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Grosse Pointe News

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OCTOBER 29, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Softened shoreline study underway

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES — More residents than organizers anticipated showed up to the Pier Park Community Building Wednesday, Oct. 21, for the first public engagement opportunity on the potential of replacing the failing Lakeshore seawall with a softened shoreline.

The cities already have secured $876,000 in federal funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a fully funded feasibility study, as well as the engineering and design of pilot areas along the three-mile stretch of Lakeshore from Warner to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Federal and state agencies are interested in supplying the funding because of an ongoing friendly competition with the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair, which currently boasts significantly better fish habitat.

More than 90 percent of the U.S. side of the lake has hardened shoreline, said Jill Estrada, coastal conservation and habitat restoration project manager for the Great Lakes Commission.

"We start with the fishery side of this, but I want everybody in here to also think about this as an economic development project," said Jamie Burton, vice president of

See STUDY, page 2A



Happy Halloween!

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Lincoln Kuhl, a 14-year-old at Pierce Middle School, has always loved Halloween, but for the last five years, he has put up — and in some cases, paid for — the Halloween decorations that sit on the front lawn of his family's house on Lakeland in the City of Grosse Pointe.
When he was 9 or 10, he realized that since Halloween was something he really enjoyed, he wanted to save money or ask for money toward new decorations every year. The last few years, Kuhl has asked for decorations and/or money to put toward decorations for his birthday.
"Every year, I look forward to decorating my home for Halloween," Kuhl said. "I love setting up spooky displays and bringing the season to life. Lately, I've been saving up to buy some cool decorations so I can make my Halloween setup even better this year. I love putting them up in September so my neighbors can enjoy them for the whole season."
Find more Halloween houses featured on page 1C.
— Renee Landuyt

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GPPSS gets clean audit

Budget problems, however, loom

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System received an unmodified opinion for the audit of its 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

"An unmodified, or clean, audit is the highest level we can give," said Keith Szymanski of Plante Moran during a presentation at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Monday, Oct. 19. "A tremendous amount of work goes into processing all of the transactions the district makes during the year."

The board voted 7-0 to approve the report.

The district had a surplus — $4.5 million — for the third consecutive fiscal year. That puts its fund equity balance at just over $19 million, or 19.1 percent. The fund equity had sunk as low as 8.8 percent after the 2022-23 fiscal year as the district spent it down from 18 percent in 2019-20 while deficit spending as it used COVID relief money to fund positions rather than the programs the money was intended for.

Overall, the district had $105.2 million in revenue and $100.6 million in expenditures. State funding accounted for $71.3 million, or 68 percent, of revenue, with another $23.2 million, or 22 percent, coming from local taxes.

Salaries and benefits, at $51.3 million and $31.5 million, respectively, made up 82 percent of spending. Of those benefits, $19.7 million, or 63 percent, went toward retirement costs, with $8 million for insurance and

See AUDIT, page 9A

Public safety foundation launches Coverage for Courage campaign

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation is kicking off a fundraiser that will help members of the public safety department breathe a little easier — literally — when it comes to keeping residents safe.

The Coverage for Courage campaign seeks to raise $300,000 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses, or SCBAs, for the department.

"Firefighters use them in toxic environments," Park Public Safety Director Jim Bostock said. "It's our lifeline, our fresh air. The lifespan of those SCBAs is 15 years; we're at just about 13. The goal is to get new harnesses, tanks and masks for all of our firefighters."

Time is of the essence.

"We have two years to do it, but realistically we'd like to get it in the next eight to 12 months," Bostock said. "I'd like to put the order in at today's prices and secure it for delivery at a time before the equipment ages out.

"… This isn't, 'It would be nice to have,'" he added. "We have to have this equipment. This is the firefighters' lifeline. In a fire, gas, heat and toxic air are deadly. It's my job to make sure they go in safely, come out safely, do the job correctly and keep the community safe."

> *"This isn't, 'It would be nice to have.' We have to have this equipment. This is the firefighters' lifeline."*
>
> JIM BOSTOCK
> *Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Director*

Not only is current equipment aging, but it's outdated, he said. The new masks and tanks will be modern and will bring the Park's gear in line with what the other Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods already use.

"They'd be interchangeable," Bostock said. "We're seeing more and more incidents where more than one city responds. It's important to have the same type of equipment, the same style."

See SAFETY, page 3A

Puzzles and Award Winning Comics
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Pointer of INTEREST



Peg Orlowski
Home: City of Grosse Pointe
A beloved grandmother's legacy inspires a baker's sweet new beginning.

See story, page 4A

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STUDY:

Continued from page 1A

Hubbell, Roth and Clark. "This is a coastal resource project. This is a resiliency project. It's a flooding project. I mean, this is everything. Not just making spawning beds for fish and fish species. This is all of the above."

Benefits of a soft shoreline include erosion reduction, improved habitat, wave energy absorption, improved water quality, greater biodiversity, longevity and lower ongoing maintenance costs.

"When we say 'soften,' we don't mean less durable," Burton said. "We don't mean less structural. We don't mean less protective of the road."

He also clarified for residents that the plan does not include stretches of the lake behind homes or in the marinas, and addressed concerns regarding whether views of the lake would be impeded.

"We are very aware of ... the people who live on the other side of the road, looking out and seeing the lake, and what that means," Burton said. "Will there be higher vegetation than turf grass? Yes, but that would probably be offset by the fact that this is going to be lower than the top of the seawall now, so a kind of a combination of that."

A number of residents are not yet sold on the soft shoreline concept.

"What you're talking about, your soft shoreline, is going to characteristically change the area," said one unhappy resident. "I don't want that for my community."

To explore all options, several years ago the city priced out replacing the current concrete wall. The cost was more than $100 million, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said.

"No federal or state agency is going to give you money to do that because we've seen the light," Burton said. "There's a better way to thread these needles differently. So the money's going to come from these other opportunities that still give you an as good, if not better, outcome."

The ultimate goal, he continued, is to apply for and receive funding to cover implementation of pilot areas — the locations of which are yet to be determined.

"They're not in the habit of funding design projects that they can't envision funding the implementation of," said Andrew Bahrou, EGLE project manager. "Typically, they'll do these projects that are higher cost projects like this in phases to see, 'OK, what are we talking about?' And then use that to tee it up for the implementation."

The feasibility study, including data collection and analysis, currently is in progress and encompasses a topographical survey, bathymetric survey, hydraulic modeling, fish surveys, herpetological assessments, water quality testing, sediment testing, soil borings, vegetation/macrophyte assessment, macroinvertebrate sampling, ecological survey and a nuisance algae assessment.

The design and engineering phase, expected to be completed by spring 2028, includes final topographic surveying, hydraulic and hydrological models, permit-ready and bid-ready designs for pilot restoration areas, community engagement and preparation of a monitoring plan.

"I cannot emphasize this enough," Burton said. "This is the first, not the last, of a lot of (public) engagement that we anticipate over the next few years."

Farms Mayor John Gillooly said the next public engagement opportunity will be held in Grosse Pointe Shores.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

From left, City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler and poll workers Katie Burgess and Christy Newman in the lobby of city hall.

Early voting has busy start

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Some voters sought an early lead on early voting.

Three residents were in line to vote eight minutes before early voting began at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, in the lobby of city hall.

"They were ready to go," said Katie Burgess, a poll worker. "They were happy to be on their morning stroll and check voting off their list."

By 1:30 p.m., 119 ballots had been cast. The total hit 182 by the time the first day of early voting ended at 4:30 p.m.

"People are really ready to vote this time," City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler said.

Early voting runs daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Sunday, Nov. 1, at city hall.

"I think we're going to be busy during early voting, which is good," Bowdler said. "It will help slow congestion on Election Day. We hope to get as many people as we can to vote now. We've been pushing for people to bring in their absentee ballots and convert them."

Converting an absentee ballot means bringing a completed absentee ballot to an early voting site and feeding it into the tabulator yourself, as on Election Day.

"A lot of early voters don't like the lines on Election Day," Burgess said. "They like to fill out their absentee ballots at home, then come here and convert them and put them in the tabulator themselves."

"I think that's the biggest thing with early voting is they get to tabulate their ballots themselves, just like on Election Day," Deputy Clerk Danielle Caudill said.

"People are getting used to being able to vote early," Bowdler said. "The first time, they were skeptical, whereas this time, they know they can come in and it's easy. And they get to see their ballots tabulated."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. The polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Windmill Pointe Park.

Voting for precincts 1 and 2 is in the Tompkins Community Center.

Voting for precincts 4, 5, 6 and 7 is in the Lavins Activity Center gymnasium.

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Shores mom pens children's book inspired by viral video

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Most people are familiar with the term "life imitates art," but for Katie Morgan the reverse is the case.

Morgan has written a children's book titled "The Halloween Flight" based on her viral video from last October of her wrestling to keep a large inflatable pumpkin from blowing away from her house on Crestwood Drive during an especially windy day.

"There was no way I was letting that thing go," Morgan said. "I was nervous it was going to end up in the lake or something."

The action was caught by the family's Ring doorbell camera, which captured Morgan's husband, Christopher Morgan, yelling for their sons, Lennon and Leopold, to unplug the pumpkin as he watched from work. It can be seen at shorturl.at/zxZTW.

She finally was able to get the inflatable under control after letting some air out of it.

"We just put it up again this past Sunday," Morgan said. "I'm constantly checking weather reports."

Morgan said she posted the footage — which has more than 10 million views — Oct. 24, 2025.

"The night before Halloween, Jimmy Kimmel showed it on TV and then it really took off," she said. "Then it was featured on NBC Nightly News and The Weather Channel. It was

See BOOK, page 9A



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Katie Morgan holds a copy of her new children's book, "The Halloween Flight."

Daffodil bulbs for sale



COURTESY PHOTO

This could be your garden come spring.

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Planting daffodil bulbs in autumn leads to one of the literary world's prophecies of spring.

Shakespeare was specific: "When daffodils begin to peer … Why, then comes in the sweet o' the year; For the red blood reigns in the winter's pale."

"It is the perfect time to plant daffodil bulbs — when the temperature is cooler and before the ground freezes," said Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

Commissioners are laying the groundwork for spring's abundance by selling packaged daffodil bulbs at a rate of $5 per baker's dozen. Proceeds benefit the commission's work to beautify the community and its municipal gardens.

Bulbs from the Netherlands are sold at the front desk of city hall on the corner of Jefferson and Maryland during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"Once established, they require little effort to maintain," Kyle said. "Spring will bring fast growth and bright yellow blooms."

Her statement echoes 19th-century English nature poet John Clare: "Warm daffodils about the garden beds / Peep through their pale slim leaves their golden heads."

Daffodils offer a big payoff for how little labor they require.

"Plant smaller bulbs about 4 inches deep — and larger bulbs 6 inches deep," Kyle said.

Plant the root side, or larger end, down.

"Water lightly after planting to encourage root growth, but do not overwater," Kyle said. "No need to water again unless we have weeks without rain."

Nature takes it from there.

"Simply cut back foliage when it begins to fade," Kyle said. "They will emerge each spring for years to come."

— Brad Lindberg

SAFETY:

Continued from page 1A

An example, he noted, was last month's fire at Lochmoor Golf Club, which involved public safety officers from all five Pointes and several surrounding communities.

"In a sustained incident like that, equipment has to be reliable and interchangeable," he said, noting if a Park officer's air supply runs low during a long fire, tanks from other departments can't refill the gap unless the systems match. "We want to be on the same page, the same as everyone else, and have something that's interchangeable.

"It's the same with radios," he added. "We all have the same radios and use the same radio system. This is just another step to be on the same page more efficiently."

The campaign had a soft rollout during the department's open house Oct. 4. So far, just over $5,000 has been raised — a long way from the foundation's goal.

Bostock said he realizes $300,000 is a lot of money, but it's money that's not in the department's budget.

"People might ask, 'Why doesn't the city pay?'" he said. "Public safety is roughly 60 to 65 percent of the city budget; 80 to 85 percent of that is for personnel — salary, benefits, retirement. That leaves 15 to 20 percent for everything else — equipment, training, technology.

"The last few years, prices have been going up," he continued. "The budget is not keeping up with the rate of costs. The public safety foundation is looking to bridge that gap. We're grateful for that help."

Since the public safety foundation was organized four years ago, it has funded numerous necessities for the Park department.

"We've been fortunate enough to receive new bulletproof vests for all our officers," Bostock said. "It funded the drone program, AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for all our scout cars, helped upgrade our body cameras. We recently were able to replace our Tasers with their help.

"It's the foundation, but the bedrock of it is our community," he continued. "We have such a supportive community in Grosse Pointe Park and our public safety officers feed off that. They know they're appreciated. That drives us to do what public safety does on a daily basis — be ready to respond on the police side and on the fire side."

Contributions to the Coverage for Courage campaign may be made online at the foundation's newly revamped website — ourgppsafety.org. Checks also may be mailed to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation, 822 St. Clair, Unit H, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230. Printable donation forms also may be found online.

The foundation is a 501(c)(3), so all donations are 100 percent tax-deductible. Donors who contribute $50 or more will be recognized on a permanent donor wall at public safety headquarters.

"Any donation will help us reach our goal," Bostock said. "This is a great opportunity for people who want to be involved to show their appreciation. Every bit helps. It certainly benefits everybody, too."

For more information or to make a donation, visit ourgppsafety.org or scan the QR code.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, NOV. 2

- Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

- *Election Day*
- Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

- Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

- Grosse Pointe Woods Retiree Health Care Trust Fund meeting, 6:15 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Park TIFA meeting, 7 p.m.

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Rolling in dough: Cookie business earns rave reviews

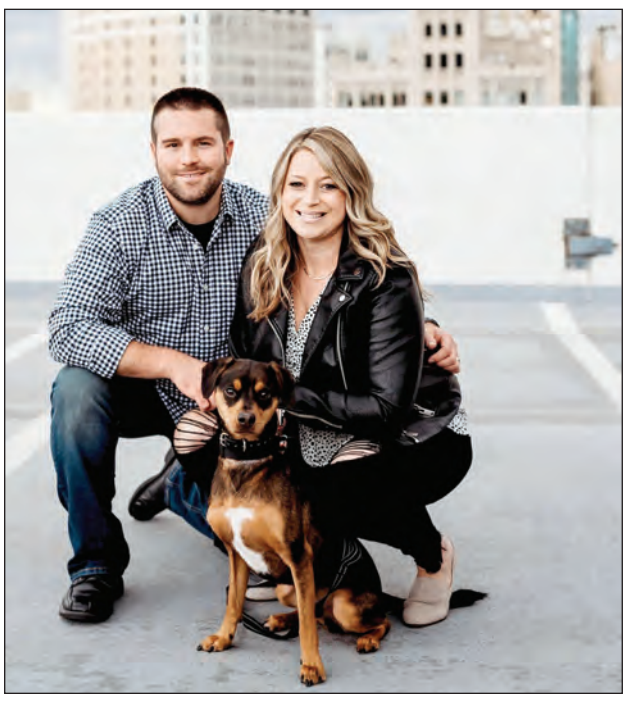
By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

For Peg Orlowski, baking is about much more than the organic chocolate chips, butter and sugar she uses. It's about honoring a beloved grandmother, rediscovering a lost passion and finding joy in an unexpected new chapter.

At 42, Orlowski is building Margie's Kitchen, a growing cookie business that has earned rave reviews through Facebook and word of mouth. By day, she works full-time as a physical therapist assistant at HealthQuest Physical Therapy in St. Clair Shores. In her spare time, she's turning out batches of cookies that have people asking for more.

"I never imagined that something as simple as a chocolate chip cookie could become such a meaningful part of my healing journey," she said.

The story behind those cookies is one of heartbreak, resilience and discovering that sometimes it's never too late to find your way back to something you love.





COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Peg Orlowski with the one and only, Gramma Margie. Left, Orlowski with her husband, Steve, and dog, Wrigley.

Orlowski has loved baking for years. Throughout her 20s, she was constantly in the kitchen, making holiday desserts, bringing treats to coworkers and baking for family.

"It was my therapy. It was my happy place," she said.

But in her early 30s, chronic pain began changing her life. After altering her eating habits, she discovered that sugar seemed to bring back the inflammation and pain she had been experiencing. She gradually stepped away from baking.

Then came another difficult chapter.

After marrying her husband, Steve, the couple began trying to start a family. When pregnancy didn't come as they had hoped, Orlowski underwent laparoscopic surgery and was diagnosed with stage 4 endometriosis. The years that followed included fertility treatments, IVF and a heartbreaking loss. Eventually, she and Steve made the difficult decision to stop trying to have a child and embrace the family they had.

"Being a mom was something I always pictured for myself. It was never a question of if, but when," she said. "So to go from dreaming about becoming a mother my entire life to facing the reality that I wasn't going to be one was absolutely heartbreaking."

As she grieved the life she imagined, she realized she also had lost pieces of herself.

Orlowski sought therapy and began rediscovering the little things that brought her happiness. She even created an Instagram page to share her healing journey in the hope it might help others.

Then, around this time last year, she started thinking about baking again. She pulled out her supplies and returned to her chocolate chip cookie recipe, one she had spent years perfecting. Soon, she began experimenting with new flavors and adding creative twists.

"Just like that, something inside me started coming back to life," she said.

The name Margie's Kitchen carries a meaning that goes far beyond a business name. In 2023, Orlowski lost her grandmother, Margie, who was 96. Although Margie lived in Kansas City and they saw each other only a few times a year, they remained close, talking frequently by phone.

Orlowski often turned to her grandmother for advice, especially around Thanksgiving, when she made apple pie and sent Margie a picture.

Although Orlowski's cookie recipe isn't a family recipe passed down through generations, she knows where her love of baking began.

"I know without a doubt that I got my love of baking from her," she said.

During a therapy session, she mentioned the idea. At her next appointment, her therapist asked her to make three dozen cookies for a party.

"That one order changed everything," she said.

Soon people began sharing her cookies, recommending them to friends and leaving glowing reviews. Two customers even told her the cookies were better than cookies they had tried in New York and Chicago.

"I remember thinking, 'There is no way they're serious,'" she said. "It's honestly been such an amazing experience. For the first time in a very long time, I feel like I've gotten my spark back. I feel alive again."

The desire to make a difference in people's lives began long before Margie's Kitchen.



Orlowski developed a love for baking when she was in high school, with her dog, Mugsy, by her side.

Orlowski's interest in physical therapy started in high school, when a basketball injury brought her into close contact with the school's athletic trainer. He eventually invited her to become a student athletic trainer during her junior and senior years, sparking an interest in rehabilitation.

She went on to study kinesiology at Michigan State University before returning home and working in the restaurant industry. Eventually, she decided to pursue physical therapy, graduating from Henry Ford College in 2012 as a physical therapist assistant.

Today, she loves the relationships she builds with patients at HealthQuest. She gets to know them personally, celebrates their progress and witnesses the moment someone achieves something they once believed was impossible.

"Being able to witness someone's recovery firsthand and know that I played a small part in improving their quality of life is incredibly rewarding," she said.

That same spirit carries into her baking.

"There's something so special about knowing that something I created with my own two hands can bring a smile to someone's face," she said. "At the end of the day, it's about more than just cookies. It's about spreading a little happiness, one cookie at a time."

Balancing both careers takes planning. With the support of her boss, Caitlin, Orlowski works three 12-hour days at HealthQuest, giving her more flexibility to grow her business while still working full-time. She sets weekly goals and limits the number of orders she accepts to ensure she can give her best to both jobs while making time for herself and her family.

Of course, there are long days, late nights and the occasional baking disaster.

Orlowski is quick to point out that without her husband's support, none of it would be possible. He also serves as the official taste tester, although his opinion isn't always the deciding vote. When Orlowski experimented with an apple cookie, he thought it was good, but she took one bite and promptly rejected it.

"Poor Steve. He gets to be my taste tester, but apparently his vote doesn't always count," she joked.

She has overheated butter, dropped eggs on the floor and found cookie dough in places she didn't know cookie dough could reach. Some baking days have started at 6:30 a.m. and continued until midnight.

Still, she wouldn't trade it.

Her biggest hits, besides

See BAKER, page 5A







Grosse Pointe News

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BAKER:

Continued from page 4A

Margie's classic chocolate chip, have included cherry walnut cookies, which sold out for the season, along with Steve-O's S'mores and Wrigs' PB Cup. Cranberry walnut cookies are planned for November.

Orlowski grew up in Allen Park after her family moved from Kansas City when she was 4. In 2013, she moved to Grosse Pointe on her own, settling into what she remembers as the cutest little apartment in a quad on Beaconsfield.

Just a couple of months later, she met her husband at Ye Olde Tap Room.

Their first date was at Marge's Bar and every Nov. 18, they return to celebrate where their story began. They haven't missed a single year.

The couple enjoys walks to Neff Park with their dog, Wrigley, particularly in winter, and Orlowski never tires of driving along Lakeshore, admiring the homes and looking out at the water.

"There's just something about it that makes me happy," she said.

She loves Grosse Pointe's small-town feel, familiar faces, local businesses and sense of community. It's where she met her husband and built a life she can't imagine leaving.

When she's not working or baking, Orlowski enjoys reading, cooking, spending time with friends and family, visiting her many nieces and nephews and cheering on Michigan State University football and basketball. Her Spartan pride runs deep.

As Margie's Kitchen grows, Orlowski has a vision that goes beyond cookies.

She and her best friend, Meg, often joke about opening a cozy café of their own, complete with homemade treats and organic coffee. Orlowski would handle the baking, while Meg would have to learn the coffee business.

Although she loves her health care career and isn't eager to leave it behind completely, she's excited to see how far she can take her cookie business. For now, she's content to grow one order at a time.

Her advice to anyone considering a new venture is simple: "Just start!"

"You don't have to know everything," she said. "You don't have to know where it's going to take you. You don't have to have all the answers or have everything perfectly figured out. Just take that first step."

When asked what makes her proudest, Orlowski points not simply to her business or career, but to the person she has become through everything she has overcome.

She still remembers her father's words when she was struggling with the decision to leave Michigan State.

"It's not the end of the world," he told her.

At the time, she didn't want to hear it. Looking back, she understands.

"I think more than anything, I'm proud that I never let the difficult chapters of my life define the rest of my story," she said.

To place an order or learn more, scan here:



COURTESY PHOTO

Orlowski's Steve-O's S'mores cookie.

PUBLIC SAFETY

City of Grosse Pointe

Stolen bike

An unlocked maroon Giant Talon bike worth $550 was stolen from the bike rack at an area school at 8:50 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

The suspect, a white man, was caught on video.

Stolen sunnies

Ray-Ban sunglasses worth $300 were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 600 block of University overnight into Saturday, Oct. 24.

Sound the alarm

A Ram 1500's alarm sounded when its rear middle window was shattered at 4:25 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. The suspect did not have a chance to rummage through or take anything from the truck.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Unlocked spree

Several larcenies from autos occurred in the Farms over the weekend:

◆ A woman's wallet was stolen from her vehicle parked in the 200 block of Merriweather overnight into Saturday, Oct. 24. The owner said the doors were locked, but officers did not find any signs of forced entry.

◆ A man's handgun and wallet were stolen from his unlocked vehicle on Fair Acres between 11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, and 8:30 a.m. the next morning.

◆ Fifty dollars was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 200 block of Mt. Vernon between 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, and 11 a.m. the next morning.

◆ Nothing was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 100 block of Lakeview that was rummaged through overnight into Saturday, Oct. 24.

◆ Nothing of significance was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 300 block of Moran that was broken into overnight into Sunday, Oct. 25.

U-turn

After making an illegal U-turn at Mack and Kerby at 5:26 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, a 22-year-old Grosse Pointe man was pulled over and arrested for a suspended license and no vehicle insurance.

Construction

A visibly intoxicated 61-year-old Detroit woman drove her red Chevrolet Malibu into the construction zone on Lakeshore at 6:27 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, and got it stuck in the gravel.

A preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.201 percent, for which she was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Traffic arrests

Traffic enforcement late Wednesday, Oct. 21, rounded up two motorists.

At 10:30 p.m., near Manistique, an officer investigated a 42-year-old Harper Woods man for a traffic violation and wound up arresting him on an outstanding warrant from the Park for driving with a suspended license.

At 11 p.m., near Devonshire, a Detroit man, 39, was arrested for driving while having an open container of alcohol.



Fence damaged

Damage to a fence in the 900 block of Lakepointe was deemed malicious, according to police.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, the homeowner reported multiple slats on the fence were damaged.

Explorer dry-docked

The owner of a 2026 Ford Explorer found the vehicle propped on cinder blocks in the backyard driveway a few hours before sunup Friday, Oct. 23.

The rims and tires, valued at $3,000 collectively, were gone.

Bike stolen

An unknown man wearing a Detroit Tigers baseball cap is suspected of stealing a white, $200 Liv bicycle parked unlocked in the Ewald Public Library rack on Jefferson between noon and 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.

Police said the man is black, in his late 40s or early 50s, and was wearing a black sweatshirt and gray pants.

— 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

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

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OUR VIEW

Scary times ahead

As the three witches in Shakespeare's "Macbeth" chant, "Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble." It is their attempt to summon visions to deceive Macbeth into a false sense of security regarding his fate.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education might soon find itself in a similar situation regarding its budget.

As noted in our story on page 1A about the district's audit for the 2025-26 fiscal year, GPPSS finished with a budget surplus for the third consecutive year. That increases the district's fund equity balance to slightly over $19 million, or 19.1 percent.

That is a testament to the groundwork that was laid by former Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and the previous board leadership team of Trustees Ginny Jeup and Sean Cotton, along with former trustees Lisa Papas, Ahmed Ismail and Terry Collins in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 budget cycles.

Those budgets, which included some much-needed spending reductions, boosted the fund equity from just less than 9 percent to just less than 15 percent, rescuing the district from financial ruin.

But, as the story also indicates, the toil and trouble is about to strike.

CFO Andrea Agrusa presented three possible scenarios to the board last week for the next three budget cycles, all of which will lead to structural deficits and force the district to spend down its fund balance.

The best scenario, which assumes a 3 percent increase in per-pupil state aid each year and no enrollment loss with spending reductions, would see fund equity drop to 15.3 percent by the 2028-29 fiscal year with a $305,000 deficit.

Other scenarios see the fund balance dipping to 13 percent with deficits between $1.6 million and $2.6 million, depending on budget cuts. No cuts would result in a $4 million deficit.

Ms. Agrusa suggested $250,000 in spending cuts this fiscal year and $500,000 each of the next two years.

Each scenario anticipates health care costs increasing 5 percent annually.

As we noted here in August, other than what the district is calling a "placeholder," the 2026-27 fiscal year budget does not take into account the five contracts signed this year with various bargaining units. The board approved agreements with three of them in June. Those unions were the Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association, Grosse Pointe Educational Plant Association (maintenance) and Grosse Pointe Educational Office Association. All are four-year agreements.

The board in August approved a three-year contract with the Grosse Pointe Administrators Association, which includes principals, assistant principals and special education directors.

It includes 1 percent raises the first two years and a 2 percent raise the final year. It also includes a reduction of the last five working days for administrators in June 2027 and the first five in August 2027, an effective pay raise of 2.1 percent for 11-month administrators and 1.9 percent for 12-month administrators.

Contributions to each administrator's tax-sheltered account will go from a flat $2,000 annually to 2 percent of their base salary, and a new eight-step pay scale for administrators includes yearly raises ranging between $5,019 and $5,990, depending on position.

Finally, the board last month approved a three-year contract with the Grosse Pointe Education Association. It increases the minimum starting salary for teachers from $43,297 to $50,496 over the three years. It also provides a 3 percent raise in the first and third years, with a 2.5 percent raise in the second year and step increases in the second and third years. A step increase is equal to about a 4 percent salary increase.

Ms. Agrusa said it will have a cumulative budget impact of $9.6 million, including $1.6 million for the current budget.

The district's 2026-27 fiscal year budget passed in June shows $101.3 million in revenue and $101.2 million in expenditures, for a cushion of $100,000. Information discussed at the most recent board meeting showed the first-year impact of the other four agreements comes in at $255,317 and $1.8 million for all four years.

As we pointed out in August, however, the impact is not cumulative; it is compounding. The compounded costs of the five new contracts are well over $10 million.

As Ms. Agrusa explained, budget cuts are necessary, even when taking into account deficit spending using part of the fund equity.

No amount of witch's brew is going to change that, or the fact the board should have had the foresight to include real dollars in the budget knowing it was negotiating five new contracts.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST OPINION By Dr. Arash Javanbakht

Why do we pay to be scared?

I am a psychiatrist specializing in trauma and anxiety. People pay me to help them be less scared. But they also pay the likes of John Carpenter or a haunted house to be scared. While it may sound counterintuitive to enjoy experiencing an emotion that signals danger, the fear industry makes a lot of money.

The movie "It" made over $700 million. Halloween is a multibillion-dollar business. Every culture on earth, from Baba Yaga in Slavic folktales to Zahhak the Snake Shoulder in Persian myth, has invented monsters and enjoyed telling stories about them. Why do both anxiety medications and horror movies have billion-dollar markets?



The first answer lies in our biology. Fear and excitement run on the same machinery. The amygdala, the sympathetic nervous system and the same neurotransmitters of dopamine, norepinephrine and adrenaline are at work whether you are being chased or falling in love or playing a close game: heavy breathing, racing heart, sharpened attention and feeling alive in the whole body. The fight-or-flight system also is the thrill system. We even call it an "adrenaline rush." When we throw ourselves into a scary but safe experience, we startle the animal within and enjoy the fast ride.

The key is knowing logically that we are safe. When your dog sees a wolf on TV, it gets riled up because it cannot tell the difference. You can. That is the job of the prefrontal brain and hippocampus: to put fear in context and keep the amygdala's reaction on a leash. Being chased by a masked man with a knife is a very different experience in a dark alley than in a haunted house. In both, the amygdala fires. In only one does the thinking brain say, "I bought a ticket for this."

Fun lives in the balance between those two. The experience has to be believable enough, but not too believable. I find "A Nightmare on Elm Street" entertaining because I cannot imagine it happening in my life. When I saw "The Exorcist" as a teenager, it felt possible to happen in my own bedroom and only teenage pride kept me from asking to sleep in my parents' room. Tip the balance the other way and the thrill evaporates. The first time I watched "The Walking Dead," I kept explaining why a zombie could not walk without a beating heart until my friend said, "If you want to enjoy this, you have to shut down your analytical brain." He was right.

A sense of control matters very much here. We know we can pause the movie. For a lot of us, it would be difficult to watch a horror movie without the ability to pause or turn the TV off; we need the remote. What stops many people from riding roller coasters is that once it starts, there is no pause button. Interestingly, many thrill seekers are quite anxious in real life. Skydiving gives them a scary situation they can manage when so much of real life cannot be.

I have a theory that there is probably an older purpose as well. Lion cubs wrestle and nip at their mother not just for play, but to rehearse the hunts and fights of adulthood. We may be doing the same when we yell at movie characters not to go into the base-

See GUEST, page 7A

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.

A pleasing debut

To the Editor:

The Grosse Pointe Symphony performed like never before. How appropriate to include Beethoven's "Consecration of the House," composed in 1822 to celebrate the grand opening of the rebuilt Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna.

Add to that a flawless performance by cellist Cameron Renshaw, 15, brilliantly conducted by Douglas Bianchi.

The Schaap Center is an amazing venue. Thanks to everyone who made the center and the performance possible.

MARY KAYE FERRY
Grosse Pointe Shores

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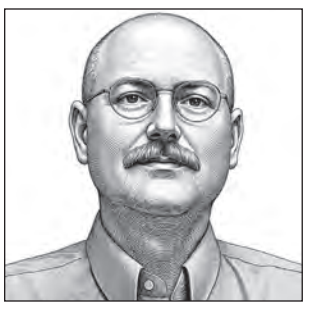
I SAY By Ted O'Neil

Best sports movies



Earlier this month, at the start of the NHL season, TNT showed "Slap Shot." Naturally, I had to watch it. Again.

It had so many great lines, most of which I can't repeat here, but who can forget the Hanson brothers wrapping their hands in tin foil to fight or playing with slot cars?

So here's a look at other sports movies I enjoy.

Hockey

There haven't been many made in this genre, but "Miracle" about the 1980 U.S. Olympic team is fantastic. The late Mark Wells, from neighboring St. Clair Shores, was on that team. And we all know who was on this year's gold-medal-winning team.

Baseball

My all-time favorite is "The Natural." I've seen it well over 100 times. Spoiler alert: In the book, Roy Hobbs takes the bribe, strikes out and is banned from baseball.

Also based on a book, "Field of Dreams" is pretty great, although the book title is "Shoeless Joe." Visiting the field in Iowa is definitely on my bucket list and it's fun to watch Major League teams play there. I only wish they'd do it every year.

Speaking of Shoeless Joe Jackson, "Eight Men Out" about him and the 1919 Black Sox scandal also is worth watching any time it's on.

"The Sandlot." My family still tells each other, "You're killin' me, Smalls!"

Football

"Remember the Titans." Based on a true story and fantastic acting all the way around. Denzel Washington just doesn't make bad movies.

"Invincible," also based on a true story, stars Mark Wahlberg as Vince Papale, a 30-year-old who attended an open tryout for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1976 and made the team. He ended up playing three seasons.

"Brian's Song." Yet another true story. Get the tissues ready.

Finally, "Rudy." Yes, also a true story. We Irish Catholics love our Notre Dame football.

Basketball

"Hoosiers." David versus Goliath in 1950s Indiana high school hoops.

"The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh" and "Semi-Pro" almost seem like the same movie but decades apart and both are good for a laugh.

"Glory Road." Texas Western — now University of Texas at El Paso — became the first team to win the NCAA title with an all-black starting lineup in the 1966 tournament, beating the University of Kentucky for the championship. UK's team wouldn't integrate for another three years.

Boxing

"Rocky" and "Rocky II." Similar to "The Godfather" and "The Godfather II," they're really more like one movie. I enjoyed III and IV, too, but things got stale after that.

"Ali." A biopic about Muhammad Ali, tracking his career starting with his capture of the heavyweight title from Sonny Liston in 1964 and ending with his reclaiming the title from George Foreman in The Rumble in the Jungle fight of 1974.

Golf

"Caddyshack." Not only the best golf movie ever, but one of the funniest movies ever.

"The Greatest Game Ever Played" and "The Legend of Bagger Vance" are quite good as well.

Bowling

"The Big Lebowski." The Dude abides. 'Nuff said.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

ment. We are practicing alertness and problem-solving, the way our ancestors learned by listening to elders' stories of surviving the predator or rival tribe.

And fear is a very mindful emotion. It takes over all our attention. During a horror movie we are not thinking about the argument with the boss or next week's exam. We also rarely engage in such activities alone; we scream, laugh and sigh with relief together, as shared high emotion tightens bonds.

Finally, our modern lives may simply be too safe for a system that evolved in a dangerous world. A healthy dose of fear is exercise for us, like the way the gym is for a body that was not built for a desk.

One piece of advice: know your limits. The purpose is fun. If it is not fun anymore, turn off the TV. But also be willing to push your boundaries and expand them here and there.

Dr. Arash Javanbakht is a psychiatrist, professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine and director of the Stress, Trauma and Anxiety Research Clinic (STARC). He is the author of "Afraid: Understanding the Purpose of Fear and Harnessing the Power of Anxiety."

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Former South coach bound over to circuit court

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Former Grosse Pointe South High School hockey coach Ben Warda is set to be arraigned at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in Macomb County Circuit Court on charges stemming from an incident between him and a woman along the Nautical Mile in June.

This came after Warda's preliminary exam Friday, Oct. 23, in Macomb County 40th District Court, during which the complainant, a 31-year-old St. Clair Shores woman, testified.

The woman said she and Warda met at a restaurant the evening of Saturday, June 13, on Lake St. Clair and talked about their mutual interest in boating, after which he invited her to see his boat docked at a nearby marina.

Once on the boat, she said Warda began asking her to engage in sexual activity. The woman said she at first said no, then said yes before changing her mind a minute later.

Warda, 39, faces one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree, which involves force or coercion, and is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The woman said she eventually was able to push Warda away, exit the boat and run back toward the marina's parking lot, at which point she ducked into a boat yard and hid behind a parked boat. She used her cellphone to take a video of Warda looking for her, which was shown in court.

Another video, taken from nearby security cameras, showed Warda chasing her through the parking lot as she yelled, "I feel horrible. I'm sorry." She later testified she said that because she didn't want to upset Warda.

A final video taken near the restaurant showed Warda push the complainant against a fence, at which point she said he lifted her dress and lowered his shorts. Because of that, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office asked Judge Joseph Craigen Oster to also charge Warda with assault with intent to commit sexual penetration, to which he agreed. That is punishable by 10 years in prison.

The complainant said she was screaming for help when a stranger intervened and Warda ran away. A person manning the guard house at the restaurant called 911 and police arrived shortly thereafter.

The complainant gave several points of conflicting testimony during cross-examination by Warda's attorney, which included body camera footage of her telling an officer that night Warda had offered to drive her home, she did not want to go to the boat, there was no sexual penetration and the two began kissing while in Warda's car. She earlier testified the first contact between them occurred on the boat.

The defense also pointed out when the complainant finally responded to several requests to meet with a detective more than a week later, she gave him a pair of underwear she said she was wearing that night as evidence, though she earlier testified she wasn't wearing any that night. When asked to clarify, she said she was mistaken and that she had been wearing them earlier that day at work.

Asked why she waited so long to reach back out to police and why she didn't go to the hospital, the complainant said she would come home from her job as a massage therapist and "collapse in bed." She also said she quit her job as she would have breakdowns during sessions, particularly with male clients, and she delayed filing a report because "it was easier to blame myself for putting myself in that situation and I didn't think anyone would believe me."

The defense also asked why she used her phone to film Warda while hiding instead of calling 911 and why she chose to go back to the restaurant rather than run home since she lives on the street where the marina is located.

"I think this is a case of buyer's remorse," the defense said in its closing arguments. "We heard two different stories, she admitted to lying under cross-examination and we have no physical evidence."

In making his decision, the judge said he found the complainant's testimony "credible, if jumbled."

Warda originally was arrested and arraigned Wednesday, July 1, and dismissed from coaching at South later that day.

Officials: Parks millage won't cover marina

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Boaters, not general property taxpayers, will foot the bill for marina upgrades, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Parks and Recreation Commission marina subcommittee was told again this month.

Money for marina work is drawn from, and always has been drawn from, a separate enterprise fund established by boater user fees, meaning annual well rentals.

Work exclusive to the marina isn't paid for from the city's general fund, which is fueled by general tax collections.

"The enterprise fund is set up to bring in approximately $420,000 per year," harbormaster Tom Fraser said.

He based the projection on boaters renting every slip in the 270-space marina at Windmill Pointe

See MARINA, page 10A

Voters to weigh in on history millage for three Detroit museums

THE GROSSE POINTES — Along with local millage requests, the school board election and a Detroit Zoo millage renewal on the Nov. 3 ballot, Grosse Pointe voters also will find a proposal aiming to secure the futures of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The proposal is a 0.2-mill, 10-year levy (2026 through 2035) that would fund the Southeast Michigan Public Historical Museum Authority. It would cost about $30 a year on a $300,000 home. The measure appears on ballots in Wayne and Oakland counties and must pass in both to take effect. In Wayne County, it would bring in approximately $12.2 million in 2026.

"For Grosse Pointe families, these museums are close to home," said Chris Moyer, City of Grosse Pointe councilman and senior adviser to Yes To Our Story, which is advocating for the millage, in a release. "The Dossin sits on Belle Isle and the Wright and the Detroit Historical Museum are a short drive away in Midtown. Generations of local students have visited all three on school field trips."

In addition to supporting the three museums, 15 percent of millage revenue — after covering administrative expenses — would be disbursed to Wayne County to support historical museums within its jurisdiction.

If approved, the millage would:

◆ provide free admission for Wayne and Oakland county residents;

◆ fund free transportation for student and senior visits;

◆ create new curriculum guides and expand training for teachers and

◆ protect nearly 300,000 publicly owned artifacts for future generations.

"You can't understand Grosse Pointe without understanding Detroit and you can't understand either without knowing the history we share," Moyer said. "These museums hold that history for all of us. Protecting them is an investment in the whole region and in making sure the next generation knows the full story of where they come from."

Founded in 1965, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is one of the nation's oldest and largest museums dedicated to African American history and culture. Its mission is to open minds and change lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history and culture.

"The Wright exists so that the story of African Americans in this region and this country is told fully and truthfully," said Neil Barclay, president and CEO. "This millage makes sure that story is waiting for every child who walks through our doors, today and for the next 10 years."

Founded in 1921, the Detroit Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Detroit region. Its mission is to tell Detroit's stories and why they matter, through the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

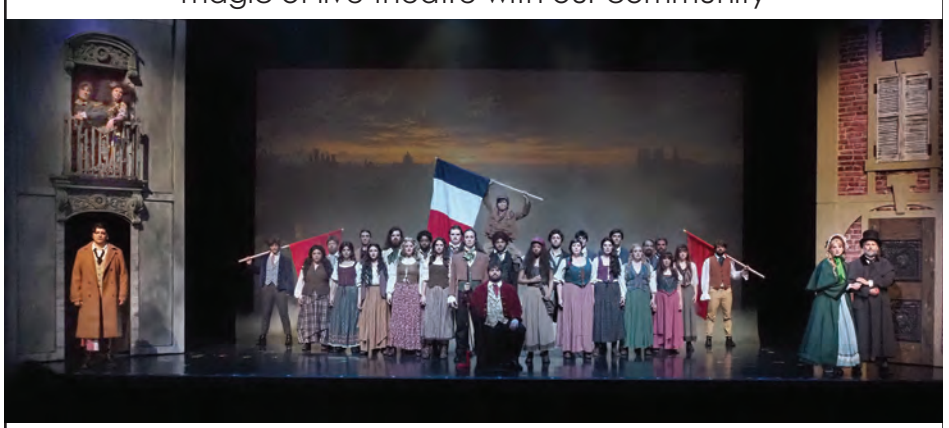
"Every generation in this region has added a chapter to Detroit's story and our job is to make sure the next generation can read all of it," said Elana Rugh, president and CEO of the Detroit Historical Society. "This millage puts that story within reach of every family in both counties and gives teachers the tools to bring it into the classroom."

More information about the millage may be found at yestoourstory.com.

Grosse Pointe Theatre



Thank you to everyone who joined us to kick off Grosse Pointe Theatre's 79th season with *Les Misérables*. Your enthusiastic support made this unforgettable production even more meaningful, and we are grateful to share the magic of live theatre with our community



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Learn More. GPLibraryYes.org

Paid for by the 2026 GPPL Millage Renewal Committee

Push for Elworthy community building revived

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A site plan for a warming building with restrooms near the Rotary Tot Lot at Elworthy Field unanimously was approved by both the City of Grosse Pointe City Council and the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in June 2020.

Then crickets.

"At that point, (the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club) said, 'We can't raise the money for this. We just raised so much money for the tot lot that we can't go back to the well again,'" Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak recalled. "We tried to get our foundation to be in league with the Park foundation to raise the money and they passed."

Six years later, the conversation resurfaced Monday, Oct. 19, during a city council meeting attended by platform tennis players armed with a petition 50 signatures strong, asking the city to step up its maintenance of the courts at Elworthy.

"Ironically, even though they are very popular and well-used courts, they are the worst-funded and worst-maintained courts in Grosse Pointe," said Ian Studders, a Park resident who is leading the endeavor and created friendsofelworthy.org. "Over the last three or four years, it's mostly been my league that I run with some other people donating money to make certain replacements. The city does certain repairs, but they don't really have enough money to make the repairs that the players are hoping for."

> *"'What I'm hearing today is that we have willing people to raise the money and that has always been the stumbling block. Nobody here is going to tell you no. It's going to be, 'How do we do it?'"*
>
> SHEILA TOMKOWIAK
> *City of Grosse Pointe Mayor*

Unlike the resident-only parks, Elworthy may be accessed by anyone who lives within the Grosse Pointe school district. Access to the platform tennis courts requires an annual $200 membership fee.

"What I'm hoping we can do is tie the pass revenues to a sinking fund that can hold that money and we can set the pass price on what is normally expected to keep the courts at a higher level of repair," Studders said. "Right now, there's no budget for the courts. There's no sinking fund, so the money that we pay for the passes just goes into the city's general budget. Then when we ask for repairs like working heaters or screen repairs, there's often not money to make those repairs, which is unfortunate."

A crowd of supporters gathered in city council chambers, including several people who said they were influenced to live in the City in part because of the access to the sport Elworthy provides.

"I moved here three years ago, didn't know anybody, met 275 great individuals plus others through paddle," said Tyler Deneault.

GPPSS owns the land, allowing the city to rent it for $1 a year.

A little more than $28,000 a year is budgeted by the city to maintain the whole of Elworthy, Tomkowiak said, agreeing it's not enough — though the school district recently announced it will resurface the tennis courts and install new lighting at Elworthy Field as part of the voter-approved 2024 sinking fund millage and 2025 bond.

However, paddle players are looking for more than simply returning the courts to an acceptable status quo.

Namely, working drinking fountains and a community building with restrooms.

"The ask is this will happen through fundraising," Deneault said. "It'll be revenue neutral for the city. So when you think about expenditures, that's the angle that we're looking at in making a better decision."

Many players would be open to higher membership fees in exchange for bringing the plans to fruition, according to Studders.

"We have 275 people in my league," he said. "We have a 500-person email list. We have many people willing to donate and they're also willing to pay more for their pass. So I'm here just to appeal for common sense to make some incremental improvements to the pass and the program."

The crowd received a warm reception from city council members.

"There is no argument from anyone at this dais about what we need at Elworthy," Tomkowiak said. "… What I'm hearing today is that we have willing people to raise the money and that has always been the stumbling block. Nobody here is going to tell you no. It's going to be, 'How do we do it?' And we are all prepared to do that."

Chris Walsh, the city's longest-serving councilman, concurred.

"For a community like this to have a facility without a bathroom and a working water fountain, to me, is totally unacceptable," he said, encouraging the establishment of an enterprise fund similar to the city's parking system, where users sustain the operation. "… I think we need to prioritize this and work toward finding a solution. I don't think it's ever been given the priority that it deserves."

More information about the effort can be found at friendsofelworthy.org.

"When I saw so many people wanting to make comments, I was worried we were putting in a data center," Councilman Chris Moyer joked at the close of the meeting, "but I am so grateful that we just want to talk about paddle tennis instead."

BOOK:

Continued from page 3A

on 'Inside Edition' just last week."

HGTV flew the family to New York City earlier this year, where they were interviewed on "Neighborhood Watch," a show that features clips taken from home surveillance footage.

"It was all so crazy," Morgan said, laughing. "We took the boys to FAO Schwarz and told them to pick out any toy they wanted."

The book, which Morgan also illustrated, tells the story of a mom and her kids who hitch a ride on a flying pumpkin.

"They go to the Pumpkin Kingdom and meet the king and queen of Halloween," she said. "It includes drawings of costumes the boys have worn in previous years."

It contains both prose and rhymes.

"I got the idea for it last year on Halloween night," Morgan continued. "Lennon was in first grade and had been learning about rhyming just that week, so it's got a bit of reflection of what's going on in their lives."

Morgan said she stayed up all night and had a first draft by the following morning.

"When friends first saw the video, they asked me if I was going to write a book about it," she added.

Her first children's book, "Never the Lot," came out in 2019. It tells the story of a young pine tree in a Christmas tree lot that realizes it will have to be cut down in order to be someone's Christmas tree.

"I used an illustrator for that one, but this time around I wanted to write it and illustrate it," Morgan said. "It's been a passion of mine ever since I was a little girl to be a children's author."

"The Halloween Flight" is available at bookshop.org/p/books/the-halloween-flight/a02a100bbfcc683e.

AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

$3.7 million, 25 percent and 12 percent, respectively, for insurance and FICA taxes.

As reported last week, the board and Grosse Pointe Education Association approved a new teachers contract for three years that will have a cumulative effect on the budget of $9.6 million, including $1.6 million this year.

Deficits coming

CFO Andrea Agrusa presented three possible scenarios to the board for the next three budget cycles, all of which will lead to structural deficits and force the district to spend down its fund balance if deep cuts aren't made.

The best scenario, which assumes a 3 percent increase in per-pupil state aid each year and no enrollment loss with spending reductions, would see fund equity drop to 15.3 percent by the 2028-29 fiscal year with a $305,000 deficit.

Other scenarios see the fund balance dipping to 13 percent with deficits between $1.6 million and $2.6 million, depending on budget cuts. No cuts would result in a $4 million deficit.

Agrusa suggested $250,000 in spending cuts this fiscal year and $500,000 each of the next two years.

Each scenario anticipates health care costs increasing 5 percent annually.

"These are going to be structural deficits we have to deal with starting now," Treasurer Tim Klepp said.

Grosse Pointe News

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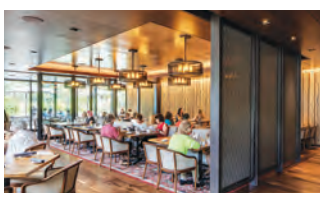

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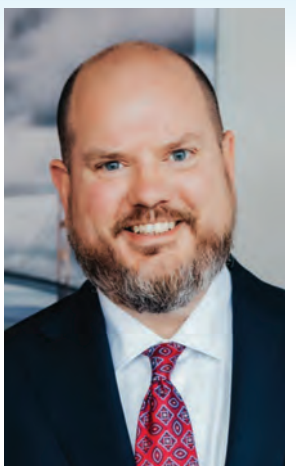



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Above, Grosse Pointe South students are dressed and ready for the student section at the football game. Their theme was "Americana." Above right, Rachel Moe, with North's student association, holds a wet cloth on Greta Mozer's cheek to hold her temporary tattoo in place. Below right, Lyra Bennett and Rhett Drake are happy to take a photo with Thor, North's mascot.

Above, Grosse Pointe North students, dressed in their student section theme of neon, are ready for the game to begin. Left, the combined North and South marching bands perform for the tailgate crowd.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Tailgate time

It was rivalry time again when the varsity football teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South took the field at North's stadium.

The tailgate took place on the soccer field before the game and featured food trucks, a bounce house, inflatable hoops, the combined North and South marching bands and community tables with information, treats and temporary tattoos.

Read about the football game on page 1D.

MARINA:

Continued from page 8A

Park.

"There are multiple different funding mechanisms to cover different needs," said Councilman Patrick Gleason, liaison to the commission. "In the Park's case, the enterprise fund covers the marina. There is a separate funding mechanism that cannot be mixed with the general fund. They have to be legally kept separate."

The discussion took place during the Oct. 14 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and was prompted by Commissioner Larry Haggart.

Haggart, a member of the marina subcommittee and until this year its chairman, repeated his questions from earlier meetings about why the marina isn't among upgrades planned if voters on Nov. 3 pass a millage to make up for deferred maintenance of assets at the city's two lakeside parks.

"It (the marina) is funded by something called an enterprise fund," Commission Chairman Michael Hindelang said. "It's a different budget method. Dollars (from the millage) would be going to the remainder of the parks system."

The marina enterprise fund has been operating for decades.

"This millage is centered on the parks as a whole," Gleason said to Haggart. "Consider the marina almost a third party in itself. It is not covered by this (millage) because it is a quasi-separate entity operating within the zone. We have to keep it separate."

An enterprise fund is a proprietary fund set up to operate almost like a business. Costs are paid by users of the business. In the Park's case, this means boaters with seasonal wells at Windmill, not general residents, meaning people who don't rent wells at Windmill.

The Michigan Municipal League defines an enterprise fund as "a fund established to finance and account for the acquisition, operation and maintenance of governmental facilities and services which are entirely or predominantly self-supporting by user charges."

"They're separate legal entities to cover different needs," Gleason said of the enterprise and general funds.

"Am I correct when I tell (people) that I believe the commission is going to recommend another millage to fund the marina renovation?" Haggart asked.

"That is not correct," Gleason said. "The marina work will not be funded through another millage. It will be funded separately through its own funding mechanism — the enterprise fund, specifically bonded out."

"What's the difference between bonding and a millage?" Haggart asked.

"You can use millage money to pay for a bond, but you can use a separate funding mechanism to pay for a bond in itself," Gleason answered. "You don't always need a millage to pay for a bond. A bond (would) be decided by us, the finance director and city administration, over winter and spring. It will not be tied to a future millage."

"I was under the misinterpretation that we were going to be asking the community to fund a bond to support the renovation of the marina," Haggart said.

The commission meeting consisted of two main matters itemized on an agenda that was distributed to members in advance.

"There is an agenda item tonight to rehabilitate and refurbish the marina with updated docks, (dockside) electrical and water (service)," Hindelang told Haggart. "That is not addressed in detail in this (park millage) plan because there's a separate plan, a separate process, for that. Don't consider that the marina is getting less attention, but rather is moving down a parallel path with separate funding mechanisms."

It's time again for us to search for the reader photos that best capture the spirit of the Pointes — for our upcoming 2027 calendar!



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Author, poet Jacqueline Woodson speaks to students, educators Nov. 18-20

Spots still open for educator session

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Since 2018, Literacy for Kids has invited award-winning authors to meet metro Detroit students and share their love of literacy. This fall, the program is expanding to include an evening for educators.

Up to 300 guests — teachers, librarians and other school personnel — are invited to participate in "Building Reading Identity Through Stories, Art and Belonging," a conversation with author, poet and storyteller Jacqueline Woodson. The free event takes place 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, in the lecture hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts and will be moderated by Detroit educator Torie J. Anderson-Lloyd.

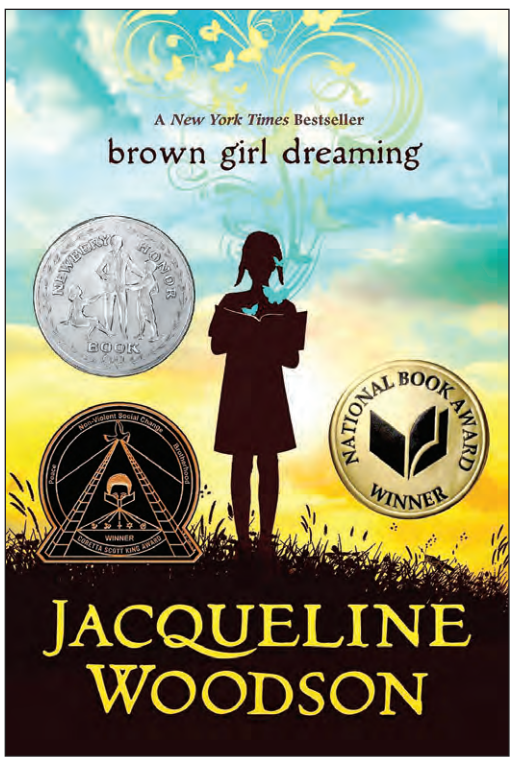
Woodson, a MacArthur Fellow, won the National Book Award for her memoir in verse, "Brown Girl Dreaming." She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences last year in recognition of her contributions to literature.

Anderson-Lloyd, a teacher at Renaissance High School, is the founder of Black Girl Picnic and a literacy advocate.

The program will explore how books, poetry, language and the arts help children see themselves as readers, writers and creators.

"The two of them will talk about labeling kids as 'reluctant readers,'" said Jayne Rose-Vallee, Literacy for Kids founder and president. "Once a child has that label, it sticks with them their entire lives. Words matter. They'll go through how to make literacy more positive. ... Until we can change the culture of what literacy is, we can't move the needle.

"... This is how to teach kids at all levels," she added. "Jacqueline will show them how to bring in art and use it to make literacy not just words on a page. ... We want every teacher there to walk away feeling inspired. They'll walk away with books and tangible things they can use in the classroom."



With support from the Skillman Foundation — a Detroit-based organization that has provided around $750 million in grants since its establishment in 1960 — LFK is underwriting the professional development event.

"It's open to general educators, so teachers, librarians — anybody in that education space," said Katy Klimczuk, LFK director of philanthropy.

Bookending the educators' program, Woodson will speak Wednesday, Nov. 18, and Friday, Nov. 20, to students from 13 schools in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. To prepare them for the visit, LFK distributed more than 2,200 autographed copies of Woodson's "Brown Girl Dreaming" in September, along with lesson plans and educational resources.

The Holley Family Foundation provided a $15,000 grant for the purchase of books for every student.

"We're giving them books and lesson plans ahead of time," Klimczuk said. "It makes it a more rich experience."

Part of that experience is reading Woodson's work, as well as writing original "I Am" poetry and preparing questions for the author. Select students will read their poems to the assemblies, held in the DIA's Detroit Film Theatre. The DIA is providing the space and transportation.

"They may not immediately know what Jacqueline meant to them, but someday, they'll think, 'I remember when ...,'" Rose-Vallee said. "Torie said that so many students in Detroit don't think they're good readers; they don't have confidence. Once they've made up their minds that this is who I am, it's hard to change that."

That's where Literacy for Kids is hoping to make a difference.

Though the student sessions are nearly full, there are plenty of seats available for educators interested in the Thursday evening event. The deadline to register is Monday, Nov. 9, "but I'm not going to turn anyone away at the door," Rose-Vallee said.

The event is meant to be refreshing and inspiring for educators, in Detroit as well as Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities.

"We hope teachers take advantage of it," Rose-Vallee said. "... No matter the school, there's something valuable to it."

Added Klimczuk, "Literature is mostly mirrors and windows. It's a mirror that represents your life experiences, but also a window to others' experiences. That's where you build empathy."

For more information about Woodson's visit, email info@literacyforkids.org.

Register for the educators' event by scanning the QR code.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Author Jacqueline Woodson will speak to students and teachers during a visit to the DIA in November.

Other opportunities

Last year, LFK launched "Start from Birth: Henry Ford Health x LFK," which provides every family in the HFH neonatal intensive care unit and birthing centers with baby's first book.

More than 4,000 books have been donated to date. Each book gets a sticker and is boxed up for delivery. LFK also seeks volunteers of all ages to help tag and box books.

Drivers would be helpful, too.

"That's a lot of packages to drop off," Rose-Vallee said.

University Liggett School is setting up a book donation spot at its upcoming book fair.

"People will buy books to donate to Henry Ford Health," Klimczuk said. "It helps tell the community what we're doing."

Monetary donations are welcome as well.

"Donations help us fund programs and books," Rose-Vallee said. "It's easier to fund it for the babies, but my heart is still with putting mentors in front of students. We need to throw something different at it — whatever we can do to move the needle."

For more information, visit literacyforkids.org.



Pictured back row from left are Candace Law, Carol LaChiusa, Janet Kondziela, Lori Zurvalec, Ruth Harvey and Jacqueline Rybinski; and front row from left are Kathleen McNamee and Kathryn Poremski.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC LAW

GP Congregational Church Arts Ministry celebrates 10 years

The "Gift of Creativity: Celebrating a Decade of Arts Ministry" exhibition is on display at the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church Arts Ministry Gallery through Sunday, Jan. 3, 2027.

The artists' reception, open to the public, will be held 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, with light refreshments and live jazz music provided by the Matthew Daher Trio.

The "Gift of Creativity" exhibition includes the works of 20 artists, some of whom were participants in the original 2016 show. They are:

Joan Albert and Deborah Maiale of Grosse Pointe Woods; Wilhelmina Giblin and Lori Zurvalec of the City

See ARTS, page 5B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Grosse Pointe native blends comedy, music

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern



COURTESY PHOTOS

Derek Demkowicz performs onstage.

Long before he was performing improvised rap musicals for packed crowds across the world or staring back at friends from their TV screens during football season, Derek "Demko" Demkowicz's world was centered between Neff Road and The Village.

Growing up in the City of Grosse Pointe, Demkowicz spent his early years building memories on local baseball fields, discovering community theater and soaking in the classic Michigan childhood. His family moved to the City from Chicago when he was 5, and from that moment on, the community was home.

"I spent a lot of time down in The Village," Demkowicz said. "My favorite thing to do in the world is fish at Neff Park."

Demkowicz attended The Grosse Pointe Academy through eighth grade, then University of Detroit Jesuit High School, while his sisters went to Mercy High School. His schedule was filled with travel baseball games and casting fishing lines, but a love of storytelling always simmered just below the surface.

"My parents knew before I did," Demkowicz said. "Doing something crazy and pretending like I was Spider-Man or a Power Ranger — not everybody did that; I just assumed people would do that."

Where other children outgrew make-believe, Demkowicz leaned into it. Recognizing his knack for drama and humor, his parents sought out artistic outlets and he began acting with Grosse Pointe Theatre. At the same time, a teacher at The Academy noticed his comedic timing and encouraged him to take his talent seriously while keeping it fun.

Music was just as essential. He picked up the guitar as a young boy and taught himself by ear, skipping sheet music and learning to play and compose by intuition. By his sophomore year of high school, he had met his best friend and writing music had become his go-to outlet whenever life got stressful.

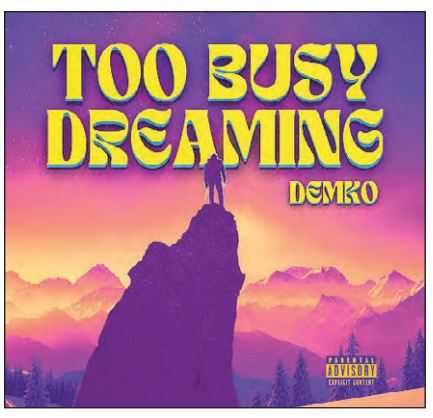
His senior year, after landing lead roles in back-to-back theatrical productions, he reached a turning point.

"I kinda think there is nothing else other than music and comedy for me," Demkowicz said. "I decided super late to pursue this and I had a lot of doubts about if I was good enough."

Having made the decision late, Demkowicz missed many college audition deadlines. He set his sights on Emerson College in Boston, known for its arts and communications programs, and knew it was the right fit the moment he set foot on campus. Emerson put him on its waiting list.



The flyer for Demkowicz's solo show, "Last Day of Camp."



Demkowicz's new album, "Too Busy Dreaming," was released Sept. 18.

Undeterred, Demkowicz pulled up his grades during his final semester and mailed the admissions office a packet highlighting his latest artistic projects every week until it reconsidered.

"The day I sent in the housing deposit (for another school) is the day that Emerson called me and said, 'You're getting in,'" Demkowicz said.

He pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting with a minor in comedy writing and performance, auditioning for everything he could while writing, producing and recording his own music on the side.

His senior year, he landed a lead role in "Kiss," a demanding six-week production.

"I was one of the leads for six weeks and it was beautiful, but also incredibly tragic," he said. "… I found that taking on that heavy burden of portraying those emotions was less enjoyable than being on stage and making up a silly little musical."

That realization shifted his career path toward comedy and improvisation.

The summer before, he had taken an intensive comedy program at The Second City in Chicago, taking accelerated classes for college credit while immersing himself in the city's comedy scene. The experience of creating live comedy in front of an audience had stuck with him.

"Being in Chicago gave me a love for being in the room and creating something special with a room full of people," he said. "You form a bond with the audience where you are making things up for them and with them, then it doesn't exist anymore."

After graduation, he moved to Chicago and found a niche that combined his love of music with his improv instincts. He joined the ensemble Baby Wants Candy and its popular hip-hop spin-off, Shamilton. In both shows, cast members take the stage with a full live band and improvise a complete, full-length musical or hip-hop story on the spot, driven by a single prompt from an audience member.

That work took him overseas. Baby Wants Candy is one of the longest-running and most successful sellout shows in the history of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, the world's largest arts festival.

"In 2023, I got the invite to be in the cast and come join," Demkowicz said. "I ended up doing 30 improvised musicals for crowds of 300 with a live band. It was so world-changing and perspective-changing."

Performing daily in Scotland exposed him to theater, comedy and artistic perspectives from every corner of the world. He has been invited back every year since. At the festival, he also wrote, produced and starred in his own solo show, "Last Day of Camp," playing a camp counselor who guides the audience through the

See DEMKO, page 6B

Join Us!
Hollyfest
The Family Center

Join us for a festive evening benefiting
The Family Center.

Thursday, November 19
The War Memorial - 32 Lake Shore Drive
6PM Strolling Reception • 7PM Dinner & Program
Complimentary Valet Parking • Dressy Attire Recommended

The Family Center helps people connect – to each other and their community - by providing free programs and resources that empower, guide, uplift and engage families through every age and stage.

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The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods
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The Family Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization | Tax ID #38-3596904

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AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

◆ I Am a Superhero, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ "Thriller" Dance Instruction with Danny B, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29.

◆ West African Dance Class, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

◆ Holiday Photography with Monica Morgan, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ Pet Adoption Program, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ GPPL Friends $5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

◆ Teen Rom-Com Afternoon, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31.

◆ Family Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4.

◆ History of the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4.

◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 5.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 7.

Ford House

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

◆ Halloween Concert Over the Cove with the Kalkaska Quartet, 6 to 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Tickets are $45 for Friends, $55 for the public.

◆ Storytime: "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type," 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ The Shop at Ford House presents The Grand Holiday Reveal, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. This is a preview of holiday merchandise before it hits the shelves.

◆ Fused Glass Ornament Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 14. Admission is $50 for Friends, $60 for the public.

◆ Maker Studio: Introduction to Coptic Stitch Bookbinding, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 21. Admission is $45 for Friends, $55 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

◆ The movie "Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery" is shown at noon Friday, Oct. 30. Cost is $12 and includes lunch.

◆ Tea: Humanity's Healthiest Habit, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. Cost is $12.

◆ The Helm Book Club, The Novel Network, meets 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, to discuss "Whistler" by Ann Patchett.

◆ Cultural Spotlight: Let's Celebrate Diwali, noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

◆ 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. Fridays with Jessica Kodanko. Cost is $8 per class.

◆ 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.

◆ EnhanceFitness, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays with Paul Clark.

◆ 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.

See EVENTS, page 4B

Fontbonne kicks off holiday shopping with Mingle Jingle

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Fontbonne Auxiliary is getting in the holiday spirit a little early this year with its Mingle Jingle fundraiser, which takes place Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Social hour begins at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon at noon. The Christmas-themed afternoon is made all the more special with exclusive holiday shopping.

"These are gifts that are only available from the Fontbonne gift shop," said Kimberleigh Bill, who is co-chairing the event with Stephanie Berri. "It's nice, high-quality jewelry, clothing, purses, specific holiday items — popular things you won't find anywhere else."

"These are very unique items, too," Berri added.

Though it features primarily women's items, gifts geared toward children and men also will be featured.

In addition to the impressive collection curated by Fontbonne gift shop manager Linda Trevillian, the event includes a cash bar and raffles.

"Stephanie and I are getting very nice raffle prizes," Bill said. "There will be other surprises, too."

Tickets are $50.

Funds raised will be used to support different causes championed by Fontbonne.

"We give scholarships in May," Berri noted, "and we help with whatever the hospital might need."

The Fontbonne Auxiliary was formed in 1947 to help establish and build Henry Ford St. John Hospital, which opened in 1952. It has been supporting the hospital ever since.

"It's a wonderfully strong women's organization that's welcoming to all," Bill said. "It's a great group of women who support women."

For information or tickets, call Fontbonne President Lorna Zalenski at (313) 590-5607 or email llz523@aol.com.

"We hope to see a good turnout," Berri said. "It's a nice kickoff for the holidays — a nice lunch with good friends."

Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance hosts Purse Bingo fundraiser

The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance will host its second annual Purse Bingo fundraiser — combining community fun, handbags and support for ovarian cancer resources and research — Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Tompkins Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive, Grosse Pointe Park.

Doors open at 5 p.m., with bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a lively evening of bingo, prizes, food and fun — all while raising funds to advance ovarian cancer awareness, research and survivor support.

Each ticket includes an assortment of appetizers and soft drinks, 10 rounds of bingo for the chance to win a beautiful handbag and all the necessary bingo supplies.

Guests also will have the opportunity to purchase additional bingo cards onsite and participate in raffle baskets featuring exciting prizes.

All proceeds benefit MIOCA, a statewide nonprofit organization working toward earlier detection and improved treatment outcomes.

"We're so excited to bring Purse Bingo back for a second year," said Megan Neubauer, executive director. "This event is a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and enjoy a fun night out, all while showing their support for the many individuals and families in Michigan who have been impacted by ovarian cancer."

General admission is $50 per person; a VIP table for eight is $450. Tickets and additional event details are available at mioca.org.

The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting awareness and education about ovarian cancer, supporting survivors and their families and funding innovative ovarian cancer research. MIOCA is committed to empowering communities across Michigan to make progress toward earlier detection and improved treatment outcomes.

ENGAGEMENT



Joseph Konen and Kelsey Horn

Horn—Konen

Philip and Karen Horn of McKinley Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelsey Ann Horn, to Joseph James Konen, the son of Robert and Janice Konen of McKinley Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Miss Horn is a 2011 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and received dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art & Design and Communications from the University of Michigan in 2015. She is a Senior Designer at Monks Agency in New York City.

Mr. Konen is a 2009 graduate of Grosse Pointe South and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Michigan in 2013. He is an Account Executive at Clay in New York City.

The couple began dating while on Thanksgiving break in 2014 and became engaged Dec. 30, 2025, in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

An autumn 2027 wedding is planned.

WEDDING



Mallory Helton and Jacob Willis

Helton—Willis

Mallory Clare Helton and Jacob Willis were married June 20, 2026, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, in a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Andrew Kowalczyk, CSMA. A reception followed at the Gaelic League of Detroit.

The bride is the daughter of Bill and Joyce Helton of Grosse Pointe Park.

The bride's college friend, Shaina Brink, served as maid of honor. Other bridesmaids were the bride's high school friends, Alise Maffesoli and Susie Jarboe.

The bride's twin brother, Owen, served as one of the groomsmen.

The bride and groom met at Ferris State University. They both are enjoying professional careers in Grand Rapids, where they live with their dog, Elvis.



WEDDING



Patrick and Carson Jackman

Kiely—Jackman

Carson Barrett Kiely and Patrick Edmund Jackman were married Jan. 17, 2026, in Chicago, in a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick. A reception followed at the University Club of Chicago.

The bride is the daughter of Ame Kiely and Clay Frook of Round Hill, Va. The groom is the son of Carol and Edmund Jackman Jr., of Grosse Pointe Park.

The bride wore a romantic, pearl-embellished lace gown by Netta BenShabu, featuring an intricately detailed corset bodice, off-the-shoulder lace sleeves and a sweeping cathedral-length train. She completed her look with a delicate veil and timeless bouquet of white reflexed roses.

The bride's friend, Gaynor Trelstad, served as matron of honor. Other bridesmaids were her friends, Rose Peterman, Brianna Frey, Samantha Kaltenbach, Grace Bourque and Elizabeth Horwitz; and her sister-in-law, Emily Jackman. They wore an elegant assortment of individually selected black gowns, each reflecting their personal style while creating a timeless, cohesive look. They carried bouquets of white reflexed roses, complementing the bride's classic floral arrangement.

The groom's brother, William Jackman, served as best man. Other groomsmen were his friends, Anthony Simon, Andrew Bigham, David Weatherford, Charles Ryder and John Denison; as well as his brothers-in-law, Cade Kiely, Curran Kiely and Campbell Frook.

The bride graduated from the University of Florida in 2019 with a degree in business and a minor in communications. She is a commercial account executive at Salesforce.

The groom graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2014 and from Michigan State University in 2018, with a degree in economics. He is a strategic alliance manager at Avalara.

The couple honeymooned in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They live in Grosse Pointe Park.

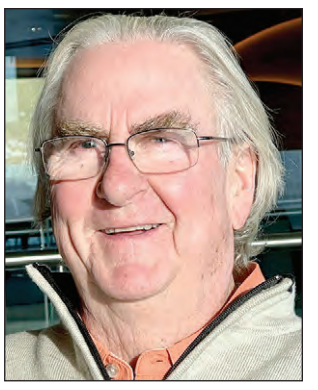


OBITUARIES

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.



William Charles Wenk



John Hayes



Rosemary R. Wortman

William Charles Wenk

William Charles "Bill" Wenk, 80, passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026. He was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Park.

Bill was born Oct. 10, 1946, in Wilmington, Del., to Leverett Pratt Wenk and Caroline Nachtwey Wenk. He grew up on Long Island, N.Y., where he spent his summers lifeguarding at Jones Beach State Park. He attended the New York Military Academy, where he won the New York State Championship in the 50-yard freestyle.

Bill moved to the Midwest to attend Michigan State University in 1964. There, he rowed crew with Jeffrey Kreger, who introduced Bill to his younger sister, Gretchen. Bill and Gretchen were married in 1968, the same year he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering.

Bill went on to earn an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. His early career with Standard Oil gave him the opportunity to travel to exotic locations, including Papua New Guinea. Travel remained a lifelong passion for Bill, whether for work or with his family.

Over his decades-long career, Bill served as CFO of several Michigan-based companies, ranging from manufacturing to media. After putting down roots in Chicago, Bill and Gretchen eventually settled in Grosse Pointe Park, where they raised their daughters, Ashley and Greta. A devoted father, Bill was a constant presence in his daughters' lives and a familiar voice at their swim meets. He served as the announcer for meets at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and for the Grosse Pointe South High School Blue Devils. Bill's voice was the soundtrack of their childhoods; his commitment never wavered and he took pride in never missing a meet.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Gretchen; and daughters, Ashley and Greta. He leaves behind a lifetime of adventures, meals shared around tables near and far, laughter with family and friends and the enduring memory of a man who showed his love by being there.

His big voice may be silent, but it will forever echo in the hearts of those who loved him.

Bill will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, until his 10 a.m. memorial Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A celebration of life will immediately follow.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

John Hayes

John Hayes, 73, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026.

John leaves behind his beloved wife of 42 years, Leslie Harris; and their children, Meggie and Matthew. John was the son of Neil B. Hayes and Mary Beth (nee O'Mara) Hayes, both now deceased. He also was the loving brother of James Hayes S.J., Mark (Ann Marie Hayes), the late Neil (Paula Fisher Hayes Paterson) and the late Dennis (Rosita Hayes). He was proudly crowned "No. 1 outlaw" by Leslie's siblings and their partners, Harvey Harris (Nikki Lorton), Roger Harris (Marcie Gibson), Terri (Mark Zajac), Keith Kaplan (John Cashman) and Barbara King. He was the cherished son-in-law of Norman Kaplan. His many nieces and nephews were his biggest fans.

John was born Jan. 18, 1953, and grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms. He developed a love for sailing at a young age and crewed on several Port Huron to Mackinac races in his younger days. John was a member of the last graduating class of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic High School in 1971. He matriculated to Western Michigan University, where he achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and a Master of Business Administration degree.

Informally and affectionately known as "St. John," he had a big personality and an even bigger heart. An easygoing, witty and calming presence, John was a cherished friend who had a rare gift for taking the mundane and turning it into something fun, silly and bright. He loved his family to pieces, adored teasing his wife and acted as a steady shepherd to his circle of friends. A voracious reader of history and biographies, he satisfied a lifelong curiosity by traveling across the globe and proudly set foot on all seven continents. Of all the places John traveled, Africa moved him the most. He returned to the continent five times to experience its wild and magical splendor.

John was always ready to hold counsel on all things financial. Helping people take charge of their financial lives was his favorite hobby — or perhaps his true love language — and the dialect was always laughter. To his neighbors, he was the undisputed "Mayor of Barry Avenue," where his front porch was an ever-welcoming haven for conversation and connection. He held himself to a standard that was hard to beat; he was always generous and completely true to himself.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Off the Street Club, 25 N. Karlov, Chicago, IL 60624, secure.qgiv.com/for/johnhayesmemorial.

Rosemary Ruth Wortman

Rosemary Ruth Wortman, 81, passed away peacefully Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026.

Rosie was born May 4, 1945, in Detroit, to James and Ruth O'Grady. She grew up on Three Mile Drive in Grosse Pointe Park. One of seven children, she developed strong family ties and lasting friendships that remained important throughout her life. After graduating from Dominican High School, she attended Immaculata Junior College in Washington, D.C.

Rosie married her high school sweetheart, Joseph B. Wortman, Nov. 3, 1967. Having grown up around the block from one another, their early friendship grew into a marriage that lasted nearly 59 years. Together, they raised three sons and built a family that remained central to their lives.

In her early years, Rosie worked in banking before dedicating herself to raising her family as a homemaker. She was the proud mother of Joseph A. Wortman (Karla), Paul J. Wortman (the late Laura, and partner Clemencia Granda) and John D. Wortman (Sidney). She also was the proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren, Paul Jr., Maria, Elizabeth, Sofia, Cole, Cayden, Beau, Victoria, Corinne and Josephine; and a loving sister to Kathleen Bordogna (Richard), the late James O'Grady (the late Patricia), Margaret Burns (the late Patrick), the late Patrick O'Grady (the late Karla), Mary Ecklemen and Michael O'Grady (Jane). She leaves behind many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

To many, she was known as "Sweet Rosie O'Grady," a nickname inspired by the beloved Irish song that reflected both her heritage and personality. Proud of her Irish roots, Rosie possessed a quick wit and gift for entertaining those around her. Her pretty face often was lit by a ready smile. She always was well-dressed and had a naturally classy style. She often was the spark in a gathering, ready with a story, joke or song that somehow fit the occasion. She enjoyed being with people, made friends easily and rarely was at a loss for words.

Rosie will be remembered by all who knew her for the friendships she cultivated, her love of family and the laughter she brought to so many occasions. Her presence was unmistakable and the memories she created will live on through those who knew and loved her.

A memorial gathering will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a dementia charity of the giver's choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

◆ Guided Meditation, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays with Jonathan Itchon. Cost is $8 per class.

◆ Fitness center, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during November. To sign up for the following, visit mutualadoration.com:

◆ Advanced Knitting: Intro to Cableknit, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Cost is $50.

◆ Ceramics: Festive Trees, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Cost is $80.

◆ Ceramics: Critter Dish Trinket Trays, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, or Friday, Nov. 27. Cost is $60.

◆ Ceramics: Create Your Own Goo, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Cost is $100.

◆ Beginner Quilting: Giant Heart Bag, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 4 and 11. Cost is $100.

◆ Sewing Studio Session, noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, or Thursday, Nov. 19. Cost is $15 to $25.

◆ Intro to Sewing: Sewing Machine Essentials, 3 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, or 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. Cost is $40.

◆ Crochet: Essentials for Beginners, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Cost is $50.

◆ Garment Sewing: Quilt Coats, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Cost is $125.

◆ Jewelry: Enameled Earrings + Pendants, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Cost is $100.

◆ Beginner Sewing: Linen Pumpkin Set, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Cost is $50.

◆ Painting: Elemental Abstractions with Shug, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 8, 15 and 22. Cost is $250.

◆ Drop-In Workshop: Matisse-Inspired Collage, 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8. Cost is $20.

◆ Jewelry: Polymer Clay with Trice Clark, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8. Cost is $75.

◆ Ceramics: Clay Curio Shelves, 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8. Cost is $95.

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 register@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Under One Roof: Exploring the Effects of Sibling Relationships, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ The Healing Circle: Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group is a collaboration between The Family Center and Kevin's Song to help those impacted by suicide loss cope with their grief. The group meets at 4:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The War Memorial.

◆ Grief Work Support Group helps people develop resilience and be intentional in their grief, so they can grow in wisdom and connection to themselves and others. The group meets at noon the second Tuesday of the month at the Harper Woods Library and noon the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Ewald Library.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. New Rotary member Lynn Gadzinski speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Harper Woods Library

◆ The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts Aaron Shillinger, director of the documentary "Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale," at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. He will share the story of Sarah E. Ray, a black woman whose 1945 ejection from the Boblo boat led to a landmark discrimination case.

◆ The Harper Woods Library hosts Homeschool Meetup from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. Meet other families who homeschool their students to discuss and share resources and experiences. Children can bring something to work on or work on an activity from the library so their parents can talk.

◆ The Harper Woods Library hosts its annual Artisans' Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Goods from a variety of local artists will be available for purchase.

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

◆ VetConnects Seminar: Great Lakes National Cemetery, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

◆ Author Talk: Bonnie Jo Campbell, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9. Tickets are $35 general admission, $55 for a meet-and-greet.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Historical Society

The lecture, "The Work of Grosse Pointe Architect Robert O. Derrick," with lecturer Paula Draper, takes place 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Grosse Pointe History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Register at gphistorical.org.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association hosts Learning Portraiture from the Old Masters with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 5 and 12, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. This is the second of three two-session workshops. Register online at grossepointeartcenter.org.

Live music

Planet D Nonet performs with Ava Valentina Noecker at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison, Detroit. Cover is $10. Visit jazzcafedetroit.com.

Optimists

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Richard Doerrer, president of K9 Med Tech, speaks. Guests are welcome to hear the speaker and learn about the club.

Sunrise on Vernier

Sunrise on Vernier, 1850 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a support group at 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (313) 642-2000.

Adaptive yoga

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

St. Paul's annual Thanksgiving food drive starts Nov. 1

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Students at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School get excited about doing good deeds.

For days leading up to the official announcement, the youngsters continuously asked Tricia Kesteloot, director of evangelical charity and service at St. Paul, to share the theme of this year's Thanksgiving food drive, which runs Sunday, Nov. 1, to Friday, Nov. 20.

Though she and her counterpart, fifth-grade teacher Carla Schultz, toyed with another cereal drive — the kids had fun lining up the boxes and watching them fall like dominoes in 2023 — they discovered a greater need.

"The need for basic staple food items is too high" to focus on one item, Kesteloot said. "There are more food collections now than there ever have been. While people used to visit food pantries to supplement their meals, now they're going because they can't afford what they need."

This year's theme is Thanksgiving Food Frenzy.

"We'll be working together to feed as many hungry people and families as possible," Kesteloot said. "Our goal is not a number; our goal is working together."

That togetherness extends beyond St. Paul students and faculty; the community is invited to fill collection boxes with nonperishable food items.

"We simply couldn't do it, not to the level we've been able to do it, without the parish, the community, the school," Kesteloot said. "Working together, we've been able to stock the gymnasium stage, fill cars. We had 20 drivers last year who delivered carloads of food to six pantries."

So far, the list of pantries includes Deo Gratias Ministries, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Pantry, Nativity of Our Lord Pantry, St. Matthew's Food Pantry and St. Veronica Food Pantry. Others may join that list.

"We want to be conscientious of supporting each pantry with what their needs are, with what their guests need most," Kesteloot said. "That means canned proteins, vegetables and cereal. Right now, we have five (pantries) on the list and they all vary; there are different needs at each one."

To meet those needs, members of the school, parish and greater community are asked to donate the following food staples:

- breakfast bars, cereal and oatmeal;
- boxed meals, milk and rice;
- canned beans, fruit, tuna and vegetables;
- sauces, soups and stews;
- mac and cheese, pasta, proteins and potatoes; and
- peanut butter, jam and jelly (plastic jars only).

St. Paul parishioner Mark Rieth, who owns Velvet Peanut Butter, has agreed to donate jars of peanut butter again this year.

"Velvet Peanut Butter has been a huge supporter of this project," Kesteloot said. "We're so blessed that people hear about it and want to be a part of it. More and more people want to give to those experiencing food insecurity."

Those who want to give may stop by the church with their donation. A wooden collection box is in the church year-round. Fourth- through sixth-graders are assigned a weekday to pick up the donated items and bring them to the stage in the gymnasium.

"They do a really good job," Kesteloot said. "Many hands make light work."

Students also sort, organize and stage the collection area. On Friday, Nov. 20, they'll gather there for the school's Charity Challenge, "which will look like a field day with crazy games," Kesteloot said. "At the conclusion, the junior high students will load the cars."

It's the part right before the conclusion, when the entire school is assembled in the gymnasium, when Kesteloot gets giddy.

"I ask them, 'What are we doing today? What does God call us to do every day?'" she said. "Then they yell, 'Evangelical charity!' as loud as they can. ... Watching them come together and how hard they work ... everybody rises up to do it.

"... It's important for them to understand how it's so much easier to serve and have a loving heart than it is to look away," she added.

For more information, call (313) 885-4816 or email tkesteloot@stpaulonthelake.org.

Those looking for a more hands-on way to assist the drive or participate in the church's charitable activities will find multiple service opportunities online at stpaulonthelake.org/charity-and-service.

"When people call, they want to hear how they can participate," Kesteloot said. "That's not only how you grow a church and community, but how we come together as a community."



The Knights of Columbus and seminarians from Sacred Heart gathered for an evening at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Show of appreciation

On Oct. 3, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church's Knights of Columbus hosted an appreciation event for the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Through a partnership with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 24 seminarians from Sacred Heart Major Seminary enjoyed a complimentary dinner and a few hours of bowling at the club's private alley.

They were able to get together outside of their classes to socialize, relax and recharge.

Also, the Knights of Columbus were able to thank them for their commitment to the church's future.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Bowling was included in the appreciation event.



The Rev. Mario Amore, director of seminarians for Detroit priestly vocations and executive director of parish renewal for the Archdiocese of Detroit, speaks to seminarians at the appreciation event.

ARTS:

Continued from page 1B

of Grosse Pointe; Linda Boyle, Ruth Harvey, Kathryn Poremski and Cindy Sommerville of Grosse Pointe Park; Carol LaChiusa, Kathleen McNamee, Jacqueline Rybinski and Mary Stebbins Taitt of Grosse Pointe Farms; Nobuko Yamasaki of Grosse Pointe Shores; Candace Law of Berkley; Marguerite Carroll Carlton and Joya Rush-Keli of Detroit; Mady Chen of Milan; Kathleen O'Connell of Dearborn; Janet Kondziela of Dearborn Heights; and Linda Allen of Shelby Township.

The Artists Ministry began in 2016 with a printmaking exhibition and has evolved over the decade to include both group and solo exhibitions, with and without themes, always acknowledging God's gift of creativity to artists that is then enjoyed by those who view the art.

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church is located at 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. The gallery is open 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. For additional hours or more information, call the church office at (313) 884-3075 or email arts@gpcong.org.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Christina Funk, lead naturalist at the Stage Nature Center.

Garden Club of Michigan, Grosse Pointe Garden Center present 'All About Owls' Nov. 5

The Garden Club of Michigan and Grosse Pointe Garden Center will offer the presentation "All About Owls" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The event is free to the public, but attendees are asked to register.

Presenter Christina Funk, lead naturalist at the Stage Nature Center, will include several live owls in her presentation, which will cover owls' habitats, nesting requirements, prey, food and more.

Funk is an acclaimed presenter who brings expertise in environmental education. She is known for her engaging exhibitions and talks. Prior to her role at Stage Nature Center, she served as an education specialist at Bat Conservation International, contributing to conservation, education and research efforts, as well as a tenure as a program presenter at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

For more information or to register, visit gpgardencenter.org.

Superintendent stops by Rotary

On Oct. 14, Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Roy Bishop Jr. shared his vision, the district's achievements and how the community can continue to support local education during his visit to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe.

Bishop brings nearly two decades of public education experience to his role as superintendent. The Saginaw native and former math teacher served as a middle school administrator and elementary principal before becoming deputy superintendent of GPPSS in 2021. He was named superintendent earlier this year. Bishop has a doctorate in organizational leadership, along with degrees from Eastern Michigan University, Marygrove College and Oakland University.

Ahead of his November induction into the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, Bishop outlined his vision of "going for gold" across the school district. GPPSS currently holds an A+ district grade. The district includes seven Blue Ribbon schools, two award-winning newspapers and eight career and technical education programs. Additionally, 88 percent of the teaching staff have master's degrees. To build on this foundation, the district recently launched a virtual school for flexible scheduling and expanded pre-K programs to support early childhood development.

Bishop also highlighted district priorities around safety, operational updates for historical buildings and open communication through televised board meetings and listening sessions. Attributing the district's success to strong community support, he encouraged residents to get involved by volunteering, subscribing to the weekly newsletter or attending school events.

Bishop shares three children with his wife, Latoya.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LYLA KIM

GPPSS Superintendent Roy Bishop, left, and Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe President Dave Colton.

Governor-elect visits Sunrise Rotary

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club welcomed Rotary District 6400 Governor-elect Therese P. Maggioncalda, LMSW, ACSW, to its weekly meeting at Ford House Oct. 13.

A social worker with more than 40 years of experience, Maggioncalda shared how her professional background and Rotary service have shaped her commitment to peace-building.

She discussed initiatives including Peace Builder Clubs, Peace Poles and programs that encourage empathy, civil conversations and understanding across differences. Her work with the Rotary Action Group for Peace's Great Lakes Chapter reflects her dedication to helping people build meaningful connections and create more welcoming communities.

Maggioncalda emphasized that peace is possible when people are willing to listen, learn from one another and take practical steps toward resolving challenges. As she prepares to lead District 6400, her message reminded Rotarians that building peace strengthens every area of Rotary service.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE TROST

Pictured are Therese Maggioncalda and Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Bob Grambo.

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DEMKO:

Continued from page 2B

final hours of a summer camp season.

"It is an hour long, full of songs and games and campfire stories and repeat-after-me songs and audience interaction and skits and everything in between," he said, "giving a full summer-camp experience."

Demkowicz's musical career took off during the COVID-19 pandemic. With theaters shut down, he spent countless hours teaching himself audio engineering, mixing, mastering and beat composition to understand what makes music sound professional.

"When COVID hit, all of my performances were onstage so I needed to stay sane and dedicated to really learning the ins and outs of making music and production elements," he said. "'Resilience' was my album under the name 'Demko' and I love that album so dearly and it was entirely done and mixed by me."

The album grew into a production business crafting beats and full albums for a range of emerging hip-hop artists. Since moving to Los Angeles, Demkowicz has released more than 60 self-produced tracks, accumulated more than 1 million streams and collaborated with Grammy-nominated artists. Along the way, he reached a dream milestone in 2023, opening a 500-person concert in Chicago for hip-hop legend and Wu-Tang Clan co-founder GZA.

He also landed national commercials for 5-hour Energy in 2022 and 2023 that aired on major network broadcasts and sports channels, leading to surreal moments.

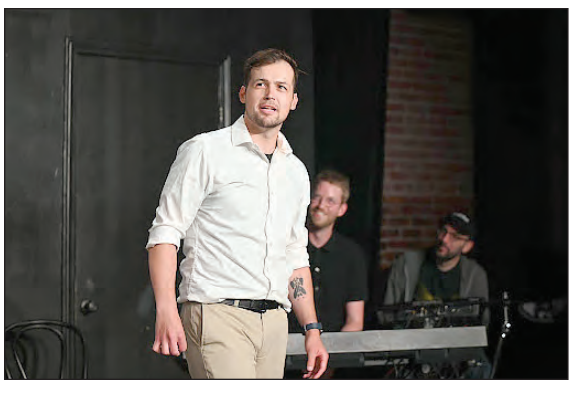
"All of a sudden I get texts from someone in high school of me on ESPN," he said. "That is so crazy that my face is seen all over the place."

Demkowicz shows no signs of slowing down. His latest album, "Too Busy Dreaming," came out Sept. 18, and he is directing music videos. Through it all, he remains rooted in the community where it all began.

"It was just a great place to grow up," he said. "Grosse Pointe through and through."



City of Grosse Pointe native Derek Demkowicz has found success in Hollywood and beyond.



Demkowicz during an improv performance.

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Photos by Renee Landuyt





There's something scary going on in the Grosse Pointes

GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Good friends deserve good cheer



Dear Gabby: I have a friend I've known for years. We've been through marriages, divorces, babies, job changes and several questionable haircuts together.

But I've noticed something: Whenever something good happens to me, she finds a way to minimize it.

I got a promotion. She said, "Well, you've been there forever."

My daughter got into her first-choice college. She said, "That school is accepting a lot of people."

I bought a house. She immediately told me everything that was wrong with the neighborhood.

I don't need a parade every time something goes right, but I'm tired of feeling like I have to apologize for being happy.

Is it time to let this friendship go? — In Need of a Win in the Woods

Dear in need of a win: Before you let the friendship go, stop shrinking.

Tell her what you've noticed. Not with a list of grievances a mile long, but just say, "Sometimes when I share something I'm excited about, I feel like you immediately find the downside. I value our friendship, but I'd like to be able to celebrate good things with you, too."

Her response will tell you quite a bit.

A good friend doesn't have to be dazzled by everything going on in your life, but she should be able to be happy that you are happy. And if someone continually needs you to be smaller so she can feel comfortable standing beside you, that isn't much of a friendship.

— Gabby

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

From family savior to scapegoat



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: For years, I've been the person my family turns to whenever they need help. Now, after everything I've done for them, I'm the one they've turned against.

During the pandemic, my husband and I moved into my elderly parents' home to help care for my seriously ill mother. I'm a healthcare professional, and whenever she was hospitalized, I was there. I have two sisters who live nearby and a brother out of state, but most of the responsibility fell on me.

I've always been generous with my family, both emotionally and financially. I paid for my brother's family to visit my mother, cared for my sister's daughter for over a year when she struggled with mental illness, and cosigned car loans for a sister and niece. Both defaulted, leaving me with wage garnishments.

When I expressed my anger, my family turned on me. They've called me a drunk because I enjoy a drink in the evening, despite the fact that I work hard every day. One sister now refuses to let me see my grandson, and my parents seem to side with everyone but me.

Three months ago, I finally moved out. I haven't spoken to my family in six months, and surprisingly, I'm happier than I've been in years.

But I'm also deeply hurt. How did I go from being the person everyone depended on to the person everyone blames?

Annie, is it selfish to walk away from family when you've spent your whole life trying to help them? And how do I make peace with the fact that the people I've done the most for seem to appreciate me the least? — Tired of Being Taken for Granted

DEAR TIRED: It is understandable that you feel hurt, especially because you have given your family so much support. As the Stoic philosopher Epictetus taught, "It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."

You cannot control how your family treats you, but you can choose how you respond. Sometimes that means lovingly stepping away from relationships that cause you pain. Setting boundaries doesn't mean you love your family any less. It simply means you're finally giving yourself the same kindness you've shown everyone else.

Don't feel guilty for finding some peace. You've spent years taking care of everyone else. It's time to show yourself that same kindness.

DEAR ANNIE: My in-laws are in their mid-80s, and for most of their lives, they appeared to be quite wealthy. They lived in beautiful homes, entertained lavishly and traveled frequently. They were successful in real estate and should have been financially comfortable in retirement.

Over the years, extravagant spending, poor investments and failed get-rich-quick schemes drained their savings. Today, they live entirely on Social Security and have spent the past eight years moving between the homes of relatives and friends.

For the past six years, they've relied on my mother-in-law's financially successful stepsister, who owns homes in California and Idaho. She generously allows them to stay in whichever house she isn't using. This means my in-laws, now in their 80s, sometimes find themselves shoveling snow in Idaho.

Neither location offers much of a support system, and both are more than eight hours away from us. My wife is their only child, and they have chosen to live far from her, their grandchildren and now their first great-grandchild.

They qualify for a lovely senior-housing community near us, where they could have stability, companionship and family close by. But they refuse to consider it. Instead, they insist on staying in our home whenever they please.

A three-night visit routinely stretches into five or six nights. On one occasion, they even called our son and asked him to stay with a friend so they could have his room during their visit. He agreed, not fully understanding the family dynamics.

They have also continued using our address for their driver's licenses, voting registration and car insurance, despite not having lived in our state for eight years. They never asked our permission.

My wife and I are in our 50s and both still work. We have two young-adult children who are finding their footing, and we've recently welcomed our first grandchild. We love our family, but our time, energy and resources are not unlimited.

The hardest part is watching what this has done to my wife. She feels tremendous guilt about setting boundaries with her aging parents, even though their demands have caused her almost daily stress. She resents that they've repeatedly chosen to live far away while expecting us to rearrange our lives whenever they want to visit.

This situation has put a strain on our marriage for years.

I want to be fair. My in-laws aren't bad people, and they can be genuinely lovely. I don't believe they intend to

See ANNIE, *page 3C*

The Family Center
EMPOWERING FAMILIES. ENRICHING LIVES.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW

Under one roof: Life lessons we learn from our siblings

This is part one of a two-part series on siblings in anticipation of The Family Center's program "Under One Roof" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, at The War Memorial.

Throughout our lifespan, the most important factor in our physical, cognitive and emotional health is the quality of our relationships. This begins with our family, who teach us how to engage with and respond to the world around us. We learn what to expect from close relationships and we first practice and later develop the most critical interpersonal skills within our family system.

The intimate and enduring connection of our sibling relationships has a unique impact on our well-being. People who develop and maintain close sibling relationships generally have better psychological and physical health, stronger interpersonal relationships and decreased depression and isolation in adulthood.

Benefits of close sibling relationships

• Enhanced Social Competence: Getting along with brothers and sisters can be a complicated experience. Siblings often are role model and rival, confidante and nuisance, ally and antagonist. Our early years with them often are practice grounds for developing social competence. It is through the sibling dance of connection and conflict that we learn many of the complex skills we apply to other personal relationships.

• Identity Development: Our shared experience with siblings also helps shape how we want to show up in the world. The intensity and endurance of our sibling relationships give us the opportunity to observe how we want to behave, what we want — or don't want — to emulate and how we want to define ourselves. Our growing up years with brothers and sisters offers us unique insights about ourselves, a safe place to explore who we are becoming and feedback about how we are experienced.

• Emotional Regulation and Resilience: Strong sibling relationships in childhood also help us develop emotional regulation and resilience. With the inevitable conflict between siblings comes the opportunity to learns skills related to impulse control, frustration tolerance, boundaries and limits and repair through perspective taking, a good apology or warmth and empathy. This also is dependent on an emotionally regulated parent intervening to guide and model the development of these skills. Parents can be vigilant about coaching rather than refereeing, helping children manage their nervous system by ensuring they take time and space to recover and separating regulation from problem solving.

Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW, is a licensed social worker with more than 25 years of experience providing individual, group and family therapy in the private and public sectors. Check out her blog at marybethgarveytherapy.org/.

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

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

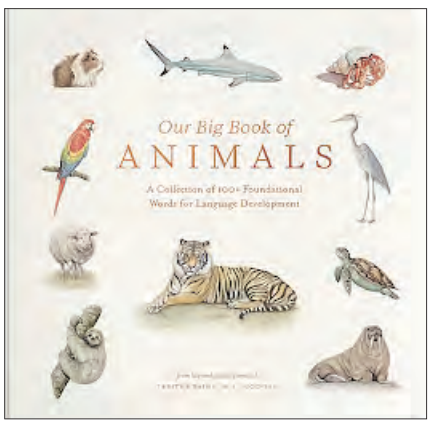


I love reading, I absolutely love kids and if there were a job posting for "your mom's friend who you call your aunt," I would submit my resume today, no cover letter needed, references available upon request.

Honestly what's the endgame here if not that? I want you to know me, love me and know I'll always be just a phone call away, whether you want to go to TCBY or tell me how much you hate your parents.

I'll smile, I'll nod, I'll buy you a second scoop and then, obviously, I will report every word back to your mom the second I get in my car.

All of my friends' kids are still toddlers, so there's no parent-hating behavior yet, just a lot of gift giving. And I take that job seriously. I want to give the gift parents actually get excited to see, not the one that ends up in a donation pile by spring. That's exactly what I found with "Our Big Book of Animals" by Tabitha Paige.



The book is packed with more than 100 watercolor animal illustrations, meant to help babies and toddlers build vocabulary as they point, name and talk about animals from farms, jungles, oceans and more. It isn't just cute either. Tabitha Paige is a licensed speech and language pathologist, so the whole thing is actually built to support early language development, not just look pretty on a shelf.

Speaking of pretty, the illustrations are genuinely stunning — soft, warm watercolors that somehow work as well as nursery decor as they do a book a toddler is going to gum straight through. My friends' babies are obsessed with it. Plus, there's something so special about watching a tiny person point at a page and shout "dog" for the first time and knowing you got to be a small part of that moment.

The best part for aunts like me is it's not a one and done. Paige has a whole series of these — books on first words, sports and more — so once you find the one that lands, you've basically got a starter library ready to go.

It's less than $11, it's durable enough to survive toddler hands and it checks every box: educational, beautiful and something the kid actually wants to look at instead of ignore.

And you know the drill: It's 5 out of 5 alligators from me.

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

5 Out Of 5



Braised pork with cider

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Another week, another cozy fall dinner and I'm on a roll! This week I made delicious and tender pork braised in apple cider with silky cabbage, melt-in-your-mouth fennel and buttery white beans. It took pork and beans to a whole new level. Served over mashed potatoes, this meal actually had my dinner guests leaning back and rubbing their belly with delight.

To achieve succulent pork, you need to use a fatty cut like pork shoulder. It's marbled with fat and connective tissue that breaks down during cooking and leaves the meat rich and tender. The fat from the meat absorbs into the beans and vegetables, creating the most satisfying and unctuous sauce. The best part is that pork shoulder is about half the cost of beef. And it's even less when you can find it on sale. Though when you bring it home, you need to cut it yourself, making sure that you trim off any excessive fat, especially around the edges.

The braising liquid is made of apple cider and apple cider vinegar. The cider brings just the right amount of sweetness and the vinegar and mustard adds tang to balance out the rich meat.

The tang is absorbed into the beans and cabbage which adds pops of brightness to each bite. Woodsy thyme and sage are a must and the long cooking time mellows everything out leaving a depthful sauce that is absolutely slurp worthy.

There's nothing quite like the rich, savory, almost manly aroma of pork slowly braising away in the oven. This is comfort food at its finest and an absolute must-make for your next cozy Sunday afternoon.

Cheers, Mombeau

Braised Pork

3 lbs pork shoulder

1 tbsp canola oil

1 large onion, halved and sliced

1 fennel bulb, halved, cored and sliced

4 cups green cabbage, sliced

1 tbsp Dijon mustard

4 cups apple cider

½ cup apple cider vinegar

6-8 sprigs of thyme leaves

10 sage leaves

Mashed potatoes for serving



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Begin by trimming the fat off the pork shoulder and then cutting it into two-inch chunks. Heat a large stock pot over medium heat and pour in one tablespoon of canola oil. Add in half of the pork pieces to cover the bottom of the pan in an even layer. Do not overcrowd the meat. Add a generous pinch of salt and pepper. Sear each side until brown, about five minutes. Remove and add in the rest of the meat for browning. Once the remaining pork is browned, remove it from the pot and set aside. Leave the stove on medium heat and add in the sliced onions and another generous pinch of salt and pepper. Toss the onions around to soften and pick up all the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Cook for about two minutes, then add the cabbage, fennel and a pinch of salt and pepper. Let them cook together and soften for about five minutes. Once the vegetables have wilted down, add in the Dijon mustard and stir to combine. Pour in the apple cider and apple cider vinegar. Then add the pork back in with any juices. Stir to combine and bring the pot to a simmer. Place in the oven, uncovered for one and a half hours to two hours. The pork should be very fork tender and almost falling apart. Serve over your favorite mashed potatoes and garnish with any extra sage leaves.

Let's get cookin'!

Sponsor Mombeau's Table and showcase your advertisement in this highly visible spot!

To reserve this space, call (313) 882-6900

Grosse Pointe News

Southern Hemisphere wines



Wine lovers looking for a dramatic departure from domestic winery visits should seriously consider making a trip to the Southern Hemisphere, especially Australia and New Zealand.

This is quite a commitment in time and money, but anyone who has ever longed to visit either nation or both should consider carving out leisure time and immersing in something fascinating.

Southern hemisphere wines are special. That includes Argentina and Chile, but I've spent lots of time in Australia and New Zealand over the decades and I'm never disappointed. The people are friendly, the cultures are sublime and sophisticated and the wines can be stupendous.

I can't provide details in this short a space, but here are a few entry-level tips. First, if you are planning to visit one of those countries, consider spending at least three weeks, with time in each.

If going into Australia first, Sydney is a logical entry point. The nearest wine region is north of the city in the warmer Hunter Valley. One feature there is Semillon, a white wine best after it has been aged. Several Hunter wineries offer chances to try these wines.

Just south and west is the great city of Melbourne, on the Yarra River, where Wine Country really starts.

Nearby are cool Yarra Valley, Geelong and the Mornington Peninsula, and the entry roads to northern Victoria and some fascinating Shiraz wines.

Further west is coastal Adelaide, where several wine regions (Barossa Valley, Adelaide Hills, Clare Valley, McLaren Vale, Coonawarra) can be accessed by car.

On the West Coast is fast-rising Margaret River, which produces some remarkable cabernet sauvignons and shiraz. You can reach many of these areas by rail from major cities.

New Zealand is equally dramatic. You can fly into Auckland (North Island) or Christchurch (South Island) and be within driving distance of several wine regions.

On the North Island, I truly love the wines of middle-reach Hawke's Bay near Napier. At the southern tip near Wellington, there is largely undiscovered Martinborough, a gorgeous historic wine place.

You can ferry across the strait from Wellington to the South Island in two hours and from there visit Marlborough and Nelson, each with unique vistas and dozens of wineries.

Farther south is dramatic, ski-oriented Central Otago, and on the way there you can walk on one of two remaining glaciers. Central Otago is home to some of the most dramatic pinot noirs in the world.

This is but a brief introduction to Wine Country regions that are rarely visited by Americans. Both countries offer remarkable hospitality, food that is infinitely better than it was when I first visited in the early 1990s and cultures that will amaze.

Yes, it takes several hours to get there, so I suggest carving out a month or more and spending at least two weeks in each country. You will not be disappointed.

Wine of the Week:

2025 Allan Scott Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough ($17): A bright, delicate white wine from New Zealand that is soft and crisp. From the winery's website: "Fresh, zesty, juicy and full ... Tropical fruit with a fresh herbaceous character, balanced with zesty passion fruit and a dry finish. A crisp, refreshing wine that shows its terroir..."

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

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ANNIE

Continued from page 2C

hurt anyone. But they seem determined to maintain a lifestyle they can no longer afford, relying on the generosity of others rather than accepting a more realistic living arrangement.

I don't want to be the son-in-law who comes between my wife and her parents. But I also don't want our marriage and family life to suffer because we're afraid to say no.

How do we establish reasonable boundaries with aging parents who refuse to accept their circumstances, without leaving my wife feeling like a terrible daughter? — Exhausted Son-in-Law

DEAR EXHAUSTED SON-IN-LAW: Your in-laws are in a difficult stage of life, and it's understandable that they want to feel close to their family. At their age, a little extra patience and compassion can go a long way.

That said, your wife can be a loving daughter while still setting reasonable boundaries. Sit down together and agree on visits that work for everyone, with clear arrival and departure dates.

Continue encouraging senior housing nearby if you think they would be happy there. Remember, boundaries don't have to be unkind. Sometimes the most loving thing you can do is find a balance that allows everyone to feel respected and welcome.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dear annie@creators.com.

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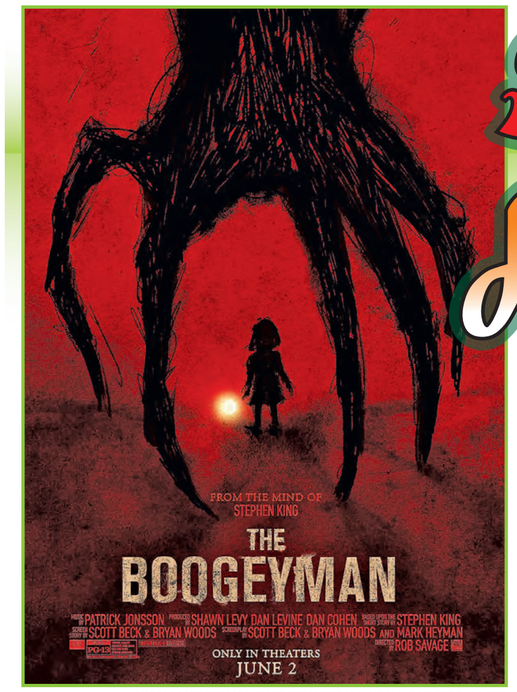
Scary movies for Halloween still rule!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS AND 21 LAPS ENTERTAINMENT

Poster for the 2024 movie "The Boogeyman," written by Scott Beck, Bryan Woods and Mark Heyman and directed by Rob Savage.

By Mark Domin
Movie Review Writer

Happy Halloween everyone!

It's that time of year once again where I serve up some of the scariest films I've seen lately. This year I thought I'd make it a triple header, with three different ways to have the daylights scared out of you. So turn down the lights, fire up your TV and be prepared to be creeped out to the max! I triple dare you to watch them all!

— Movie Junkie Mark

MOVIE REVIEW
"The Boogeyman"
2023 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 38 min
★★★½☆

This film is based on a short story by the master of horror, Stephen King. I can't recall any movie based on his writings that wasn't totally creepy. Just the first couple minutes of this film alone are a good indication that you're in for some disturbing events. Watching it on my laptop was spooky enough — I can't imagine seeing it on the big screen.



Sophie Thatcher as Sadie.



Chris Messina as Will.

The story is about two young girls Sadie (Sophie Thatcher, "Heretic") and Sawyer (Vivien Lyra Blair, "Bird Box"). They're being raised by their father Will, a therapist played by Chris Messina ("Argo"). Their mother recently died in a car accident and the family is in total denial. Then one day, Will gets a visit from Lester (David Dastmalchian, "Oppenheimer") who was blamed for the deaths of his three children. After he hangs himself in their house, a mysterious creature begins haunting the two girls.



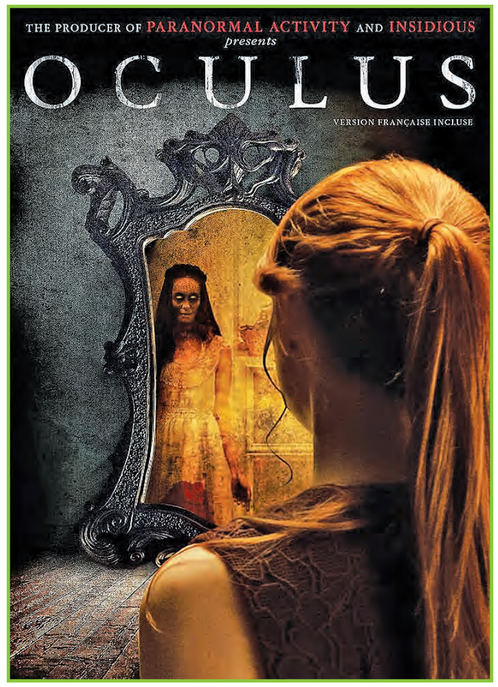
Sophie Thatcher plays Sadie.

The rest of the story involves the sisters investigating the boogyman and then plotting to destroy it. As you'd expect from a Stephan King project, it's well written and has great production values. Rob Savage ("Host") did a commendable job directing the film. My only negative comment is a lot of the movie is dimly lit, making it hard to see what's going on on a small screen.

Streaming on Netflix and Hulu, and to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and Prime.



Sawyer, played by Vivien Lyra Blair.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF INTREPID PICTURES, MICA ENTERTAINMENT AND BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Poster for the 2013 movie "Oculus," written by Mike Flanagan, Jeff Howard and Jeff Seidman and directed by Mike Flanagan.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Oculus"
2013 - Rated PG-R
1 hr 44 min
★★★½☆

If you're looking for a horror film that's a bit different, you might enjoy this one. I liked the fact that there was little actual blood, violence, or swearing in it. But it did manage to scare me to pieces nonetheless.

At the heart of the story is a mirror, known as the Lasser Glass mirror. It's 400 years old and some folks believe it's responsible for countless mysterious deaths over the years. We meet Tim (Brenton Thwaites, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales"), who's just been released from a mental institution. He was accused of murder and had been institutionalized for the past 10 years. His sister Kaylie (Karen Gillan, "Avengers: Endgame") takes him back to their childhood home, which was witness to the murder of their parents. She has the alleged haunted mirror delivered to their home and is out to prove there's an entity living in the mirror that caused the deaths.



Karen Gillan as Kaylie and Brenton Thwaites as Tim.

The film jumps back and forth from the present day to when they were children, and we see their parents' lives descend into madness. It's a bit confusing at times, but by the end of the movie it all makes sense. I thought the acting was excellent, especially from Annalise Basso ("The Life of Chuck") and Garrett Ryan ("Insidious: Chapter 3"), who played the younger versions of the siblings.

Streaming on Kanopy (free with your library card), Netflix, and Prime, and to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and Prime.



Garrett Ryan and Annalise Basso play the younger siblings.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DUNGEON BEACH AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR DOG?

Poster for the 2025 movie "Good Boy," written by Alex Cannon and Ben Leonberg and directed by Ben Leonberg.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Good Boy"
2025 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 12 min
★★★★☆

What an interesting take on a horror film — a story as seen through the eyes of a dog. It's from a dog's observations but not narrated by him. And what a great performance. If there were Oscars for animals, Indy, the star of the movie, would get it hands down (or should I say, paws down?).

Todd (Shane Jensen), who's dying of cancer, moves into the family's rural home with his loyal dog. There he encounters a mysterious entity lurking in the shadows. Being his trusted companion, the dog does what it takes to protect his master. It turns out to be your basic good versus evil plot and lets the viewer try to figure out the details of the story. The excellent camerawork and slick editing of Ben Leonberg added to the overall tension of this award-winning movie. Leonberg also directed.

If you're a horror movie buff and are in the mood for something unusual, I think you'll enjoy this one.

Streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card), and Hulu. Also to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and Prime.

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.



Indy plays the star of the film.

Hammer: My childhood heroes and monsters of horror



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND HAMMER FILMS

One of the many versions of the movie poster for the Hammer film "The Curse of Frankenstein," staring Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee and Hazel Court and directed by Terence Fisher

By Kenneth Schop
Guest Writer

You would be hard pressed to find a person in America that is not familiar with the Universal monsters from Hollywood black and white movies of the 40s and 50s like Bela Lugosi's Dracula and Boris Karloff's Frankenstein monster or Lon Chaney Jr.'s wolfman.

I meet people all of the time who tell me they know those three famous charcters, but have never watched one of their movies for various reasons like they don't care for old black and white films, but they are aware of the Universal monsters. I am well aware that I am in a minority of monster lovers and this minority has a name... "Monster Kids." That's right, devoted fans of all things monster and when I say devoted I mean we are fanatical.

For the past four years I have shared some of my childhood monster memories and even given recommendations for some good movies to watch during the Halloween festivities and I have three that I am going to mention in this article.

This past weekend my wife Dawn, and I went down to Canton, Ohio, for a two day movie marathon at the historic Palace Theater put on by the Monster Bash Magazine group. Ron Adams and gang do a great job putting on this event and the best part of this weekend is getting an opportunity to talk to like minded fans of all things monster and horror.



Christopher Lee as the Creature in the 1957 film "The Curse of Frankenstein."



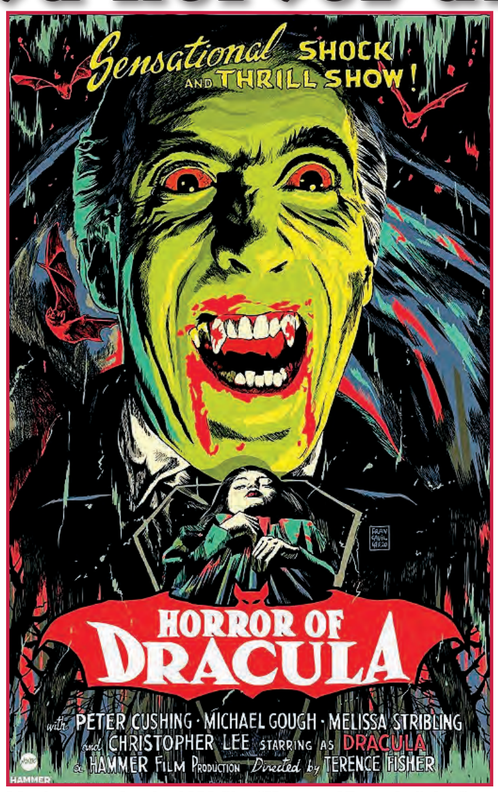
Peter Cushing as the Baron Victor Frankenstein from the 1957 Hammer film "The Curse of Frankenstein."

Four movies on Friday and four movies on Saturday and this year's theme was all British horror movies.

Two Dracula movies, one werewolf, one mummy and one Frankenstein feature and a few others to round it out to eight total movies all filmed by the British production house known as Hammer Films. Hammer Films are known for their Horror features but they made all types of movies from sci-fi, adventure, mystery, pirates and even cavemen fighting dinosaurs and they excelled in both film and television.

But the horror genre was where they really had an impact on audiences, especially the movies they filmed in Technicolor.

A few things Hammer films are known for are the building sets as always having a gothic looking architecture inside and out with the outdoor scenery that are real outdoor locations not indoor sets, but rather English country sides with lavish forest.



Movie poster for the 1958 film "Horror of Dracula," the first Dracula movie for Hammer films, directed by Terence Fisher.

The blood is always bright red, not dark red like real blood, but more like bright red house paint when it's wet.

And then there is the Hammer women, that's what they call them, Hammer women. I am being serious and there is even a book called "The Women of Hammer Horror."

They are always beautiful and voluptuous like the James Bond women. In fact many of the Hammer women appeared in James Bond movies like Ursula Andress and Caroline Munro.

But what is it that most fans will say comes to mind when you think Hammer movies?



Christopher Lee as Count Dracula in the 1958 Hammer film "Horror of Dracula."

I would say the franchise's huge rise in success was due to two actors who really had memorable performances that led to the increase in ticket sales throughout the 60s and 70s.

Peter Cushing and Sir Christopher Lee are two of my favorite actors and many would say that the Hammer Films propeled their careers to global prominence, but I think it is the other way around and that their performances helped propell the Hammer films to global prominence.

Boris Karloff's performance as the Frankenstein monster is the best, but Christopher Lee's is not bad and I love Bela Lugosi's Dracula, but I think Christopher Lee's is better and more savage and a bit more scary when you're 7 years old watching the "Horror of Dracula" for the first time as I did.



Peter Cushing as Dr. Van Helsing, the vampire slayer from the 1958 Hammer film "Horror of Dracula."

Colin Clive did a first rate portrayal as Dr. Henry Frankenstein in the 1931 original "Frankenstein" movie, but I think Peter Cushing has a more convincing performance as Dr. Victor Frankenstein.



Movie Poster for the 1961 "Curse of the Werewolf."

Edward Sloan played Van Helsing in the original Dracula, but Peter Cushing is the best Van Helsing ever and took the role five times for Hammer Films. Cushing's performance is like Sherlock Holmes meets Batman. Oh, by the way Peter Cushing played Sherlock Homes 18 times for television and film.

If you are looking for a couple of good Universal monster movies and in color too, check out the "Horror of Dracula" and "The Curse of Frankenstein.

And lastly if werewolf movies are your thing check out "Curse of the Werewolf" by Hammer Films. Happy Halloween!

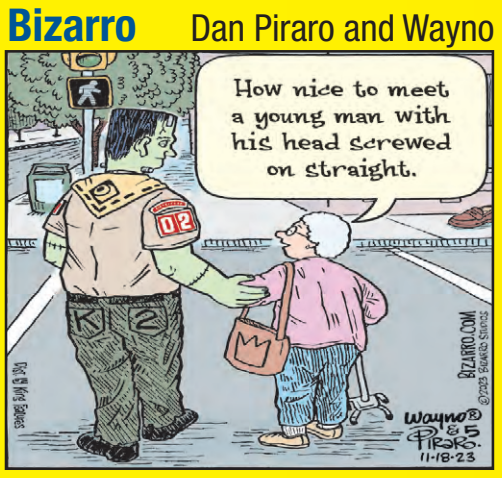
Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Peanut — Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro — Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp — Reg Smythe



The Flying McCoys — Gary & Glenn McCoy



B.C. — Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



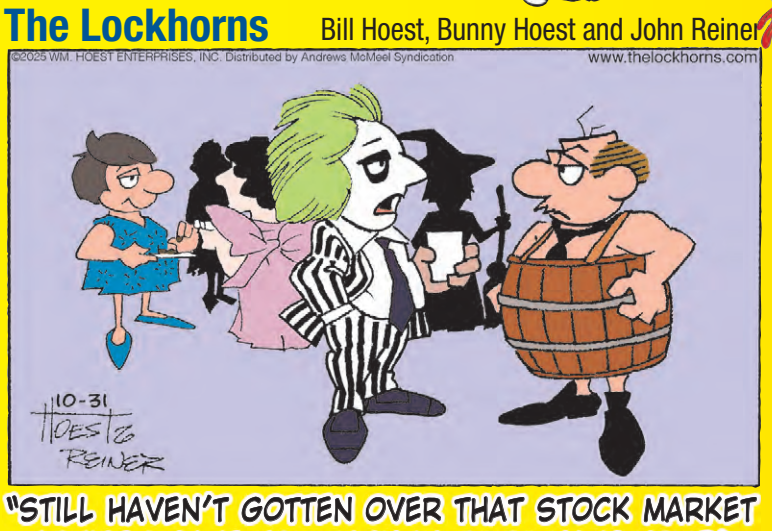
Reality Check — Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey — Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns — Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

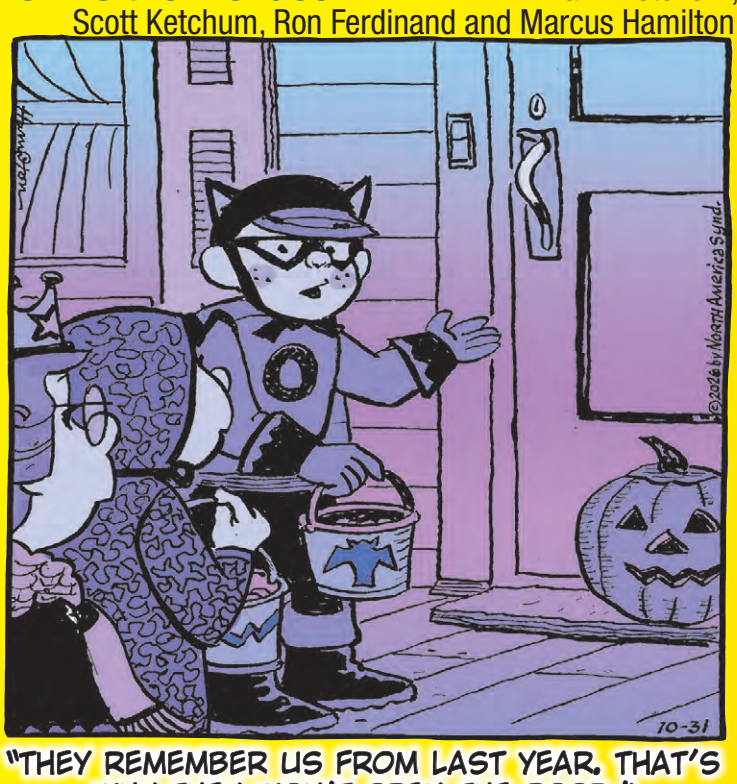


"STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER THAT STOCK MARKET ADVICE I GAVE YOU BACK IN 2021, HAVE YOU?"

Mother Goose & Grim — Mike Peters

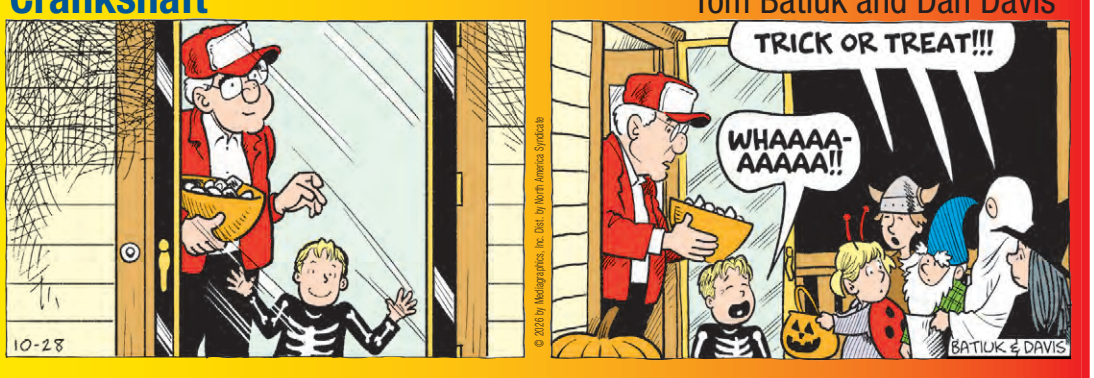


Dennis the Menace — Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"THEY REMEMBER US FROM LAST YEAR. THAT'S WHY THEY WON'T OPEN THE DOOR."

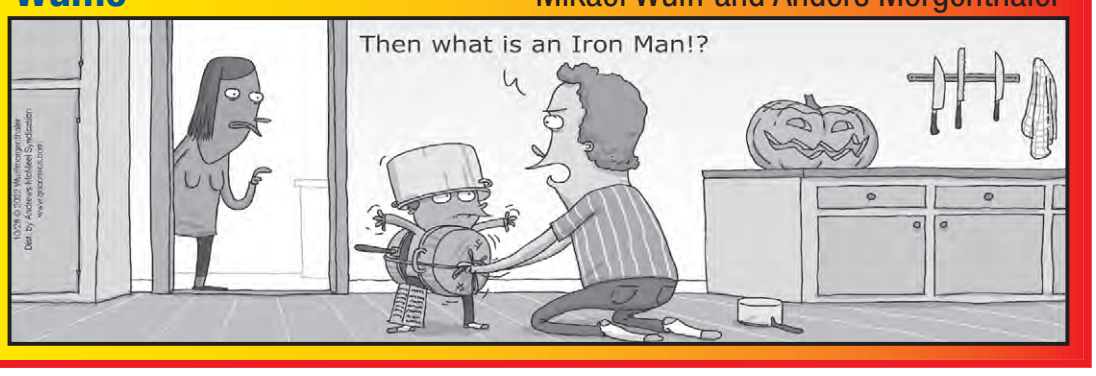
Crankshaft — Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem — Niklas Eriksson



Wumo — Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



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Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



Close To Home

John McPherson



When zombies trick-or-treat.

Wizard of Id

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



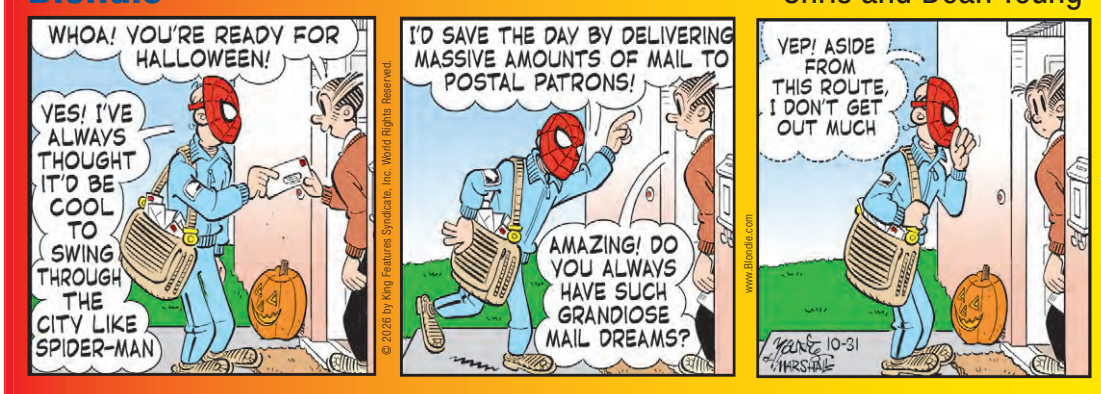
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Marmaduke

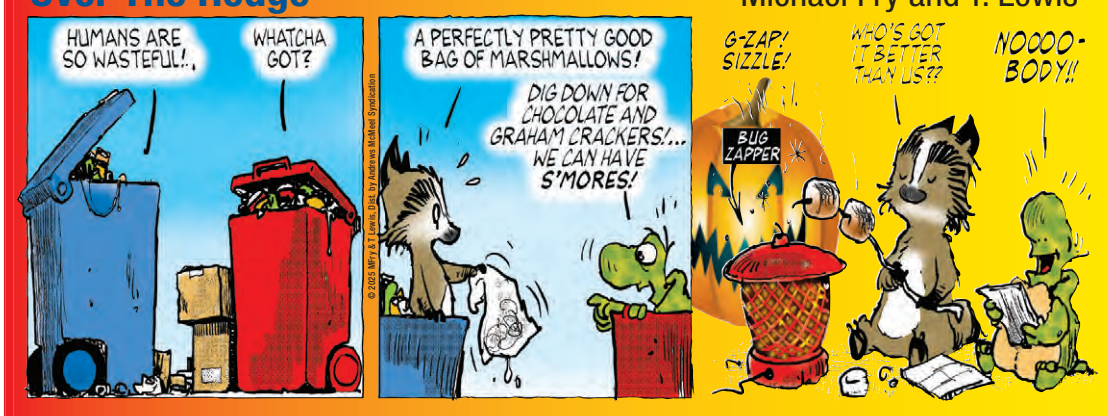
Paul & Brad Anderson



"How did Marmaduke end up with better candy than we did?"

Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



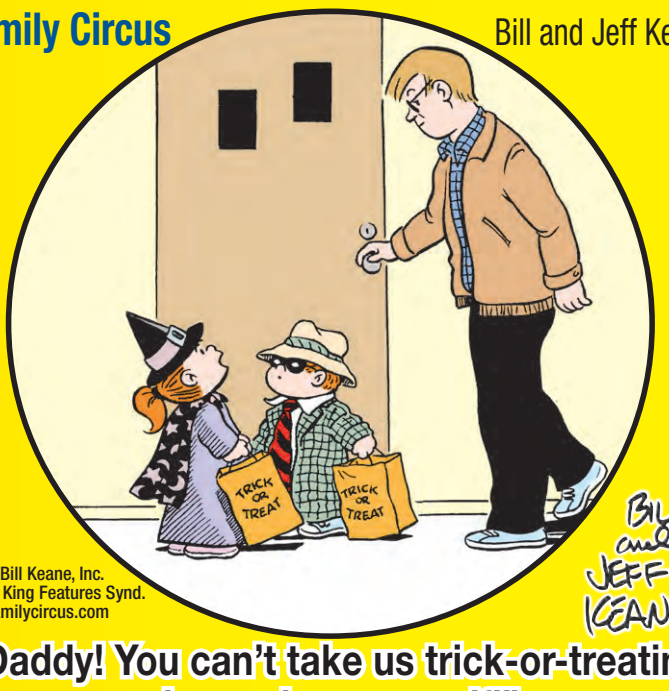
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Family Circus

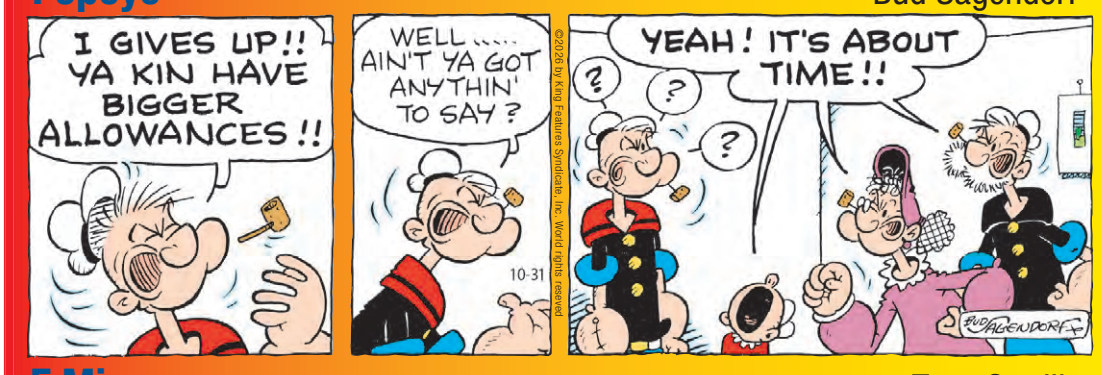
Bill and Jeff Keane



"Daddy! You can't take us trick-or-treating dressed as yourself!"

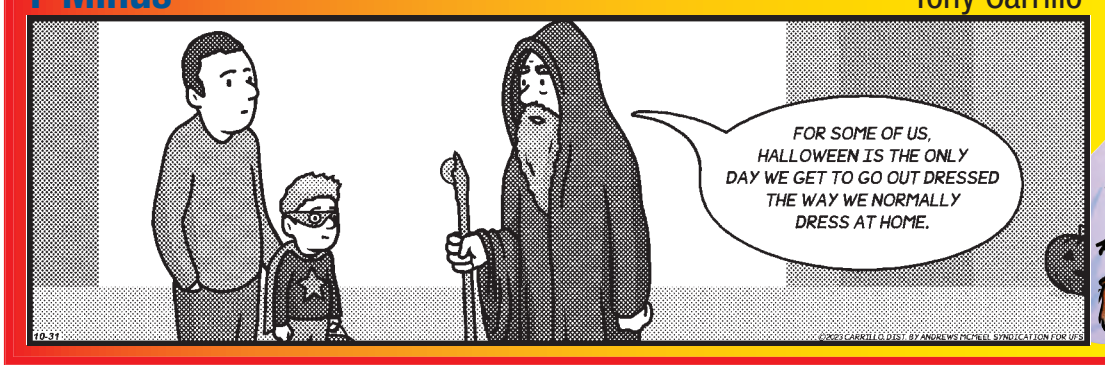
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo





Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

10/22 Solution

10/29

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Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below and spell out the hidden sentence with the unused letters.

CREAKY
CREATURE
DARK
FOGGY
FRANKENSTEIN
GARLIC
GHOST
HYDE
JACKOLANTERN
RAVEN
MOONLIGHT
MUMMY
PUMPKIN
SCARY
SUNSET
VAMPIRE
WEREWOLF

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Eastern Time After that, the Moon moves from GEMINI into CANCER.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, October 29, 2026: You're a natural leader who is innovative, independent and skillful. You are resourceful and have an excellent clarity of vision. This year is about creating solid foundations in your life. Take charge of your health. Physical exercise will play an important role. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You might be involved with ex-partners and friends from your past. It's a great day to socialize and enjoy sports events and fun times with kids. You're on your game! Tonight: Relax.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Financial negotiations will go well today, especially anything related to home and family or a home business. Relations with co-workers are positive. Ex-partners and spouses might be on the scene. Tonight: Discussions.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a great day to get your hair done or have beauty appointments of any kind. Relations with others will be warm and energetic. Ask for what you want today! Tonight: Check your money and possessions.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

This is a feel-good day for you. You might be mulling over some moneymaking ideas. You also might contemplate a major expenditure. Plans to entertain at home will please you, along with efforts to redecorate. Tonight: You win!

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today you're full of innovative ideas that can help you write, promote, teach, act and connect with others. People are attracted to you because they want to hear what you have to say. Look for ways to make money. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today you might have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. But you can really talk to people today in a convincing way! You also might teach or learn something new that is thought-provoking. Tonight: Cooperate.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You're full of energy, curiosity and goodwill. You'll be generous and, in turn, people will be generous to you. Make travel plans and explore opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, higher education and the law. Tonight: You're admired.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Financial discussions will favor you today, which is why this is a good day to discuss inheritances, banking details, and insurance issues. Tonight: Play!

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You feel optimistic today; you feel that good things will happen. And there's a strong chance you're right. Relations with bosses and authority figures are excellent. Travel plans are favored. Education and writing are blessed today! Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a productive day for you at work and in your personal chores, including issues related to your health. Financial and practical support that you need will be there for you. It's also a good day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures. Tonight: Be cooperative.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is a fun-loving day! Enjoy social outings, sports events, fun activities with kids and a chance to express your creative talents. Romance is blessed, especially an attraction to someone "different." Tonight: Get better organized.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Working from home as well as family discussions will go well today. In particular, exploring innovative ideas, writing and interacting with family members will be productive and rewarding. Yes! Tonight: Relax at home.

BORN TODAY

Actress Winona Ryder (1971), actor Richard Dreyfus (1947), actor Rufus Sewell (1967).

Contract Bridge

A COUP EN PASSANT

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 7 3
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ 9 5

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ A K J 6
♦ K J 10 7 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ 9 6 5
♥ 10 8 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ Q J 10 8

SOUTH
♠ J 4
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 8
♣ A K 7 6 4 3 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Dble	Redble	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The coup en passant is a relatively simple play by which an apparently certain loser is made to disappear. But as with many other so-called advanced plays, the term used to describe it is more off-putting than the genuine article itself.

Let's say you're South and reach three clubs as shown. The contract seems easy to make when dummy comes down. But after West leads the K-A and a low heart, which you ruff, and you then play the ace of clubs, West shows out, and the outlook changes drastically. It now seems that you must go down one, losing two hearts, a diamond and two clubs. But with careful play, you can save a trick and make the contract.

You begin by leading a spade to the king and ruff dummy's last heart. This is followed by a spade to the ace and a spade ruff. At this point, you've won six tricks, and your hand consists of the Q-8 of diamonds and K-7-6 of clubs.

You next lead a diamond to the ace and play dummy's last spade. If East discards, you ruff with the six and thus acquire your ninth trick. If East ruffs instead, you discard the queen of diamonds, thereby getting rid of your diamond loser and a trump loser on the same trick to make the contract.

The play of dummy's spade to score an extra trump trick is called a coup en passant. You score the trick while "passing by" East, who is helpless in the matter.

All told, you score the A-K of spades, ace of diamonds and six trump tricks — even though East has two natural trump tricks. Your sixth trump trick somehow emerges out of thin air.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 29, 2026

ACROSS
1 Bond villain's hideout
5 Baseball hats
9 22-Down, in Germany
13 Snowballs, say
14 Ice Cube's first name
16 Trucks with big loads
17 Long-term genetic storage process (In this answer, note letters 2-6, minus letter 4)
19 Jennifer Lawrence played it in her school band
20 Protect
21 Japanese sport
23 That, in Spanish
24 "Listen up!" (... letters 3-8, minus letter 7)
30 Total hoot
32 Birth control option: Abbr.
33 Caught 40 winks
34 Vaccine pioneer Jonas
35 Kaitlan Collins' channel
36 Like dental exams
37 Kid on "The Andy Griffith Show" (... letters 2-6, minus letter 4)
42 "Neato!"
45 Key next to F1
46 Daytime TV melodrama
47 Kauai greeting
49 Awards for athletes
51 Coke can color
54 '80s supermodel (... letters 3-7, minus letter 6)
56 "That's not good"
58 Give off
59 Chalkboard material
61 Stand up
62 Bed that may have wheels
63 Bottoms with wide bottoms (... letters 3-8, minus letter 6. Bonus: Note what the excluded letters spell!)
65 Kerfuffle
66 Caterpillar, e.g.
67 Fencing blades
68 Hi-___ image
69 First occurrence
70 ___ cloth

DOWN
1 They're bad luck to walk under
2 Memory loss
3 "Silly me!"
4 Spa cover-up
5 Residence in a building
6 Interrogate, say
7 ___ Beta Kappa
8 Had a feeling
9 Piece of cereal for Toucan Sam
10 Gently tease
11 Before now
12 Utilize
15 Water, in Spanish
18 Raggedy Andy's sibling
22 "___ Robinson"
25 Where waiters find cabs?
26 Look for treasure
27 German mister
28 Hoppy brew
29 Gateway Arch's home, briefly
31 Bout result, for short
35 Not trans
38 Ring, as church bells
39 Viper by the Nile
40 Swung between two extremes
41 Eyelid hair
42 F1 vehicle
43 Served with a scoop
44 Flavored chip brand
48 Scorching
50 "Feed a cold, ___ a fever"
51 "When Harry Met Sally..." director Rob
52 Occasion for egg decorating
53 Like gala attire
55 Narnia's lion king
57 Curtain
60 Suckler's target
63 Gecko : Geico :: ___ : Progressive
64 Snoopy, to Charlie Brown

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	D		M	A	C			C	H	O	P	P	Y
I	V	E		O	I	L	S		B	Y	P	A	S	S
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10/22 Solution

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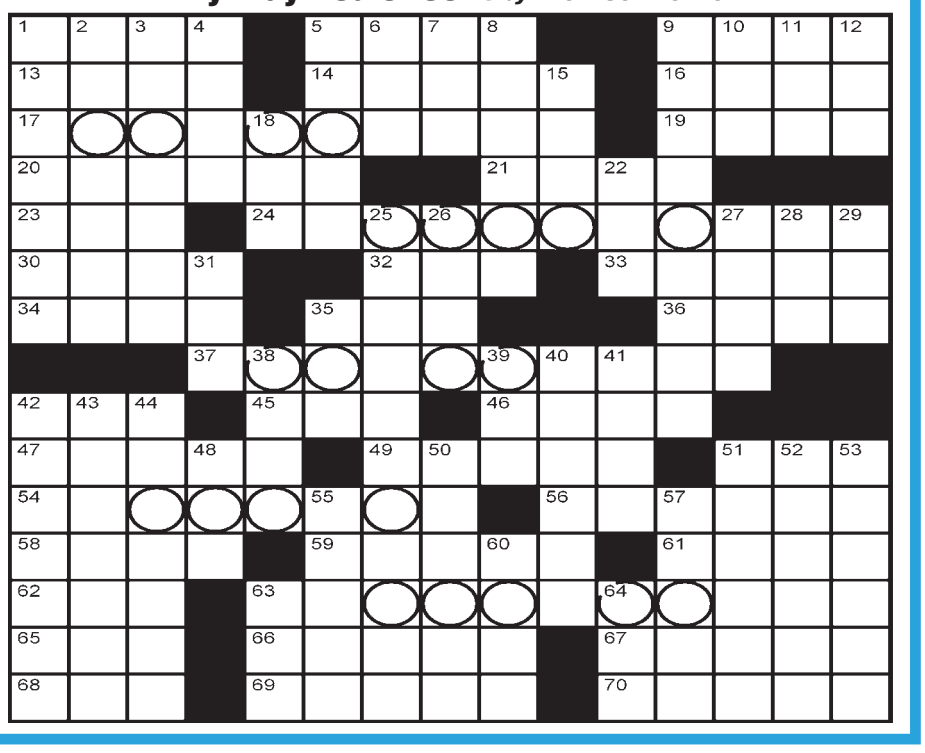
10/29

Any Way You Slice It *by Drew Schmenner*



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South football notches ninth rivalry win in a row, defeats North 36-0

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

One of the most anticipated and exciting nights on the annual sports calendar in the Pointes arrived Friday, Oct. 23, when the varsity football teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South met for their annual matchup on the gridiron. Fans packed the stands at North for a night that often feels like it is about more than just football for the community. However, on the field, the result was yet another big win for the Blue Devils, their ninth in a row in the rivalry series, taking down the Norsemen 36-0.

"We're really proud of them and they understand that this is them taking their place in history," South football head coach Chad Hepner said after the game. "... Our seniors are great leaders and I feel like we did a really good job preparing for this game in practice and taking the right approach to take care of business."

After South's defense forced the Norsemen to punt on the first possession of the game, South's offense wasted little time in putting up points. A 60-yard pass from senior quarterback Sam Rouleau to senior receiver Trey Grabowski set things up for a short rushing touchdown by senior running back Charlie Michelotti as the game's first score. A North penalty on the extra point attempt gave South another try from the one-yard line and the Blue Devils successfully attempted a two-point conversion to make the score 8-0.

Michelotti added another touchdown on the ground later in the first quarter to give South a 15-0 lead by the end of the opening frame. Rouleau and Grabowski connected for a touchdown early in the second quarter to extend South's lead to 22-0. Rouleau used his legs to find the end zone for another South touchdown that made it 29-0 before halftime.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South's offense lines up across from the Grosse Pointe North defense during the teams' annual rivalry game Friday, Oct. 23.



Grosse Pointe South senior receiver Trey Grabowski celebrates with the South student section after catching a touchdown in the second quarter against Grosse Pointe North Friday, Oct. 23.

The only points of the second half came on a passing touchdown on South's first drive of the third quarter from Rouleau to Charlie Bedsworth for 43 yards. With the score at 36-0, the clock ran down for the remainder of the second half without any more points added to the scoreboard.

Rouleau finished the game 14-of-18 passing for 224 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while adding 41 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Grabowski had four catches for 86 yards and, on defense, Cole Zaccagni recorded two sacks and nine total tackles.

The win was the ninth in a row for the Blue Devils over North; however, the Norsemen still lead the all-time series 31-28. South's regular season ends with a record of 8-1, while North finishes at 6-3.

"It gives us a watermark of what we need to do to get to the next level," North football head coach Joe Drouin said about playing South. "It can be hard when you're a (MAC) Gold team playing a (MAC) Red team like that...We have to have a goldfish mentality. It hurts, but

See RIVALRY, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Webber among state's field hockey elite with South

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Wells Webber
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Field hockey
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

A few years ago, while in middle school, Wells Webber decided to give field hockey a try with the Neighborhood Club. The sport stuck with her and she quickly began playing for a club team before eventually joining the field hockey program at Grosse Pointe South High school. Now in her junior year and third season on South's varsity team, Webber has turned into one of the top players in the state and a leader on what the Blue Devils believe is a championship-caliber team.

Webber is part of a midfield loaded with talent for the Blue Devils this fall. In the past, her midfield responsibilities often focused on helping the defense. This year, Webber is more focused on contributing offensively, showing how plenty of offseason work has paid off.

"Last year, I was more on the back end of the midfield where defense was more of a priority," she said. "This year, I've been more focused on offense. I was really looking forward to that and I really practiced a lot leading up to this season."

Webber has 31 goals this season — the most in the state — and is also the leader with 73 total points. She is averaging four points per game, becoming a true catalyst for South's often high-powered offense.

While her individual stats put her among the top players in the state, Webber always focuses on the team. Her outstanding numbers of goals and points would not be possible without the chemistry she has built with her teammates, not only this fall, but over the course of the past three years. Webber and her teammates have become a close group that works like a well-oiled machine on the field and it results in success for Webber and the Blue Devils as a whole.

"It's so fun being able to play for a school with your best friends," Webber said. "We get to be with each other every day and even doing stuff together outside of field hockey still builds chemistry for when we're on the field ... learning how to build off of each other and learning how to make it, so the team is really a team and not just a bunch of individual players. We know where

See ATHLETE, page 2D



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South field hockey junior Wells Webber winds up to take a shot in a game against Grosse Pointe North Sept. 23.

Playing Wells

- Leads all players in the state with 31 goals and 73 points this season
- Averaged 4 points per game for South field hockey this fall

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South downs North in field hockey playoffs, falls in regional final

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Action in the MHSAA field hockey state playoffs continued over the past week as teams try to step closer to a state championship. Last week's regional tournament featured a crosstown rivalry postseason showdown and a dramatic regional final game that saw the season come to a close in the Pointes.

The varsity field hockey teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South met at South Wednesday, Oct. 21, for the Division 1 regional semifinal. With the excitement of a crosstown rivalry matchup in the playoffs, the game was dominated by the Blue Devils, who emerged victorious 8-0.

Aubrey Lindow and Wells Webber opened the scoring for South, giving the Blue Devils a two-goal lead after the first quarter. Webber and Lindow added another goal each in the second quarter, with goals by Therese Carron and Mia Rouleau helping make it 6-0 Blue Devils going into halftime.

Evie Baer added another to the tally for South in the third quarter to make it 7-0. Hannah Agnone found the back of the net for the final goal in the fourth quarter to help South seal the victory and advance to the regional championship game.

The regional final saw South hosting Detroit Country Day Monday, Oct. 26. While the Blue Devils had beaten the Yellow Jackets in their regular season meeting in early September, Country Day came out on top in the regional final 3-1 in what was a close playoff battle.

South and Country Day fought to a scoreless tie after the first quarter and the game remained scoreless going into halftime. The Yellow Jackets got on the board first early in the third quarter and added another to take a 2-0 lead going into the final frame.

However, South was able to answer back in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter. Agnone scored what ended up being the Blue Devils' lone goal of the game, but it cut Country Day's lead in half. As South tried to push to complete the comeback, the Yellow Jackets added one more goal with just over five minutes remaining to increase their lead to 3-1 and eventually close out the win.

"The coaching staff is so proud of the growth of this team from where we started in August to making it all the way to the regional final game," South field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "From developing skillsets and strategy to becoming students of the game, learning resilience and becoming confident in themselves and each other."

Country Day moved on to face Saline in the Division 1 state semifinal after press time Wednesday, Oct. 28. The Blue Devils' season came to an end with a 14-6 record.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Therese Carron runs with the ball past Country Day's Bridget Kenney in the regional championship game Monday, Oct. 26.



Grosse Pointe South's Karissa Jelinski looks to make a pass around Grosse Pointe North's Millie Moreland during the regional semifinal game Wednesday, Oct. 21.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

each other is, we know how each other runs and where to be when one person has the ball."

The group Webber has become particularly close with is her fellow juniors. Webber said she feels the junior class might be one of the strongest the program has ever had. The bond the players share has set a strong example for the younger players on the team with the leadership they've begun to show.

"My junior class, we're all super close," she said. "I think we're maybe the best class to come through South field hockey because we have so many strong juniors and we've gotten so close over three years. The freshmen and sophomores this year have so much potential and can look up to us and see how we bond and grow together, and we can see that they're starting to do the same."

Webber feels like she has grown a lot as a leader this fall by being an upperclassman and that leadership, combined with her skill, has made her one of the most valuable pieces in South's lineup. Her ability to find the back of the net is unquestioned, but what has stood out the most to the coaches who have worked with Webber is how her skills have combined with greater confidence to make her largely unstoppable.

"Watching her work for a shot under pressure speaks to her ability as a playmaker," South varsity field hockey coach Jessie Rouleau said. "She doesn't shy away from top defenders and is confident knowing she has the skills to put the ball in the net and help our team win games. She has mastered advanced shooting and elimination skills that pose a real threat to our opponents and are exciting to watch."



COURTESY PHOTO

Wells Webber leads all players in the state with 31 goals this season.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2026

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present except Mayor Pro tem Sawicki.

MOTIONS PASSED
1) To excuse Mayor Pro tem Sawicki from tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment.
2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held October 5, 2026 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Election Commission meeting held on October 6, 2026.
3) To remove the Postponed Item CM 10-170-26 from the Agenda.
4) To reconsider the failed resolution and approve payment to Premier Group Associates, LLC in the amount of $34,994.82 for Progress Payment No. 5 on the Roscommon Pocket Park project, #180-329.
5) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 136237 through 136330 in the amount of $560,141.89 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of $7,038.50 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of November 2026. (3)approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of $22,681.07 for professional services during the month of October 2026. (4) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of $6,286.62 for the processing and mailing of the summer tax bills, the October water bills and for envelope supplies. (5) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of $94,361.98 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of September 2026. (6) approve payment to Guardian Underground in the amount of $22,800.00 for their assistance with several water main breaks, and a stop box repair. (7) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of $26,112.75 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks and also for lawn cuttings at various residential homes that were not in compliance with the Ordinance and property clean up.
2) to Place for Second Reading and Adoption an amendment to the City of Harper Woods Zoning Ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance to Amend in Part an Ordinance entitled 'Harper Woods Zoning Ordinance' No. 2026-06 to Allow Drive Through Windows at Marijuana Establishments upon approval of a Special Land Use Permit," and further to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements.
3) to approve payment to Insituform Technologies USA LLC in the amount of $11,116.89 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2026 Sewer Rehabilitation by Full Length CIPP Lining project, #180-390.
4) to approve payment to Premier Group Associates, LLC in the amount of $34,994.82 for Progress Payment No. 5 on the Roscommon Pocket Park project, #180-329.
5) to approve payment to Duke's Root Control in the amount of $58,177.68 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV project, #180-391.
6) to authorize a change order in the amount of $18,365.00 to Premier Group Associates, LLC for the Roscommon Pocket Park Project, #180-329.
7) to authorize a change order in the amount of $15,962.97 to Hartwell Cement Company for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program, #180-367.
8) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of $348,951.50 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain for the period of October through December 2026.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, October 29, 2026

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, November 17, 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 (carry-out restaurant, La Pecora) at 19531 Mack Avenue. The subject site is zoned C, Commercial Business District.

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@gpwmi.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.gpwmi.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 10/29/26

South, ULS boys tennis teams finish season at state finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The fall varsity boys tennis season wrapped up last week with the state finals across all four divisions. The teams from Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School made the trip to the Midland Tennis Center for the state championship tournaments in their respective divisions. Both teams finished among the top five in the final standings, with Liggett finishing as the Division 4 state runner-up.

University Liggett

While the Knights' goal all season long was to defend its Division 4 state championship from last season, Liggett ended up second in the standings at the end of the Division 4 state finals Thursday, Oct. 22. Liggett ended the tournament with 20 points, tied for second with Ludington and four points behind first-place Jackson Lumen Christi.

The Knights did not leave Midland without any hardware, though. The highlight of the tournament for Liggett came in the No. 2 doubles flight, where Lucas Ferguson and Ian Moya emerged victorious as the No. 2 doubles Division 4 state champions.

"They were on fire," Liggett boys tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski said about the championship doubles pair. "It was awesome. They played great together and were so clutch at the end. ... Lucas dominates at the net and Ian rips the ball from the baseline. The pair worked out so nice together and they got better and better as the season went on."

Moya and Ferguson defeated Maden Brady and Theo McEldowney from Jackson Lumen Christi in the championship match. Moya and Ferguson won the first set 6-4 before dropping the second set 6-2, but the pair recovered and dominated the third and final set 6-0 to claim the title.

The pair were not the only doubles team from Liggett to reach a state final. Davis Ford and Charlie Laethem won three matches to advance to the No. 1 doubles state championship match. The pair went on to lose the state final in two sets against John Oliver and Matthew Brenzing from Grandville Calvin Christian.

Matteo Maricano and Jack Ingle were eliminated in the third round of the No. 3 doubles flight for Liggett. Graeme Zelond and Quentin Zhou lost in the second round of No. 4 doubles.

The Knights also had an individual state runner-up at the end of the tournament. Junior Justin Platt was the runner-up in No. 3 singles, winning his first three matches before falling to Ludington's Tyler Keillor in the final.

In the other singles flights, Tise Courtight won his first match for Liggett before being eliminated in the third round of the No. 1 singles flight. In No. 2 singles, junior Yurii Polnyi won his first two matches to advance to the state semifinal before losing to eventual state champion Oliver Kolb from Ludington. Fernando Romine lost his first match in the second round of the No. 4 singles bracket.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

The University Liggett varsity boys tennis team finished as the state runner-up in Division 4 after the state finals concluded Thursday, Oct. 22.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils competed in the Division 2 state finals that began Friday, Oct. 23, and concluded Saturday, Oct. 24, in Midland. South finished fifth at the end of the tournament with 19 points, the highest state finals point total for the program since 2004.

"When you look at where this program has been and where we're heading, this is a huge step forward," South boys tennis head coach Brian Kean said. "We've talked a lot about building a culture where competing for championships becomes the expectation, not just the dream. These players have helped move us closer to that goal. The thing I'll remember most isn't just the fifth-place finish or the records we broke. It's the way these kids supported each other all season. Tennis can be such an individual sport, but this group truly competed as a team."

Much of South's points at the tournament came in doubles play, where all four doubles pairs reached at least the state semifinals. Davis Gryzenia and Weston Jerabek, South's No. 3 doubles pair, made it to the state championship match.

The pair scored a huge upset in the semifinal round, knocking off the flight's No. 1 seed of Aaryan Senthilvanan and Mark Latinsky from Birmingham Seaholm. The upset win secured Gryzenia and Jerabek a spot in the No. 3 doubles state final, but the pair finished as runner-up after falling to Vettel Xu and Zander Salisbury from Midland Dow.

"What Davis Gryzenia and Weston Jerabek accomplished was incredible," Kean said. "To knock off the No. 1 seed on the biggest stage of the season, with everything on the line, says so much about their toughness and belief in each other. They weren't intimidated by rankings or seeds. They went out, competed fearlessly, and earned their opportunity to play for a state championship."

Oscar DeLuca and Henry Logan from South made it to the state semifinal in No. 1 doubles. Max Prather and Luke Brennan also reached the state semifinal in No. 2 doubles, and Peter Struck and Matthew Guthat were in the state semifinal for No. 4 doubles.

South's best singles performance of the tournament was in the No. 1 singles flight. Senior Matthew Bartoszewicz won his first two matches to advance to the state semifinal, where he was eliminated by eventual state champion Mason Crosby from South Lyon East.

Zaffran Bharucha for South lost in the second round of No. 2 singles. Nate Yeamans won a match in No. 3 singles before falling in the third round. In No. 4 singles, Jack Gryzenia lost in the second round to eventual state champion Luke Janz from Seaholm.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South's Luke Brennan and Max Prather play their Division 2 No. 2 doubles state semifinal match in the fog at the Midland Tennis Center Saturday, Oct. 24.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Grosse Pointe Public School System will receive bid proposals until **12:00 p.m. EST on November 4th, 2026** for North and South High School Interior Renovations, and Exterior Tennis Court Reconstruction. Grosse Pointe Public School System will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for the bid submission.

Pre-bid Clarifications must be sent to James Temple from Clark Construction at Jtemple@ClarkCC.com or Allie Furchi from Clark Construction at AFurchi@ClarkCC.com

Bids shall be submitted to:

Clark Construction Company Public Plan Room or https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/59138865ce945d0a00d24871

Step-by-step instructions for submitting a bid on Building Connected can be found at:

https://support.buildingconnected.com/hc/en-us/articles/3600102227 93-How-to-submit-bids-through-BuildingConnected

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school district. A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure Statement must also be included along with a Familial Disclosure Statement, Criminal Background Disclosure Affidavit, and a Non-Collusive Affidavit.

Bid documents may be viewed and downloaded at:

www.Clarkcc.com, click BIDS/Open Bids

Documents will be available for viewing on **October 19th, 2026.** Any questions, contact James Temple from Clark Construction at Jtemple@ClarkCC.com or Allie Furchi from Clark Construction at AFurchi@ClarkCC.com

Published: GPN, October 29, 2026

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RFP# 001843
MARY ELLEN STEMPFLE UNIVERSITY CENTER PHASE 1 EXPANSION PROJECT

Sealed responses to a Request for Bids will be accepted relating to the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center Phase 1 Expansion Project.

Sealed responses will be received until 2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, by delivery or mail to:

Wayne County Community College District
ATTN: Akmam Jaigirdar, District Procurement Officer
801 W. Fort Street, Purchasing Department – 4th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 496-2780

Late proposals will be returned unopened.

A Pre-Bid Site-Inspection Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 11 a.m. at:

Wayne County Community College District
Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center
19305 Vernier Road
Harper Woods, Michigan 48225

Project documents will be available on or after **Friday, October 23, 2026**, via download from the Wayne County Community College District website: https://www.wcccd.edu/divisions/administration-and-finance/procurement/request-for-quotations-and-proposals

The respondent company must agree to comply with requirements of Wayne County Community College District and Fair Employment Practices.

Wayne County Community College District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses to this Request for Proposal and waive any informality or irregularities in any qualifications if it is considered to be in the best interest of the College.

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940 Glass-Residential/ Commercial
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956 Pest Control
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958 Pool Maintenance
959 Power Washing
960 Roofing Service
961 Security Enforcement
962 Sanitation Services
964 Sewer Cleaning Service
965 Shutters
966 Snow Removal
968 Shrink Wrapping
969 Swimming Pool Service
970 T.V./Radio/CB Radio
971 Tree Service
973 Tile Work
974 VCR/DVD Repair
975 Vacuum Sales/Service
976 Ventilation Service
977 Wall Washing
980 Window Installation
981 Window Washing
983 Welding

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500 Animals Adopt A Pet
502 Horses For Sale
503 Household Pets For Sale
504 Humane Societies
505 Lost And Found
506 Pet Breeding
507 Pet Equipment
508 Pet Grooming
509 Pet Boarding/Sitting
510 Animal Services

AUTOMOTIVE
600 Cars
601 Chrysler
602 Ford
603 General Motors
604 Antique/Classic
605 Foreign
606 Sport Utility
607 Junkers
608 Parts/Tires/Alarms
609 Rentals/Leasing
610 Sports Cars
611 Trucks
612 Vans
613 Wanted To Buy
614 Auto Insurance
615 Auto Services
616 Auto Storage

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651 Boats And Motors
652 Boat Service/Care
653 Boat Parts
654 Boat Storage/Docking
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Announcements

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Sunday
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3:30 PM
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An afternoon exploring mental health through music.
Free admission, donations welcome.
Reserve seats at detroitmedicalorchestra.org.

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Interested? Contact katherine.trost@stpaulgp.org

11:28 Ministries needs you!
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Grosse Pointe News

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NANNY Needed

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Schedule:
2 days/week 7 am - 6 pm (no weekends- Sat/Sun; days of the week vary week to week based on work schedule)

Start date:
January 4 (optional: can start sooner if requested!)

Looking for a reliable, safe, loving nanny to care for our 4 month old baby (6 months at time of start date)

We are hoping to find someone who is reliable and on time, enjoys working with children/babies, has experience with babies, and provides a safe environment for our baby to develop and grow.

Responsibilities:
Provide safe, loving, appropriate care to our baby

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Infant CPR is highly encouraged

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Parents- Please Verify All Child Care Licenses!

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday
October 29, 30, 31
9:00- 4:00
- Beautiful sale
- Lots of items
- Grand piano
- Antique armoire
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- Christmas items
- Much furniture
- Crystal
- China
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BUYING BOOK COLLECTIONS
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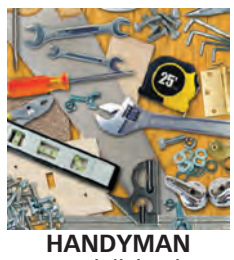

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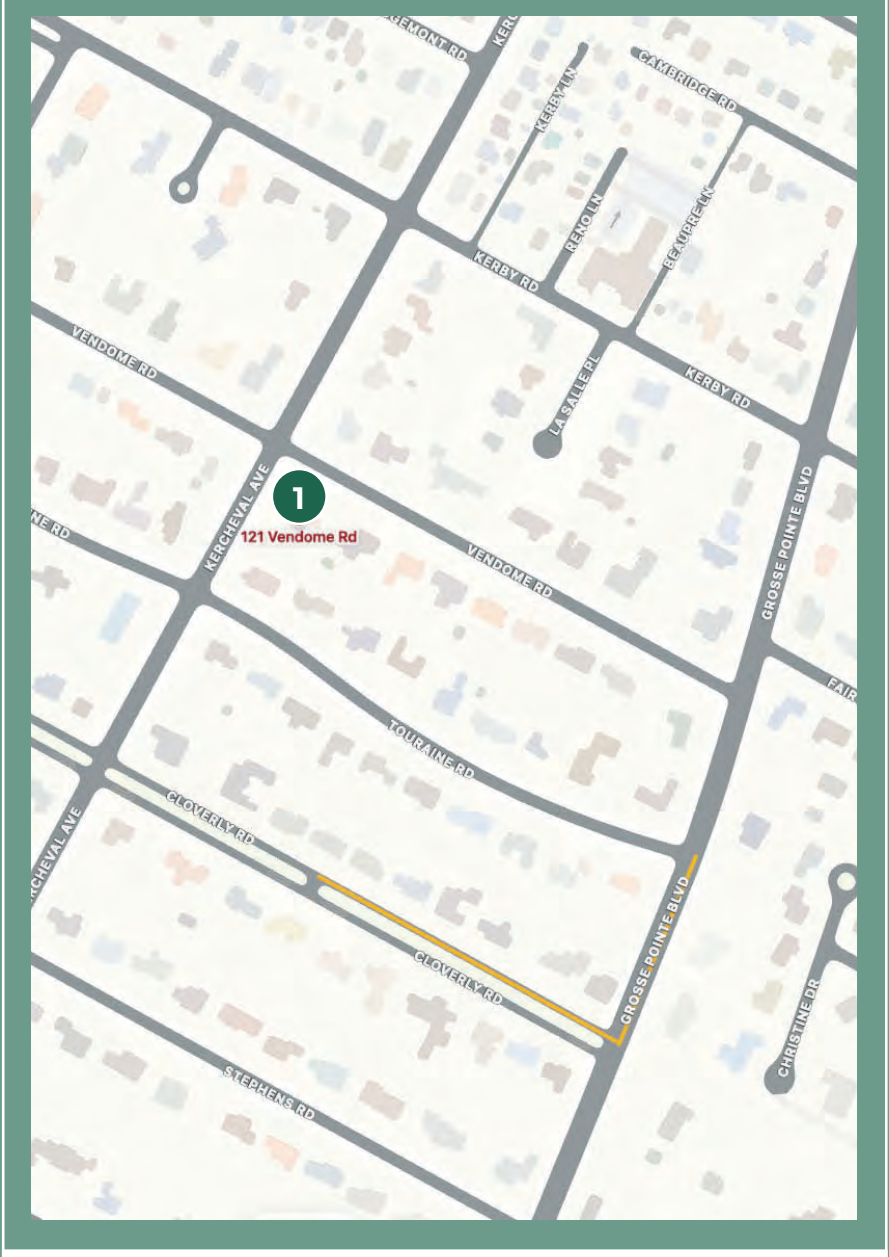
Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK: October 29, 2026

1. 121 Vendome, GPF

= YARD SALE = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details

It's time again for us to search for the reader photos that best capture the spirit of the Pointes — for our upcoming 2027 calendar!



SEND US YOUR BEST GP PHOTOS!

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER IS NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Selected winners will be included in a 2027 feature article about the winners, a 3-month subscription to the Grosse Pointe News and be included in a drawing for a $50 gift certificate to a great local restaurant.

TO ENTER:
Email your high-resolution (300dpi at 12" wide or larger) photograph to: media@grossepointenews.com with the subject line PHOTO CONTEST.

Grosse Pointe News

Include your name, address, city and phone number along with your photo entry. Winners will be notified by November 18 via email.

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By submitting my photo to the Grosse Pointe News I acknowledge and agree that it is an original photograph taken and owned by me, and that the Grosse Pointe News reserves the right to use the image for promotional purposes as well as in the 2027 calendar

North, South XC runners race in MAC championships

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity cross-country season has reached the point where every race left is among the biggest of the fall. The Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South varsity boys and girls cross-country teams had one of those big races Thursday, Oct. 22, at Lake St. Clair Metropark in the MAC White/Blue Division Championships, where South's girls team had the highlight of the day by winning the MAC White Division title.



COURTESY PHOTO
Grosse Pointe South's girls cross-country team celebrates a first-place finish in the MAC White Division championship Thursday, Oct. 22.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils' girls cross-country team ended the day last Thursday at the top of the podium for the MAC White. Helping secure the victory were stellar performances by South's top runners, including a first-place overall finish by Eleanor Pilsner. The sophomore ran the 5K with a time of 19:06, finishing nearly a full minute ahead of the rest of the field while being named the league's most valuable athlete.

"Eleanor continues to race so well and keeps improving her strategies race after race in leading her team," South girls cross-country head coach Steve Zaranek said.

Pilsner was one of three South runners to finish in the top five and one of four in the top 10. Morgan Costello crossed the finish line fourth overall with her time of 20:12, and Emma Ford (20:16) was close behind in fifth place. Olivia Colt also made it into the top 10, finishing ninth with a time of 20:31.

Ria White was just outside the top 10, finishing 11th. Lydia Thomason-Redus and Ivy Surma crossed the finish 12th and 13th, respectively, so all seven of South's varsity runners earned medals for All-Conference honors.

While South's boys team finished at the top of the MAC White in the regular season standings, the Blue Devils finished fourth at the division championship race. Caleb Thomason-Redus had a top-five finish in the overall standings, coming in third place with his time of 16:33.

South's next best finish was 17th place by Grayson Wodzisz. Sam Phillips was right behind in 18th, while Logan Garbo also cracked the top 20 by finishing in 20th. Benjamin Trepanowski crossed the finish line 22nd.

Both the boys and girls teams for South will race again Saturday, Oct. 31, in the Division 1 regional meet at Willow Metropark.

Grosse Pointe North

North's girls team finished sixth in the MAC White Division race. Willa VanderWerp had the Norsemen's top finish by coming in 16th with a time of 21:22. Teammate Noelle Lyon was a couple of seconds behind and finished 17th overall. Erin Doolittle made it into the top 25 by finishing 25th and Evan Brunette finished 28th.

North's boys team was eighth at the end of the MAC White race. Isaac Hailu finished 27th with his time of 18:46. Liam Murphy was 30th and Hayden Bryer finished 33rd. Christian Murphy finished 35th and Nathan Csernatoni crossed the finish line 40th.

North's boys and girls teams will compete in the Division 2 regional meet Saturday, Oct. 31, hosted by Pinckney High School.









PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Top left: Grosse Pointe South's Charlie McPartlin and Cole Zaccagni bring down North quarterback Luke Bruveris for a sack.
Top right: South senior Charlie Bedsworth returns a punt out of the end zone against North last Friday. Bedsworth, a two-way player, racked up 86 yards on 3 punt returns against the Norsemen.
Below left: Grosse Pointe South QB Sam Rouleau leaps to control a high snap before kicking a 34-yard punt last Friday versus Grosse Pointe North.
Below right: Grosse Pointe North students win the annual halftime tug-of-war competition between the North and South student sections.

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RIVALRY:

Continued from page 1D

you have to forget about it and move on to the next week."

With an emotional rivalry game now finished, it is time for both teams to look ahead to the playoffs. North and South learned their respective playoff matchups for the upcoming postseason during the MHSAA's playoff selection show Sunday, Oct. 25.

South will begin the Division 2 playoffs with a matchup against Dearborn Heights Crestwood in the district semifinal. The Chargers made the postseason with a 5-4 record and ended the regular season with a 22-15 win against Canton last Friday.

"We talk about a new season starting, but our approach stays the same," Hepner said about preparing for the playoffs. "We're going to get after it the same way we have been all year and trust the guys to stay focused. Our senior leadership has been great, so I think we can do well."

The Blue Devils host Crestwood Friday, Oct. 30, with kickoff at 7 p.m.

For North, the team will meet Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. in the district semifinal to begin the Division 3 playoffs. The Crusaders are 6-3 and ended the regular season with a 37-19 loss to Cincinnati Moeller (OH) on the road. North visits King to open the playoffs Friday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m.