unforgivable.

Now we know.

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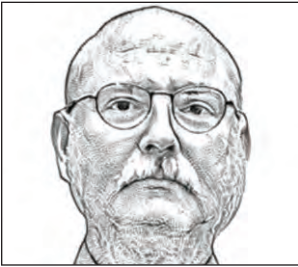
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Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
10%	50%	10%	10%	0%	0%	20%
SUNRISE 7:41 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:40 am SUNSET 5:51 pm	SUNRISE 7:39 am SUNSET 5:53 pm	SUNRISE 7:38 am SUNSET 5:54 pm	SUNRISE 7:37 am SUNSET 5:55 pm	SUNRISE 7:35 am SUNSET 5:57 pm	SUNRISE 7:34 am SUNSET 5:58 pm

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

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to editor@grossepointenews.com or by filling out the letters form on our website, grossepointenews.com.

I SAY By Ted O’Neil



Snow days

The recent cold weather and snow days got me thinking back to my own youth and similar circumstances.

I went to Catholic school up until eighth grade at the sadly now-closed St. Germaine in St. Clair Shores. The school followed the cancellation policy of the local public school district (Go Lakeview!), which I’m guessing many private and parochial schools do.

This was in the late 1970s and early 1980s, obviously long before anyone had cell phones or the internet. That meant having to get up early and either listen to the radio to hear a list of closings or watch a scroll across the bottom of the TV. It was always alphabetical, so that meant having to wait through nearly half of the alphabet to find out one way or another.

I remember waiting through the list a few times if I didn’t hear Lakeview Public Schools the first time around. Did

I miss it? Will they add it?

When the good news came through, it was party time. Funny thing was, it was either too cold or too snowy to go to school, but my buddies and I would get bundled up and spend hours outside sledding, having snowball fights and building snow forts.

I vividly remember the blizzard of 1978. One of my neighbors had a tall hedgerow running the length of their driveway and there was so much snow we were able to make a tunnel through it.

Eventually it would be time to go inside to get warmed up with some hot chocolate and watch “Bill Kennedy at the Movies.” Who else remembers Mr. Belvedere? “We do good work.” That’s what everyone watched on sick days, but on snow days you could relax more knowing you wouldn’t have homework to make up.

As I got older, snow days were a chance to make some money shoveling. I grew up on a street of mostly retirees and I don’t recall a single neighbor owning a snowblower.

Once in high school, we had a snow day dur-

ing finals week but still had basketball practice. A bunch of us ran upstairs afterward to grab books from our lockers so we could study since we hadn’t anticipated not being in school that day.

By the time we got back to the gym, a police officer was talking to our coach. Apparently the school had multiple alarm zones and coach had only turned off the one near the gym.

The recent storms that hit the South reminded me of the one time it snowed in the three years I lived near Savannah about a decade ago. People absolutely lost their minds. Naturally, cities down there don’t have plows and don’t buy salt because snow or ice is such a rare occurrence. Even roads with slight inclines were closed and us northern transplants knew better than to drive anywhere because the locals were causing accidents left and right.

Now when I hear about a snow day or when the temperature drops far enough to cancel school, my only thought is how we have to do something about this darn global warming!

FROM THE OWNER By Sean Cotton



We are losing a great leader

and a team member. And I also speak as a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

From all of those vantage points, from corporate to community to public education, I can say with complete conviction that Dr. Andrea Tuttle is one of the most effective leaders I have ever worked with and by far the most effective educator. Her combination of professionalism, resilience, vision and unwavering focus on students set a new standard for leadership in this district.

When I made the decision to run for the school board, it was because I saw a system in decline. Enrollment was dropping. Finances were deteriorating. Trust in the district was at a low point. I ran to stop the financial and enrollment death spiral that threatened the future of public education in the Pointes. I ran to bring in real leadership and restore trust. And together, we did just that.

But none of it would have been possible

without Dr. Tuttle. She didn’t just lead, she rebuilt. She stabilized our finances, right-sized the district without layoffs and helped us pass every critical funding initiative. She expanded opportunities for students and settled every major contract. And through it all, she never lost sight of what matters most: the students, the teachers and the community.

She led this walkable, bikeable, academically strong district with integrity and heart. Her focus was always on what would make our public schools stronger, not just for today, but for the next generation.

It is unfortunate that we are losing her, but I understand her decision.

She is leaving us stronger than she found us and she is giving us time to plan carefully for what comes next. But make no mistake, these are big shoes to fill. The Grosse Pointe Public School System is losing a great leader. And we should all be paying attention to what that means.



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PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Sebastian Rouse of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester of Lincoln University.

◆◆◆

Evelyn Stahl of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the York College of Pennsylvania Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester. Stahl is majoring in sport management.

◆◆◆

Joseph Tedesco of Grosse Pointe Woods, was named to Point Park University’s fall 2025 Dean’s List.

◆◆◆

Braeden Roberts of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester at Michigan State University.



Joseph Tedesco

TROMBLY:

Continued from page 2A

of classroom space. Some 88 percent of preschool families choose private schools, but 80 percent would prefer enrollment in the public system, he said. Meanwhile, Kahl said, Defer Elementary School’s reputation for being overcrowded is bolstered by four of its kindergartens being classes at or above the 25-student attendance limit. “It appears Defer has reached its capacity for Y5 (Young Fives pre-kin-

dergarten), K (kindergarten) and 1 (first-grade) programming,” according to a slide in Kahn’s PowerPoint presentation to the council and public. “Without elementary classrooms at Trombly, the district can’t easily or efficiently expand preschool, reduce class sizes (or) move fifth grade back to elementary if desired.” “Defer is at or near capacity with limited additional classroom space,” according to a December 2025 report by the Grosse Pointe Park Trombly ad hoc committee, members of whom Hodges appointed nearly

a year earlier. “There is no room for expanded programming, (such as) preschool, half-day kindergarten, (or) additional classrooms to reduce class sizes.” The report continued, “Reopening Trombly would relieve pressure on Defer, balance enrollment and better meet family needs without overburdening existing schools.” Park resident Richard Schroeder is willing to do his part. “We need a unified front with these people,” Schroeder said about setting school officials straight.

BoE votes on first budget amendment of 25-26 budget

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A reduction in state funding and a bookkeeping error led the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education to adopt a budget amendment at its meeting Monday, Jan. 26. Some \$3.7 million in special education funding from the state was mistakenly included in both the special education and general funds in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget and the error was carried over to the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. “We have had multiple CFOs in the district over the last five years working on the budget,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said. “It’s not easy working with someone else’s budget.” The district is on its fifth person in the position since 2023. That included a consultant who was with the district for a majority of 2025, but only was in the district one day a week, as well as a CFO who left a month after being hired.

Andrea Agrusa, the current CFO, joined the district four months ago and received praise from Tuttle and board President Clint Derringer for bringing stability to the job. During her presentation to the board, Agrusa said the district has 6,363 full-time equivalent students. The state bases enrollment 90 percent on a district’s fall count day and 10 percent on the previous spring’s count day. The enrollment is down 34 FTE students, but up 65 from what the current budget was based on. Per-pupil funding this school year for GPPSS is \$11,745, an increase of \$442 over last year but \$50 less than the district anticipated. Tuttle said the \$442 increase includes \$108 in what is called “hold harmless” money. About three dozen districts statewide — including GPPSS — get the money because they historically had higher per-pupil spending before Proposal A passed in 1994. “That was done in a supplemental budget this year instead of roll-

ing it into the regular per-pupil amount,” Tuttle said. “I’m very concerned it could go away.” There also was a reduction of \$1.6 million from the state for the district to put toward employee retirement costs. The original 2025-26 budget was passed with expected revenue of about \$105 million and spending of about \$103 million. The revised budget has revenue of about \$103 million and spending of about \$104 million. Some projected revenues did go up, including local property taxes with an increase of \$861,000 over the original budget and federal funding, up \$1.1 million from the original budget. With an operating deficit of \$988,000, the district will have to take money from its fund balance, which will drop from 14.6 percent to 13.1 percent. “These numbers will fluctuate between now and when we do our second amendment in the spring and the final budget in June,” Tuttle said.

TUTTLE:

Continued from page 1A

opportunities and will continue to focus my full attention on serving Grosse Pointe Public Schools through the remainder of my time here.” Clint Derringer, current board president, had this statement, “Dr. Tuttle took the reins of GPPSS amidst massive personnel turnover surrounded by more questions than answers. Our district remains grateful to her for her leadership in stabilizing the central administration team first and foremost. She also skillfully led the district team and engaged our community on the way to passing a \$120 million bond, a \$110 million sinking fund millage and renewing our operating millage. I hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement with her family.” Tuttle said her plan over the next seven months is to work with Derringer on a variety of issues. “Under President Derringer’s leadership, my hope is to continue the strong, student-centered focus on academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, safety and security and long-range facilities planning established under former President Sean Cotton,” she noted. “I value clear direction aligned with board goals and based on my early work with President Derringer when he served as chair of the Facilities Committee, I am confident that we share a commitment to keeping students at the heart of every decision.” Jackie Shelson and Taryn Loughlin, co-presidents of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, said in a statement, “The GPEA extends its best wishes to Dr. Tuttle as she chooses retirement and

the next chapter of her professional journey. We are truly surprised by this decision and saddened she will not have additional time to get to know more of our incredible teachers. Even with Dr. Tuttle’s brief tenure, we are grateful for the opportunity to have worked together on behalf of students, educators and the broader school community. “While there were times when we did not always agree, our work was grounded in mutual respect and a shared commitment to the district and its mission,” they continued. “The GPEA thanks Superintendent Tuttle for her service and collaboration and wishes her continued success and fulfillment in retirement.” Tuttle also said she considers herself “fortunate” for her time in Grosse Pointe. “Prior to coming to Grosse Pointe, and during my 14-year superintendent tenure, I worked with two board presidents whom I continue to respect deeply,” she said. “Those experiences shaped my understanding of how important a strong, trusting relationship between the full board, but especially with the board president who is elected by the full board, contributes to the overall success of a school district. “When I first met President Cotton, I felt fortunate because he made it clear that he trusted me to lead the educational team and do what we do best, while also assuring me that he would be there to support in any way needed,” she added. “That trust and clarity set the foundation for our work together and for the success of the district.” She also said Cotton exemplified strong governance with the board while providing clear goals, collaboration and

consistent support. “I deeply valued his business expertise in finance, human resources, facilities planning and negotiations, as well as his candid leadership style grounded in integrity and trust in the educational team,” she said. “We were closely aligned in our educational philosophy and shared a commitment to academic excellence, rigor and meaningful support for all students. “With this board’s support, our team was encouraged to expand opportunities for students,” she continued. “This included growth in career and technical education programming, the addition of SAT preparation courses to support college readiness and scholarship opportunities and continued support for all extracurricular offerings. I am proud of the work our educational team accomplished in making necessary budgetary and staffing adjustments without laying off any team members, while also reversing a previously negative budget trajectory. President Cotton also played a key role in reaching an agreement with the GPEA, including recommending the removal of a long-standing formula that had hindered negotiations.” Tuttle said she is grateful to Cotton and the board members who “led with integrity, professionalism and confidence in the educational team. I look forward to continuing this important work with President Derringer over the next seven months as we move the district forward together with stability and sustainability.” Derringer added the board will have to decide when to start the search process for a replacement. State law requires school districts to have a superintendent under contract at all times.

When to Go to the Emergency Room



By Glen Clark, M.D.

The Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital Emergency Room is here for moments when your health care needs can’t wait. While many illnesses and injuries can be safely managed in an office or urgent care setting, knowing when to go directly to the ER can reduce complications and, in some cases, save a life. Chest pain or pressure, especially if it radiates to the jaw or arm, or is accompanied by difficulty breathing, should never be ignored. At Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, we prioritize prompt assessment, including rapid electrocardiograms (ECGs). Our cardiac catheterization lab and interventional cardiologists are available 24/7 with the goal of rapidly treating heart attacks and large blood clots, such as pulmonary embolisms in the lungs. Signs of stroke, including sudden facial drooping, speech difficulty, arm weakness, confusion, vision problems, or loss of balance, should lead to an immediate visit to the ER. Time matters with stroke. At Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, our “Code Stroke” process helps ensure rapid evaluation and treatment, including clot-busting medications when indicated. Severe injuries or heavy bleeding should always be evaluated in the emergency center. Some serious injuries may not be apparent initially, and visible injuries such as broken bones or lacerations can distract from more serious, hidden problems. As a Level III trauma center, our processes help ensure significant injuries are identified and trauma-related conditions are appropriately treated. Patients taking blood thinners should be especially cautious and come to the ER after any head injury or significant bleeding. High fevers accompanied by a stiff neck, severe headache, confusion, difficulty breathing, or a rash should also prompt a visit to the ER. High fevers can be dangerous, particularly for infants, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems. At Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, we have processes in place to rapidly identify and treat severe infections that can lead to sepsis. Allergic reactions involving swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat, or sudden dizziness after exposure to medications, foods, or insect stings require immediate emergency care. First-time or recurrent seizures, as well as fainting without a known cause, should also be evaluated in the emergency room. If a situation is life-threatening, call 911 immediately. If you are unsure and symptoms feel severe or frightening, the ER is the right choice. At Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, our board-certified emergency physicians are here to ensure you are promptly evaluated and appropriately treated.

Dr. Glen Clark is a board-certified Emergency Medicine physician and serves as Chief of Emergency Medicine at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital located at 468 Cadieux Road in Grosse Pointe.



Third annual Grosse Pointe History Day is Saturday

The third annual Grosse Pointe History Day is 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at University Liggett School’s Boll Campus Center. Hosted by the Grosse Pointe Learning Collective, admission is open to the public.

To coincide with the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, National History Day’s 2026 contest theme is Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History. After selecting a historical topic that relates to an annual theme, students conduct extensive research using libraries, archives, museums and oral history interviews. They analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topic’s significance in history and create final projects in one of five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance or website.

The winner from each project category and age division (grades 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12) advances to the regionals, with winners there moving on to Michigan History Day. The Michigan finalists then compete against winners from across the country at the National History Day finals in Washington, D.C., held in June.

Students and families who might be interested in participating next year are encouraged to attend to tour the projects.

Anyone interested in contributing sponsor-

ship dollars to help fund student financial awards and defray the cost of the event can contact Cressie Boggs at cboggs@uls.org or visit uls.org/make-a-donation. Select “other” and note in the comments that it is for Grosse Pointe History Day.

District-wide Student Decline Impact to Utilization

Building	2017 Student Enrollment	2022 Student Enrollment	2024-2025 Student Enrollment	Difference (2017 to 24/25)	Building Capacity (2017 Capacity)	Building Capacity (2022 Capacity)	Building Capacity (2024 Capacity)	Current Utilization (2017)	Current Utilization (2022)	Current Utilization (2024 Projected)
Defer Elementary School	315	456	459	144	525	600	600	60%	76%	77%
Ferry Elementary School	364	309	357	-7	625	581	581	58%	53%	61%
Kerby Elementary School	353	274	321	-32	425	371	371	83%	74%	87%
Maire Elementary School	316	227	252	-64	375	382	382	84%	59%	66%
Mason Elementary School	294	309	274	-20	450	475	475	65%	65%	58%
Monteith Elementary School	444	472	455	11	625	639	639	71%	74%	71%
Poupard Elementary	297			-297	550			54%		
Richard Elementary School	355	355	313	-42	475	514	514	75%	69%	61%
Trombly Elementary School	267			-267	425			63%		
Brownell Middle School	612	596	603	-9	754	815	815	81%	73%	74%
Parcells Middle School	665	699	670	5	806	1040	1040	83%	67%	64%
Pierce Middle School	527	508	569	42	728	820	820	72%	62%	69%
North High School	1385	1144	923	-462	2,408	2,289	2,289	58%	50%	40%
South High School	1,678	1,363	1,127	-551	2,128	2,072	2,072	79%	66%	54%
Total Enrollment	7,872	6,712	6,323	-1549	11,299	10,598	10,598	70%	63%	60%
Source:	2017 PMR PEPS Presentation	2022 PMR Reports	Preliminary 2024-2025 GPPSS Counts		2017 PMR PEPS Presentation	2022 PMR Report				

CHOICE:

Continued from page 1A

schools which in turn supports students and builds community pride.”

House Bills 5310, 5311 and 5312 were introduced last week at a meeting of the House Education and Workforce Development Committee. They also were discussed in that committee Wednesday, Feb. 4, after press time.

Pat Outman, a Montcalm County Republican and sponsor of the main bill, HB 5310, testified before the committee last week.

“Students deserve access to the school that works best for them without being blocked by arbitrary lines,” he said. “Under this legislation, schools could not deny enrollment based on disability or academic ability, but could deny enrollment for a serious disciplinary history, including a felony conviction.”

The bills would force districts to enroll non-resident students based on capacity. With an enrollment of around 6,400 students, GPPSS has approximately 4,275 open seats.

All three bills are being co-sponsored by Rep. Joe Tate, D-Detroit, former speaker of the house who previously represented the Pointes. The bills primarily are being co-sponsored by Republicans.

The GPPSS Board of Education has voted against participating in schools of choice every year since it took effect in 1996.

As the accompanying graphic shows (above), estimates from Plante Moran indicate building capacity and utilization varies across the district, with a high of 87 percent at Kerby Elementary School and a low of 40 percent at Grosse Pointe North High School.

HB 5311, sponsored by Rep. Tulio Liberati, D-Allen Park, would remove criminal penalties for a parent or guardian to use false information to enroll a non-resident student in a district. HB 5312, sponsored by Rep. Angela Rigas, R-Caledonia, would change the state’s Revised School Code to align with HB 5310 and prohibits districts from charging tuition to non-district students.

Committee members raised questions about enrollment drops in districts near those that currently are not schools of choice, which aside from GPPSS includes Rochester, Novi, Northville, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham, to name a few locally, should the laws go into place. They also voiced concerns that districts might close buildings to eliminate excess capacity.

The bills are backed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Opposed are Wayne RESA, which is the local intermediate school district, the Michigan Education Association and Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

Tired of hibernating? Feeling cabin fever? Win an exciting getaway to the Perry Hotel in Petoskey!



Here’s how Grosse Pointe News subscribers can enter:

All you need to do is write a short paragraph or two on “Why my family needs a weekend getaway!” Whether you are staring at the walls, climbing the walls or putting up new walls to keep your sanity — tell us your most humorous take on why the fam needs a winter break from the same old. Extra points for a funny picture!

Capture your story in 75-100 words and include your name, address, email address and phone number. Then email your contest entry to the Grosse Pointe News at: media@grossepointenews.com by midnight, February 9, 2026.

The winning entry will receive a two-night stay* for a family of four plus \$250 toward dining purchases. May the stir-craziest family in Grosse Pointe win!

WINNER ANNOUNCED IN-PAPER ON 2/19/26.

* Reservations required. Not valid in July, August or on a holiday. Must be redeemed in 2026. Subject to availability.

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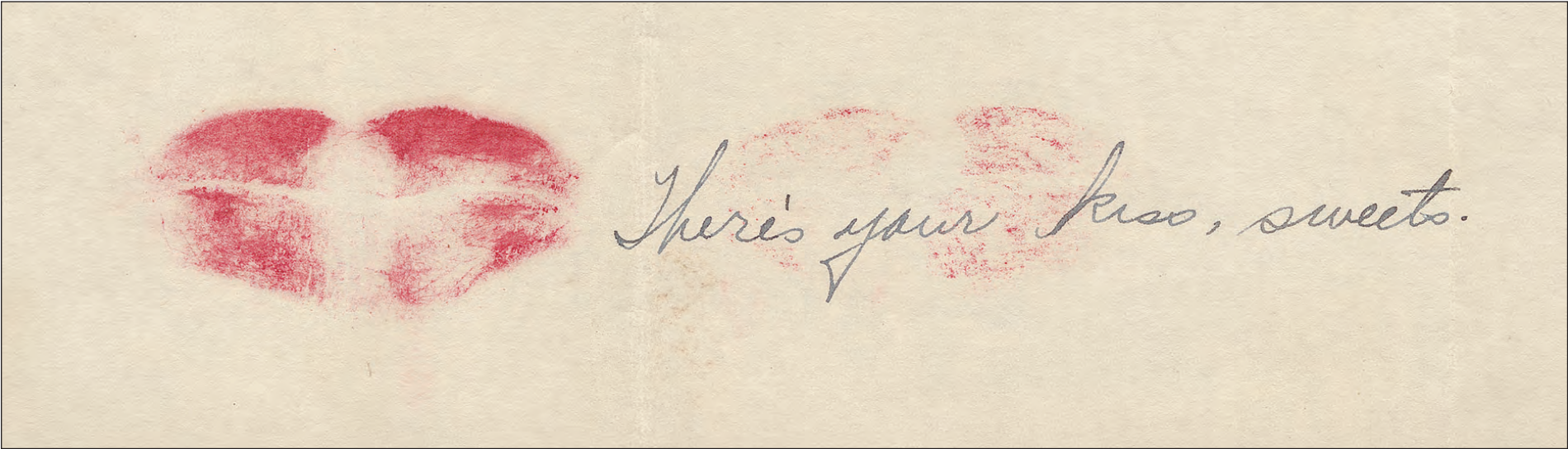


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2&8B AREA ACTIVITIES | 3-5B SENIOR LIVING | 6B OBITUARIES | 7B CHURCHES



From the Henry Fiore collection, 1930-1950. This collection contains correspondence and other items related to Lt. Henry Fiore and his wife, Bonnie Irvine Fiore. Henry Fiore received letters, greeting cards and other correspondence while serving in the United States Army during World War II, including Bonnie's letters about life in New York City while he was away. Bonnie consistently shared her love for Henry and often kissed her letters, leaving marks with her lipstick.

A different way to valentine

GPAA lecture looks at history, snarky side of 'Cupid's Holiday'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

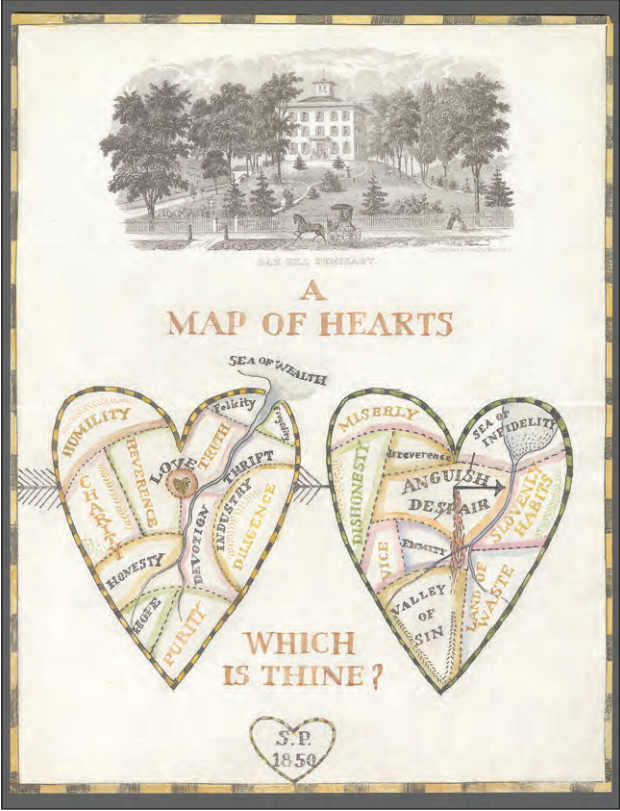
Jayne Ptolemy, associate curator of manuscripts at the William L. Clements Library on the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus, loves telling other people's stories — the more romantic, the better. She'll share the history of Valentine's Day, as well as heartwarming ways people's love has endured through the centuries, during the Grosse Pointe Artists Association's next Your Old Mansion lecture, "Love and Romance" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"I fell in love with history as an undergrad," Ptolemy said. "Previously, I hated all things history. I thought it was the most boring thing." That certainly is no longer the case for Ptolemy, who earned a Ph.D. in history and has been processing the Clements Library's manuscript collections, contributing to instruction and helping connect researchers with rich handwritten sources for the last 14 years.

During her lecture, she'll provide a rich mix of Valentine's Day history through an extensive PowerPoint while "musing on the beauty and power of looking at the softer moments in history," she said, "the stoic leaders who are missing their wives and sending love notes. We'll look at the beautiful human spirit we see in the history of humans." She'll also take a look at love's snarky side.



Jayne Ptolemy presents "Love and Romance" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, at The War Memorial, as part of the GPAA's Your Old Mansion series.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAYNE PTOLEMY



Nannie N. Linscott kept a pre-printed pocket diary in 1876, while she was a young woman living in Jefferson, Maine. Her brief entries describe her musical lessons, favorite proverbs, local marriages and deaths and the presents she received throughout the year. Tucked in the volume's back pocket were four rewards of merit she likely received at school, tender hand-cut valentines of hearts and hands (pictured) and a miniature note from a friend.

"The beautiful thing about romance is it's everywhere when you start looking for it." Through the Clements collections, Ptolemy will share manuscripts, maps reflecting on romance and fun photographs of people, "of the way people have been loving through history," she said. "It will be a hodgepodge of everything." Ptolemy said her lecture is for "anybody who is looking for a light-hearted, fun, different way of celebrating Valentine's Day." "I'll be honest," she added. "I don't like Valentine's Day. My husband and I never celebrate it. ... I'm not a romantic person, but I love the history of it, the window it opens to the past." She recommended the lecture for people who aren't interested in flowers and chocolates and sappy celebrations. "This is a way to come and think about Valentine's Day while celebrating it in a low-stakes kind of way," she said. "It's even for people who think history is very boring. It can be, but it doesn't have to be. There are always fun things to find." Ptolemy said she's looking forward to interacting with those

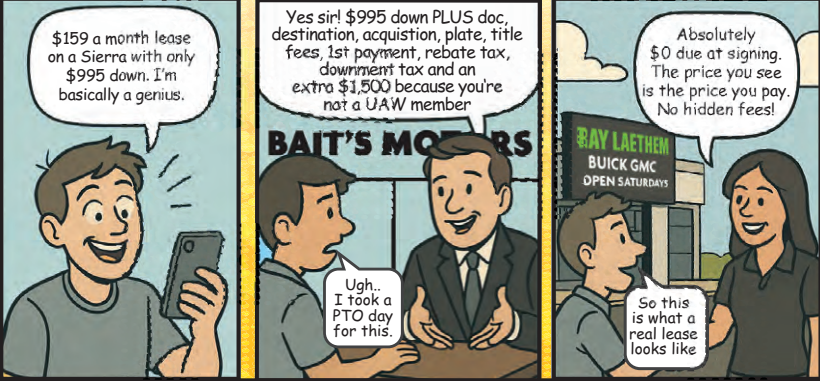
"A Map of Hearts: Which is Thine" was created in 1850, by an artist whose initials were S.P. It was drawn in ink and watercolor on stationery with the printed view of Oak Hill Seminary lithographed by Punderson & Crisand in New Haven, Conn. A note in manuscript pencil on its reverse reads, "Map of Hearts. Possibly drawn by Sarah Plimpton, younger sister of Headmistress Hannah Louisa Plimpton Hartwell."

who attend the lecture and hopes to hear about some of their previous Valentine's Day experiences. "I'm really excited to chat with the people there and have more discussion at the end," she said. "I love this kind of history. I'm excited to geek out with whoever's in the room." Tickets for "Love and Romance" are \$35 for GPAA members, \$40 for nonmembers, and may be purchased online at grossepointeartcenter.org/events. For more information, call (313) 881-3454 or email gpaag@grossepointeartcenter.org.



Weld-Grinke Valentine No. 2B3.

THE GREAT LEASE ADVENTURE



Panel 1: A man says, "\$159 a month lease on a Sierra with only \$995 down. I'm basically a genius."

Panel 2: A man says, "Ugh... I took a PTO day for this."

Panel 3: A man says, "Yes sir! \$995 down PLUS doc, destination, acquisition, plate, title fees, 1st payment, rebate tax, down payment tax and an extra \$1,500 because you're not a UAW member."

Panel 4: A woman says, "Absolutely \$0 due at signing. The price you see is the price you pay. No hidden fees!"

Panel 5: A woman says, "So this is what a real lease looks like."

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Student becomes teacher of hands-on electronics repair

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It may have taken Gavin Perry a few years to launch his electronics repair class, Fix It Together, but he's been fixing devices as long as he can remember. Making repairs came out of necessity to the Grosse Pointe North High School senior.

"I've always been breaking things," he said. "The earliest I remember is in elementary school and I've broken a lot of things since."

Breaking led to fixing, for which he offers instruction and oversight during his class.

"The average person, with the right tools, can do it," he added. "Making repairs is more accessible than the average person realizes."

Since October, Perry has been sharing his repair knowledge twice monthly at The War Memorial, inviting all ages to an open session every other Friday.

"I have hundreds of dollars of tools and devices people can use," he said. "I walk them through basic repairs, like a laptop battery replacement. Or they can work on their own, on a phone or tablet. ... If they



Instructor Gavin Perry works on a laptop with two of his younger students.

have a specific device they bring in, I can help them open it up and fix it."

Perry got the idea for the program his freshman year, when he thought about starting a repair club at North, "but I didn't know how to execute that until this summer," he said. "Then I reached out to different

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAVIN PERRY



All ages are welcome to pick up a repair skill or two during Fix It Together.

"Whether you have an older phone with a cracked screen, a laptop with battery issues or just want to learn how devices work, this is the place to do it," reads a promotion by The War Memorial.

"Sometimes it's not all done in one session," Perry noted, providing a recent example of someone's Wii system, which required a part to be ordered before it could be repaired. But Perry helped the participant remove the Wii's screen, figure out what part to order and helped place the order before working together to fix the device during a return visit.

"I encourage people to work with each other, too," he added, "to see what they can get done with whatever is available."

What Perry has available, in addition to tools, are several Chromebooks he collected from his robotics team, as well as many donated tablets.

"Some are broken, some not," he said. "It doesn't make a difference as long as they go back into one piece."

"I'm giving people the experience of exploring devices' insides, ordering parts," he added. "It's a valuable skill. ... I've never seen anything like

this in terms of teaching repair. At this point, you'd have to learn on your own or you can watch a YouTube video. But the more stuff you open and get inside of, the easier it gets."

While Perry provides guided instruction on common fixes — think phone screen swaps, battery replacements and basic laptop repairs — he also provides hands-on practice for people who just want to learn. Open tinkering allows participants to work on their own devices, explore new techniques or col-

See REPAIR, page 8B



Grosse Pointe Theatre's Ten-Minute Play Festival auditions Sunday, Feb. 22

Grosse Pointe Theatre will hold open auditions from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb 22, at 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe, for its upcoming 13th annual Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival, which will be held in early May.

Diverse actors of various ages are needed to fill more than 25 roles in 10 original 10-minute plays. Both new and experienced actors are welcome to audition.

This is an opportunity to be part of the magic of live theater and work with a dedicated team to present a captivating theater experience for participants and patrons alike. Participants should have a desire to learn, be convincing in their portrayal and be

willing to work creatively as a team to produce a believable story — in 10 minutes.

Rehearsals will begin in late February and continue through the 2026 festival, which will take place May 1 to 3, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. Rehearsal schedules will be determined by each play's director. Performance dates will be 7 p.m. Friday, May 1; 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Actors must be available for most rehearsals, all of tech week and all three performances.

Visit gpt.org for more information and to submit the pre-audition registration form.

Email questions to playfestival@gpt.org.

LWV offers 'Know What You Sign': Understanding petitions in Michigan

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe has posted a video on its YouTube channel: "Know What You Sign." This is an educational video to help community members better understand the petitions currently circulating throughout Michigan that could go before voters in 2026.

Petitions provide citi-

zens the opportunity to bring issues to the ballot for all voters to decide. However, what is written on petitions — and what is said about them — can sometimes be unclear, misleading or confusing. This program will provide the language on all petitions currently circulating. It is important to fully understand what

the proposed ballot initiatives would do if ultimately approved by voters.

"Signing a petition is not just adding your name; it's taking the first step toward putting a proposal before all Michigan voters," League President Lynne Pierce said. "It is important to understand exactly what

a petition means and how it may affect you and your community."

Access the video on the League's YouTube channel by going to its website, lwvgrossepointe.org.

For more information, contact the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Concert

The Planet D Nonet performs a trio of concerts Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5 to 7, at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visit dirtydogjazz.com for tickets.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, membership in The Helm is waived for people living in Harper Woods, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe

Woods. Residents of non-senior service millage communities must pay a \$180 per household membership fee to The Helm to use its services and participate in programming. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

- ◆ New to Medicare, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, with facilitator Tony Altovilla.
- ◆ The movie "Love is in the Air" is shown at noon Friday, Feb. 6. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.
- ◆ Valentine's Trivia Party, noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Cost is \$20.
- ◆ The movie "Our

Souls at Night" is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.

- ◆ Premier World Discovery presents "Landscapes & Lighthouses of Coastal Maine" and "National Parks & Canyons of the Southwest," 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.
- ◆ The movie "The Beautiful Fantastic" is shown at noon Friday, Feb. 20. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.
- ◆ Coffee and Pastries with Sen. Hertel, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27.

Library

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

- ◆ The True and Live History of Techno Music, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Colonialist Richard Cranch, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Beginning CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Meet Up & Make, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

See EVENTS, page 8B

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Seniors: Time to guard your mental health

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Mental health is increasingly front and center in the news and in public discussion. The stigma once assigned to mental health issues has largely dissipated and many people now recognize that mental health should be just as big a priority as physical health.

Seniors may not have come of age in a world where mental health was prioritized and, due to that, aging men and women may not even recognize when they are suffering emotionally and what they can do about it.

The number of seniors with mental health disorders is expected to double by 2030, according to a recent report. Some of that increase could be due to lack of treatment, as the American Hospital Association notes — two-thirds of seniors with mental health issues will not receive necessary treatment for their conditions. Recognition and attention are steps in the right direction.

Seniors might consider the following strategies to safeguard their mental and emotional well-being. Awareness is vital to enjoying the golden years with more peace and satisfaction.

Recognize your vulnerability

Older adults are uniquely vulnerable to potential emotional issues because mental health is shaped by numerous compounding variables, including reflection on earlier life experiences. In the busyness of mid-life, a lot of events with deep emotional impact get sidelined for the sake of tending to the day-to-day world of work and raising a family. In later years, there is more looking back through wiser eyes and the opportunity to revisit the good and the bad over a life lived, going back even to childhood. Memories surface to be pondered and examined. Rumination can make one feel more emotionally vulnerable.

The physical aspect of growing older also often can create a decrease in some functional ability — you simply can't do all the things you used to enjoy, or at least need more rest — and that can cause levels of psychological distress. Sleep/wake cycles can change as you age, lifelong lifestyle patterns are disrupted or different and all these things can have an unexpected emotional impact.

Seniors also are more likely than others to experience increasing losses — of loved ones and aging friends. Retirement can trigger a loss of purpose. Maybe there is a move to downsize a residence and reluctantly saying goodbye to a lifetime of memories. These are major life changes that rightly would affect anyone facing them.

Recognition of the emotional vulnerability of aging may be enough to compel seniors to seek advice and assistance on how to navigate the next chapter with adaptability and strength.

Local Licensed Professional Counselor Laura Smigielski suggests people reach out to determine what type of help may best suit their needs.

“Use your mental health benefits,” she advises. “Meet with a counselor who can determine the level of anxiety and/or depression you are experiencing and offer coping skills and other therapeutic interventions,” she adds.

The road to feeling better often can start with just a phone call.

Take time out if you're a caregiver

Many older adults serve as caregivers for spouses or relatives with chronic health conditions, including

dementia. The Alzheimer's Association reports that studies have found that 70 percent of caregivers report feeling stress related to coordination of care, while two in three caregivers have difficulty finding resources and support for their needs. It's emotionally and physically stressful. Seniors who have taken on caregiving duties for a loved one must protect their own mental health by taking time out to care for themselves as well.

Work with family members or professionals to share responsibilities when caring for a loved one. In-home or visiting caregivers, as well as local government agencies, can be a great resource. Remember, your health and well-being are just as important as that of the family member in need of constant care.



Make a concerted effort to socialize

A 2025 report from the World Health Organization indicated that roughly one-fourth of all older adults are affected by social isolation and loneliness. Social connection can significantly improve mental health and provide a sense of life satisfaction while improving quality of life. Seniors are urged to prioritize interaction, socialization, friends and hobbies.

Many community-based groups, including government offices, run programs designed specifically to facilitate socialization among older residents.

Most of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have access to an Active Adult Commission dedicated to providing activities and services to older residents. Grosse Pointe Woods has senior programs through its Parks and Recreation branch, offering transportation services as well as activities like exercise classes and “Lunch and a Movie” for mingling.

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, in Grosse Pointe Farms, has a full program of social activities, classes, health screenings and more to make the lives of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods seniors full and enjoyable. Take advantage of such programs whenever possible. For more information, call:

- Grosse Pointe Woods senior services (313) 343-2408
- The Helm, Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 882-9600

Seniors living alone also may want to consider relocating to communities exclusive to people age 55 and over, as such developments typically offer an array of socialization opportunities to residents.

Sharing this time of life with others can be a safeguard against mental and emotional stress, as well as an opportunity for more joy and deeper meaning in life.

The important thing is to make the changes needed to improve your well-being. If you are feeling impacted, ask your physician for a reference to a licensed therapist or counselor. Help is waiting.



Protect your mind from dementia and Alzheimer's disease

Not everyone will experience dementia in their lifetime, but it helps to watch for and prevent any of the contributors to this disease affecting the mind. Dementia is an umbrella term used to refer to various illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease. Dementia is a sinister illness that slowly steals away memories, cognitive function and even personality. Although risk factors like age cannot be avoided, there are some controllable risk factors for Alzheimer's. Be proactive.

High blood pressure

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a significant risk factor for dementia. High blood pressure can damage the small blood vessels in the brain, leading to reduced blood flow and oxygen deprivation. Hypertension also may trigger brain inflammation, which can contribute to cell damage and cognitive decline.

Diabetes

Research indicates that type 2 diabetes increases a person's risk of developing dementia and is dependent on the length of time someone has diabetes and how severe it is, says the Alzheimer's Society. Diabetes, like hypertension, can cause damage to blood vessels feeding nutrients and oxygen to the brain.

Smoking

One study indicated overall former/active smoking is related to a significantly increased risk for Alzheimer's disease because of the related cerebral oxidative stress that facilitates Alzheimer's disease formation.

Head trauma

The Alzheimer's Association reports there appears to be a link between Alzheimer's and serious head trauma, especially when an injury causes loss of consciousness. Taking steps to avoid head injury may be a preventive step against Alzheimer's.

Alcohol

Regular heavy drinking can increase the chances of developing Alzheimer's disease by 300 percent. Studies are complex and ongoing.

Managing serious illnesses and modifying lifestyle choices may help keep Alzheimer's disease at bay.



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Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

‘The Three Little Pigs’

We all know the story of Three Little Pigs. Three pigs prepare to make their way in the world. The first pig builds a house of straw; the second pig builds a house of sticks; the third, a house of bricks. A local wolf wants pig for dinner, goes to house of straw, blows it to smithereens. Pig No. 1 escapes; seeks refuge in house of sticks. Wolf goes to house of sticks, blows it down. Pig No. 1 and Pig No. 2 hightail it to house of bricks. Wolf goes to house of bricks. Blows. And blows. And blows. No luck. Wolf climbs up to roof and lowers himself into chimney. Pigs build fire in fireplace. Wolf slides into fire and dies. Pigs

celebrate. Short and sweet. What if this story were reported on this evening’s 6 o’clock news? At noon, the promos and teasers would begin: “Breaking news: Wolf destroys suburban straw house. Pig-owner escapes. Tune in at 6 for the whole story.” At 2:30: “Breaking news: Serial house destroyer strikes again. Local wolf is suspect. Hear what pig victims say about wolf. Details at 6.” At 5:55: “Wolf leaps into inferno after week-long rampage of local pig homes. What can you do to keep your home safe? Full story at 6.” At 6 p.m., we get 30 seconds of flashing red letters that spell “Breaking News,” bouncy canned music from a full orchestra and

a slow-scrolling teaser: “Local wolf foiled by small, quick-thinking pigs.” The TV screen is then swept with red, white and blue swooshes, various textures, hyper-jazzy geometric figures and ever more frantic music. Commercial for a local personal injury attorney that everybody in the area has seen at least 500 times in the last six months. A long shot of a TV newsroom. Three people are waiting at three different places with microphones, ready to tell all. Zoom to a close-up of Jerry, handsome, youngish, square-jawed man with perfectly spaced white teeth and eyes with crinkles at the outer corners. “We have breaking news on the city’s near east side,” he says. “Three pig brothers are

thankful today that a wood-burning fireplace and a sturdy brick house made the difference between life and death. Reporter Barb Bugle is live at the scene. What’s the story, Barb?” Barb stands on the front lawn of a perfectly groomed brick colonial in the suburbs. Camera sweeps up and down the narrow street in the quiet neighborhood. Mature trees arch over the pavement. Lawns are trimmed. A dog barks in the background. Camera returns to Barb. She clutches a microphone bearing a large cube: Channel 9. It’s raining. She steadies a wobbly, oversized black umbrella in her other hand. The wind is whipping her shoulder-length hair across her face. She tosses her head and plucks wet clumps of hair from her eyelashes. One strand clings to her super-moist bright red lips. She’s slightly out of breath. “Three pig brothers

are breathing sighs of relief and praising bricks tonight, Jerry. They were the unwitting victims of a lone wolf — a 300-pound wild animal who had been stalking them for several weeks — a wolf who tried to blow this brick house down.” She turns to face the house. “At approximately 5 p.m., when the wolf realized he could not destroy this home by huffing and puffing, he apparently climbed up to the roof and slid down the chimney.” Barb stares, wide-eyed, into the camera. “What he found at the bottom of the chimney, Jerry, was a raging fire. “The wolf was transported to Hacker Hospital by ambulance. His condition is unknown. No charges have been filed against either the pigs or the wolf, but authorities are investigating the wolf’s police record. Channel 9 learned from two unnamed sources that he has been accused of stalking other pigs. A preliminary investigation showed that the brothers of the owner of the brick house had taken out a restraining order on the wolf.” Barb swipes her hair aside and re-balances her umbrella. “Hear what

our reporters learned about lone wolves.” Jerry makes a sympathetic sound and leads into an earlier, filmed interview. Barb is squatting on her heels on the porch of the brick house, nose to snout with a small pig. She tips the microphone back and forth as she questions him and waits for answers: “How do you feel about killing a wolf? The pig is clearly rattled. His lips quiver, his voice is muffled and he waves his tiny forefeet back and forth. “This wolf has been stalking me — and my two brothers — since July,” he says. “He destroyed their houses and he was trying to break into my house. We had to do something to protect ourselves. It was self-defense.” Barb stands up and faces the camera. “More after the break,” she says. “Find out if charges will be filed and if so, by whom, against whom. Back to you Jerry.” Finally: Seven commercials: two for personal injury lawyers, one for replacement windows, three for new medications with unpronounceable names and one for several new programs to be aired soon on Channel 9.

Eastside Republican Club to host James David Dickson

The Eastside Republican Club will host James David Dickson at its next forum Tuesday, Feb. 17, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Dickson is an independent journalist, podcast host and regular contributor to the media site, Michigan Enjoyer. From 2012 to 2022, he contributed to The Detroit News, then was managing editor of the Michigan Capitol Confidential, a daily news site of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. “James David Dickson is an ERC favorite,” said Renee Strobl, Eastside



Republican Club chair. “He has a compelling way of presenting the facts of the statewide political milieu.” Dickson will discuss the Democratic gubernatorial opposition, particularly

Mike Duggan, who has chosen to run as an Independent. In addition to Duggan, the Republican gubernatorial nominee from the August Primary most likely will be running against Joceyln Benson, a Democratic favorite who is term limited as Secretary of State. Doors to the forum open at 7 p.m. All are welcome. A \$5 donation is suggested for nonmembers. Visit the Eastside Republican Club at eastsiderepublican.club, Facebook.com/EastsideRepublicanClub or EastsideGOP on X.

‘Journey’ to Poland with The Helm

Fostering a sense of community and understanding is the impetus for the quarterly Cultural Exploration series at The Helm. This quarter, the focus is Poland. Several events coming up at The Helm focus on Polish culture, beginning with a luncheon featuring Polish cuisine, music and dancing. The luncheon, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, is free to members, but space is limited. Registration is required at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600. In March, guests will spend a day learning about Hamtramck history. In 1970, 90 percent of Hamtramck’s population was of Polish descent. This program includes tours of iconic Hamtramck attractions with a professional guide; visits to St. Albertus and St. Florian churches, the Hamtramck History Museum, Polish Art Center and Srodek’s; a meal at Polish Village Café and a stop for paczki at New Palace Bakery. The tour takes place 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Cost is \$122 per person, which includes the motorcoach, tour guide, lunch and dessert. Call (313) 649-2109 for more information and to make a reservation. The Friday Matinee Movies at The Helm in March also focus on Poland. First up is “No Pressure” on Friday,

March 6. This movie, with English subtitles, follows a big-city chef who returns to her rural hometown to save her grandmother’s farm. On Friday, March 20, “Ladies in Lavender” tells the story of two sisters who discover a young Polish violinist near death on the beach by their home. Both movies begin at noon and include snacks. The cost is \$4 per person, per matinee, and registration is required. Register at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600. “Lifelong learning is well-documented as a way to keep the mind active as we age,” The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. “Trying different foods, listening and dancing to different music, just makes the learning more fun and enjoyable. We hope that through our culture series at The Helm, we expose people to new, exciting and different ideas.” Previous “explorations” have included India, China and Latin America. The Helm Cultural Exploration Series is funded through the Drs. Sharada “Ingrid” and Ashok Sarnaik Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Endowment Fund, created for The Helm to educate and inform the community about various cultures, as well as explore and celebrate differences and shared humanity.



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New release celebrates non-alcoholic living

‘Machtails Zero Proof’ includes 100+ nonalcoholic drink recipes

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Hot on the tails of his 2025 debut, “Cars and Cocktails,” Dean Champagne has popped the cork on a follow-up recipe book, this time celebrating nonalcoholic, or NA, beverages.

“I’ve been in this business a long time,” said Champagne, a consultant with Great Lakes Wine & Spirits. “Five years ago, if you would have told me you were into NA, I wouldn’t have believed it. But now, it’s really gaining some traction.

“The last five years, the country’s been going through a generational change,” he continued. “Baby boomers are a powerful monetary force, but their numbers are shrinking. Millennials are filling that gap, but they have different living habits, different eating habits, different drinking habits. ... Many have decided they don’t need alcohol in their life. It’s not as prevalent. They gravitate toward fruit juices and ‘machtails.’ That has led to an expanded NA beverage category.”

Just before Christmas, Champagne released his latest book, “Machtails Zero Proof: An Alcohol Free Recipe Book.” Though Dry January may be over, there’s never a bad time to take a break from the hard stuff.

“Dry January isn’t about restriction,” the City of Grosse Pointe resident said. “It’s about discovery — discovering that great taste, great moments and great celebrations don’t require alcohol.”

The proof is in his book, which blends creativity, American spirit

and elevated flavor. Champagne has done his research and he shares it in this book, which spans beyond machtails — “which is how we spell it and what we call nonalcoholic cocktails,” he writes in the book, “originated by our team right here in Detroit, the Motor City.”

He presents a history of machtails, which date back to the 1880s in the United States, when the temperance movement attempted to discourage the use of spiritous liquors.

During Prohibition,

which banned alcohol, bartenders got creative to stay in business.

“That’s where ‘near beer’ came from,” Champagne said. “Those were beverages that tasted like beer without the alcohol.”

After Prohibition, he continued, alcohol regained popularity, but NA beverages were maintained.

“In the 1990s, they started exploding again,” he said. “In the 2000s and during COVID, the millennials, Gen Z and Alpha generations started gravitating

toward NA.”

The NA movement, Champagne said, led to the start of Dry January, which originated in England with the goal of starting the new year focused on wellness. Now, “sober-curious” folks have instituted Dry February, Dry July, Damp September and Sober October, many of which started in Australia and caught on in the U.S.

The trend has transformed the NA beverage market into a high-growth sector, Champagne

See BOOK, page 7B

Ongoing programs, activities offered at The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of ongoing classes and programs for seniors in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Beginning Jan. 1, membership in The Helm is waived for people living in Harper Woods, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods. Residents of non-senior service millage communities must pay a \$180 per household membership fee to The Helm to use its services and participate in programming.

For more information or to register for the following programs, call (313) 882-9600.

- ◆ Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays with Carol Guither; 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays with Darlene Lovelace; and 9 to 10 a.m.

- ◆ Chair Yoga, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Carol Guither; and 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Fridays with Jessica Kodanko. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Active Fit, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Stacey Panduren. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Enhance Fitness, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Paul Clark; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays with Rosa Hunter.
- ◆ Tai Chi Beginner Class, 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays with Susan Smith. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Continuing Tai Chi, 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays with Susan Smith. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Strength and Balance,

- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays with Erika Page. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Guided Meditation, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays with Jonathan Itchon. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Restorative Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 5 and 19, and March 5 and 19, with Allie Short. Cost is \$8 per class.
- ◆ Fitness center, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- ◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.
- ◆ Conversational French for Beginners, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.
- ◆ Conversational French for Intermediates, 11:30 a.m. to 1

- p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.
- ◆ Young Onset Parkinson’s Support Group, 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month, with facilitator Angela Ferrara.
- ◆ Low Vision Support Group, 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Monday of each month.
- ◆ Blood Pressure Screening, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. the third Thursday of each month with Mary Jo Fresard of Sunrise Senior Living.
- ◆ Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group, 5 to 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, with Carolyn Van Dorn of Nursing Unlimited.
- ◆ Living On, hosted by Hospice of Michigan, 10 to 11 a.m. the first and third Fridays of the month.
- ◆ Share for Dementia, by

- appointment only, with care consultants LaTonya Connally and Deb Sloss.
- ◆ Canasta, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays.
- ◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.
- ◆ Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays.
- ◆ Knitting for Charity, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.
- ◆ Pinochle Club, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
- ◆ Crafting for Charity, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.
- ◆ Mahjong Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
- ◆ Bingo and Treats, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays.
- ◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays.
- ◆ New Games at The Helm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Embracing Winter's Chill



While many of us are bundled up and dreaming about summer days in the parks and lakes, there is a unique beauty that comes with the winter months. Take a look at Grosse Pointe Farms resident Jack Moran, ice boating in February 1938. The smile on his face says it all! Iceboating wasn't just a casual pastime, organizations like the Detroit Ice Yacht Club sponsored races for all boat classes in the months of January and February.

Images from the Gleason Collection, Grosse Pointe Historical Society



Scan the QR code or visit gphistorical.org to learn more history about the Pointes!



Grosse Pointe Historical Society

The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.
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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.



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OBITUARIES

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

Jane Ann Bicsak

Jane Ann Bicsak, 80, of Franklin, Tenn., passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tenn.

Jane was born June 23, 1945, in Detroit, to Frank A. and Kathleen Noah Thorn, both now deceased. She was a devoted member of Holy Family Catholic Church; her faith was an important and steady presence throughout her life.

Jane was known for her vibrant spirit and the deep connections she formed with others. She had a vast and treasured network of friends, including her tennis friends, lifelong neighborhood friends and her cherished “Birthday Group.” Jane affectionately referred to all those she loved as her “Loveys,” a term that perfectly reflected her warmth, kindness and inclusive heart.

She was a devoted educator and taught at Monteith Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Woods, where she left a lasting impression on countless students through her dedication, encouragement and genuine care. Jane’s influence extended beyond the classroom; she also volunteered at various schools in Brentwood, Tenn., while her boys attended, serving as a committed and supportive parent volunteer. She eventually worked as a bookkeeper and librarian at Trinity Elementary School in Franklin, Tenn., and was equally admired by her coworkers and students who valued her devotion, generosity and friendship.

An avid walker, Jane rarely was still. She faithfully walked four miles a day and was well-known in her neighborhood as the “fast walker,” always moving with purpose and energy.

Jane will be remembered by all who knew her for her boundless love, strong faith, devotion to education and children and the many lives she touched through friendship, service and kindness. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her family,

friends, students, coworkers and all of her “Loveys.”

Jane was predeceased by her parents; brothers, Chuck Thorn and Frank Thorn; and sister, Sally McIntosh.

Those left to cherish Jane’s memory are her loving husband of 55 years, Robert “Bob” Bicsak; sons, Matt Bicsak and Chris Bicsak; beloved daughters-in-law, Mandy Bicsak and Colleen Bicsak; twin sister, Joan Garvey; sister, Mary Thorn; grandchildren, Grace Bicsak, Lauren Bicsak, Felicity Bicsak and Gentry Bicsak; and several nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A prayer service was held Saturday, Jan. 31, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Brentwood, Tenn., with the Rev. Joe McMahon officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601, bit.ly/499UaEZ.

Arrangements entrusted to Williamson Memorial Funeral Home and Holy Family Catholic Church.

Paul Edwin Kryszinski

Paul Edwin Kryszinski, 71, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 29, 2025, due to natural causes. He was surrounded by his dogs, Lippy and Saddle, and longtime companion, Lisa.

Paul was the first born son of Virginia (nee Zuchowski) and Edwin Kryszinski, both now deceased. He began his career as a commercial construction project manager for Perini Corp. Later, he was a contractor for his own Axis Construction.

Over the years, his home was a sanctuary for many beloved dogs he spoiled like grandkids. Paul enjoyed muscle cars, fly-fishing, golfing, sailing, watching local professional sports and the University of Michigan Wolverines. He was a dedicated, big-hearted friend to many from years recent and

long past. Paul never shied from a hard day’s labor. Yet over time, life’s inevitable hardships proved arduous given Paul’s fierce independence. He faced his cross to bear with all the strength and courage he could muster.

Paul is survived by his brothers, Mark Kryszinski (Susan) and Jeff Kryszinski (Jane); sister, Margaret Fitzgerald (Brian); and nieces and nephews, Tina, Charlie, Peter, Erin, Kate and Ian. Paul is greatly missed by those who knew, understood and loved him.

He would have liked to bid a fond farewell to many more individuals, including first and second cousins and their spouses, whom he adored and who laughed at his jokes, appreciated his big heart and enjoyed his homemade kielbasa.

Memorial donations may be made to Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202, bit.ly/4ajDxbx.

Cynthia Kmetz Campbell

Cynthia Kmetz Campbell, 68, of Grosse Pointe Park and St. Clair Shores, passed away comfortably with her immediate family present Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026.

Cynthia was born in Detroit to Edward and Dolores Kmetz. She was the beloved wife of 43 years to James D. Campbell; loving mother of Christine Chapman (James) and Jeffrey Campbell; cherished “Nana” of Liam Chapman and Luke Chapman; and dear sister of Robert, David, the late Steven and the late Michael.

Cynthia graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1975, and Eastern Michigan University in 1979, where she was president of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and made numerous lifelong friends. After college and jobs in fashion and retail, she became a stay-at-home mom.

In the late 1990s, she began conducting estate sales and performing home organizing. Her passions included gar-



Jane Ann Bicsak



Pamela E. Stanton

dening, collectible items and, primarily, her family, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Cynthia will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Pamela Elizabeth Stanton

Pamela Elizabeth (nee Kornmeier) Stanton 78, of Grosse Pointe Park, died peacefully at home Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026.

Pam was born Nov. 19, 1947, in Detroit, to Elinor and Eugene Kornmeier Jr. She graduated from St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Her Catholic faith and education informed and defined her life.

After college, Pam worked at the National Bank of Detroit where she met the love of her life, Roger Stanton. They were married in December 1970. They worked together to produce their two sports publications, “The Football News” and “The Basketball Weekly.” Pam continued to run the newspapers after Roger’s untimely death in 1990.

Pam devoted herself to living out her motto, “Be present and enjoy each day.” With her kind spirit of giving, loving and caring for others, she was more than present for her family, friends and community. She volunteered at Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe (now Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital), with the American Red Cross for 15 years and participated tirelessly in the annual Junior League Show House fundraiser. She found passion and dedication for the community as a recent board member and generous volunteer for The Helm at the Boll Life Center.

Pam found happiness again when she met and married Philadelphia native Donald Caulfield, who passed away unexpectedly in 2019. Pam enjoyed the spring and summer months in Michigan and winters in Key Biscayne, Fla. She was a member of the Country Club of Detroit and Detroit Athletic Club.

Pam was predeceased by her parents; first husband, Roger Stanton; second husband, Donald Caulfield; sister, Jude; and brother, Gene. She is survived by her sister, Gail Kozlowski; brother, Thomas Kornmeier (Jamie); and beloved sister-in-law, Nancy Kornmeier. She will be remembered and cherished by her 10 nieces



Paul Edwin Kryszinski



Pam Oliver

and nephews, and every one of her 26 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Pam will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, before a 10 a.m. memorial Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. An inurnment prayer service for the family will be held at the church columbarium in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, helmlifecenter.securepayments.cardpointe.com/pay?

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Pam Oliver

Pam Oliver, 80, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at home in St. Clair Shores after a long illness.

Pam was born May 2, 1945, one of eight children of John and Clara Deyonker. She grew up learning the values of family, resilience and looking out for one another — qualities she carried throughout her life. She was a beloved presence to those who knew her. Her loved ones remember her strength, warmth and the quiet ways she showed love. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Pam grew up in Michigan. She later made her home in Virginia and Arizona before settling back in Michigan to be closer to family. Each place marked a meaningful chapter in her life. Pam enjoyed the simple things in life, such as getting lost in a good book or solving crossword puzzles. She never passed up a good desert.

Pam lived a life full of family. She is survived by her children, John Oliver (Melissa), Maggie Vyletel (Andy) and Michael Oliver (Angela). She will forever be known as “Tuppy” to her grandchildren, Suzie, Madeline, Jackson, Griffin, Addison and Grayson; and to her great-granddaughter, Emma.

A private service will be held in the future. Memorial donations may be made to The Jimmy Fund, 10 Brookline Pl. W., 5th Floor, Brookline, MI 02445, bit.ly/4r4Mewn; or St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3XuSSi0.



Cynthia Campbell



Mary Jane Paone

Maureen Ann Bennett

Maureen Ann Bennett, 74, of Redford, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at Garden City Hospital. She was a former resident of Grosse Pointe.

Maureen was born Feb. 8, 1951, in Grosse Pointe, to Loretta Mulvihill and Dr. Harold Cross, both now deceased.

Maureen is survived by her children, Brian and Kimberly Petteys; and siblings, Kathy Schroeder and Kevin Cross. She was predeceased by her parents; and sister, Eileen.

A funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, at St. Valentine Church, 25881 Dow, Redford.

Mary Jane Paone

Mary Jane Paone, 93, of Golden, Colo., passed away Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at MorningStar Senior Living. She was a former resident of St. Clair Shores.

Mary Jane was born Oct. 4, 1932, in Detroit, to Audrey and George “Dewey” Hardleben. She graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1951, and earned a bachelor’s degree in teaching from Central Michigan University in 1955. She then spent 30 years teaching kindergarten at Ferry and Richard elementary schools.

Mary Jane volunteered with the Parade of Homes in Grosse Pointe for five years and was a volunteer at the Cottage Hospital (now Henry Ford Medical Center-Grosse Pointe Cottage) gift shop for 12 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family, going to lunch with friends, shopping with her sister Donna, wintering in Siesta Key, Fla., going to the beach, traveling and cheering on the University of Michigan football team.

While she grew up in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms, she spent 60 years in St. Clair Shores.

Mary Jane is survived by her children, Gary and Leigh Paone; grandchildren, Joseph, Vincent and Alexandria Paone; and sister, Donna Whittam (DJ).

She will be laid to rest at Grand Lawn Cemetery and Mausoleum in Detroit.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3000 Gratiot, Detroit, MI 48207, svdpdetroit.org/Donate.

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Liana Burrascano created artwork for MLK Jr. Day to put in her room.

‘Day of Hope and Advocacy’ has second year of success

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church hosted its annual Day of Hope and Advocacy Jan. 19. “We are appreciative of the assistance the Grosse Pointe South Interact Club gave us as we welcomed five elected officials, who stopped by and shared how the vision cast by Martin Luther

King Jr. informed their decisions in leadership,” the Rev. Richard Yeagher-Stiver said. “We had over 50 people stop by to attend the event, even with the bad weather we experienced that day. “We hosted elected officials, service dogs, advocacy groups, the general public and so many mem-

bers of the church who volunteered as we provided free meals to everyone who attended,” he continued. “There were crafts for kids and yoga and music. It was a resounding success and we look forward to our third annual Day of Hope and Advocacy next year held on Martin Luther King Day.”



Eva Habib, president of the American Association of University Women, Grosse Pointe branch, and AAUW Program Chairwoman Roseanne Horne sit at one of the advocacy tables.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



From left, the Hon. Nicole Castka, Wayne County Circuit Court, Criminal Division; State Rep. Veronica Paiz and Grosse Pointe Congregational Church Pastor Richard Yeagher-Stiver.



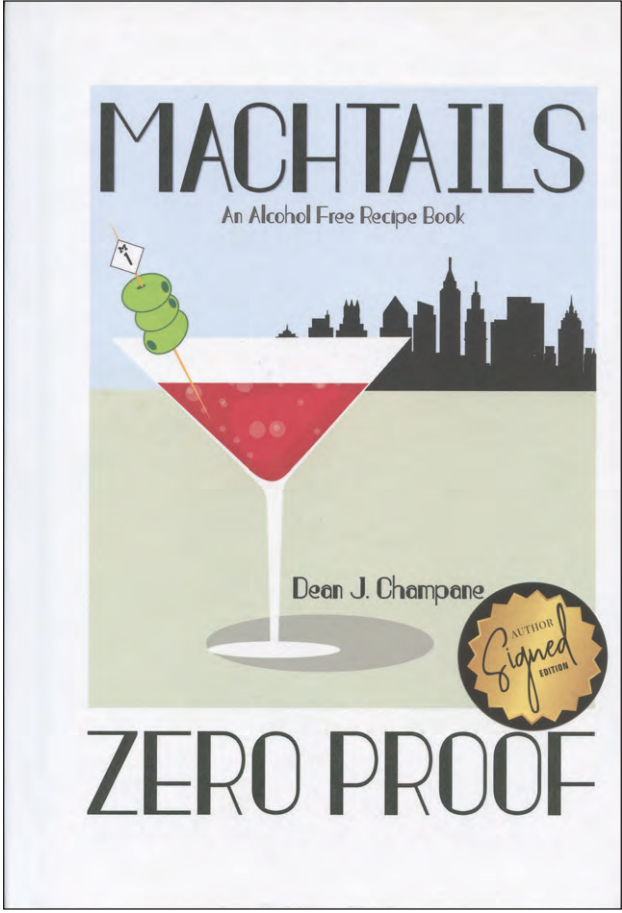
Jack Gaines, who lost a tooth and just turned 4, made some art for his dad, who he called his best buddy.

BOOK:

Continued from page 5B

said. “There has been rapid growth, including in Michigan,” he said. “There was a nearly 40 percent increase in Michigan of people not indulging in alcohol. Between 2021 and 2025, there was a 110 percent increase in awareness and indulging in NA, and almost 160 percent increase in retail dollar sales. “The market shift is over 50 percent of people, where NA is part of their lives, and it continues to grow,” he added. “It’s part of the culture, a lifestyle now. And you can thank millennials, Gen Z and Alphas for that.”

Most Michigan retailers, he said, have carved out sections dedicated to NA beverages — beer, wine and sparkling drinks. Almost every restaurant in the area has NA options on their menus, he added. “It was unheard of, allowing customers to come in and enjoy wine or beer without alcohol,” he said. “But once people find this niche, it spreads to other friends and family.” Drinking NA beverages is an alternative to the limitations of soda or water at social events, he added. “Years ago, it was primarily all alcohol and wine served at different functions. If you had



health issues or could not indulge in alcohol, your only choices were walking around with a glass of water or a glass of soda. It can be awkward at an event walking around with a water or a soda. All of the events we’re involved with offer NA now. No one would ever know whether your drink was NA or had alcohol in it.” Champagne curated the recipes in his book with guidance from the Zero Proof Seal of Approval, a Michigan-based panel of experts who work in Detroit’s beverage industry. “They bring their

knowledge and critique the NA products out there,” he said. “With the panel, we wanted to concoct a number of recipes that had the same profile, flavor, layered style and body, and make them available to on-premise restaurants and offer recipes.” Recipes are organized by category, including Mediterranean-style drinks featuring an olive oil base; event-themed machtails such as a Kentucky Derby favorite — mint julep — with NA bourbon; Born in Detroit machtails themed around the Motor City; and a second wave of “Dry Way”

machtails like Woodward Edition, Woodward Special and Zero to Sixty. “There’s a sparkling champagne section and a section of fashionable machtails, which are traditional cocktails — like Tom Collins, Cosmos, Bloody Marys — all with no alcohol,” he said. “Machtails Zero Proof” also includes chapters on garnishing, glassware and NA terminology. “Terminology will educate the reader,” he said. “Just because it says NA doesn’t mean it’s 100 percent nonalcoholic. ... It’s very important, if there’s a medical restriction, to look at the label. If you’re in doubt, contact us or contact the distributor. “As adults, we have to be more responsible,” he continued. “That’s the purpose of this book. I grew up in the generation of the two-martini lunch. Then that went away and machtails came up. Now, I’m part of a group called

zebra striping.” Zebra striping, he said, is a mindful drinking strategy that involves alternating alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks to moderate consumption, reduce hangovers and extend the social experience without overdoing it. “If you’re at an event for more than two or three hours, it’s fine to have a few machtails, then indulge in loaded cocktails or champagne,” Champagne said. “It’s a new definition, created between millennials and boomers, and it’s becoming a very popular phrase. I’m a total advocate.” As with “Cars and Cocktails,” “Machtails Zero Proof” was produced entirely in Michigan. “The publisher, graphic designer, writing help, printer — all in Michigan or Detroit,” Champagne said. “I wanted to keep it

homegrown. That’s my payback for growing up in Michigan.” It’s available at Barnes & Noble and other distributors, as well as online at amazon.com, machtails.com and dean-champagne.com. “We have an obligation to educate people who don’t know about this NA category,” Champagne said. “That’s what the book is really about. There’s interesting information in there, whether you drink or don’t drink.” Not one to rest on his laurels, Champagne is preparing for the publication of another book this spring. “Zero Proof US,” featuring a series of patriotic beverages, will align itself with the nation’s 250th anniversary. Drinks will include the Liberty Spritz and Yankee Doodle. “It’s not political one way or the other,” he said. “It’s 100 percent American.”

Worship Service

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

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

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
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(United Church of Christ)

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY FREY

Service update

On Jan. 28, Dawn Drozd, chairwoman of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe’s Community Service Committee, shared findings on declining participation in recent service projects. While club membership has grown since COVID, average service hours per member have decreased, with time, physical demands and scheduling cited as key barriers. The committee recommended clearer service expectations, more flexible opportunities, stronger partnerships and improved communication to renew engagement and reinforce Rotary’s guiding principle: “Service Above Self.” The Community Service Committee, pictured front row, from left, includes Amanda DeVeaux, Sandy MacMechain and Judy Masserang; and back row, from left, Ted Everingham, Bob Lucas, Dave Colton, Diane Strickler, President Jackie Dale and Dawn Drozd.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAVIN PERRY

Perry uses a supply of devices to give students hands-on experience.

REPAIR:

Continued from page 2B

laborate with others. All skill levels are welcome, Perry said. “We have all ages show up,” he added. “There will be people in their 60s and 70s, and kids coming in and opening stuff up. Sometimes there’s a 50-year age gap between two people sitting together and learning together.” The open session meets 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Participants are invited to pop in anytime. The next sessions take place Fridays, Feb. 6 and 20. “In Grosse Pointe, I’d love to see more people exercising sustainability in any way they can,” Perry said. “I want them

to have in mind that repair is an option. If something breaks, people think, ‘Well, there goes \$1,000,’ but maybe all they need is a \$6 part. “... Billions of tons of waste are produced every year,” he added. “It’s unnecessary, despite what manufacturers want you to think. It’s super accessible and fun to repair your devices. It’s like LEGOs — something anyone can do.” While Perry may try to expand his offerings — potentially to branches of the Grosse Pointe Public Library or the Neighborhood Club — his time at The War Memorial will come to an end later this year. The Harper Woods resident will be attending Stanford University in

the fall, potentially to study computer science. In the meantime, he invites anyone who’s in need of a repair or curious about the repair process to join a session or two, either with their own devices or one of Perry’s. “You don’t have to worry about breaking anything,” he said. “It’s part of the process.” Learn more on Instagram @GP.Repairs.



EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

- Park.
- ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
 - ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
 - ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
 - ◆ In Hot Mug Book Discussion Group, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Le Rouge Boulangerie, 15215 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Drop-in & Craft with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
 - ◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
 - ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
 - ◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Understanding the Holocaust, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
 - ◆ Virtual Strategic Plan Engagement, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, via Zoom.
 - ◆ Book Discussion with Author Wendell Brown, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 2 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 3 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Forced Bulb Workshop, 4 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
 - ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
 - ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 14, at Woods, 20680

Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The War Memorial

- The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org
- ◆ Middle School Dance: Sweetheart Soiree, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 the week of the dance.
 - ◆ Fix-It Together: Free Community Tech Workshop Series, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6.
 - ◆ Mastering Mocktails, 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6. Tickets are \$48.
 - ◆ Mindful Money Strategies, 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, and Tuesday, Feb. 10. Cost is \$50.
 - ◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10.
 - ◆ War Memorial History Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.
 - ◆ Veterans Resource Fair, 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.
 - ◆ Caricature Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$30.
 - ◆ Sing to Love: Valentine’s Day Dinner and Concert, featuring Olivia Van Goor, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Ticket prices vary.

POST Detroit

- POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during February. To sign up for the following, visit mutualadoration.com:
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Trinket Trays, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Cost is \$65.
 - ◆ Jewelry Workshop: Enameled Copper Earrings + Necklaces, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Cost is \$100.
 - ◆ Fibers Workshop: Pom Pom Garland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. Cost is \$60.
 - ◆ Painting Workshop: Making Natural Ink Valentines with Foraged Plants, 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11. Cost is \$60.
 - ◆ Botanical Collage Workshop: Framed Pressed Flower Art, 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Cost is \$85.
 - ◆ Mixed Media Abstract Collage Workshop, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Basket Weaving Workshop: Small Market Baskets for Beginners, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$70.
 - ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Pointed Pen Calligraphy, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Necklaces, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$95.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Drop-In Studio: Decorate a Heart, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.
- ◆ Ford House After Dark, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. Cost is \$25 for Friends.
- ◆ Trivia Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Cost is \$10 for Friends, \$12 for the public.
- ◆ Maple Syrup: Tapped, Shaken and Served, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Cost is \$30 for Friends, \$35 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcross blood.org.

The Family Center

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

- ◆ Grief Support Group, noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 10, March 10 and April 14, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper; and Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 31 and April 28, at the Ewald Library, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Embracing Hope: Reclaiming Your Power in Challenging Times, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, with Dr. Portia Lockett, at the Morton Development Center, 19934 Harper, Harper Woods. Dinner, fellowship and the presentation are included.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The speaker is yet to be determined. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

GPAA

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

- ◆ Introduction to Black and White Scratchboard Art with Mary Taitt, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 11, 18 and 25.
- ◆ Golden Cloud Workshop with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 12 and 19.
- ◆ Palette Knife Painting in Oils with Linda Boyle, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11 to 25.

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Detroit Zoo welcomes new male polar bear

A new polar bear is in town — and he’s already making a splash. The Detroit Zoo, a global leader in polar bear conservation and home to one of the largest polar bear habitats in North America, has partnered with the Toledo Zoo on a carefully coordinated transfer designed to support the long-term sustainability of polar bear populations in accredited zoos around the world. As part of the move, Detroit resident Nuka relocated to Toledo, while Toledo resident Kali (Cull-ee) now calls the Detroit Zoo’s iconic Arctic Ring of Life habitat home. The transfer follows recommendations from the Polar Bear Population Alliance, strengthens the health and social dynamics of each zoo’s polar bear populations and supports responsible breeding efforts that are critical to the future of the species.

“This successful transfer reflects the collaboration of our teams in Detroit and Toledo, as well as a shared commitment to animal well-being and conservation,” said Mike Murray, chief life sciences officer for the Detroit Zoo. “Nuka is an incredible polar bear and we know he will continue to thrive in Toledo, where he will once again be paired with female polar bear, Crystal. Here in Detroit, Kali is already settling in and we know he will be an outstanding ambassador for his species and a wonderful addition to the polar bear group.” Kali, 13, was rescued as a cub after being found orphaned by residents of the Native Village of Point Lay, Alaska, in 2013. Kali then was released to the care of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2015, he moved to the Saint Louis Zoo, before finally relocating to the Toledo Zoo

in 2025. Kali is known for his strength and smarts to solve puzzles that benefit his enrichment and well-being. His caretakers describe him as gregarious, curious and intelligent. Kali now shares a habitat with females Suka, 13, and Haley, 23. Under the supervision of the zoo’s expert animal care team, Kali gradually will be introduced to Haley and Suka, with the bears initially spending time on opposite sides of their spacious, 4-acre habitat. Kali will have access to his public outdoor habitat but may also choose to spend time indoors or out of public view as he adjusts to his new home. Polar bears in the wild face increasing threats, including climate change, shrinking sea ice and growing conflict with humans. By welcoming Kali and supporting Nuka through this transfer, the Detroit Zoo con-



COURESTY PHOTOS

Kali (Cull-ee) now calls the Detroit Zoo’s Arctic Ring of Life habitat home.



tinues to connect guests with this iconic species and inspires meaningful conservation action to protect wildlife and the habitats they call home. Guests may welcome Kali at the Arctic Ring of Life habitat during regular zoo hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — and, beginning April 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Prevention through Kevin’s Song

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner, center, stands with Kevin’s Song Executive Director Jennifer Fair Margraf and Vice President Justin Urso at the club’s Jan. 27 meeting at Ford House. Kevin’s Song was founded in 2013 by John and Gail Urso after the death of their son, Kevin. The organization works with communities to foster learning about the latest suicide research, share experiences and network with others who care about suicide awareness and prevention. Fair Margraf’s message highlighted that suicide is among the most preventable public health crises, as Kevin’s Song works with numerous local high schools to educate and train students. Its educational program for students is a four-year structured-training approach beginning with awareness, followed by building skills and identifying risk, peer support and first response and applied leadership and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

post-intervention. Students finish this life-saving program certified as a youth mental health first-aid provider and master trainer. For more information, visit kevin-song.org. A community service

and fellowship club, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House. For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

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The right way to wine

Dear Gabby: I am always feeling self-conscious when choosing a bottle of wine to bring as a hostess gift. Is there a general guideline for how much I should spend? — Confused in the City

Dear Confused: A nice, well-regarded bottle that shows appreciation without going crazy can be found anywhere from about \$25 to \$50

per bottle. For a casual or neighborhood get-together, anything from \$20 to \$30 is perfectly polite and appreciated. Of course, for a fancier night or a milestone celebration, consider upping your budget to \$50 to \$100.

A great rule of thumb is to bring something you would be happy to drink yourself — it's a sign of thoughtfulness, not status.

Also, adding nice packaging goes a long way. Consider wrapping the bottle in a pretty tea towel with a ribbon or at least a nice wine bag with a personal note.

— Gabby

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



Teen's content creating has gone too far

DEAR ANNIE: I'm a 42-year-old mom of two. I've been remarried for three years, and I'm trying hard to do the blended family thing with grace. My husband has a 16-year-old daughter, "Mia," who lives with us half the time. Most days are fine, but there's one issue that has turned our home into a low-grade reality show.

Mia has started recording everything.

At first, it was harmless: funny cooking mishaps, the dog stealing socks, little random clips with

music. Then it shifted. If my husband and I disagree about anything, she'll quietly set her phone on the counter like it "just happens" to be there. If I ask her to do chores, she'll start filming and narrating under her breath like she's documenting injustice. Once, I overheard her telling a friend, "Watch this, my stepmom is about to lose it," as if she was waiting for a big moment.

I've asked her to stop filming in the house without permission. She rolls her eyes and says, "It's not

that deep," or "I'm just making content." My husband says she's being a typical teenager and I'm taking it personally. But I feel like I'm living with a camera crew, and it's making me tense and snappish, which I'm sure only feeds the situation.

How do I set a boundary about privacy without becoming the villain in her story? — Not Your Content Creator

DEAR NOT YOUR CONTENT CREATOR: You're not being overly sensitive. A home is not

a stage, and consent matters, especially when filming is used to provoke or embarrass somebody. Start with setting a calm, household-wide rule in order to avoid making it a personal battle: No recording is allowed in shared spaces without everyone's permission. Make it clear that this rule is about privacy and respect, not necessarily a response to Mia's character.

Then enlist your husband as a true partner. Tell him, kindly but plainly, that dismissing



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

this as "typical" leaves you feeling unprotected in your own home. Agree on a consequence you can enforce consistently: If she continues to record everyone after being told not to, the phone goes away for a set period while she's in common areas, or she has to stay in her room to film.

Finally, don't give her the "big moment" she's

waiting for. Stay boring, brief and steady. The wrong kind of attention could be fuel for an argument, or for an entertaining video, but simply setting firm boundaries should not be.

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

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Little Tony's Lounge is still family owned



COURTESY PHOTOS.

Little Tony's sign.

Though the neighborhood is seeing new restaurants and businesses opening, new buildings built and even new traffic ways being formed — Mack and Vernier, sheesh! — there still are a lot of "old school" establishments around the Grosse Pointes. One such place — where walking in feels like walking into a time warp — is Little Tony's.

In 1970, Anthony & Carol Alfonsi purchased The Woods Lounge at 20513 Mack Ave. They changed the name to Lounge in the Woods — aka Woods Bar — and finally named it after the owner's nickname, as the sign out front says: Little Tony's Lounge in the Woods.

Family owned and operated, Anthony and Carol's son, Mike, managed the business for 40 years, retiring in 2015. When 2018 approached, Carol was ready to sell, so her son, Tony, and his wife, Ellen, purchased the bar to keep it in the family.

Tony's son, Anthony, and nephew, Jack, who started working for the family while in high school, have since taken over the

day-to-day operations and will continue to keep it in the family for years to come.

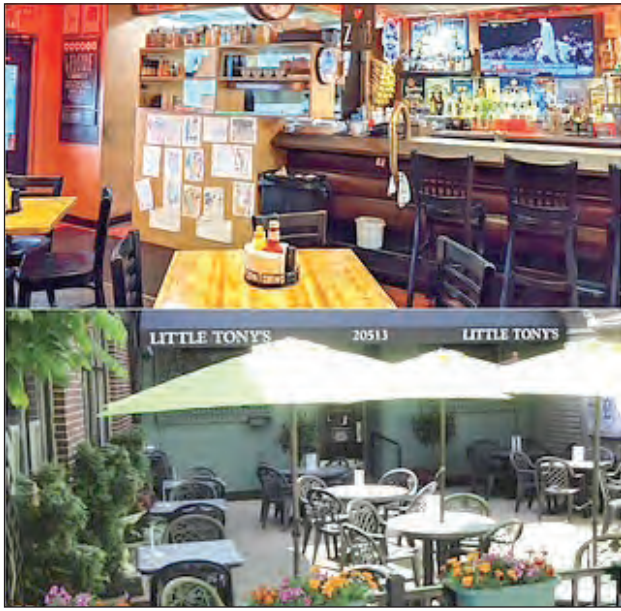
Little Tony's is exactly that: little. Its inside capacity is around 94, 12 of them bar seats. "In the '70s, there was a piano and a lounge area with couches and chairs as well," Tony said.

The outdoor patio was added in the late '90s, adding 12 tables and increasing capacity by 40 to 50 patrons.

When Tony's parents first purchased the bar, it was just that: a "shot and beer" bar. Around 1975, the small office was turned into a kitchen, which is the same size now as when it was originally installed.

"Little Tony's hasn't changed much over the years," Tony said, "and our longtime customers love it that way."

Now, learning how the kitchen came about, their signature way of service on



Little Tony's lounge and patio.

paper plates makes sense. "Our food has been served on paper plates since day one and always will be," Tony said, adding that when people have never been there before, they fall in love with everything about the place.

Little Tony's is most known for two specific and award-winning items: burgers and Carol's chili. I asked Tony what makes their "2024 Best Burger on the East Side" burgers so special.

"The best ground round delivered fresh daily, hand pattied, never frozen," he said. "And the best grill money can buy."

Ernst Meats & Seafood, out of Eastern Market, has been its supplier since the '70s. No wonder the burgers have tasted the same since my childhood.

Carol's chili has been a staple at Little Tony's since

the '70s too. For almost three decades, Carol cooked it at home every day and transported it to the restaurant. In the '90s, they were able to find enough space in the tiny kitchen so Carol could make it on site. It's another recipe that hasn't changed since day one.

In spring 2023, Carol's chili won 94.7 WCSX FM's best chili contest, which is voted on by the listeners. Unfortunately, Carol passed away in 2022, just missing this event.

"She would have been so very proud," Tony said of his late mother.

While these two items are the stars of the lounge's menu, there also are other favorites. Tony tells me their fries, onion rings and tater tots have always been top sellers. And for sandwiches, the corned beef reuben



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

and tuna melt are very popular as well. During Lent, they sell a ton of fish and chips, too, so keep that in mind as Lent is right around the corner.

The vintage bar decor that lines the walls inside is part of the old-school charm of the lounge.

"The picture of the old man with a drink has been hanging in Little Tony's since inception," Tony said, "and now hangs, watching over one of the booths."

Little Tony's has a full bar, as well as four beers on tap, including Two Hearted and Stella, as well as two others that rotate seasonally. And yes, there are televisions, too.

"Consistency is the word we live by every day," Tony said, explaining how Little Tony's prides itself on everyone's experience being exactly the same, no matter how many visits have been made. "We really have to thank our community for our success. During COVID, the amount of support was overwhelming. We'll always be grateful to our friends, customers and our community. No matter the weather, including

below-freezing temps, they always show up."

Well Tony, I'm pretty sure you know why. This industry is not easy, especially in today's challenging times. When you believe in your community and have a strong family ethic that overflows into your employees, a successful business comes easy.

"We have a great staff from our bussers to servers, kitchen crew to bartenders," Tony said. "They are the best and we truly appreciate all they do."

I'm sure they appreciate you and your family just the same.

As they say at Little Tony's: Old school, crafted with love. Fifty-six years later, that truly sums up this neighborhood gem, where every guest is treated like family and everybody really does know your name.

Burgers hit the grill noon to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Don't forget to look for the old man holding a drink while enjoying one yourself!

* Fun Fact: One of Tony's fondest memories was when the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup in the '90s.

The lounge's dear friend and former Zamboni driver Al Sobotka brought the cup in for a visit for customers and family to enjoy. Here's to hoping another Stanley Cup visit is in the near future, one way or another.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Famous burgers, fries and onion rings.



Carol's chili.



Fish 'n' chips.



Keep an eye out for this painting when visiting Little Tony's.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

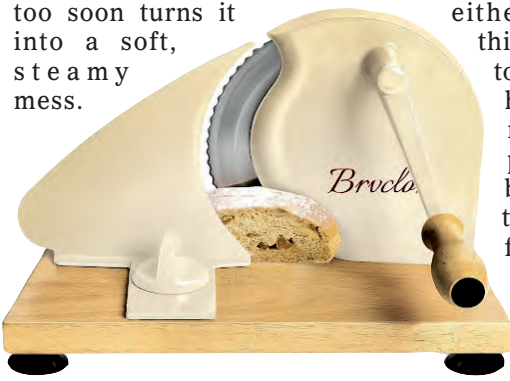


As I write this, I am actually in a state of mourning. My beloved sourdough starter had an unfortunate run-in with fruit flies and it did not survive. Please keep me in your thoughts during this difficult time. I do have a friend who can share some of hers so I can rise again, but condolences are still being accepted.

Now that we have addressed my personal tragedy, let's talk about the real struggle of sourdough life. Baking the loaf is the fun part.

Cutting it is where the joy goes to die.

First, you have to let the bread cool for an hour or two, because slicing it too soon turns it into a soft, steamy mess.



Then, once it is finally ready, the crust is tough, the inside is still delicate and somehow you end up with slices that are either paper thin or way too thick. I have even resorted to putting my bread in the fridge for a few hours to make it firm enough

to cut, which helps a little, but also means you cannot enjoy your loaf until basically the next day.

Enter this Brvclon manual bread slicer from Amazon and, honestly, it has changed the game.

It has sharp, food-grade stainless steel serrated blades that cut cleanly through crusty sourdough and softer breads alike. The thickness is adjustable, so you can choose anything from thin slices to thick toast, and the scale markings make it easy to repeat

the perfect width every time. It also has suction cups on the bottom, which keeps it firmly in place on the counter so you are not wrestling your bread like it owes you money.

It is compact, easy to store and easy to clean with a quick wipe or brush.

Now, let's address the price. If you Google it, you will see it is around \$75, which feels absolutely unhinged for something that slices bread. But if you are deep in your sourdough era like I am, it is

genuinely worth it for perfect slices and saving time.

I'm giving it four out of five alligators. The price is wild, but I love it.

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.



4 Out Of 5

The butter project

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Last week my son came barreling in the room with the utmost enthusiasm claiming he had an idea for "the best" recipe. He said, "butter!" I honestly thought he was mocking me until I realized it was genuine excitement over the idea. But why not write about one of the greatest foundations of any recipe? You can easily make butter at home. It may take a bit of time and isn't cheaper but it sure tastes leaps and bounds better than the regular old store bought sticks. And maybe sometimes cooking shouldn't always be about the quest for the healthiest, easiest and fastest option. I was in, it was a mother and son project. He had taken interest in a hobby of mine that was outside mothering.

The question becomes, why do we love butter so much? Our natural human instincts crave fat for survival, so there's that. But it's also a change agent for any recipe; silky sauces, rich baked goods, soft mashed potatoes and flaky pastries. It's a dipping sauce for crabs, lobsters, artichokes and

anything with bread. The smell of butter cooking, baking or browning is enough to excite every happy brain cell you have. In short, butter is comfort in its simplest form: indulgent, luxurious, even romantic. It turns the most ordinary ingredient into something craveable.

To make butter, you need to over-whip heavy cream. You take it way past the whipped stage until the fat separates from the buttermilk. I used a standing mixer which took about 13 minutes for the fat to separate. You can use a hand held mixer as well. Or, pour the milk into a mason jar and shake it.

This is the method we were taught back in first grade on our field trip to Greenfield Village. The standing mixer is the easiest.

Once the cream is whipped, I turned up the speed. You begin to see it turn grainy and then suddenly it turns to buttermilk and fat curds. Save the buttermilk for pancakes, biscuits or marinating chicken. You are left with unsalted, creamy butter with which anything can be

added. Use good flaky salt, like fleur de sel and fresh herbs, like thyme to flavor. We added honey which was delicious.

In all honesty my son completely ditched me when it was time to churn. And that's OK because I really enjoyed going through the process of making it. And, I'm grateful for the idea. Give homemade butter a shot. It's rewarding to appreciate something so simply bought.

Cheers, Mombeau

Homemade Butter (Yields 2 sticks)

1 pint heavy cream

Cheese cloth (optional)

Ice water

Flaky salt

Honey (optional)

Add the cream to a bowl of a standing mixer. Use the whisk attachment and whisk the cream on a medium speed. Once the cream starts to form stiff peaks, turn up the speed to

eight. Drape a kitchen towel over the bowl. Liquid will start to separate out and begin splashing out. After about 12 minutes, you will see the cream turn grainy and then see larger curds forming. Once you see the larger curds, turn off the mixer. Pour the mixture

into a fine mesh strainer over a bowl. You can use a cheese cloth if you have it. If not, use clean hands to squeeze out all of the buttermilk from the butter. You should end up with a ball of butter.

Place the butter into an ice bath. With clean hands, gently push and pull the ball while squeezing to rinse the butter of the milk. The buttermilk will turn the butter rancid if not rinsed. Place the butter on a clean surface

and flatten to a rectangle.

This is the stage where you can fold in your flavorings. Sprinkle a good pinch of salt on top and one tablespoon of honey for honey butter. Or add in one teaspoon of fresh thyme for an herb butter. This is your blank canvas.

Save the buttermilk in the fridge for up to a week. The butter stays fresh for three weeks. Wrap in parchment paper to store.

Enjoy!



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



Blended red wines

One of the most popular categories of wines in the last two years is the nearly ubiquitous blended red wine, which is so popular that it has become synonymous with everyday drinking for millions of Americans.

A couple of weeks ago a stranger, hearing I was a wine writer, asked me what I thought of a particularly ordinary although expensive (to me) blended red. I say expensive because it's about \$17 a bottle, but I find it to be worth about \$5.

And when a wine sells for three times what I suspect it should, I call it expensive. And my reaction to his question was, "Not very much." I suspected he would agree, but instead he said he thought it was terrific stuff.

There wasn't much for me to reply, but short of spending 20 minutes or

so explaining my reasoning, I was left to simply apologize. I said that I hoped he continued to enjoy the wine that so many others also enjoyed, and that taste is in the mouth of the beholder.

I didn't say that I found the wine to be detestable.

The episode rankled me. I'm normally not particularly pejorative in my comments about wines that I don't favor, but his query took me off guard. And my gut reaction wasn't especially agreeable.

For those interested in modest blended reds, here are a few issues that might help make buying decisions easier for some of these wines.

First, try to find out what grape varieties were used. That should help some. A good place to start is the use of

sound blending grapes, starting with some of the best such as grenache (aromatics and texture), cinsault (rich fruit), syrah (dark, rich flavors), petite sirah (weight) and zinfandel (spiced fruit).

I'm not a big fan of cabernet or pinot noir in red wine blends; they don't seem to play well with other varieties.

Chances are, however, that you won't find out what grapes are in a particular blend, so the next best thing to know is how much alcohol is in it.

Moderation here counts. Ideal is 12.5 percent to 14 percent. The closer wine is to 15 percent alcohol, the less flavor any wine will deliver. Over 15 percent? Don't light a match.

Higher-alcohol wines may well be soft and rich, which some people really like. But blended reds often are aimed at being served with meals, and 15 percent alcohol wines go with meals as well as pickled tomatillos go with ice cream.

After alcohol content comes the region. If the appellation on a bottle of wine is "California," buyers know nothing of its origin except that it came

from grapes grown in one of 58 counties. No help there. Wines that say they're from smaller regions (like Livermore, Santa Barbara, Sierra Foothills) often are slightly pricier, but can be better values.

The vintage date on a wine also is helpful. It lets potential buyers know how long the stuff has been in the bottle. Seek vintages that are no older than 2017. A 2016 wine may be fine, but it's already been eight years.

Wines that have no vintage date can also be excellent choices if the

wine is from a brand with fast turnover. Though some classic red wines age well, older is usually not better for modestly priced wines.

Blended red wines, as a category, range all over the place both in terms of style and quality, and prices can vary from very reasonable to outrageous. As a result, some everyday-wine buyers have re-discovered some values in varietals

Wine of the Week: 2020 Barefoot Merlot, California (\$9): This very large brand has devel-

oped quite a following among people who appreciate inexpensive and tasty wines that they can afford on a daily basis. This specific varietal has always produced a lovely dry red, and here the flavors are close enough to authentic to call this a true bargain. It is often seen at around \$7.

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

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Grosse Pointe News

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHEESE TO PLEASE

“Get on Board” charcuterie workshops at Cheese to Please, above and below left, are a fun, novel way to celebrate this Valentine’s Day.

Explore new ways to celebrate love day

By Olivia Monette and Donna Zetterlund
Special Writers

Valentine’s Day is about more than just chocolate hearts and fancy dinners — and this year’s Valentine’s spread is proof. We rounded up a mix of fun date ideas, cozy winter activities, and cute gifts that are perfect for everyone you love, including your sweetheart, your best friends and even your kids.

Expect heart-happy fashion finds, jewelry that feels extra special, Galentine’s plans like a charcuterie workshop, party accessories that make hosting easy and stay-in ideas like making heart-shaped pizza (down to the pepperoni) at home.

This Valentine roundup is full of sweet inspiration to make February feel a little more festive. So dive in and do something different this year!

“Get on Board” workshop

If you’re looking for a cute, cozy, and genuinely fun way to celebrate Galentine’s or just make winter a little more exciting, the **Cheese to Please** “Get on Board” workshops are such a perfect idea. It’s a hands-on charcuterie board building experience where you’ll learn how to create a gorgeous grazing board that is both impressive and delicious. It is equal parts creative, social and relaxing, making it ideal for a girls’ night out, a group hang with friends or even a fun date night idea for couples in February. Add in wine, cheese, pretty food, and quality time and you have the ultimate winter activity. It’s going to be a “gouda” time for everyone!

Cook up some fun

Crate and Barrel’s heart-shaped wooden mixing spoons are the cutest little Valentine’s Day kitchen touch, perfect for baking something sweet with someone you love. Tie a big red bow around the handle along with some other utensils like spatulas and for a “bouquet” of useful tools for your favorite cook or baker.

Date idea: Bring the “bouquet” home with all the ingredients to make a romantic dinner or elaborate dessert together. Take photos and present a photo book of your date afterward for lasting memories. Bon appetit!

Nothing “bundt” love

A scrumptious bundt cake from **Nothing Bundt Cakes** is everybody’s love language! Choose your fave person’s favorite flavor to let them know it’s all about them this Valentine’s Day. From decorated full-size cakes to mini bundt cakes so you can try all the flavors, gifting a fresh, delicious bundt cake lets your Valentine know that to you they are a little slice of heaven.



COURTESY PHOTO

Crate and Barrel’s heart beverage glasses, above.

Cheers to us

An adorable **Crate and Barrel** heart-inset glass is the prettiest way to make any Valentine’s Day drink feel extra festive and cute. Share a cocktail with the one you love or buy a whole set for a Valentine’s Day party with the girls. This little beauty really levels up the ambiance.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nothing Bundt Cakes Valentine cake, above.



Heart-shaped wooden spoons from Crate and Barrel.



The Sézane Emilie cardigan in red, above.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pizza from the Ooni pizza oven, above, lets you make a totally delish restaurant-style pizza at home.



Party Adventure stacked heart pens, above, and cute kissy table ducks, right, are easy ways to make Valentine's Day more fun.



Flattering Glitter & Scotch heart sweater, above.



Roberto Coin enamel and diamond heart necklace, above, is from their Amorini Collection at edmund t. AHEE.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CONNER PARK

Colorful tulips, above, are a different take on Valentine flowers from Conner Park florist.

Explore new ways to celebrate love day

Lady in red

The **Sézane Emilie** cardigan in red is such a cute, cozy Valentine's Day gift because it feels equal parts romantic and wearable. The bright red color gives it that classic Valentine's vibe, but it's still the kind of piece that can be thrown on all winter long with jeans, leggings or over address for dinner.

It's soft, warm, and effortlessly chic, which makes it a gift that feels special without being over the top. It's like gifting a hug, but in the form of a cardigan that looks expensive and polished. Available at sezane.com.

Diamond girl

Love shines with a Roberto Coin Amorino Collection enamel and round diamond heart necklace in beautiful 18k yellow gold. You can never go wrong with a Valentine gift from **edmund t. AHEE Jewelers**. Whether it's a treat for you or for someone you love, it's going to be a forever treasure.

Pizza night

An **Ooni** pizza oven is basically the ultimate excuse for a fun family night in, and honestly it makes a pretty perfect Valentine's Day plan too. Instead of fighting for a dinner reservation, you can stay cozy at home, put everyone to work, and turn pizza night into an actual event. Kids can help stretch dough and pick toppings, adults can handle the "pizza chef" role like it's a five star restaurant, and everyone gets their own custom pie. And for Valentine's Day, you absolutely need at least one heart shaped pizza, even if it comes out slightly lopsided. Nothing says "I love you" like melted cheese and pepperoni art. Yummmmm!

Wear your heart on your sleeve

Love is in the air! A sweet pink and red heart sweater from **Glitter & Scotch** has the look Valentine's Day was made for.

Whether you are headed to school for a party or out for a date night this precious heart sweater is the perfect vibe for celebrating the day of romance You'll love all the Valentine-ready fashions and accessories at **Glitter & Scotch**. Check them out and step out in style!

Valentine favors

Party Adventure is the go-to spot for cute party accessories and decor that instantly make any celebration feel more fun and put together.

Stacked heart pencils thrill kids and make adults feel like a kid again. Tuck them in a lunchbag as a surprise, use them as party favors or stock up to add more love to the whole year.

Adorable favors, themed napkins and plates and festive balloons, banners are the little extras you didn't even know you needed.



"Lavender Rose Retreat" gift box, left, includes roses and scented gifts, from Conner Park.

Fantastic florals

Conner Park's floral masterpieces are a great way to share your love with someone special. You can be sure that each creation is made with care and your beloved in mind.

With over nine decades of experience, the family-owned florist has blossomed alongside the community, creating timeless arrangements that celebrate life's most cherished moments.

Like colorful tulips that promise spring will return, stunning orchids or a floral gift basket, it's easy to select something unique and personalized to make the day memorable. Conner Park is another name for Valentine beauty.

Catch-all cutie

The Mark and Graham heart pouch is the sweetest little gift idea for Valentine's Day, with its pink heart print and monogram detail that makes it feel extra special and personal. Perfect for tossing in a purse to hold makeup, lip gloss, pens or all those tiny essentials that always get lost. Keep it all handy and at your fingertips with a zipper pouch that makes you smile every time you see it. Find it at markandgraham.com.



Mark and Graham pink heart-patterned zip pouch, left, has many uses! They'll think of you every time they use this pretty monogrammed gift.

Romance, Perfected

Valentine's Day is Saturday, February 14th

Conner Park
FLORALS • PLANTS • EVENTS

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586-773-1500 | www.connerpark.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORNER STUDIO

A romantic red sauna, above, is a highlight of any visit to Corner Studio.

Gifts of wellness say “I love you”

Wellness TLC

Start Valentine’s Day off the right way with a little self care at **Corner Studio** sauna. Doing something good for your body and your heart is the best way to show you care for yourself and others. A sauna session is a comfy winter reset that can help support circulation, ease muscle tension, promote relaxation and leave you feeling refreshed and energized. It’s also a great way to destress during a busy season when everyone is running on fumes. Even better, you can bring a friend and turn it into the ultimate Galentine’s outing, just relaxing, sweating it out and leaving feeling like new. That’s what friends are for! Just do it, you’ll be glad you did.

High-tech health

An **Oura Ring** is such a great gift because it’s equal parts beautiful and actually useful. It help track sleep, recovery, stress and overall wellness, so it’s like giving someone a little daily reminder to take care of themselves. Even better, it now comes in super cute ceramic inspired colors like soft pink and white (and other sleek shades), so it feels more like a chic accessory than a piece of tech. Perfect for anyone who loves wellness, self care, or just really good sleep.



Oura Rings, right, track wellness, an idea gift for the one you love most.

A new spin on the little luxuries that make it home



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAISON PARC

Add a bit of French flair to Valentine’s Day with a unique gift from **Maison Parc**. A flower painting by artist Kris Jezak, above left, striking florals or a gift card your love can splurge with, above right, are all great gifting choices.

Charming vibes

Maison Parc is a creative space filled with fresh flowers, gifts, balloons and lots of good energy. This one-of-a-kind boutique is a breath of fresh air on Kercheval Ave. It’s part florist, part artistic work shop, part oasis of home decor and even has balloons for gifting or decorations for your next celebration. The Valentine’s Day offerings are fresh and gorgeous, from grab and go bouquets to custom arrangements, balloons, candles and home decor. Or give someone you love a gift certificate to visit the shop, soak up all the good vibrations, pick out a gift or enjoy a craft workshop. Workshops include themes like floral design, the art of collage or the recent Mommy & Me Bouquet Tea Party, where mothers and daughters learned to make their own bouquet while enjoying high tea. For something different that is sure to thrill your Valentine, stop in at this new Grosse Pointe Park treasure.

Kid stuff for your littlest loves

Toys they’ll adore

Fun begins at **Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy** in St. Clair Shores. The Valentine gift options for kids are endless — but the store also has a few toys that seem tailor-made for this Valentine holiday. From heart-shaped craft kits to LEGO rose bouquets, the Valentine spirit is strong at Whistle Stop. Faber-Castell’s Creativity for Kids String Art Heart Light kit will thrill little ones when they make a glow in the dark lantern that actually lights up! The same brand also offers a heart-shaped bank that can be filled with cash or little treasures. Loopedeloo offers a colorful bracelet-making kit. Kids can make bracelets to give their friends along with a Valentine.

Valentine craft event

Because **Whistle Stop** knows what kids love best, they are holding a free craft-making event on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children can choose from make a Froot Loop heart bird feeder or a traditional Valentine card. All are welcome! Little shoppers Gift your kids with Valentine money and let them roam **Whistle Stop** to pick out what they want. Its a great way to teach kids about how money works while honing their sense of independence and personal choice — and having fun. Or let them each do the shopping for a sibling to expand the bonds of love. They’ll have so much fun choosing for one another!



Kids can make their own heart light, left, or fill a cute heart bank, below, with their most personal treasures for safekeeping. Both from Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy.



Whistle Stop’s Loopedeloo bracelet-making kit, below, lets kids make bracelets for all their Valentines.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHISTLE STOP

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Whistle Stop
hobby & Toy

Valentines Bird Feeder Craft Event

Feb 7th, 11:00am-1:00pm

Whistle-Stop.com
21714 Harper Ave, St. Clair Shores, MI, 48080

WINTERFEST IN THE FARMS AND WOODS

Grosse Pointe Woods

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its annual Winterfest Jan. 31, at Ghesquiere Park. The event featured an Olympics theme and included crafts, a DJ, a food truck, outdoor games and more.



Above, Lucy Pawlowski lets go of the felt-tipped arrow during an attempt to knock down a ball suspended by hot air flowing out of the cone.

Below, Charlotte Wilkins stands by an Olympic-themed Winterfest sign that welcomed event-goers.



Above, Olive Burrus stands on the podium holding a torch to open the Olympic Games.



Middle left, two of the most popular attractions of the event were the snowhill down which kids continuously slid and a fire that kept people warm.

Below, William Cullen tries to shoot the puck though one of the holes up high.



Grosse Pointe Farms

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Grosse Pointe Farms hosted its annual Winterfest Jan. 31, at Pier Park. There were games, a band, a chili cook-off, lots of ice sculptures, food trucks and more.



Above, Siblings Clara and Jonathan Peltz tried to outscore each other by shooting the puck through the sharp-shooter hole in the screen. Below, Charlie Davis, holding a snowball in her hand, thought the ice sculpture of a dragon was pretty cool.



Above, Andy Backman won the chili cook-off with his chicken jalapeno chili, which was popular and went fast.

Left, Brothers Nate and Alex Laquere came in from the cold and enjoyed hot chocolate inside the tent.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARCHER'S MARK, IMAGIARIUM PRODUCTIONS AND SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES.
Left, David Fane as Ace and Michael Fassbender as Coach Thomas Rongen in the 2023 movie “Next Goal Wins,” written by Lain Morris and Taika Waititi and directed by Taika Waititi.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Next Goal Wins”
2023 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 44 min
★★★★☆

Taika Waititi is one of my favorite directors. The talented New Zealand native is known for his humorous, quirky shows and movies. He’s a bit like Wes Anderson, but his work is more realistic and not as surreal. His television work includes “What We Do In The Shadows,” “Reservation Dogs,” and “Our Flag Means Death.” He’s especially known for films like “Hunt for Wilderpeople,” and the Oscar Award winning “Jojo Rabbit.” If you’ve never seen anything by him, I highly recommend looking into this prolific writer and director’s work. You won’t be disappointed.

“Next Goal Wins” is the story of the American-Samoan soccer team. I’ll readily admit, I’m not a huge soccer fan, but with films like this and the hit TV show “Ted Lasso,” you don’t really have to be. The game is just the backdrop for some great characters and entertaining story arcs. In this

case, the film is loosely based on true events and Waititi directed it and co-wrote it with Lain Morris. And what a tale it is. I should mention that here’s also an older documentary about the story with the same title.

Meet Dutch-American soccer coach Thomas Rongen, played by Michael Fassbender (“Shame,” “Steve Jobs”). His career is on a two-year downward spiral, mainly due to a series of epic on-field tantrums he’s thrown. Thomas has been bouncing from one job to another. His most recent firing was as the head coach of the Under-20 U.S. Men’s National Team. In what appears to be his final chance, he’s been assigned to the Football Federation of American Samoa. The squad has the distinction of being unquestionably the worst team in the world. In 2001, the Samoan team was beaten 30-0 in a qualifying match against Australia. And over the ensuing years, the team hasn’t improved one bit.

So it’s obvious that Coach Rongen has his work cut out for him. This is clearly one of



Movie poster for “Next Goal Wins.”

those underdog sports team movies we’ve seen countless times before. There aren’t a lot of surprises here except for one major difference: I’ll tell you right off that the team doesn’t go on to win the World Cup. In fact, the ultimate goal for the players is to score just one goal. Not a lofty ambition, but when you see just how bad they are, it’s easily understandable. When you put a story like this in the hands of a visionary like Taika Waititi, you’re guaranteed to have an entertaining time.

with her, he discovers not only does she understand the subtleties of the game, she knows the whereabouts of several talented ex-team members. The two become friends and before long, they embark on a journey to hunt down and recruit the former players.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the movie is meeting the quirky players on the team. And as expected from a talent like Waititi, the dialogue is absolutely hilarious. You have to listen carefully (or put on the subti-

les) or you might miss some of the more comical lines. They include little gems like, “Rome was built in a day,” and “Well, the chickens have come home to roast.” And there’s a scene in the beginning of the movie involving “boobs” that’s laugh out loud funny! I’ll just leave it at that.

The whole team begins to work together. Especially when Rongen introduces them to actual plays. And what a bunch of great characters they are. Of special note is Tavita, played by Oscar Kightley (“Moana” and “Hunt for the Wilderpeople”). He’s not only the head of the local soccer association, he’s also the cameraman who films Rongen on his arrival to the island. His dry sense of humor adds to the charm of the film.

One of the chief things Coach Rongen tries to instill in his players is the love of the game. It’s truly not just about winning, but playing for the sheer joy of it. I.E. If you’re not having fun, what’s the point?

I enjoyed this film immensely. Everything about it was as sweet and charming as you’d expect from a movie by this underrated filmmaker. The cinematography by Lachlan Milne captured the beauty of the island perfectly. And the score by Michael Giacchino was great as well. It includes indigenous choral music and lots of chanting — especially when the team is engaged in tribal dance routines where they try to instill fear in their enemies. In this case,



the opposing team. After seeing this movie, I’m now motivated to watch all the other works by Mr. Waititi that I’ve somehow missed. I hope you have the same reaction. This is one of those films that is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Currently streaming on Hulu and to rent on Prime Video, Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, 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: moviejunkie-mark.blogspot.com.



Soccer practice.



Getting the team fired up.



Tribal war chants.



A dejected team in the locker room.



Oscar Kightley as Tavita and Michael Fassbender as coach Thomas Rongen.



Coach Rongen and Jaiya (Kaimana) chatting.



Team drills.

Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp



Reg Smythe

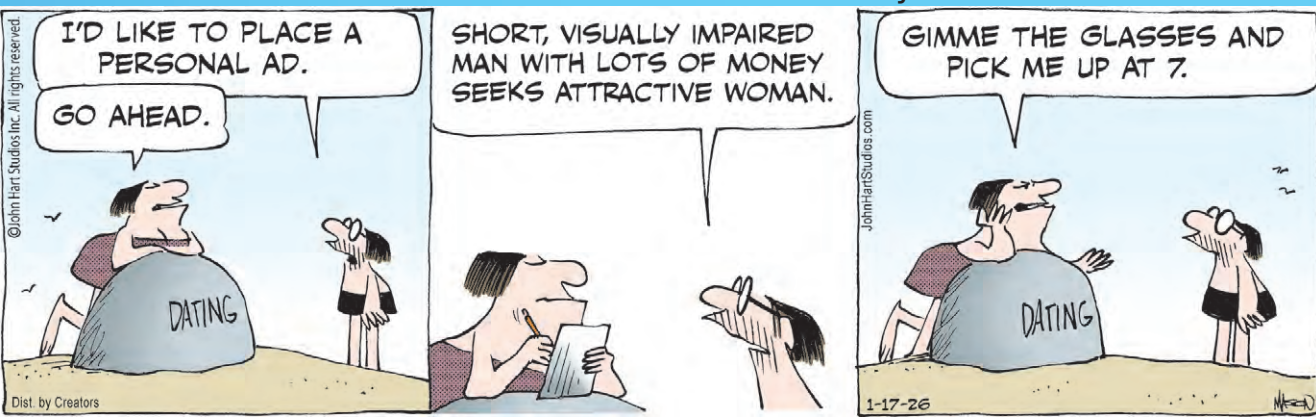
Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



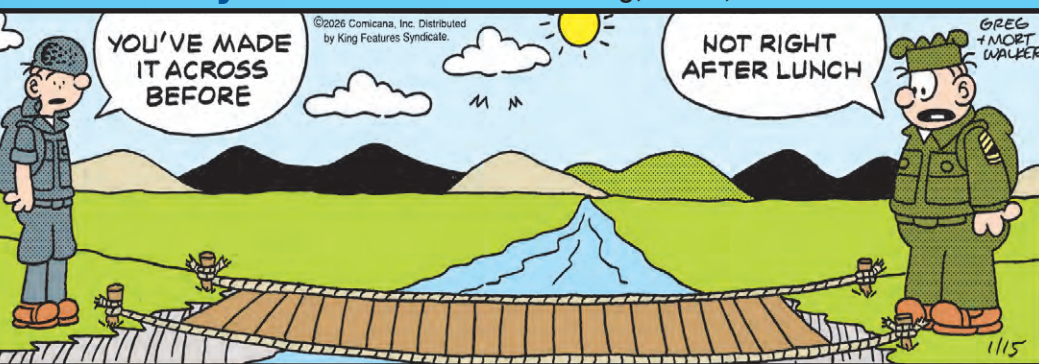
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



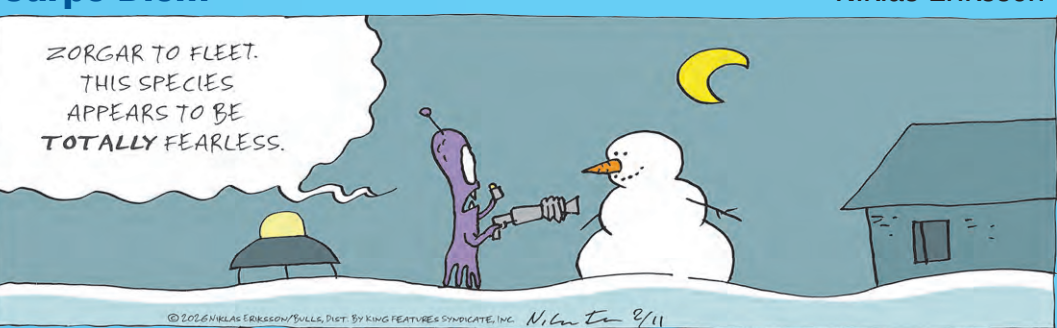
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



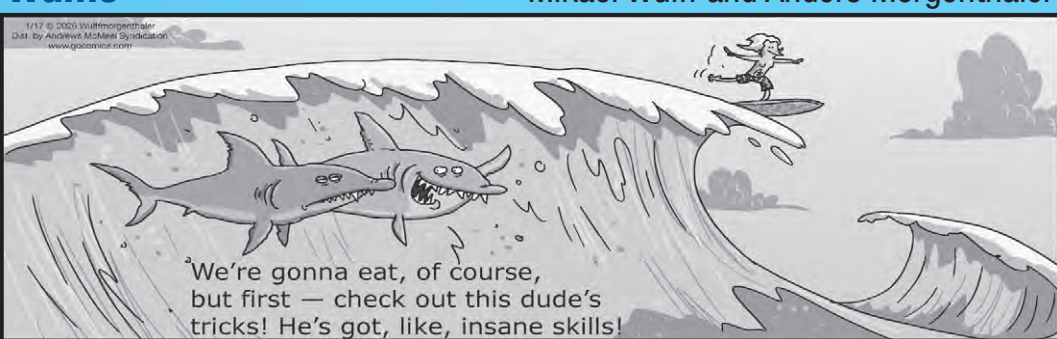
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse
Pointe
News

THURSDAY

COMICS

Garfield

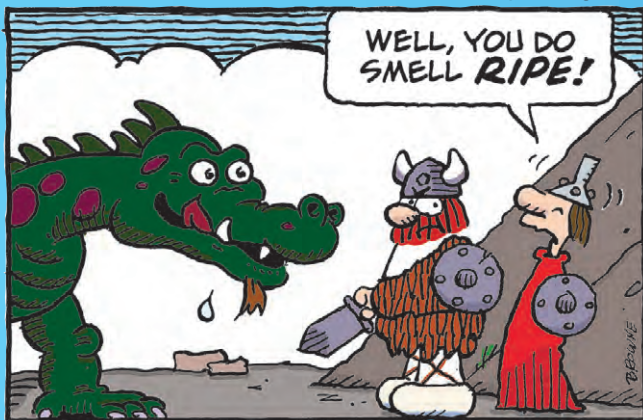
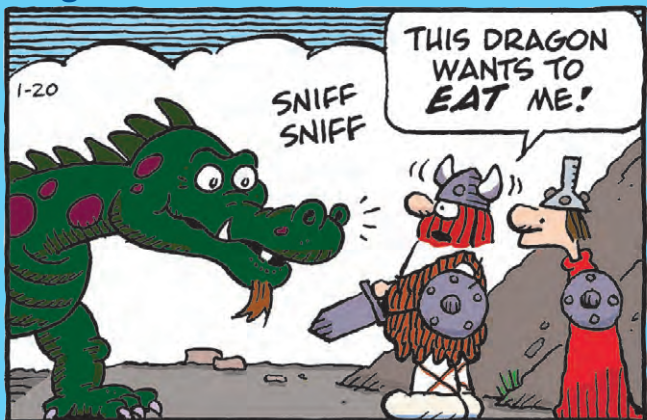
Jim Davis



Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



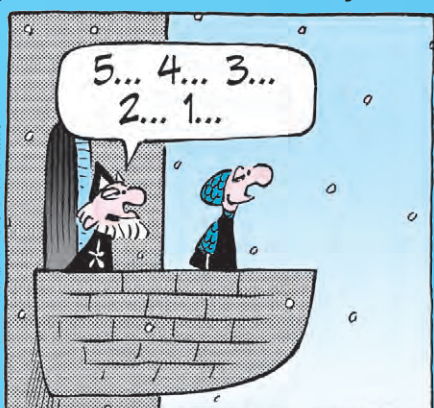
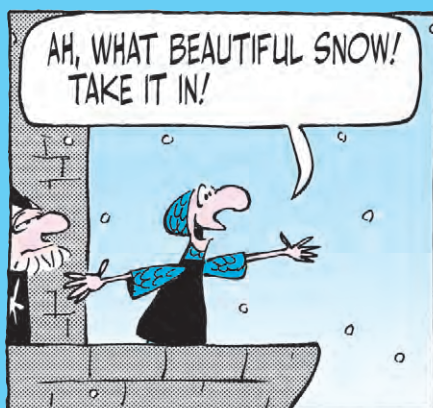
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



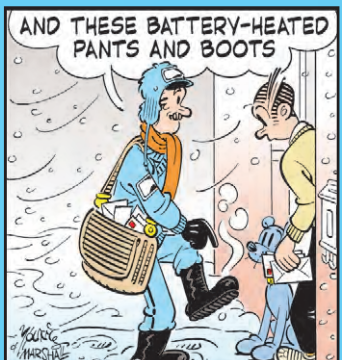
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



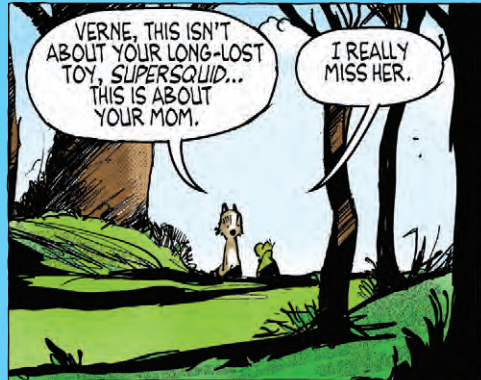
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



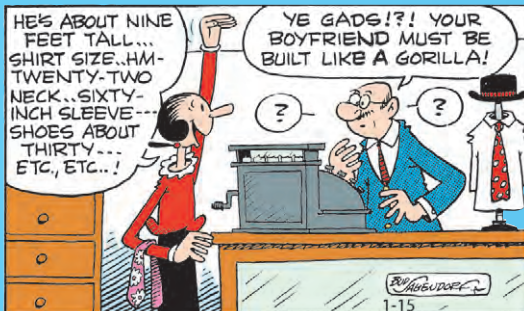
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



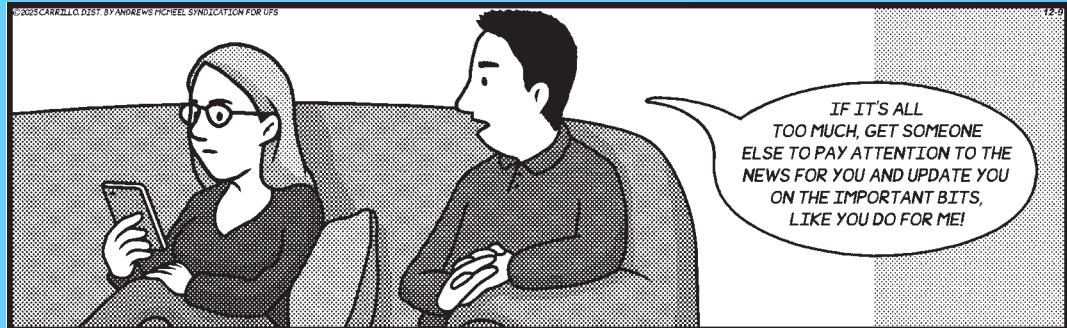
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Marmaduke

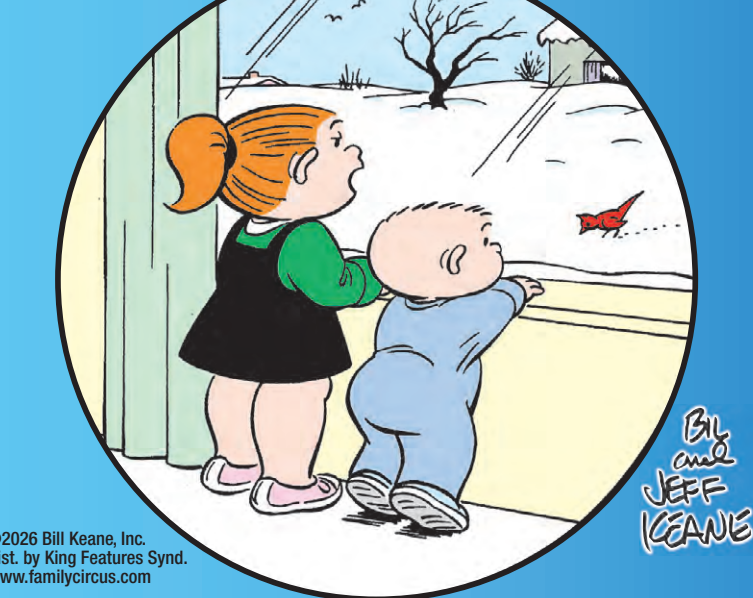
Paul & Brad Anderson



"That snowman is not going to answer you back"

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"I don't know how birds can go barefoot in the snow."



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

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1/29 Solution

Contract Bridge

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

It's unlikely you'll ever be dealt a hand as luscious as the one held by South in today's deal. But, just in case lightning strikes twice and you do get such a hand — or a reasonable facsimile thereof — here is a word or two about how to bid and play it.

The bidding should be short and sweet. It would be pointless to indulge in an elaborate or extended series of bids. You should immediately cast your vote for seven spades and bid it.

The play's not as simple as that, though it's not really difficult. It's obvious from the start that the grand slam is ice-cold unless one opponent has five or six hearts to the ten.

Therefore, you should — as a cautious player — assume that such a situation exists and adapt your play accordingly. So, after ruffing the ace of diamonds, you should play one round of trump and then cash the A-K of hearts. After West shows out without ruffing, you trump a heart in dummy, and the rest of the tricks are yours. Of course, you're a bit lucky that the second heart didn't get ruffed, but then again, you were unlucky that the hearts split badly in the first place.

It would be technically wrong — and in the actual case fatal — to cash all your trumps first and rely solely on a favorable heart division. Playing one round of trump followed by two rounds of hearts allows you to make the contract whenever it can be made.

It would be a pity to hold a hand like this and watch it go down the drain because you failed to take a measure of protection — however small — against a bad heart division. That would not be the proper way to show your gratitude for being dealt a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity like this one.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: After 5 a.m. EST today (2 a.m. PST) there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in LIBRA.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 5, 2026:

You are charming, calm and competent. You're also sensitive, self-disciplined and organized. This year you reap the benefits of your hard work. Expect power and leadership. It's a busy year for you! Seize opportunities and act on them. You will be acknowledged, perhaps in the spotlight.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Interactions with others are tricky today. You might attract someone powerful to you, and this interaction might be intense, maybe even exhausting. Meanwhile, a younger friend or a member of a group might throw you a curveball. Stay off your heels. Tonight: Listen and be cooperative.

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Tread carefully when talking to bosses, parents and VIPs today, because something could blow up in your face in a New York minute. (It could be minor; it could be major.) Meanwhile, a discussion about how to improve your job or your health will be serious and worth consideration. Tonight: Get better organized.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

I steer clear of discussions about politics and religion. They could quickly escalate into an argument today. In fact, something unexpected might occur, possibly far away. Meanwhile, be patient during intense discussions with one of your kids or a romantic partner. Tonight: Enjoy socializing.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Double-check details about banking, investments, shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. Something unexpected could impact these areas. Meanwhile, an intense discussion with a family member might take place. Tonight: Relax at home.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today will require diplomacy when dealing with partners, spouses and close friends. They might say something that catches you off guard. Today you want answers. You want to get to the bottom of something. Tonight: Important conversations.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today work-related issues, or something to do with your health or a pet, might trigger knee-jerk reactions. Avoid this if you can. Your mind is restless, which is why you might jump to conclusions or make a decision without all the facts. Take a breath. Tonight: Check your belongings.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Parents should know that this is an accident-prone day for your kids, which means you must be vigilant. Know where they are at all times. Meanwhile, social events might be canceled or delayed, or you might get an unexpected invitation. Avoid financial arguments. Tonight: You win!

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Do your best to keep peace at home today. Unexpected events will take place. Your home routine might be interrupted because of appliance breakdowns. You might get new technology for your home. Could be anything. Be cool. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a fast-paced day and your energy is a bit nervous. Be careful, because an accident could happen due to a distraction. Discussions with others are powerful and perhaps surprising. Keep your wits about you today, for your own sake. Tonight: Be friendly.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have the attention of others today, especially if you want to assert your ideas about financial matters, earnings, cash flow or something that you own. People will listen to you. Something unexpected might occur that affects your assets. Be observant. Tonight: You're noticed.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Avoid arguments with others that might erupt today, because your mind is a bit excited. (Arguments don't have to happen.) Nevertheless, you have strong opinions when it comes to foreign countries, ideologies, politics and religion. You always have strong ideas about global issues — you want to save the world before bedtime. Tonight: Explore!

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a restless day for you. You might find yourself at odds with a daily contact, sibling, relative or neighbor. Strong feelings about shared costs, shared responsibilities or how to divide something in a fair manner also might be a major concern for you today. (These are touchy subjects!) Tonight: Check your finances.

BORN TODAY
Actor, humanitarian Michael Sheen (1969), actress Laura Linney (1964), actor Henry Golding (1987).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 5, 2026

ACROSS		43 Sand mound	10 Caper	38 Goes long, like a meeting
1	—AFTRA (labor union)	45 Home update, informally	12 Sault — Marie, Ontario	39 Social standard
4	Up to, for short	47 "Zombie" by the Cranberries?	13 Reeked to high heaven	44 Candy that looks like aquarium gravel
7	Leaning Tower's locale	52 It can be a "triple" jump	14 Warm weather top	46 Sleeps briefly
11	Leave in oak barrels, e.g.	55 Russian range or river	16 Krabappel who teaches Bart Simpson	47 Artist's inspiration
12	Rational	56 Andy who coaches Travis Kelce	20 "Pay attention!"	48 Tests requiring no pencil
13	Line that intersects a curve at multiple points	57 Cathedral topper	23 Reggae musician Peter	49 Maritime
15	"Alright" by Kendrick Lamar?	58 Hockey legend Serge known for his "spin-o-rama"	24 Academic employment guarantee	50 Two shakes of a lamb's tail
17	Size up from Venti	60 Cheaply ... or how 15-, 23-, 37- or 47-Across is clued?	26 Surrender, in wrestling	51 Love very much
18	Dodge	62 Thrills	28 " — on like Donkey Kong!"	53 — Stavro Biofeld (Bond villain)
19	Singer Fitzgerald	63 Toga party house	29 Mauna —	54 Permitted
21	Abel's brother	64 Where to find MA and PA Miller?	31 Stick together	57 Parked it
22	Strap for Blitzen	65 It goes downhill fast	32 Singer Yoko	59 Roses' color, in a classic poem
23	"Chattanooga Choo Choo" by Glenn Miller?	66 Japanese dough	34 Extremely unpleasant	61 Campaigned
25	Org. that Sweden joined in 2024	67 The Cards, on MLB tickers	35 Blah	
27	—Ball (coin-op game)	DOWN	36 Not virtually, for short	
28	Eisenhower's nickname	1 Less risky		
30	Formal tie	2 Nimble		
33	Actress Watts	3 For real		
37	"867-5309/ Jenny" by Tommy Tutone?	4 Greek T		
40	Reject something	5 — tube (water park float)		
41	Present with an award, perhaps	6 "Futurama" mutant voiced by Katey Sagal		
42	Mammoth's org.	7 Each		
		8 Blizzards, for the most part		
		9 Yemen's capital		

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/29 Solution
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New Music by Daniel Hrynck

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

SPORTS



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Liggett, South boys hockey teams face challenges at MIHL Showcase

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The annual MIHL Showcase once again brought some of the best teams and talent from around Michigan and the Midwest to compete in Trenton last week. The boys varsity hockey teams from University Liggett School and Grosse Pointe South each played a pair of games in the showcase and while results were mixed, the tough tests both teams faced could prove to be valuable with the playoffs approaching.

University Liggett
The Knights began the showcase Thursday, Jan. 29, with a game against Clarkston. Continuing a winning streak that dated back to November, Liggett was able to come away with a 4-1 victory over the Wolves in what it hoped would be a strong start to the week-end.

Landen Maltby opened the scoring for the Knights, with another goal by Griffin Marchal helping Liggett end the first period with a 2-0 advantage. Clarkston scored its lone goal of the game in the second period to reduce Liggett's



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett's Johnny Secco (No. 24) gets high-fives from his teammates after completing a hat trick in the Knights' loss to Houghton at the MIHL Showcase Saturday, Jan. 31.

lead to one going into the final frame. Johnny Secco and Nick Gould sealed the game with goals in the third period for the Knights. Liggett's second matchup of the showcase came Saturday, Jan. 31, against Houghton. The Knights went head-to-

head against the Upper Peninsula foe with both teams among the top 10 in Division 3 in the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association rankings. The highly anticipated meeting with the Gremlins did not bring the result the Knights

wanted, however, as Liggett's long winning streak was snapped in a 10-5 defeat. "We're going to take the positives out of this, because maybe we needed a loss before the state tournament," Liggett boys hockey coach Colin Smith said

following his team's first defeat since Nov. 21. "(Houghton) is a really good team and I have to tip my cap to them. They play fast and get to the dirty areas. We could honestly learn a lot from that team because they play how we're trying to play."

Goals came early and often between Liggett and Houghton last Saturday morning. Secco and Luke Slanec both found the back of the net for the Knights in the first period, but the team went into the locker room trailing 3-2. Secco tied the game early in the second period with his second of three goals. However, the Gremlins struck back quickly with two goals separated by less than a minute. Secco completed his hat trick to put the Knights back within one, but Houghton answered yet again. Gould continued the back-and-forth with another Liggett goal, but the Gremlins were able to punctuate a high-scoring second period with a late short-handed goal to make their lead 7-5. After trying to keep up with Houghton's pace offensively in the first two periods, Liggett was shut out in the third period. The Gremlins added three more goals to their lead to end the Knights' streak of victories. "(Houghton) killed us with their speed," Smith said. "They chipped the puck past us with multi-

See HOCKEY, page 3D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Reynolds puts team above everything for South hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

As a senior captain of Grosse Pointe South varsity boys hockey, nothing is more important to Lucas Reynolds than the team. He has endured injuries, losses and coaching changes throughout his career, but Reynolds knows one of the biggest things he can do his senior season is help set up the program for a bright future. "I really love being able to be a role model to the younger kids," he said. "All of the seniors work together and we want to bring the team together as a whole. We want to have a family. We want the younger players to look up to the older guys. We still want the older guys to keep learning and developing, too, but it's like one big family. Being in a leadership role really brings the whole thing together." Reynolds is the type of player with a team-first

mentality that makes him a great captain. The fact he leads South in assists with 12 this season is a testament to that fact as well. His 12

assists lead the Blue Devils and, combined with his nine goals, give him 21 points this season — good for second overall on the team.

truly deserves to be athlete of the week." It does not matter where Reynolds ends up on the stat sheet after games. Scoring goals is



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Lucas Reynolds carries the puck through the neutral zone for South in a game against Grosse Pointe North Jan. 24. Reynolds scored a hat trick in the 8-4 win for the Blue Devils.

Legendary Lucas

- Second on South boys hockey with 21 points (9 G, 12 A)
- Senior captain of South varsity boys hockey

"Lucas is a great leader and teammate both on and off the ice," said assistant coach Justin Kovacs. "He's a kid you love to work with everyday and

nice, of course, but in the end it counts the same as an assist. That is what Reynolds tries to remember, knowing that making the right play with the puck rather than a selfish one most likely is going to be better for the team. "It's definitely about playmaking," Reynolds said about how he approaches hockey. "... I want my teammates and my line-mates to succeed as well. It's not only about goals. Goals and assists are worth the

Grosse Pointe News



Lucas Reynolds

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Fairway Packing Co.

same amount of points and that's how I look at it. If I get an assist and my teammate scores, I'm happy about that because it's about making the right plays and not being selfish with the puck." Something that has made Reynolds even more focused on being a team player is the influence of a new head coach this sea-

son. Ben Warda has taken over behind the bench for South hockey this season. While there may be more tallies in the loss column for the Blue Devils, Reynolds can see himself and his teammates buying into Warda's vision for the program. Reynolds may only get

See ATHLETE, page 2D



SCORE BIG WITH EVERY BITE.

I SAY— SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

Michigan approves NIL deals for high school athletes. What now?

There has been plenty of discussion the last few years about the impact of college athletes being able to market themselves through Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals. Now, in Michigan, that conversation extends to high school student-athletes.

Last week, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) made a major announcement that it is expanding the ability for high school student-athletes in Michigan to seek NIL opportunities, or “Personal Branding Activities” (PBA), as the MHSAA calls them. While it seems like a landmark decision, it actually has become commonplace recently, with Michigan now joining the large number of states that allow



high school athletes to seek NIL opportunities.

In its announcement of the new policy, the MHSAA worded things carefully to make it all make sense. Schools are not allowed to arrange or promote NIL deals for athletes. Athletes cannot use any school branding (logos, uniforms, etc.) in whatever promotional activities they take part in. All NIL arrangements must be disclosed to the MHSAA and meet the organization’s guidelines.

I have been an advocate for college athletes

being able to market themselves and seek NIL deals because they generate plenty of revenue for the schools and athletic departments they represent. It is only fair that they get a piece of the pie for their efforts.

At the high school level, however, things become a bit trickier. While high school athletes certainly help bring attention to their schools and teams through their performance, high school athletics is not a billion-dollar industry on the level of major college sports. That is why, at least for now, I believe this new policy by the MHSAA will only have an immediate impact on the state’s top athletes and recruits.

The main example that comes to mind is former Belleville High School football star and

current University of Michigan quarterback Bryce Underwood. If this policy had gone into effect a couple of years ago, Underwood undoubtedly would have had plenty of NIL opportunities from which to choose. NIL opportunities will likely find the top players first and it could take some time before we see things become more spread out to a wider range of athletes.

The biggest thing the MHSAA needs to focus on is making sure high school athletes are protected in all of this. Unlike with college sports, many high school athletes are not legally adults yet and the introduction of NIL can bring with it people who may try to take advantage of athletes and their image for their own personal gain.

We have seen cases of

college athletes being caught up in scams surrounding NIL or becoming involved with people who do not have their best interests at heart. The MHSAA has to be careful about not letting those sorts of things happen to high school athletes. The organization seems to be highly focused on that based on what it states in the policy. Whether that truly remains the case will have to be seen. A large amount of responsibility also rests on the families of these athletes to make sure whatever NIL opportunities come along put the athlete’s best interests first.

It also remains to be seen whether businesses and promoters believe investing in high school athletes is a good idea. I would not be surprised if many places approach it with caution, perhaps wait-

ing to see how others do with their NIL activities with high school athletes before trying anything themselves. However, it could present some opportunities for businesses to promote things at a localized level in communities like Grosse Pointe.

There have been plenty of gray areas when it comes to NIL, ever since it was introduced in major college sports, and that extends to the high school level now. The policy is still very new. Who knows when we will begin to see promotions popping up highlighting high school athletes? What matters most for the MHSAA, promoters, athletes and their families is exercising caution and keeping in mind what is most important: the safety of these great young athletes.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

to experience one season under the new coach, but he has been enjoying every game and practice getting to work together.

“He’s made hockey more fun and he’s going to continue to do that,” Reynolds said. “... He’s really focused on the players as a whole. He works with us before practice and after practice and always has stuff going on in the spring or summer. He’s really working for the program.”

The coach agrees. “Lucas is a natural leader and someone that his teammates respect and want to be around,” Warda said. “He’s an

example of why us coaches want to coach.”

With only a month or so remaining in his final season with South hockey, Reynolds is trying to leave his mark on the program as a leader. He knows the program is

still feels like it has something to prove.

“I set the goal of wanting to make that All-State team and working toward that every day,” Reynolds said. “We want to make a run in the playoffs and be a team that’s tough to

‘We all want to work together. We all want to be together and we all have the same goals in mind.’

LUCAS REYNOLDS, SENIOR, GP SOUTH HOCKEY CAPTAIN

in good hands with Warda, but wants his legacy as a Blue Devil to last long after he is gone.

What could help would be a nice accolade to add to Reynolds’s resume, but also a deep playoff run with his South team that

play against and right now, I think we’re close to achieving that.”

It comes down to the old adage that a team wants to play its best when the games matter the most. South is quickly approaching that point in the season with the playoffs on the horizon. Reynolds believes his team can get there by doing what they have done best so far: working together.

“It’s all for one and one for all,” he said. “We all want to work together. We all want to be together and we all have the same goals in mind. It’s all about puck movement and keeping a solid structure — that’s key — and not being selfish on the ice.”



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Cousins Lucas Reynolds, left, and Audrey Reynolds each serve as senior captains of the Grosse Pointe South boys and girls varsity hockey teams.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE - ORDINANCE NO. 469

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 469 adding Article X to Chapter 18 of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances regulating virtual currency machines through registration and licensing. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 469 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 2/5/26

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
2026 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

The City of Harper Woods 2026 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens, regarding the 2026 assessment, at City Hall, 19617 Harper Ave. All appeals are by appointment, in-person or submitted in writing. Letters of appeal must be received by March 23, 2026 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted. Please call (313) 343-2527 to schedule an appointment.

Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Monday March 9, 2026 1:00 pm Organizational Meeting
Hearings 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Monday March 23, 2026 Hearings 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

All persons protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form 618) L-4035) which can be obtained at City Hall or at the time of appointment or on the City website: www.harperwoodscity.org under the Assessing Department; Board of Review Information.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2026 are as follows:

Agricultural50.00%
Commercial45.66%
Industrial47.66%
Residential46.47%
Timber-Cutover50.00%
Developmental50.00%
Personal Property50.00%

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, & Mar. 5 2026

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
OAKLAND COUNTY

In the matter of DaMarcus H. Rice, a minor
Case No. 2026-430624-LG

NOTICE OF HEARING A hearing will be held on February 11, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Oakland County Probate Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48341, regarding a Petition for Limited Guardianship.

Petitioner: Charmaine Hill
Minor Child: DaMarcus H. Rice, DOB: 02/03/2009

The whereabouts of DaMarcus R. Rice, parent of the minor child, are unknown. Notice is being published pursuant to Michigan law.

The parent has the right to appear and contest the petition. Failure to appear may result in the court granting the petition.

Charmaine Hill
P.O. Box 813
Frisco, Texas
313-468-0698

GPN: 2/5/26

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK

Submit your nominee today!

Loss to Everest does not shake Liggett’s hopes

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Plenty has gone right for the University Liggett School varsity boys basketball team this winter. In the first season under head coach Jaylen Rutherford, the Knights already clinched the CHSL Intersectional I Division regular season title and did it by having clutch performances in close games. Liggett found itself in another matchup that came down to the wire Friday, Jan. 30, but found itself on the wrong end this time in a 65-63 loss to Everest Collegiate.

Last Friday’s thriller was the fourth of Liggett’s last five contests to be decided by three points or less. The Knights and Mountaineers were

evenly matched throughout much of the night, but it was Everest who had the upper hand in the first half.

Points were not hard to come by, especially early on, as Everest led 19-13 at the end of the first quarter. Shots continued to fall for both sides in the second quarter and the Knights closed the gap, narrowing the deficit to just two points and trailing 37-35 going into the break.

Liggett came out of the halftime locker room looking to take control of the game. The Knights went on a third-quarter surge, largely led by a flurry of points by senior Javion Gray, and took the lead to pull ahead 51-45 going into the fourth quarter.

Everest showed it was not going to go down

easy, however. The Mountaineers climbed back in the fourth quarter and took the game down to the wire. With the score tied at 63 apiece in the final seconds, Everest made the game-winning shot with six seconds on the clock. Liggett’s final attempt to tie the game at the buzzer came up short, allowing the Mountaineers to escape with the win.

Gray continued a string of strong performances for the Knights with 23 points in the loss. Justin Gibson also reached double digits for Liggett with 15 points.

The Knights visited Oakland Christian Wednesday, Feb. 4, after press time. The team hosts Lutheran North Thursday, Feb. 12, with tip off at 7:00 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior Javion Gray led Liggett with 23 points in the team’s loss to Everest Collegiate Friday, Jan. 30.

HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

ple odd-man rushes. They are hard to get loose pucks. When we pinched, we didn’t have that same type of support that we’ve had all year long. ... It was multiple things that got us.”

The Knights went on the road to face Gibraltar Carlson after press time Wednesday, Feb. 4. They go on the road again Saturday, Feb. 7, taking

on U of D Jesuit at Hazel Park Ice Arena. Puck drop is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South

South’s first game of the MIHL Showcase Thursday, Jan. 29, came against Bowling Green, which made the trip up to The Mitten from Ohio. Despite a late attempted comeback, the Blue Devils were unable to finish in a 3-2 loss to the Bobcats.

Bowling Green was up

3-0 in the third period before South finally broke through. Charlie Winkler got the Blue Devils on the board and his goal was quickly followed by another from Charlie Bunn. With two quick goals late in the game, South was unable to muster a third before time ran out.

South returned to the showcase Saturday, Jan. 31, and found itself in another close game. This time, the Blue Devils came out on top with a

4-3 win in a shootout against Plymouth.

The Blue Devils once again had to come from behind in Saturday’s game. Things were tied 1-1 after the first period, with South’s goal coming from Winkler, but Plymouth built a 3-1 lead

into the third period.

Liam Bernard and Cole Zaccagni eventually helped South tie the game in the final frame. As the game progressed to a shootout, Liam O’Donoghue scored the game-winner for South, giving the Blue Devils a

fourth victory in their last five games.

South visited De La Salle Collegiate after press time Wednesday, Feb. 4. The Blue Devils are away again Friday, Feb. 6, facing U of D Jesuit at Hazel Park Ice Arena at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Nick Gould sends the puck into the attacking zone for Liggett against Houghton Saturday, Jan. 31.



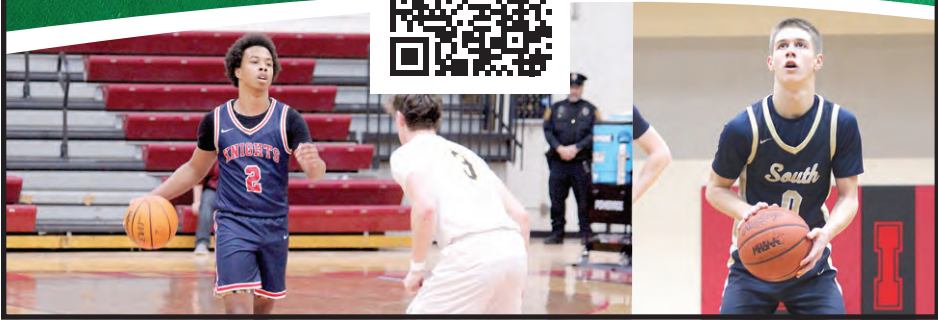
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SPORTS

The winter sports season is heating up. If you’re looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewssports on Instagram.

Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

Best of all, you can be part of the action too! Send your best sports photos and moments to our DMs for a chance to be featured on our page and in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bulldogs earn historic Silver Stick victory

The 2013 Detroit Bulldogs were victorious in the 12U AA International Silver Stick championship Sunday, Jan. 25, becoming the first Bulldogs team since 2013 to claim the title. The Bulldogs ended up on top in the tournament, which included 16 teams from across North America, defeating the Mississauga Beast 5-3 in the championship game. The team’s roster includes Ben Damman, Wesley Marchal, Brian Maloney, Brayden Rajt, Blake Steiner, Zander Steiner, Grayson Winkler, Connor Quinn, Jason Saxton-Bowen (G), Jaxon Vagts, Joey Manzella, Johnny Ostrowski (G), Lucas Stano, Mathew Medvedev, Nik Leshkevich, Ryan Ruokis and Truman Boyette, with coaches Jared Dedenbach and Nathan Steiner.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

D ZONE BASKETBALL

The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase returns to Grosse Pointe South Saturday, Feb. 7. The showcase will include seven high school varsity boys basketball games throughout the day beginning at 11 a.m. Both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South will be in action to represent the Pointes. The Norsemen take on Eisenhower at 6:30 p.m., followed by South matching up against Detroit University Prep at 8 p.m.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE D ZONE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FEB 7, 2026 | 11:00 AM | GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HS

PLAYOFF TUNE-UP

LINDEN vs SEAHOLM - 11AM

ADVANCED TECH vs GLEN LAKE - 12:30 PM

EAST ENGLISH VILLAGE vs REDFORD THURSTON - 2PM

LIVONIA STEVENSON vs WOODHAVEN - 3:30 PM

ANN ARBOR SKYLINE vs NORTH FARMINGTON - 5 PM

EISENHOWER vs GROSSE POINTE NORTH - 6:30 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH vs UNIVERSITY PREP - 8 PM



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Ethan Clark on North’s Unified team works a layup for two points. The final score of the game was South 56, North 50.

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL



Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball suffered its fourth consecutive loss last Thursday, Jan. 29, falling 56-41 at home against Port Huron. The Blue Devils hosted crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North after press time Wednesday, Feb. 4. They are in action again on the road Friday, Feb. 6, against Eisenhower.

University Liggett School’s girls varsity basketball team picked up a narrow win Friday, Jan. 30, on the road against Riverview Gabriel Richard 26-23. The Knights host Cranbrook-Kingswood Friday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use at 21800 Marter Road (Parcel ID 001 99 0001 000). The property is zoned CF, Community Facilities District, and is located south of the border of St. Clair Shores, east of Marter Road and west of River Road, and is intersected by the Milk River. The applicant requests to develop a private indoor sport facility, which extends partially into Grosse Pointe Woods from St. Clair Shores.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Special Land Use, with conditions, to the City Council. The corresponding site plan will also be reviewed by City Council at this time.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk’s Office at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at cityclerk@gpwmj.us up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk’s Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmj.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwmj.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 02/05/26

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 8, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article IX, Fences of the City Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, the City Council will hold a public hearing (in accordance with Section 8-284) in the Council Chambers/Courtroom of the Robert E. Novitte Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. to hear two fence exception requests:

1. 611 Shoreham Road. Request to install a six-foot-in-height wooden fence within the front yard. Exception to Section 8-280: Front Yard Fences.

2. 809 Fairford Road. Request to install a four-foot-in-height metal fence within the front yard (Fairford Rd.) and within the side yard (W. William Ct.). Exception to Sections 8-280: Front Yard Fences and 8-282: Side Yard Fences.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk’s Office at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at cityclerk@gpwmj.us up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk’s Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmj.us.

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Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 02/05/26

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use at 21043 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID: 40-003-06-0095-000). The subject site is zoned the C, Commercial Business District where fast food and carry out restaurants (Dunkin’ Donuts, with a Baskin Robbins) are a special land use. No drive-thru is permitted, dining is take-out or within the restaurant.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk’s Office at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at cityclerk@gpwmj.us up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk’s Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmj.us.

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Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 02/05/26



Coaches predict Super Bowl LX winner

By Mike Adzima

Super Bowl week is here, and this year's big game is a matchup that many probably would not have predicted back when the season began. After a long, grueling drought of seven years that I am sure was very tough on their fan-

base, the New England Patriots are back in the big game. We might not even know yet if the Patriots are even really any good based on their strength of schedule this season and in the playoffs, yet here they are with the chance to win a seventh championship. In their way are the Seattle

Seahawks. Seattle has looked like one of the league's most dominant teams from start to finish with a stifling defense, an offense filled with weapons and led by QB Sam Darnold who has fully resurrected his career. Everything comes down to the big game in Santa Clara, Calif. Sunday, Feb. 8. Will the

Seahawks prove their dominance, or will the Patriots become the first franchise to lift the Lombardi Trophy seven times? The Grosse Pointe News asked some of the best sports minds from around the Pointes to give their predictions for who will come out on top.



Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 24-17
MVP: Jaxon Smith-Njigba
"I do like Drake Maye, but, like much of America, I think it is still too soon for the Patriots to win again. Thankfully, I think Seattle's strong defense slows down New England and frustrates Maye. The Seahawks have the better roster and talent on both sides of the ball. If Sam Darnold can play a clean game like he has throughout the playoffs so far, then I think Seattle could win easily.."



Phil Kozlowski
Head coach, Varsity Baseball, GP North

Winner: Patriots
Final Score: 27-24
MVP: Drake Maye
"I think Maye will give Seattle problems with his feet and ability to make plays out of the pocket."



Amanda Amine
Head Coach, Girls Lacrosse & Field Hockey, University Liggett

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 27-17
MVP: Kenneth Walker III
"The Seahawks' defense will slow down Drake Maye and the Patriots, while Kenneth Walker III will rush for over 100 yards and multiple TD's."



Jay Ricci
Head Coach, Varsity Baseball, University Liggett

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 27-17
MVP: Sam Darnold
"The Minnesota Vikings kept the wrong QB."



Chad Hepner
Head Coach, Varsity Football, GP South

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 24-21
MVP: Kenneth Walker III
"Despite the Patriots defense playing outstanding in the playoffs, Kenneth Walker III is going to be too tough to stop.."



Mike Costanzo
Head Coach, Boys Lacrosse, University Liggett

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 34-31
MVP: Jaxon Smith-Njigba
"Two great defenses and QBs having career seasons. I like Smith-Njigba to be the MVP and a big difference maker."



Amy Zaranek Gaidis
Head Coach, Softball, GP North

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 21-14
MVP: Kenneth Walker III
"I wish the Lions were playing!"



Bill Fleming
Head Coach, Varsity Softball, GP South

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 34-21
MVP: Sam Darnold
"Seattle will become the new NFL dynasty with a convincing win over New England."



Rob Blum
Head Coach, Varsity Boys Hockey, GP North

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 24-17
MVP: Kenneth Walker III



Joe Drouin
Head Coach, Varsity Football, GP North

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 37-28
MVP: Kenneth Walker III



Taylor Shaheen
Head Coach, Girls Varsity Ice Hockey, GP North

Winner: Patriots
Final Score: 27-24
MVP: Drake Maye



Dan Griesbaum Sr.
Head Coach, Varsity Baseball, GP South

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 24-17
MVP: Sam Darnold



Rob Johnson
Head coach, Boys Varsity Basketball, GP North

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 27-17
MVP: Jaxon Smith-Njigba



John Fodell
Head Coach, Boys & Girls Varsity Swim & Dive, GP South

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 34-21
MVP: Sam Darnold



Ben Warda
Head Coach, Boys Varsity Hockey, GP South

Winner: Seahawks
Final Score: 28-24
MVP: Jaxon Smith-Njigba



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