



# Grosse Pointe News

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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Applicants introduced

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Seven applicants for the council seat vacated when Sheila Tomkowiak was elected mayor in November 2019 came before council at a special meeting Monday, Jan. 27, to present a 5-minute introduction and answer council members' questions.

"I think it takes great courage and curiosity to submit yourself for this kind of public review and scrutiny and for that I'm really grateful," Councilman Terence Thomas said.

The applicants consisted of Matthew Bontomasi, Patricia Drury, David Fries, Maureen Juip, Seth Krupp M.D., Eileen Proudlock and Michael Ratliff. An eighth applicant withdrew his name just before the meeting.

The order of applicant presentations was drawn from a box with Fries, who also ran in the

November 2019 election and received 645 votes, selected first. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration with a minor in business administration and communication, several military certifications and is the owner of Home Management Services LLC, as well as a level three integrated logistic support manager for the U.S. Department of Defense.

"If appointed to city council, I would be very interested in forming a safety committee focusing on bicycle and pedestrian safety and home fire prevention," Fries said. "I am also an enthusiastic proponent of the multi-city Mack Avenue retail improvement plan and the Main Street Program."

Drury has a master's degree in business administration, as well as a bachelor's degree in organizational management and is president of

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Parents, many accompanied by their children, staged a protest before the Board of Education meeting Monday night urging the school district to slow down the reconfiguration process.

## Put on the brakes

Parents protest fifth grade move to middle school

By Mary Anne Brush  
 Staff Writer

Parents who staged a protest before the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting

Monday, Jan. 27, asked the school district to put the brakes on the reconfiguration.

A dozen or so families came out — even grandparents — to urge the district to slow down,

stop, "let kids be kids" and keep fifth grade in the elementary schools. Concerns were in response to the board's June 24, 2019, vote to close Poupard and Trombly elementary

schools and move fifth graders into the middle schools beginning fall of 2020-21.

Future protests focus on changes to special See PROTEST, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The deterioration of the Lakeshore seawall has been a long standing topic of concern within the Farms and Shores, growing even more urgent with last summer's rising lake levels.

## Engineering study planned

By Laurel Kraus  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES** — The Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores city councils approved an intergovernmental engineering study on the approximately three-mile stretch of the Lakeshore seawall between Warner Road and the Grosse Pointe Yacht

Club at their council meetings Tuesday, Jan. 21.

"Over the last probably a year and a half now, the administration from Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores (have) met with county officials in an effort to discuss the repair or replacement of the seawall adjacent to Lakeshore Road and it's our belief that the engi-

neering (study) is necessary to quantify what will be required to fortify the seawall and obtain definable cost estimates," Farms City Manager Shane Reeside reported.

The engineering study will be conducted by the Farms and Shores city engineering firm, Hubbell Roth and Clark Inc., and will include a

See STUDY, page 4A

## Council approves Schulte as acting city manager

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Frank Schulte, director of Grosse Pointe Woods Public Services, was named acting city administrator at a Woods city council meeting Monday, Jan. 27.

Schulte, who'll assume city administrator responsibilities

only when current City Administrator Bruce Smith is away for extended periods, such as vacation, will continue serving simultaneously as public services director.

A 35-year City of Grosse Pointe employee, Schulte said council's vote approving his new role is a career milestone.

"It's something that's a big achievement in my life," he

said. "It's an honor to receive after working in municipalities through the years."

Smith described Schulte, who has served four years as director of public works, as proven and capable in a recommendation letter to council.

"He has the leadership experience the city requires, as well as the administrative skills to keep things running smoothly

in my absence," Smith wrote. "I feel it is my responsibility to the city, its residents and the employees to recommend the person best suited for this position."

Schulte said he's grateful for the opportunity to serve in his new position when needed.

"I'm just very appreciative of the city manager and the council," he said.

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### Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



#### Steve Zaraneck

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms  
 Hall of Fame head coach for South girls cross country and track and field



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# DTE project to decrease outages

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS, SHORES AND WOODS** — Following frequent resident complaints about constant power outages a few months back, DTE Energy began an electrical project in Grosse Pointe Farms, Shores and Woods in mid-January.

“The service that these folks have been receiving hasn’t been up to our

expectations of the level of reliability that we would like to give them, nor have they been pleased with our performance,” said Joe Barger, manager of engineering for DTE. “They’ve experienced outages and low voltage and so we are performing some work to enhance the reliability of the service to that area.”

The majority of the work is taking place off Provençal and a small section of Kercheval.

The project is set to include tree-trimming to keep branches away from the wires, followed by upgrades to the system including replacement of poles, wires and transformers that feed in behind the houses.

“It’s also my understanding that they’re going to put a larger wire in, which will take more amp capacity, which will upgrade the system,” Shores Director of Public Works Brett Smith said.

The project is scheduled to be completed by April 1, Smith reported.

“Keep in mind that this is a big project and weather has a lot to do with this type of construction,” he said. “They really enjoy the frost, so when this cold weather came they were quite happy, because they’re doing a lot of work in the rear yards and a lot less damage takes place when there’s frost on the ground.”

While about 45 residences will be physically impacted with workers in their backyards during this project, roughly 1,000 to 1,500 DTE customers in the area ulti-

mately will be impacted by the work.

“As a whole, the Shores, Woods and Farms, their reliability has been on par with our system average and on occasion there’ll be a pocket here or there that is not meeting that expectation and then we address them specifically,” Barger explained, “and that’s what we’re doing in this case.”

DTE is anticipating the project will cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

“It’s not an extensive amount of work from projects we’ve done in the past,” Barger explained. “This is not a huge project. ... It is not a

total rebuild of the entire city or anything like that. It’s really a targeted approach because of specific issues these customers have been having.”

DTE also reported it has been working closely and in constant communication with the cities on the initiative. The company hosted an open house in the Woods Thursday, Jan. 16, where the community could learn more about the reliability work.

“I’ve had the opportunity to speak with most of the (Shores) residents and they are welcoming the upgrade,” Smith said. “I’m looking forward to a smooth project.”

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## PROTEST:

Continued from page 1A

education and the magnet program Monday, Feb. 10; school closures Monday, Feb. 24; and an overall protest Monday, March 9. All are scheduled at 6:30 p.m. prior to 7 p.m. school board meetings.

The first protest, focused on the fifth grade move and attended predominantly by Grosse Pointe Park residents, coincided with school district administrators unveiling a middle school plan and providing some of the answers parents claim they’ve been seeking for months.

“We’re here because this has gone on long

enough,” said protest organizer and Trombly parent Jennifer Munson. “Parents who felt disenfranchised by this process, unheard by the administration and the board want them to take a pause. We want them to hit the brakes.”

GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus closed the meeting with a request of his own: “To refocus back on what’s important and that’s our kids and it’s our faculty and staff and the building leadership we have in place.”

“I guess what I would want to know is what can we do as a community to support and help the movement forward,” he added. “Because I have not heard this board say one time yet

that we’re going backwards. They’re always telling me we’re moving forward. This reconfiguration plan has to be in place.”

At the same time, he assured community members that teachers and administrators are working hard in the best interests of the students.

“Because nothing — nothing — gets in the way of what’s best for our kids,” he said. “The teaching and learning is what’s best for our kids and we only do that when we have the best teachers and faculty available.”

See “A day in middle school” on page 9A for a summary of the presentation.

## INTROS:

Continued from page 1A

Perceptum LLC, which provides program management, learning solutions implementation and instructional systems design services to Ford Motor Co.

“Each person in this room is issued an allotment of 86,400 seconds each day,” she said. “... so how you spend that time really matters and what matters to me is trying to make a difference.

So if I have this spot, I don’t have a preconceived idea of what it is I want to specialize in, where I want to focus.”

Proudlock has a bachelor’s degree in advertising and is a partner and director at Sage Media Planning & Placement. Additionally, she was involved with RenewGP, a committee to pass the Grosse Pointe Public School System millage proposals in November 2019, and is special projects chairwoman on the Maire Elementary School PTO.

“Between the Main Street project and the Mack Avenue corridor, I’m really excited to hear all the great things that the city is doing,” she said. “... If selected for council or not, I do want to look at ways we can get that communication out to residents. I feel like there’s a lot of people that aren’t in tune with what’s going on around here. We have so much to be proud of.”

Ratliff has a degree in communications and is vice president of sales for Virtual Services Inc.

“Most of my friends, when I talk to them, they have no idea what’s

going on with city council, nor do they care and one of the reasons why I wanted to come here was to get them engaged,” he said.

Juip has a master’s degree in business administration, as well as a bachelor’s degree in science engineering and is a parent advocate for Friedrich’s Ataxia Awareness. Additionally, she is a parent volunteer for St. Paul Catholic School and serves on various committees.

“One of the things that was mentioned that piqued my interest was that there will be a strategic planning process coming up in the next few years that the city council oversees,” she said. “... (Additionally) making sure we have the right environment to bring in some businesses that will be sustainable in The Village and the opportunities we have on Mack Avenue ... is something that would be important to me.”

Krupp has a doctorate, as well as a bachelor’s degree in English and is a senior staff physician, medical director and vice chairman of operations in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Henry Ford Health System. He also is a clinical instructor at Wayne State University and an adjunct physician instructor at the University of Michigan.

“I strongly value the community, surroundings and services that are offered to my family and would like to take part to help ensure that our city remains a beautiful place that supports safety, community and long-term positive growth,” he

said. Bontomasi has a bachelor’s degree in building construction management and is vice president of operations and project manager/estimator for Wolverine Stone Co.

“I would like to see us continue to collaborate with the other Pointes to reduce costs, yet still maintain our great services,” he said. “I feel that attracting the younger generation is important. I think we need to continue the festivals, as well as create new ones to pique the interest of this generation. I would also like to ensure we are taking advantage of all available funding at both the state and federal levels.”

Tomkowiak reported the council will review the applicants’ material and each come up with three top candidates to see if they can reach a consensus.

“This is going to be a very difficult decision,” she added. “We’ve had some really fine candidates come forward. (It’s) quite an impressive slate.”

The council will vote to fill the seat at either the council meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10, or at another special meeting.

“I was where all of you were today and I was not selected to be on council, so if for some reason you don’t get selected but you’re interested in doing this, don’t give up,” Councilman Daniel Williams said. “You can run. There will be an opportunity in two years, so I encourage people even if you don’t get selected, stay engaged, stay involved, because you may get another opportunity.”

# Community reacts to choir director's suspension

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

An internal investigation into Grosse Pointe South High School's choir program resulted in a one-month suspension of the choreographer, Andy Haines, and a three-day suspension of the director, Christopher Pratt. At the regular meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Monday night, Superintendent Gary Niehaus announced a third-party investigation would begin Thursday.

Niehaus added he had scheduled a meeting with the choir boosters presidents "to talk about how we make amends to the program to make it the best program it possibly can be," Niehaus said. "Another championship would be fine with me; it's just figuring out how we're going to get there."

Pratt was suspended Tuesday, Jan. 21, through Thursday, Jan. 23, returning to the classroom Friday, Jan. 24. Due to the loss in rehearsal time, the choir's Winter Spectacular, a concert offered to the community each year before choir members launch into their competition season, has been postponed from Wednesday, Jan. 29, to Wednesday, March 4.

Choir booster co-president Laura Sanom notified choir parents about the suspension by email Wednesday.

"It had been very stressful for the kids that day, it had been very stressful by extension for the parents, so they needed some communication as to why that happened," Sanom said.

Pratt was suspended when he refused to sign a letter of reprimand containing language he believed was completely untrue, taken out of context or never happened, according to Sanom, who has not seen the letter herself. The letter, at least in part, was related to Haines' one-month suspension in December. Haines is contracted by the choir boosters and is not an employee of the school district.

Pratt recognized not signing the letter would result in the suspension, Sanom said. What he didn't expect was not to be consulted on the timing to ensure the least disruption to the program and students.

Adding to Sanom's frustration was the lack of communication with the students from the administration.

"They were very upset; they had no idea what was going on," Sanom said. "They were getting ready for their show. They were expecting to have intense rehearsals this week. So they were pretty upset about that."

"None of this needed to happen," she continued. "We didn't need to get to this point. When I learned there were concerns about kids and how they were feeling about the choir program back in October, I immediately contacted (GPPSS Human Resources Director) Nicole Pilgrim and asked what was happening. I was told that there were concerns and I asked to come in and talk about those concerns. I met with her and learned there had been a few complaints and they were talking with people who had concerns about

what was happening in choir. My next action was to talk with Mr. Pratt. He said (he) would love to work with administration to get to the bottom of those concerns. There should be a process in place. When a parent or student has a concern, Chris tries to be very open, have an open door. We have student leadership within choir for concerns to be addressed to. But that didn't happen here."

Sanom said she believed a more collaborative process could have led to a more positive outcome, including a better atmosphere for the students, and offered to help facilitate that.

"This isn't about thinking we have nothing to work on," she said. "Every program can improve. This is an opportunity for us to reflect and put better processes in place if we need them and think about what we need to be doing and working in collaboration with students and parents and administration if they want to partner with us."

A South senior, Emilio Garcia, and his parents, Luis and Melissa Garcia of Grosse Pointe Park, offered their perspective on what precipitated the investigation during public comments at the board meeting.

"This is extremely difficult, but I am continuously appalled by the behavior exhibited by the Grosse Pointe South choir and its stakeholders," Emilio Garcia said. "I, among many others, have experienced, firsthand, the toxic culture instituted and promoted by my own instructors and mimicked by students who are favored by the system. Having been a part of many different performing arts programs and having studied under a range of directors, I have never once come close to seeing such a dysfunctional and abusive team. Over and over, I have watched my friends — your children — be publicly demeaned, belittled and embarrassed. Not to mention the continued passive bullying carried out by unaffected students and even their parents backstage."

Garcia talked about being yelled at in front of the class, "systematically excommunicated," losing friends and having a father show up at his door when he was alone at home after he quit the choir.

"I'm so glad to say I am no longer afraid of what they will say. I am no longer afraid of being treated worse than I was for speaking up. I am only one of countless mistreated students."

According to Garcia, three other current students spoke about their experiences as part of the investigation. One student, who Garcia indicated had been publicly body shamed, wanted to speak at the meeting, "but she couldn't do it. She is so ashamed of what these people did to her," he said. "It's heartbreaking to see (her) be actively repressed by these people because she has something to say and she can't say it."

While board Treasurer Judy Gafa was reluctant to discuss employee issues at a board meeting, she offered assurances there was an in-depth

*"This is an opportunity for us to reflect and put better processes in place if we need them..."*

LAURA SANOM  
South choir booster co-president

investigation and all board members had seen the results.

"We got your emails. We got emails from students who have left the program," Gafa said.

Offering perspectives based on their own experiences, several choir parents spoke in support of the program and lauded Pratt and Haines for the positive impact they had on students. Some criticized the board and administration for what they deemed an unfair process resulting in the suspensions, while others supported the administration's actions.

Michelle White of Grosse Pointe Park, whose daughter is currently studying musical theater at the University of Michigan, thanked the administration for suspending Pratt, but said it wasn't enough.

"The choir director refused to sign the letter because he objected to the language that said that he allowed a contracted choreographer to bully students," White said. "I can tell you with great certainty that the administration did the right thing in disciplining the choir director. I stand before you because in 2016 the choreographer verbally abused and publicly humiliated our daughter in front of the entire cast of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' and the choir director watched it all go down and never stepped in. That was four years ago so you're probably wondering where we've been. Why didn't we come forward then?"

White detailed multiple ways she and her daughter sought to address the situation, including her daughter meeting with the director, both of them meeting with South's principal and White sharing concerns by email.

"Fast forward to now and the principal and the rest of the administration are listening and taking seriously my concerns

and the concerns of others regarding the safety of students in this program," White said. "Apparently others have come forward since 2016 and the issues of bullying by the director and the choreographer have bubbled up to the surface and reached higher levels within the administration."

White cautioned the board to "look hard at how we got here. The Grosse Pointe choir boosters wield a lot of power. Perhaps that power needs to be pulled back and perhaps the boosters should be barred from hiring outside professionals to work directly with our students."

Cynthia Fox Aboukasm of Grosse Pointe Park, a parent of three daughters who performed at South and went on to participate in performing arts in college, one now performing professionally, said her family is grateful for the benefits provided by their participation in the choir program and she personally never heard or witnessed bullying or inappropriate behavior from Pratt or Haines.

"These gentlemen are tough, that's true; they're kind and they are fair," Fox Aboukasm said. "They are two professionals that need to keep the attention of up to 150 kids on the stage. They need to keep them physically and emotionally safe and they did. A child misbehaving or not attending rehearsals must have some guidance, which is part of the process of learning and growing. I'm wondering if some are confusing following the rules and respect as bullying."

Private voice teacher Carol Perry, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident, spoke as "a witness and an ally to those who have spoken up bravely tonight and for those who are still afraid to come forward."

"Any teacher who resorts to publicly shaming students in order to get them to comply is not a very good teacher," Perry said. "Any educational environment that permits public humiliation of students under the guise of 'tough love' to prepare you for the real world is not a good educational environment."

Any elective school program that prizes competition results over their students' mental health or well-being is not a very good program. ... We have an opportunity and responsibility here to change this for the better. These kids deserve a program where they are respected and seen; not shamed and harassed. If you think that the only

way these kids succeed is through a culture of fear, I humbly ask you and challenge you to imagine how much better we could be if we replace that with support and respect instead.

"I want to be a part of this conversation and make these changes happen," she added. "I care about these kids and I know you do, too."

## Misleading posts

While Michael Rennell, president of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, said he couldn't discuss the details of choral director Christopher Pratt's suspension, he acknowledged "there's a lot of misinformation out there."

For example, two Facebook posts, one on a community discussion forum and another a public post on a private page, both dated Jan. 23, claimed Pratt's suspension was related to contract negotiations and his opposition to changes to the middle school schedule. Pratt is the vice president for negotiations for the Grosse Pointe Education Association.

One post went so far as to allege the suspension was "a calculated and political decision" timed to coincide with the administration's presentation of the plan to the board.

"Why suspend him now? Right before a choir

competition? ... (The administration) is set to present this plan to the board on Monday and needs the contract set to be able to do so."

According to Rennell, this rumor is false.

"Chris Pratt being suspended had nothing to do with contract negotiations whatsoever," he said. "He is vice president of negotiations, but the two things are completely separate. We are not even in negotiations right now."

According to Rennell, not only is the contract not "set," but negotiations likely won't begin until February. Union representatives first saw the proposed changes to the middle school schedule Friday, Jan. 24, with middle school teachers provided the opportunity to review the plan Monday, Jan. 27, prior to the presentation at the regular meeting of the GPPSS Board of Education that night.

— Mary Anne Brush

## The Week Ahead

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 20025 Mack Plaza.

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 15115 E. Jefferson.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 6

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Sustainability Committee, 6 p.m. at city hall, 15115 E. Jefferson.



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## 4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

## Coach Zaranek is the epitome of mentor

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

When you talk about teaching, coaching, building confidence and using patience to get positive results, you have to discuss one of Grosse Pointe's most successful head coaches — Steve Zaranek.

The 63-year-old Zaranek has spent his entire 41-year coaching career at Grosse Pointe South. He coaches girls cross country in the fall and girls track and field in the spring.

He also has spent his entire career teaching physical education and adaptive physical education at South.

Zaranek's resume is hall-of-fame material. When you combine both sports, he has coached 81 seasons. His win-loss record is 702-74, which is a .905 winning percentage.

His Blue Devils won 54 league championships and 48 state regional titles, including 42 undefeated seasons and 80 winning seasons. In addition, his teams finished in the top 10 at the finals 25 times, with four state titles.

He coached 75 all-state athletes, and the average size of his squads is between 90 and 120 annually.

"Teaching and coaching in Grosse Pointe, next to my family, has been the highlight of my life," Zaranek said. "I have never been surrounded by so many who care so much for our kids at our schools. I have worked alongside many of the finest professionals in the world of teaching and coaching and I am grate-

ful to have had this opportunity now stretch into a fifth decade."

His first head coaching gig started with girls cross country in 1979. His Blue Devils have compiled a record of 421-41, which is a .911 winning percentage.

They won 110 invitational titles, 28 league championships, 27 state regional crowns, 38 state finals appearances, 16 state top 10 finishes and a state title in 2011.

He also has coached 33 all-state runners.

On the track, he began his head coaching tenure in 1980, and through it all his Blue Devils have an overall record of 281-33, which is an .895 clip.

They have earned 50 invitational titles, 26 league crowns, 21 state regional championships and three straight state titles, 2011 through 2013.

He coached 42 all-state athletes, and his runners have produced three state records in the 800-, 1,600- and 3,200-meter relays, as well as a 3,200-meter relay which has a national high school record time.

Through all of the success have been long-time assistant coaches Leo Lamberti, who has been with Zaranek 36 years; Shawn McNamara, 21 years; and Mike Novak, 26 years.

Zaranek was inducted into the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association in 2007. He has been the Michigan Coach of the Year five times, nominated for the Michigan Coach of the Year 15 times and was a National Coach of the Year Finalist in 2013.

"I love what I do and I am extremely proud to be



Steve Zaranek, second from left, with state and national record setting 3,200-meter relay team, from left, Kelsie Schwartz, Ersula Farrow, Haley Meier, Hannah Meier. The national record, set in 2012, still stands.

a teacher and coach in GP," Zaranek said. "The vast majority of parents in our community raise amazing kids. The kids are kind, considerate, passionate and have great goals and ambitions. That all starts at home with Mom and Dad. My role has been to support those goals and to motivate and hopefully inspire what lies beyond high school.

"The coaches who have worked with me for decades, Leo Lamberti, Shawn McNamara and Mike Novak, along with many assistants, see things the same way. We align with each other perfectly. We are driven to focus on team support, sportsmanship and personal achievement. We do not stress the win column. Because of this, we attract the finest student-athletes, season after season. And because our

kids learn to understand the value in what we teach, we tend to win. The winning is simply a byproduct of positive teaching and support between us all. If we do not win, it does not matter because the values in all that we do remain the same."

The Zaranek family has resided in the Grosse Pointes for decades. Steve grew up in the Woods and graduated from Grosse Pointe North, as did his younger brother, Bob.

He played basketball and ran track, through the support of North's longtime athletic director, Tom Gauerke.

He enjoyed the sports and excelled at track. He ran in college at Wayne State University, running hurdles. Zaranek earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in

teaching from Wayne State.

At age 18, he started coaching the track team at St. Clare of Montefalco School. During his first three years, the number of participants went from 25 to 120, and the team won 11 CYO Metro Area championships.

He spent 15 years as St. Clare's track coach, basketball coach and athletic director.

At age 23, he was hired at Grosse Pointe South as a business education teacher and began coaching after then-athletic director Chuck Hollosy gave him the opportunity.

At that time, Zaranek took over the newly formed girls cross-country and track squads. The rest is history.

"Does this consistent message of support and unity pay off after high school? Without a doubt it does," Zaranek said. "I

have seen thousands of young women go through the track and cross-country program at South. Many are now well into their 50's. The successes with families and careers are staggering across the board. Leo, Shawn, Mike and I stay in touch with so many of our former team members and what they have accomplished in their personal and professional lives is absolutely inspiring.

"We hear too much of the bad in society when there truly is so much good. The values that begin at home and continue with our GP schools, along with teams such as ours, do pay off. It is worth the time and effort that every single teacher, mentor and coach puts into the classroom, on the stage and on the athletic field.

"Looking back, I would not change a thing. It all has been worth it. When you invest in our youth and make the commitment, long term, nothing much else can compare."

In addition to teaching and coaching, Zaranek coaches the newly formed Unified Basketball Team for special needs students. This is part of the Macomb Area Conference's Unified Basketball League. He also is a referee for metro area basketball during the winter.

He is married to Marianne. He has one daughter, Mira, and four step-children. Mira also is a member of Zaranek's coaching staff for both sports.

"My beautiful wife, Marianne, has been my No. 1 supporter in both my teaching and coaching career," Zaranek said.

## STUDY:

Continued from page 1A

topography survey and geotechnical investigation, which involves looking at the existing lake levels, elevation of the lake bottom and ele-

vation of the existing seawall as it relates to Lakeshore. Additionally, the study will involve bore samples to look at the soil conditions adjacent to the seawall.

"All of that will determine what the best solution is for deterioration

of the seawall and (we'll) get those recommendations and from that we can also better quantify what the cost would be for the fix and then the challenge obviously becomes where does the funding come from," Reeside explained.

He added the cities have been working with their "U.S. congressional representatives on exploring potential federal funding."

The total cost of the study is just more than \$72,000, Shores City Attorney Brian Renaud reported. Wayne County is expected to pick up half the cost.

"It's now going to be

forwarded to the Wayne County Commission for their approval, but we anticipate that they'll approve it based upon the fact that we worked together on the proposal and intergovernmental agreement to do that," Reeside explained.

Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen felt the two cities may be able to get approval from the county within the next month, Reeside added.

The other \$36,000 will be split evenly between the Farms and Shores.

"It is both Grosse Pointe Shores' and



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Farms and Shores will split half the cost of the \$72,000 study to determine a potential fix for the deterioration of the Lakeshore seawall.

Grosse Pointe Farms' position that Wayne County is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the seawall, but we think time is of the essence and in order to obtain the needed information in a timely manner, we need to proceed, we feel, with this study as soon as possible," Reeside said.

While Farms council approved the study and expenditure unanimously — Farms Mayor Louis Theros had an excused absence — Shores council had a 5-1 vote with Councilman Doug Kucyk opposing.

The motion was previously brought forward at the Shores' December council meeting, but failed 3-3 with council members Kucyk, John Seago and Matthew Seely opposing due to concern that the city would be claiming responsibility for the seawall, since documentation from 1929 states Wayne County is 100 percent responsible for its upkeep.

This was remedied for the January meeting by the Farms agreeing to engage Wayne County with the study. The Shores will then reimburse the Farms for up to \$18,000.

"The understanding is, we're not going to be a signatory because there was concern that the county was not going to accept the language and basically limit our liability," Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski said. "We're not a signatory to a legal document, so essentially we get the benefits but not the burdens."

The timeline for the study will be somewhat dependent on weather conditions, Reeside said. The cities are set to meet with HRC this week to begin putting together a timeline for starting and completing the study.

"I'm glad personally to see that it's back on track," Renaud said. "I think we've got to spend money to make money. This is a small amount of money in the scheme of things."

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## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Bribery via fruit

A 65-year-old Farms woman hired a 47-year-old Detroit man to do odd jobs around her Beverly Road home in the past, but over the past two weeks has felt harassed by the man, who won't accept that she currently has no work for him.

He has approached her numerous times in public and went to her residence on two separate occasions, the second time leaving several fruits on her porch.

## Abandoned purse

A purse found at a bus station in the 19000 block of Mack at 2:05 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, was brought to a nearby gas station and then reported to public safety when an employee opened it to look for identification and found drug paraphernalia.

## Driving while license suspended

When a LEIN/Secretary of State check showed fraudulent insurance on a 33-year-old Detroit woman's vehicle at 5:02 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, she was pulled over at Canyon Street and East Warren.

The woman was unable to provide a driver's license, proof of insurance or proof of registration and a LEIN check on her name showed 19 current suspensions, as well as four additional prior suspensions. She was arrested for driving while license suspended.

## Mom made me do it

After a call to public

safety reported a vehicle swerving into oncoming traffic and driving in the wrong lane on Moross Road at 6:47 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, the 60-year-old Farms woman continued to drive for two blocks before coming to a stop when officers attempted to pull her over. She told officers she was out celebrating her mother's birthday.

A strong odor of intoxicants was coming from inside the vehicle and a preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content was .21 percent. She was arrested for operating under the influence.

## Work made me do it

A 22-year-old Farms man was pulled over at 9:15 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, after his vehicle was seen swerving from side to side on Moran.

When the officer commented on being able to smell the odor of intoxicants coming from within the vehicle, the man denied drinking any alcohol and said there had been an event at his work and someone had spilled liquor, which he cleaned up.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol level was .12 and he was arrested for operating under the influence.

## Fraudulent insurance

A 32-year-old Southfield man's vehicle was impounded at 1:58 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, for fraudulent insurance.

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Unwanted driveway guard

After being found sleeping in the driver's seat of a running vehicle that was blocking the entrance of a parking lot in the area of Notre Dame and Kercheval Place at 2:47 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, a 35-year-old Kent man was arrested for operating under the influence and obstructing police when he was uncooperative throughout his arrest.

## Truthful law breaker

A 36-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at 8:38 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, for driving through a red light at Jefferson and Cadieux and immediately admitted to having a suspended license, for which he was arrested.

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Road Runner

A 22-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over at 2:09 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, after driving 75 mph on Lakeshore Road and bouncing off a curb.

The woman was unable to indicate where she was currently located and open intoxicants were in the seat next to her.

A preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content was .184 percent and she was arrested for open liquor transport, operating under the influence and driving while license suspended, as well as cited for speeding, improper lane usage and seat belt and local ordinance violations.

## Cleaning away the clutter

A cleaning woman is suspected of having stolen a \$4,000 pendant among other jewelry from a home on Willow Tree after two separate instances of missing jewelry, in November 2019 and on Tuesday, Jan. 14, after the home had been cleaned.

## Driving while license suspended

After being pulled over at Lakeshore Road and Edgewood Drive at 4:42 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, a 23-year-old Kalamazoo man was arrested for driving while license sus-

pending, expired vehicle registration, expired vehicle insurance and a misdemeanor arrest warrant.

— Laurel Kraus  
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Wire fraud

A 72-year-old man lost thousands of dollars in the form of a deposit toward a spring getaway to Florida, he told police Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The Woods resident wired \$2,411.40 to the host of an Airbnb property last year, expecting to spend time at the location in April 2020. When the man attempted to contact the host again in early January, he received no response and continued from Jan. 9 until Jan. 20 without success.

After contacting the Airbnb company, the man was told the host was no longer affiliated with the website.

The FBI is investigating the incident for possible wire fraud and Airbnb began a separate investigation.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Report information about this and other

crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Home invader in custody

A 40-year-old Detroit man was arrested after his neighbor discovered him in the neighbor's home in the 1100 block of Wayburn around 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.

The man was witnessed searching through drawers before he fled the home when the resident confronted him. Police later arrested the suspect for alleged home invasion.

## Operating while intoxicated

A 23-year-old Florida man was arrested after he was involved in a single-car accident around 1:20 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, in the 700 block of Bedford.

The driver's vehicle left the roadway during the accident and he was found to be intoxicated, police said.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

## Shores moves forward with council member, city manager search

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — The resignation of Councilman Bruce Bisballe and retirement of City Manager Mark Wollenweber have left Grosse Pointe Shores understaffed, but the city is moving forward with searches to restore its ranks.

## Council vacancy

A special council meeting during which candidates for the seat vacated by Bisballe may address the current city council is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Shores city hall, 795 Lakeshore. It will be televised for those who can't make it in person.

"That gives us a chance to become acquainted, ask questions (and) let the public see who's interested in being a member of the city council," Mayor Ted Kedzierski said.

He added the council is still accepting applications for the vacant seat and will continue to do so until the special meeting.

"We've got a number of very qualified people that have submitted," he reported. "Five or six people so far."

The council will then vote to fill the vacancy at its meeting Tuesday, Feb. 18.

"This gives (us) more time," Kedzierski said.

"We can make sure it's a thorough search, a thorough review of the qualified candidates, so that's our plan."

The person will serve on city council until the election in November 2021.

## City manager search

The committee to find the new city manager — comprised of council members Bob Barrette, Danielle Gehlert and John Seago — met Wednesday,

Jan. 29, to filter through the six resumes submitted through the Michigan Municipal League.

"All the candidates look good," Barrette said. "They're all qualified, all have master's degrees."

The next step is to conduct interviews. Barrette reported he is hopeful to bring some information to the council at its Feb. 18 meeting.

"One person has ties to Grosse Pointe," he added. "Her parents live here in Grosse Pointe Shores."

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## Exquisite waterfront home with outstanding, unobstructed sunset views of Lake Charlevoix.

The house is elevated perfectly to maximize these views on over 3 acres with 140' of frontage. The architecture is incredible with every inch designed to be eye-catching. The landscaping has been tastefully created by the owners consisting of many colorful perennials and seagrass plants along the waterfront. The kitchen is bright and lively with warm tones throughout. The living room has a fireplace and a view that spans across the lake. The main-floor master bedroom is peaceful and roomy, with a luxurious bath. Upstairs has three generously sized bedrooms, a loft sitting room, and a second laundry.

The lower level is a haven - family & game room, bedroom, and sauna. An apartment over the detached garage boasts a spacious room, bedroom/office, kitchenette and bathroom. From private balconies to geometrical ceilings, this home is simply fantastic.



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### OUR VIEW

## Absentee voters, the time is now

**M**ichigan has now officially entered the presidential primary season, with absentee voter applications available.

The March 10 primary has some wrinkles that are relatively unfamiliar to state voters. Chiefly, voters will have to choose whether to receive a Republican or a Democratic primary ballot; they also can choose a ballot without either party, in order to vote only on the millage proposal that will appear.

All Wayne County voters will see that one proposal, no matter which ballot they choose, to renew the 0.2-mill levy for the Detroit Institute of Arts for another 10 years.

Another potential proposal, to raise money for after-school programs throughout the county, did not make the March 10 ballot. According to the Wayne County Clerk's Office, the petition drive signatures are still being checked; if approved, the proposal will appear on the August or November ballot.

As for the partisan ballots, voters will have to choose one, with either the Republican or the Democratic candidates. Michigan does not require party registration in advance of elections, but election workers will record which ballot a voter chooses — and that becomes public information. Candidates and parties can use that information to create lists for mailings and door-to-door campaigning.

That may make some voters want to stay away, or choose the non-partisan, proposal-only ballot. But presidential primary choices abound this year and they may even inspire mischief. Michigan primaries have turned weird before.

The Republican ballot has four presidential candidates. In addition to incumbent President Donald Trump, they are Mark Sanford, Joe Walsh and Bill Weld.

Republicans in several states cancelled their primaries or caucuses, on the grounds that incumbent presidents shouldn't have to go through such contests. That gives Michigan voters an opportunity that doesn't exist everywhere.

The Democratic Party has 15 candidates. That includes at least four, such as Marianne Williamson, who have recently dropped out or suspended their campaigns.

A few others have barely broken into the consciousness of even the political junkies following the debates and campaign activities ahead of the Iowa caucuses Feb. 3. And at least one candidate who is not campaigning in Iowa will be on the Michigan ballot.

While Michigan voters have ample access to early voting with the state's new election rules, many Democratic voters may want to wait for the results of what's often referred to as Super Tuesday. That's March 3, one week ahead of Michigan's vote, and it covers 14 states, including the two biggest, California and Texas.

Will the Democratic nominee be determined, for all intents and purposes, on March 3? Or will the top contenders remain in a tight knot? How the field looks in the days before March 10 could have a big influence on Michigan voters — especially if there's a chance to cast a decisive vote. Nor is Michigan voting alone that day; five other states have Democratic primaries and four have Republican contests.

Whatever role Michigan plays next month, this is just the start of election season. There's the Aug. 4 primary when voters again have to stick to one party as they choose nominees for the job of state and U.S. representative, for example.

The general election is Nov. 3 — sure to be another bed-sheet ballot full of candidates for jobs ranging from president to five seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

Michigan has barely begun to use no-reason absentee voting, but municipal elections last November suggest interest is high. The March 10 primary gives voters another chance to test the absentee system, or to go to their local clerk's office at their convenience and fill out a ballot.

As of Tuesday, actual ballots were not yet available at every clerk's office for so-called "early voting" or for mailing out to absentee voters. But absentee ballot applications are available — the early bird's alert that it's time to start paying attention.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Pure Grosse Pointe

The construction on the Grosse Pointe Woods city hall is coming right along.

"We are hoping it will be finished by the end of March, beginning of April," Grosse Pointe Woods City Manager Bruce Smith said. "It is progressing nicely and we are anticipating moving back to our offices and having things get back to normal."

### OUR VIEW

## Park among the nation's top 50

**H**ere's another plus for the Pointes: Grosse Pointe Park made it into a list of the Top 50 cities in the United States, as compiled by 247wallst.com earlier this month.

The Park ranked 23rd, an excellent showing in a nationwide ranking based on affordability, employment, quality of life and community factors that ranged from crime rates to commuting time to hospital admissions.

The rankings excluded cities with fewer than 8,000 residents, allowing the Park — population listed as 11,207 — to squeak by. Moreover, the Park overcame a built-in disadvantage: It was one of the few cities listed where the population is shrinking (down 2.3 percent over the previous five years).

As with most cities on the list, its median household income (\$112,354) was well above the national average. And its unemployment rate (listed as 3.3 percent) was

well below the national average (5.9 percent for the period used).

Traverse City, ranking 34th, was the only other Michigan city to make the list.

In its description of the Park, the 24/7 Wall St. website cited the city's two waterfront parks and noted that, in Wayne County, 94 percent of residents have access to recreation centers and parks, compared to a U.S. average of 84 percent. The presence of great parks — shoreline parks, no less — is an asset that's often taken for granted and then overlooked when the Pointes try to sell themselves.

So let's hear the good news when it comes. Even though this survey bypasses factors crucial to the Pointes — education, in particular — it puts the Park in excellent company. And given how many Sunbelt/West Coast cities made the list, it's good to know the statistics can work for places in Michigan, too.

### OUR VIEW

## The 2020 Census is upon us

**T**here's more to March than presidential politics: Census information will arrive in everyone's mailbox.

The 2020 Census will have major differences, such as the option to reply by phone or by going online, as well as returning a form by mail. This also may be the most poorly prepared-for count in decades, as the Census Bureau went more than a year without a director in 2017-18 and had to meet budget constraints imposed by Congress. Two out of three planned pilot tests were cancelled.

The short-form questions are basic: Name, age, sex, race and ethnicity and whether the home is owned outright, mortgaged, rented, etc. Census officials pledge that all information remains confidential for 72 years. The next release, of the 1950 census data, will be in April 2022, for example.

The U.S. Constitution orders a census every 10 years. Among its chief uses, the numbers are the basis for reapportionment of the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and state legislatures.

Michigan stands a good chance of losing another congressional seat this time around. That will diminish the state's clout. Early estimates suggest 10 states will lose

seats, including five others that border the Great Lakes: Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. That's a big loss for the congressional bloc that works on behalf of the lakes, which always rank high among concerns here in Michigan.

Another downside to declining influence: Electoral College numbers are built on the size of each state's congressional delegation, so the loss of a seat also means less impact on presidential elections.

But perhaps just as pertinent to the Grosse Pointes, state-level reapportionment also depends on the Census numbers.

A strong population count in this corner of Wayne County could make it harder to justify dividing the Pointes between two different Michigan House districts, as they are currently. (Michigan's new apportionment system, which voters approved in 2018, will hopefully also boost the odds that the Pointes and Harper Woods stay in one district, the next time around.)

Beyond its use for determining representation, the census provides basic information that businesses build on for market studies. Population factors also guide the distribution of federal funds. A complete count is better in every way for everyone and the place where they live.

## LETTERS

*The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the editor may be emailed to editor@grossepointenews.com.*

### Many thanks

**To the Editor:**  
I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to our Grosse Pointe community. Since announcing my semi-retirement and closing of El's

Boutique storefront, I have received so many well wishes and thoughts of gratitude and love. After serving this neighborhood for over 30 years as a Village retailer, I have met wonderful customers, seen children

and families grow and made lifelong friends, all through a simple retail business. I have also been blessed with numerous loyal and caring employees who have all left their mark on me and The Village.

A big THANK YOU to the Grosse Pointe News, Grosse Pointe Magazine, Grosse Pointe Chamber and C & G Newspapers, all of whom supported me throughout my career. I have had wonderful mentors, colleagues and customers as friends, all of whom I will miss seeing on a daily basis. As I embark on a new adventure in retail, I can't help but remember all of those who brightened my day

with a smile, a "hello," and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you for being my community family!

ELLEN DURAND  
Owner, El's Boutique

### Raising awareness

#### To the Editor:

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods thanks the Doris J. Duchene & Donald L. Duchene Sr. Foundation for its gift enabling The Family Center, working with the Grosse Pointe Public School System, to present the film "Angst: Raising Awareness around Anxiety" at both

See *LETTERS*, page 7A

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I SAY By Jody McVeigh

# Pleasantly puzzled



I love a good jigsaw puzzle. I can pass hours studying pieces, matching patterns and colors, fitting tabs to their corresponding blanks.

I have been known to happily spend an entire day puzzling over pieces, pausing only to swat my curious cat off the table from time to time. The

last three puzzles I've done — 1,000 pieces — each was completed over a weekend.

While my husband calls this my nerdiest hobby, he fully supports it. He proved this to me just before Christmas. A newer friend, but one who apparently knows me well, sent me home one evening with a slightly early Christmas gift. Ever inquisitive, my husband hovered as I peeled back paper, exposing the inner workings of a beautiful two-story shop brimming with books, a few felines

tucked into corners and on shelves — a cozy scene perfectly fragmented into 1,000 little parts.

Suddenly, John was furious. Yelling. Cursing. Stomping his feet.

"Are you kidding me?!?! I just bought you the same puzzle!" he exclaimed.

He went on to angrily express how he scoured and searched for "the perfect gift" for me, feeling pressure from his once-a-year holiday shopping buddies to "just pick something already" so they could move on and finish up. He said when

he spotted the puzzle with the books in it — something that combined two of my favorite hobbies in one — he knew he had to buy it for me.

(Shout out here to another friend who had the same thought and gifted me a movie-themed jigsaw this Christmas, too!)

I couldn't believe how enraged he was; my laughter certainly did nothing to still the situation.

He ended his rant with, "Merry Christmas; here's the receipt."

The next evening, after

he worked all day and I spent the day with my mom and brother, John joined us for a quick Christmas Eve snack before heading to his dad's house. He filled a plate with food, sat quietly and, head lowered, humbly said, "You know that puzzle? Well ... it's not the same one."

It was close. The next night I opened the one he got me: a street view of a book shop, its facade decked out with flowers and flags, a child reading on a bench, a cat curled up next to her.

It was the perfect gift.

Fast forward a few weeks. All three of the aforementioned puzzles have been completed. On a roll, I figured I'd start another — one of the three I purchased over the summer during a sporadic visit to Whistle Stop. There, between one puzzle depicting a brilliantly colored Japanese garden and another of a rocky Colorado landscape, was a jigsaw of a book shop. Its facade decked out with flowers and flags. A child reading on a bench. A cat curled up next to her.

You were right, John. It was the perfect gift.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

# 1945

75 years ago this week

### TOTING PISTOLS COMMON AMONG YOUTHS:

Police Chief Harry Piel of the Park says that latterly a good many instances have arisen where concealed weapons have been found on the persons of half grown boys who have come into police toils for one cause or another. These boys, he says, know they could not possibly get permission to carry weapons through legal channels, so get them from one source or another under the guise of being collectors. The chief warns both boys and their parents that this practice must stop.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MAY CLOSE STORE:** The manager of the C.F. Smith store at the corner of Wayburn and Kercheval made a formal complaint to the Park Village that the store was overrun with rats. This was due, he said, to the hopelessly unsanitary conditions caused by the dilapidated and run down condition of the place. Recently, he said, they

had 23 chickens so badly eaten and gnawed by rats that they were unsalable.

# 1970

50 years ago this week

### RESIDENCE LEVELED BY EXPLOSION:

A tremendous gas explosion completely leveled the \$100,000 home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney S. Hall on Harbor Hill. Two more shattering explosions extensively damaged a neighbor's house, damaged the Woods' fire Snorkel truck and injured three Woods firefighters. Farms Fire Chief Michael Beaupre said the first explosion, which rattled windows of homes for more than a mile around, leveled the Halls' two-story residence down to the basement. He said the building was literally blown apart, then collapsed.

**CATS UNDER FIRE:** Telephone calls and letters, split equally between favoring or opposing the Woods recently passed "cat" ordinance this week continued to pour into Woods city offices and the home of the News. Chester Peterson,

Woods city manager, made it clear that cat owners are not required to put their pets on a leash, but are not allowed to let them run free to the extent that such action creates a public nuisance.

**Obituaries:** Herman L. Weckler, Albert E. Jacoby, Edward Vanderbush, David A. Wallace, H. F. Lichtenstein, Katherine Walsh, Ruth Porter Phelps, Mary Waive Ross, George Abud, Alfons Hillaert, Beatrice Degryse

# 1995

25 years ago this week

### HOSPITALS ENTER PARTNERSHIP:

On May 10, 1993, Henry DeVries Jr. called Timothy Grajewski and suggested the two meet over a cup of coffee to talk about a possible joint venture between Bon Secours and St. John hospitals. On Jan. 26, 1995, DeVries, chief executive officer of Bon Secours Healthcare System, and Grajewski, president and CEO of St. John Hospital and Medical Center, officially agreed to pursue the joint ven-

ture. Bon Secours will continue to offer primary and secondary care and St. John will continue offering secondary and tertiary care.

### SHORES EXPLORES PLAN TO SEPARATE SEWER SYSTEM:

Although no mandates have been issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grosse Pointe Shores wants to be ready when and if the state DNR tells communities along Lake St. Clair that combined sewer systems must be separated. Separating the systems would send all storm water directly into the lake, while only sanitary waste would flow to the Detroit plant.

**Obituaries:** Harriet R. Seyler, Wellington V. Grimes, Mary Kate Hastings, Mildred L. Rieth, Harry Thomas Rakowicz, Gerald V. Smith, Herbert V. Whitehouse, Marion Huvaere Hickey

# 2010

10 years ago this week

### POLICE SPREAD WORD ON NIXLE:

An internet alert

about a woman missing lake-side launched Grosse Pointe Farms police into a new age of broadcasting all-points bulletins. Police had registered to post alerts at nixle.com when, within a day, they used the system for the first time to seek help finding JoAnn Matouk-Romain. A few days later, officers updated the site to warn of a broken water main near Kenwood Court and Charlevoix.

### COOK SCHOOL TO RESTORE FLOOR:

As the Grosse Pointe Historical Commission looks into the past of the Cook Road School House, it accepted a gift that will enhance its future. Grosse Pointe Questers, a local chapter for the international organization promoting the appreciation of antiques, has stepped forward with a \$2,400 challenge grant, with the funds being earmarked to restore the floor of the 100-year-old building.

**Obituaries:** Pauline N. Dill, Douglas Donald Jr., Nancy Chapman Fisher, Horace Gilmore, Marjorie Kallin, Florence A. Miller, Durwood Keith Newell, Robert Emmons Powers, James H. Quello

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

North and South high schools last week.

More than 300 students and 80 adults learned about this growing mental health challenge. Following the movie, Beth Walsh-Sahutske, president of The Family Center Board of Directors, moderated a panel of students and professionals who answered audience questions. North student Daisy Czochara and South student Josie Monahan were well spoken and candid in giving their perspectives on anxiety and the importance of reaching out to friends and talking about fears. Local therapists Amanda Be and Alisa Nelson addressed parent concerns about interacting with their children, providing insights and resources.

The Family Center's mission is to deliver educational and community resources that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. As a non-profit, we rely on the generosity of our community to enable us to build strong families and help parents raise children and teens who will become competent, caring and responsible com-

munity members.

**DIANE STRICKLER**  
Founder, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods

### Preventing bird deaths

To the Editor:

The proposed renovations to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, as presented at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council, are very impressive. I hope the planners will, however, take into account an important consideration: Preventing bird deaths.

This is no small matter. Each spring and fall, billions of migrating birds fly between North America and their winter homes, mostly in Central and South America. Here in Michigan, we're fortunate

to be at the intersection of the Mississippi and Atlantic flyways, two migration "superhighways" that bring hundreds of bird species — many of them threatened or endangered — through our state. It won't be long before these migrating birds are making their way to Michigan and touching down to rest on the shores of the Great Lakes, including Lake St. Clair.

Sadly, many of these birds will die in collisions with windows. Strikes can occur on any building type, but are most common at the level of one to three stories. One study estimates that close to one billion birds die each year in window collisions. That's a loss we shouldn't accept, especially when even common bird spe-

cies are in decline. According to findings published in the September 2019 issue of Science magazine, North America has lost three billion birds since the 1970s.

In renovating The War Memorial, planners have an opportunity — and an obligation — to anticipate and avoid bird-window collisions. This issue is of particular concern given The War Memorial's location on the lakeshore, at a point when many weary migratory birds will be looking to stop, rest and feed.

One illustration shown at the Jan. 21 Farms council meeting depicted a

new section with many large windows. More windows mean more opportunities for bird strikes. It would be helpful for The War Memorial to post this and other illustrations on The War Memorial website so the community can see, and respond to, the changes under consideration.

I urge The War Memorial leadership, the Farms council and the community at large to learn more about designing buildings to prevent bird deaths. And thanks to Grosse Pointe Audubon, the community will soon have an opportunity to hear from an

expert in the field, architect Nick Liadis, a Carnegie Museum Research Fellow, who will present "Birds and Buildings: Preventing Bird Window Deaths." Mr. Liadis will address why birds strike windows and how design can help them safely navigate around buildings. Don't miss it: Monday, March 16, 7 p.m., Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church annex.

For more information on how to prevent window strikes, visit Michigan Audubon at michigan-audubon.org/bfc/bird-window-collisions/.

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# Author shares message of uncomfortable learning

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

Technically it wasn't part of his book tour, but author, activist and TED speaker Zachary Wood made a point while in the area to spend two days at The Grosse Pointe Academy, where he attended fourth through seventh grade.

After the two-day visit Jan. 8 and 9 — his first since he left as a student in 2009 — the next major event for the 23-year-old is attending the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival in Palm Springs, Calif., Jan. 29 to 31, rubbing elbows with the likes of Karl Rove, senior adviser and deputy chief of staff during the George W. Bush administration; James Carville, lead strategist for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign; author James Patterson and actor Michael Douglas.

"I'm lucky to be in the same room," Wood said.

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, he is one of six speakers at the National Society of Leadership and Success broadcast reaching a million students at 750 college campuses across the country. Other speakers include Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to the Obama Foundation; Tiki Barber, retired All-Pro NFL football player and broadcaster; best-selling author and leadership expert Charlene Li; and business icon Steve Madden.

Wood has published articles in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, National Review, Weekly Standard, The Nation and the Detroit News, among others. Television appearances include The 11th Hour with Brian Williams, Fox & Friends, Varney & Co. on Fox Business and PBS/Thirteen. His goal in writing and speaking is always to cross the political aisle as "a repairer of the breach."

In "Uncensored: My Life and Uncomfortable Conversations at the Intersection of Black and White America," written his junior year at Williams College in Massachusetts and published June 2018, Woods shares his perspective on the importance of engaging different perspectives, even when they vary widely from one's own. He first tackled this while president of Uncomfortable Learning, a student group at Williams.

Pushback he received from his peers "defined my experience there," Wood said. "It can do one of a few things. It could make someone retreat and ... withdraw a bit. Or, for someone like me, kind of perk up a bit. ... This is more interesting now. I'm going to lean in more. I'm going to pay close attention. ... I resolved to use everything my mom had ever taught me, everything I'd learned from every interaction I'd ever had with anyone, to connect the best I could ... about uncomfortable learning and what it was about and what I was trying to do."

That way of thinking began during his years at GPA, Wood said. In fact, in the book he shares some of his experiences, including his relationship with two teachers, Bob Lapadot and Wendy Jerome, who he said played a pivotal role in who he is today.

Thirty-one year grade 4-5 teacher Lapadot is retired, but Jerome, a former student at GPA, still teaches middle school math and science. In fact, she encouraged Wood to visit, inviting him for dinner with her family the Sunday prior.

"Without Mr. Lapadot and Mrs. Jerome, I would not be here today," Wood said. "I would not be doing what I'm doing today. They made a fundamental difference at a critical stage in my development, as a person, as a student and a thinker, and I'm incredibly grateful for it. Immensely. And I forever will be."

Wood said he writes in his book how "every day, part of the reason I could look forward to coming to GPA was ... because I knew I had two teachers ... who I knew just believed in me. Because they believed in me, it made me believe in myself even more. My mom always wanted me to be confident and always wanted me to pursue this and pursue that and do my very best. At a time when I was going through a lot at home and a lot that was going on outside of school that people here didn't really know about, to know that ... you have a teacher who really believes in you, who sees your potential and encourages you to see the potential in yourself, it really makes a difference."

Jerome recalled Wood coming into class, "eyes wide as saucers, ready to

learn just as much as he could. Insatiable in curiosity. And lots of questions. And they weren't 'what,' 'when' and 'where' questions. They were the 'why' questions. Ones that made me think."

"That stayed with me," Wood said. "If you have teachers who want to have meaningful conversations with you who are really invested in your education, it's not just like school anymore. It was this fun thing. I really liked school and I wanted to do my very best at it. As I got older and learned more, it evolved into this idea to get a deeper understanding of the world, I'm going to talk with people I disagree with. It became the next challenge."

Wood attended high school at Bullis School in Maryland. After graduating from Williams in June 2018, he worked as an editor for The Guardian for six months and an assistant curator for TED another six months, helping recruit and coach speakers.

Wood shared some of his inspirations for the book in separate meetings with fifth through eighth graders and teachers during his visit.

"The heart of my message is that on any topic that matters, on any topic worth discussing, part of the reason why it's worth discussing is there are a number of perspectives; there are a number of experiences," he said. "I believe we're better, we're stronger, better equipped to deal with different issues when we embrace those subjects, when we listen closely, when we pay attention, when we make an effort to connect. My personal goal as a person is to study people — to gain a better understanding of people — and to use that in public service in the future."

"For me, the arch of it all is gaining a deeper understanding of humanity — the issues that affect people, the experiences, topics, all of it," he added.

His message aligned with the school's focus for the month on empathy, Jerome said.

"I think what he has to say is so relevant to all kids today and our kids certainly listened to someone who walked our halls and wore our uniform. We sat in the library and reminisced. It's a shared experience with them."

Technology and learning specialist Megan Black, who co-chairs the diversity, equity and inclusion committee, hoped to bring Wood to speak to students ever since she read his book at Jerome's recommendation.

"I read it over the summer and I was blown away," Black said. "I was so impressed by him. He is talking about stuff that is so relevant today, not just in independent schools, but all schools. Our country's so polarized right now. It's so hard for people to sit down and sort of calm down and take the emotions out of things when we're talking to one another. His TED Talks are about how it's important to try to listen to each other's viewpoints and try to find common ground. I felt that was an amazing message and in the spirit of what we're trying to do with diversity, equity and inclusion as well. It's not about shame or blame; we're just trying to get more people coming to the table and finding what we agree upon as a school and as a community and what our values are."

"I felt like he would be a great messenger for all of that and he was," Black continued. "He's just so inspiring and so wise at such a young age. And he is still young enough that he is relatable and inspiring and motivating for the kids. ... Now they can see they can have an impact pretty soon in their lifetime."

As much as Wood has



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Zachary Wood visited GPA to share his experiences from his days as a student and his personal journey.

accomplished at such a young age, he has big goals for the future. For now, he is dividing time between family in Detroit and Washington, D.C., while traveling for speaking engagements, writing and studying for the LSAT to prepare for the next step — law school.

Law appeals to him, he said, because he likes engaging in argument and believes a strong legal background is an asset. Moreover, it sets him on a similar path as a number of political figures he views as role models, including Bill Clinton — whom he admires for his ability to communicate and connect with people — and Barack Obama.

After law school, Wood has set his sights on public service and running for office — ideally attorney

general, governor, state senator or congressman. His long-term dream is to run for president someday, possibly 2044.

"I want to be in the action," Woods said. "... I want to be at the press conference. I want to be on the rope line shaking hands and working the crowd. I want to be in the room making decisions about policies that really affect people's daily lives."

Wood plans to return to GPA to sign copies of his book for the school store. In the meantime, Jerome hopes to stay in touch and continue to follow his success.

"My life's work is teaching and when your student comes back and is the teacher, it is just the most amazing experience," she said. "We don't all get to have that."



Wood has continued to stay in touch with former teacher Wendy Jerome, who he said made a major impact on his life.

## Teacher of THE WEEK



### Sister Kathy Avery

**School:** St. Clare of Montefalco School  
**Years at St. Clare:** 13  
**Grade/Subject:** Religion, Algebra, assist with choir  
**Nominated by:** Ann Crowley, principal  
**Principal's quote:**

"St. Clare of Montefalco School is privileged to have been the home base for Sister Kathy Avery since 2007. Sister Kathy has nurtured the school community in a multitude of ways. She began as the school principal and continues as the religious education administrator guiding all of us with her encouraging words. She is an educator providing best practices with our middle school mathematicians. Sister Kathy Avery is a sensitive mentor to many."

**What motivated you to become a teacher?**

I became a teacher because I feel that education is the best way to bring about changes in the world. With an education one can learn to do anything one wants to do.

**What are some of your inspirations?**

My best inspiration comes from our student church choir who sing every Wednesday at our church service. Their songs and their singing fill my heart with gratitude, love and joy. And the melodies usually last in my mind throughout the day!

**What advice would you give a new teacher?**

My best advice is to be



COURTESY PHOTO

firm, fair and consistent. One is teaching. Respect each child. Get to know him/her as an individual. Pray with and for your children and their families.

**Favorite book:**

My favorite book is The Bible.

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# New league unifies North and South

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

The gymnasium at Grosse Pointe South High School was packed with spectators for Grosse Pointe's first-ever Macomb Area Conference Unified Basketball league game between South and Grosse Pointe North High School Monday, Jan. 13. South's pep band, under the direction of Christopher Takis, struck up during warm-ups, cheerleaders primed the student section and announcer Michael Trudel introduced players on both teams before the 4 p.m. opening tip-off.

The league is part of Special Olympics Unified Sports, formed as a collaboration between Special Olympics United Champion Schools and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The concept, according to South Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Chris Booth, is "simple yet powerful: People with intellectual disabilities playing together on the same team is a quick path to friendship and social inclusion."

Booth said he first heard about the league at a MAC athletic directors meeting a few months ago. The Clawson High School athletic director mentioned she hoped to start a team and asked if others were interested in joining as well. Booth was familiar with the concept from reading a Detroit News article last year and agreed it made sense for South. North Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Michelle Davis and the athletic director at Sterling Heights High School also agreed to join, bringing the number of teams in the league to four.



PHOTOS BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

**Unified Basketball players pose for a team photo during warm-ups. Pictured, front row from left, are partners Susie Jaboe and Xavier Inge, players Ian Krieger, Joshua Lane, Titan McKenzie, Jonathan Overton and Ayden Kvintus, partner Kam Richards, and player Michael Wagner. Back row from left are partner Jeremiah Williams, head coach Steve Zaranek, players Will Loosevlt and Andre Williams and assistant coaches Bob Kelly and Jill Harrison.**

"This has come together," Booth said before tip-off. "It's the first time we're doing it. It's a little nerve-wracking, but I'm excited. This is a win."

"To me, it's an opportunity for the kids to wear the jersey, to represent South, have fun," he added. "That's what it's all about."

The game ran in 8-minute quarters with a running clock. Every four minutes was a time-out for substitutions so each player had an opportunity to participate. For each team, five players with special needs and three students from the general education population, known as partners, were on the court at all times.

Kamryn Richards, a sophomore on South's varsity basketball team, said she decided to participate as a partner because she loves basketball and wants to be a special education teacher someday.

"I thought it would be

amazing to combine doing something I want to do for a living with something I play as well," she said, adding the first game was great.

"Some kids were having a little difficulty understanding they have to run back and forth a couple of times. There were some kids who, as soon as they got the ball, ran to the basket and got a layup. It was fun to see the kids were having so much fun and playing a sport they love and everyone else can watch them."

While South ended up with the most points on the scoreboard, the game, she said, was less about winning or the North-South rivalry and more about having fun.

"It was just great to see that so many people were here to support the kids," Richards said. "It was the night before exams. It was fun to see that they went out of their way to come and watch these kids."

both the groups there from North and South would agree. I was very pleased with how the kids handled themselves on both teams and the positive energy from them, from the spectators, the administration. ... It was a wonderful start."

When Booth approached Zaranek about the head coaching position, Zaranek immediately agreed to it.

"I said yes, I'd love to do that," he said. "It certainly ties in with the fact that I know most of the kids pretty well and I have a pretty long background coaching at South."

"He was very kind to offer to me this opportunity and I couldn't be happier to do this," he added.

Zaranek was an obvious choice for the position. In addition to 41 years coaching South girls cross country and track and the same number teaching middle and high school physical education, Zaranek has, for the last five years, taught adaptive physical education classes for stu-

dents with special needs. "He's fabulous," said Jill Harrison, who teaches in the autism spectrum disorder/cognitive impairment classroom at South and is an assistant coach for the team along with full-time paraprofessional Bob Kelly. "He knows (these kids) very well."

Zaranek said the adaptive P.E. program at South has grown thanks to the generosity of the Mothers' Club in funding equipment and a yoga instructor.

"I give a lot of credit to the Mothers' Club for their support of adaptive P.E. at South," he said. "... The kids during the day get a good hour of exercise and just fun activities outside of the classroom. We all need that, that time of the day when we can just exercise and breathe and get the fresh air and all that."

Now expanding these benefits is this after-school opportunity, which provides other benefits beyond exercise, such as

See LEAGUE, page 10A



Grosse Pointe South's pep band, under the direction of Christopher Takis, center, performed at the Unified Basketball League debut.

## A day in middle school

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Public School System administrators unveiled their plan for the three district middle schools at the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday, Jan. 27, providing the first concrete look into what a day in the life of a middle school student might look like next year.

Director of Special Education Stefanie Hayes, chairwoman of the social emotional committee, reported on opportunities such as a three-day, two-night fifth-grade camp in the fall of 2020, a Mid-Club offering before and after-school care for fifth to eighth graders and leadership opportunities for all students through Peer to Peer, clubs, mentors and student activities and organizations.

Director of Pre-k and Elementary Instruction Keith Howell and Director of Secondary Instruction Maureen Bur outlined physical changes, such as designated entry and exit locations for grades 5/6 and 7/8, a homeroom approach for fifth graders and advisory periods for sixth through eighth graders and core instruction in English language arts, math, science and social studies. Building maps outlining designated areas for 5/6 and 7/8 are available at gpschools.org.

### Fifth grade

In addition to a home-room environment, fifth graders will receive core instruction in English language arts, math, science and social studies, specials and elective offerings, a new support and enrichment block and lunch with extended recess. Efforts are underway, Howell said, to seek funding for age-appropriate playground equipment or locate available equipment in the district to be repurposed.

Fifth-grade specials include art, general music, innovation and design and a world language rotation. Fifth graders also will have the opportunity to choose among brass/woodwinds/strings and physical education every other day. Students not interested in instrumental music may opt for additional gym time.

In addition to this special rotation, all fifth graders are enrolled in

P.E. and support and enrichment on alternating days. Literacy coaches will be available for every student who qualifies for the support.

Additional opportunities offered to fifth graders are the ability to explore electives and access middle school facilities. As a standalone course, world language no longer will be coupled with library/media time and the proposed schedule doubles the number of instructional sessions.

Innovation and design, a new course under development, is aligned to MiTech standards, provides increased STEM-based opportunities and incorporates integrated keyboarding, digital citizenship and design-thinking skills.

Other advantages outlined were the possibility to increase physical education, improve access to band and orchestra courses, previously sched-

uled during recess or instructional blocks, and dedicate time to support or enrichment depending on students' individual needs.

### Sixth grade

The schedule for sixth graders includes an advisory period and six instructional blocks comprised of English, math, science and social studies and an elective and "choice" elective, in addition to a lunch block.

Bur outlined the sixth-through eighth-grade advisory program Tuesday through Friday to meet the unique needs of middle school students through adolescent health and social and emotional issues and increasing team building and relationships. Also covered at that time will be college

and career readiness through Naviance activities, transition activities from elementary school to high school, assessments, such as the PSAT, NWEA and College Board and essential middle school skills and lessons, such as application of Leader in Me, organizational skills, Schoology, study skills and soft skills.

All sixth graders will

be enrolled in art, communications, family consumer science with health and innovation and design on a one-quarter rotation. Sixth graders also will have the opportunity to choose two of the following on an every-other-day rotation for the year: Exploring Art I, choir,

See MIDDLE, page 10A

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# 10A | SCHOOLS

## MIDDLE:

Continued from page 9A

P.E., band, orchestra, Spanish introduction and French introduction.

These opportunities “provide exposure that will better inform their seventh- and eighth-grade choices as well as high school,” Bur said.

Bur described the sixth grade changes as creating “a hybrid between our elementary and middle school experience. We heard last year our sixth-grade schedule was the most confusing in the district. Also, it continues to create a homeroom atmosphere where students feel they have a home base through their advisory (period).”

### Elementary focus

The Young 5’s to grade 4 elementary program will continue to focus on literacy and numeracy, a workshop approach, subject

integration in social studies and science and maintain class size parameters, with a decrease in class size variance due to the consolidation from nine to seven elementary schools. Reading support is offered through literacy coaches and the specials schedule offer P.E., art, music, library and Spanish.

“We gave you a master plan tonight (on) how we are going to educate our fifth graders next year,” GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus said at the end of the meeting. “We want you to take a look at that; we want you to scrutinize that. We also want our teachers to have the opportunity to help us plan and program for what will be our best effort for 2020-21.”

Andrea Daniell, a parent of a Trombly fourth-grader, solicited feedback on a community Facebook forum from other parents who had seen the presentation.

“I’ve been a very vocal critic of this move and I honestly still am,” she wrote. “But I sighed more than a few breaths of relief last night. I do feel like this is an actual plan we can work from.”

Sophan Buffa, who has first- and second-grade children at Trombly, attended the protest challenging the move from fifth grade to middle school, but watched the presentation with an open mind.

“I think it is a plan that provides some answers to questions many parents had,” she said. ... “I still have questions, but believe we’re moving in a positive direction.”

A fifth- and sixth-grade parent information night is scheduled 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Brownell, Parcels and Pierce middle schools.

Look for an update on the magnet program in next week’s issue.

## LEAGUE:

Continued from page 9A

team bonding, the opportunity to interact with their general education peers on the court and the experience of representing one’s school.

“Just the whole thing with uniforms and playing the national anthem and having the cheerleaders and band there — it was super exciting,” Zaranek said. “The kids handled it really well. There’s a little bit of a fear it’s going to be overload, but it wasn’t that way. They handled it. They listened to me and the other coaches really, really well and it helped not just get through the process — the stimulus process — but they handled themselves on the court really well.”

Zaranek looks forward to seeing the program grow, not just at South, but overall.



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

North player Stormi Coleman goes for a layup.

South Principal Moussa Hamka described the experience as “uplifting for all involved.”

“It’s an opportunity for them to feel like they’re a part of the fabric of our school,” he said. “It’s also

Of 30 schools in the conference, “four decided to get in this year and try this,” he said. “I really think next year more teams are going to want to join and this program is going to grow. ... The two ADs and the two principals fully got on board here in Grosse Pointe and should be given a lot of credit for that.”

Principals at both high schools couldn’t be happier about the new offering for students with special needs.

an opportunity for their parents to come see their kids in a different light that maybe they haven’t seen them in before. It also provides the opportunity for the rest of our student body to come honor those kids as well.”

“I’m thrilled about this opportunity for our students at both North and South,” North Principal Kate Murray said. “It’s been exciting to watch all of our students come together to support the team and show our Norsemen pride.”

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## The Wellness Warrior

### Book provides natural guide to optimal wellness, longevity

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Gowri Reddy Rocco, M.D., has fond feelings for Grosse Pointe. Some of her most vital moments were spent here, she said — largely at then-Bon Secours Hospital, during her residency.

Now, the California-based physician is sharing what she learned during her time in Grosse Pointe and beyond in her first book, “Growing Younger: Restore Your Hormones, Energy and Sex Drive.”

In her book, Rocco explains that lifestyle and environment play a bigger role in one’s health as one ages than genetics. Combining her training as a medical doctor and her education as an anti-aging, functional and regenerative doctor, “Growing Younger” focuses on prevention using less medication and more lifestyle, nutritional and hormonal modifications.

Through her work, Rocco respects both Western and Eastern medicine. Born in India, she was 6 when her family immigrated to the United States. Her physician father was a role model, because of what he did, but more so because of how much he enjoyed it. That joy prompted Rocco to start volunteering at Pontiac General Hospital, where she eventually was presented Volunteer of the



COURTESY PHOTO

#### Dr. Gowri Reddy Rocco

Year honors by then-Gov. Jim Blanchard.

“I liked being around people to help them, especially the elderly,” she said. “I decided I’d definitely go into medicine, but I didn’t like all the sickness. I always wondered, how come we don’t prevent it?”

“I wanted to make a difference before people started decaying their health, to see if they could prevent aging,” she continued. “Why don’t we stop cholesterol

instead of treating it? Why don’t we reverse cholesterol naturally or boost autoimmunity? Why don’t we balance hormones so we don’t feel so exhausted?”

Rocco earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from Albion College and a master’s degree in basic medical sciences from Wayne State University. She is double board certified in family medicine and anti-aging, regenerative and functional medicine. She

also earned a prestigious fellowship in women’s health. During that fellowship, “I decided to detour trying to teach people how to heal from disease and teach them to prevent it, to live vibrantly,” she said.

Rocco said she was greatly inspired by her sister, Padma, who at 17 was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type.

“She was the brightest, most giving, wholesome child,” she said. “Then her whole life crumbled.” Medication side effects took their toll and Rocco’s sister eventually died by suicide. Rocco said she came to realize her sister’s hormones played a big role in what happened.

“That got me wondering, what else is off that can be fixed?” she said. Balance is key, she said — supplements, lifestyle changes, healthy diet, exercise. That’s what she’s worked on with her patients in California. The founder, president and medical director at Optimum Wellness and Longevity Inc., Rocco has 20 years of medicine under her belt. She has engaged several high-profile clients, including Sarah Palin and Suzanne Somers.

Her patients call her the Wellness Warrior. Rocco decided to write “Growing Younger” because, “there’s only one of me,” she said. “I

want to share my passion and impact as many people as I can with education and enthusiasm. I want to encourage, not discourage.”

Rocco said she wrote the book in laymen’s terms so it’s easily understandable: “This book is not for educators or my colleagues. It’s for all people to learn what to do to impact their health in a positive way.”

The book is divided into four sections. The first addresses bio-identical hormones, a natural, plant-based hormone replacement option.

“It’s my belief that longevity can be extended,” Rocco said. “When you age, you lose hormones. ... Hormones dictate our life. If you put them at a safe balance, you don’t age as fast.”

Bio-identical Hormone Replacement Therapy, or BHRT, helps patients achieve hormone balance and prevents premature aging and disease, among other benefits like increased metabolism, better sleep and more endorphins. Bio-identical hormones have the same molecular structure as hormones produced in the body, so they are accepted by the body. As such, each individual must be evaluated and custom-dosed.

Rocco said she assesses the hormones in each patient, learns what stresses they have and

#### In their words

“Dr. Rocco nails it on many fronts: the solution to our unaffordable, unsustainable healthcare system; the recipe to develop an impervious immune system to PREVENT illness; the motivation to be accountable for our own health; and the inspiration to actually follow protocol she’s lined out for us. I know it works, firsthand, as I’ve been privileged to work with Dr. Rocco. That made all the difference in my oftentimes hectic life. Her work turned my life around — for the better! She’ll do the same for you! ‘Growing Younger’ is the book so many are seeking, as tumultuous times within our culture’s harsh environment compete against our health, happiness and youthful vitality. Get a handle on your ‘issues’ by reading this! Then you’ll know how to live life vibrantly — it’ll make the world a better place!”

— Gov. Sarah Palin

Former vice presidential candidate, ninth governor of Alaska, author, commentator and reality television personality

“Dr. Gowri Rocco is one of the ‘new kind of doctors.’ She has courageously stepped outside of the preset ‘standard of care’ box to offer information not learned in medical school. Dr. Rocco has a complete understanding of Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement. This is an informative, cutting-edge book that will educate you, allowing you to be in control of your health forever.”

— Suzanne Somers

American actress, author, singer, businesswoman, health advocate and bio-identical hormone therapy spokesperson

See WELLNESS, page 3B

## Snow your creativity

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Families who are up for a bit of fun this winter are invited to enter the 2020 Snowman Building Challenge, sponsored by the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition.

Now through Saturday, Feb. 29, families are invited to build a snowman in their yards to enter in one of two categories — traditional or creative.

“Traditional is the classic snowman image,” said Suzy Berschback, health communities manager with Beaumont Health. “You may use items such as the carrot nose, coal eyes, corn cob pipe, top hat.

“The creative snowman is more anything goes,” she added. “Still a snow-

man, but might be headed to the beach or on a ski trip, or maybe has a snow dog or sled.”

Once a snowman is complete, participants are asked to take a photo of it and email it to [suzanne.berschback@beaumont.org](mailto:suzanne.berschback@beaumont.org). Entries are limited to one per family.

“A child must be involved,” Berschback said. “Please send a photo of the snowman and (get) bonus points with the builders in the photo.”

A panel from the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods physical activity team will judge the entries. The first-, second- and third-place winners of each category will be announced in March.

“The idea is to challenge families to get outside and be active in the cold weather together,”

Berschback said. “Healthy relationships are important to our health. In fact, they are the foundation of good health. We want to encourage families to form and maintain positive relationships. A great way to do this is to make sure you are taking time to have fun and enjoy being a family. This will help get them off to a good start in life and support their physical and mental development. Building healthy relationships is important for children and their families, friends and the communities they live in. If you want to bring more joy into your life, we encourage readers to explore our website and toolbox here: [healthygphw.org/the-joy-challenge](http://healthygphw.org/the-joy-challenge).”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

These snowmen can be seen in the 600 block of St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe.

#### Outdoor adventures

There’s no reason to take a break from physical activity when the temperature drops. In fact, exercising in cooler weather has some distinct advantages over working out in warmer weather.

Keep these tips in mind:

◆ No heat and humid-

ity to deal with. Winter’s chill might even make you feel awake and invigorated.

◆ You may be able to work out longer in cold weather, which means you can burn even more calories.

◆ It’s a great way to take in the sunlight (in small doses). Not only can light improve many people’s moods, it also

helps you get some vitamin D.

◆ Exercise boosts your immunity during cold and flu season. Just a few minutes a day can help prevent simple bacterial and viral infections, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Source: American Heart Association, [heart.org](http://heart.org)

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PASTOR'S CORNER By the Rev. Keith Lenard Jr.

# A decade under the influence of Christianity

Recently on Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites, there was something called the Decade Challenge or 10-Year Challenge. People would post pictures or reflect on life from 2009 to 2019. It is always good to pause and reflect to see where life has taken you and what the next 10 years might look like.

As I reflected, I realized this past decade was my first decade as a Christian. In 2010, I made a New Year's resolution with a girl I was dating at the time to begin attending a church. Within a week we were in separate small groups at Northridge Church in Plymouth using the "Starting Point" workbook by Andy Stanley. I began a serious relationship with God during this time. Ultimately, many things from my past informed me about God, but this was the first time I encountered God as both personal and immanent. I learned about God not only with the information of the workbook, but also through experiencing God in prayer and answered prayer.

After the small group and a break-up, I was invited to a church closer to home. In late April 2010, I was baptized at my home church in Riverview. I read in 1 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" To be honest, I was more excited about this new life in Jesus than graduating from the University of Michigan — Dearborn that same week. From graduation to my new relationship with God, it moved me from a career in law to one in professional ministry. Instead of attending law school, I attended seminary from

2011 to 2014.

In the coming years after my calling into professional ministry, I also reflected on probably the hardest thing in my life — the experience of a miscarriage. I do not know how I would have walked in the grief of 2016 without losing my faith if it was not for knowing God personally as comforter, the support of friends and the church. My wife and family were able to receive peace knowing God is close to those who are brokenhearted.

Ten years ago, I never thought I would have been serving with the youth of Grosse Pointe in Appalachia, building sheds or handicap ramps or porches. I had always wanted to visit Myrtle Beach, so you could guess serving on a mission trip with college students soon after Christmas 2018 was not on my radar. My whole life I wanted to visit England, the county where two of my grandparents were from. I would never have guessed I would get the opportunity to be part of a pilgrimage learning about the history of the United Methodist Church.

A decade under the influence of Christianity has been above and beyond anything I could have asked or imagined. I am becoming who I was meant to become my whole life. I have learned to be content and yet strive for the betterment of society and myself personally. In this new decade, would you consider learning more about God, Christianity or even attending church? Whatever you decide, I know God loves you and desires a relationship with you.

*Lenard is the associate pastor at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.*

# Christ Church Grosse Pointe hosts 10-hour Hymnathon Feb. 1

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The music ministry at Christ Church Grosse Pointe is preparing for the concert of all concerts — a 10-hour Hymnathon, beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We will sing one verse of every hymn in the Episcopal 1982 Hymnal," said Scott Hanoian, director of music and organist at Christ Church. "There are 720 hymns and the event lasts 10 hours, so we're hoping to achieve a 72-hymn-per-hour

pace. That's 10 continuous hours of singing, all 720 hymns, ending with the national anthem, Hymn 720."

Hanoian said attendees can donate money to hear an extra verse of a favorite hymn or pay to end a hymn and move on to the next one.

"People can also sponsor choristers from the Christ Church music program who will endeavor to sing as many hymns during the day as their voices allow," Hanoian said.

Cost to attend the Hymnathon is \$10 and guests may come and go as they please the entire day. Hanoian said he

hopes to make this first-time fundraiser an annual event.

"Some colleagues of mine in Episcopal churches from around the country have done this in the past," he said. "They have been very successful, both in fundraising and fellowship, so I thought we would introduce it here. Funds raised will be used to support the music ministry of Christ Church Grosse Pointe."

All are welcome to attend.

For more information, or to sponsor a chorister or hymn, visit [christchurchgp.org/hymnathon](http://christchurchgp.org/hymnathon).

## VAPING:

Continued from page 2B

Department of Public Safety and students from North and South high schools.

The panel will discuss the dangers of vaping, including the long-term effects of nicotine on students' developing brains and the effects of lung health by vaping THC oil.

Sandra Ali of WDIV-TV will moderate the discussion and the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported

60 deaths and 2,600 hospitalizations from e-cigarettes since 2019. E-cigarette use among high school students increased by 78 percent from 2017 to 2018. With new numbers of vape-related illnesses and deaths reported every week by the CDC, it is important that our entire community, especially our youth, learn the dangers of vaping.

Resource professionals and material will be available to provide parents and students with information on the dangers of vaping, cessation programs and local mental health services.

CARE's mission is to strengthen resiliency in people and their communities through prevention, education and services that improve the quality of life.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventive education to empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit [familycenterweb.org](http://familycenterweb.org), call (313) 447-1374 or email [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org).

## WELLNESS:

Continued from page 1B

measures other factors, such as weight, the amount of sleep they get and their sex drive.

"We have to constantly replenish our hormones," she said. "When we have low hormones, we feel a depletion of vitality in life."

Conversely, a balance of hormones allows people — men and women — to feel younger, more energized and emotionally balanced.

But, Rocco said, BHRT isn't for everyone. "Growing Younger" details ways to achieve optimal health with or without BHRT.

The second part of the book covers nutrition — gut health, the importance of hydration, vegetarian vs. non-vegetarian

diets and related topics.

"We are what we eat," Rocco said. "Our bodies are composed of what we put in them. I educate my patients on what to eat. I empower them to eat plant-based foods for healing."

Rocco also recommends low sugar intake, minimal animal fat proteins and plenty of good fats.

Lifestyle — which includes, but is not limited to, exercise — is covered in the third part of the book.

"My goal is to produce hormones that heal the body," Rocco said, "then eating right, exercising, meditating. I want you to get rid of things that are destructive and go with what promotes healing."

Additional lifestyle topics covered in the book are taking vitamins to help the body detox naturally, the impor-

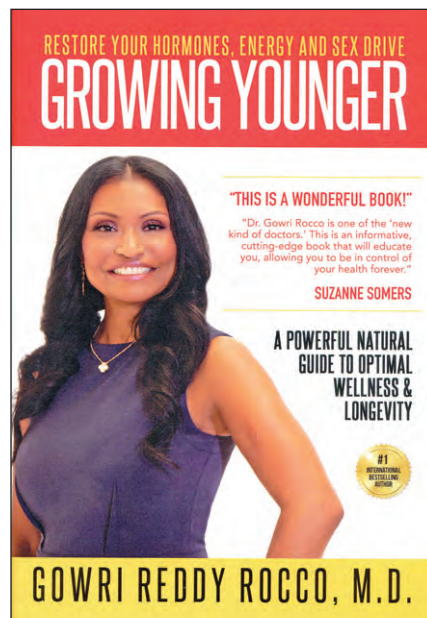
ance of getting enough sleep, forming anti-cancer habits and strengthening mental health.

The final section of the book is about cell regeneration.

"It's about how optimistic we are about the future of medicine," Rocco said. "It's all connected."

Rocco said she hopes the book influences people with positivity about aging. She wants to empower people to make the right decisions about their bodies and health.

"We are in a world of abundance," Rocco said. "People have more than ever and they're not content. They're not taking personal responsibility for their choices. People need to be reminded of that."



sleep. There are ways to implement that that make a difference, not just now, but in 10, 20 years."

"Growing Younger" is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), as well as on Rocco's website, [drgowrirocco.com](http://drgowrirocco.com).

"I love to tell my patients we are always in a place of change, we can always be better. Choices matter every day," she said. "Maybe you had a rough holiday, you drank too much or you overate. I say, stay optimistic; tomorrow's a new day. We have a choice every day. We have to own that. When you do good habits every day, it accumulates. It matters. It's

the same with bad habits. So every day, do good and celebrate it, too, because everything has a consequence."

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4B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

# WEDDING

## Woods-MacGriff

Emily Kay Woods and Spencer Edwards MacGriff were married Oct. 20, 2019. The ceremony and reception took place at the Chicago Cultural Center. David Macdonald, Ph.D., officiated.

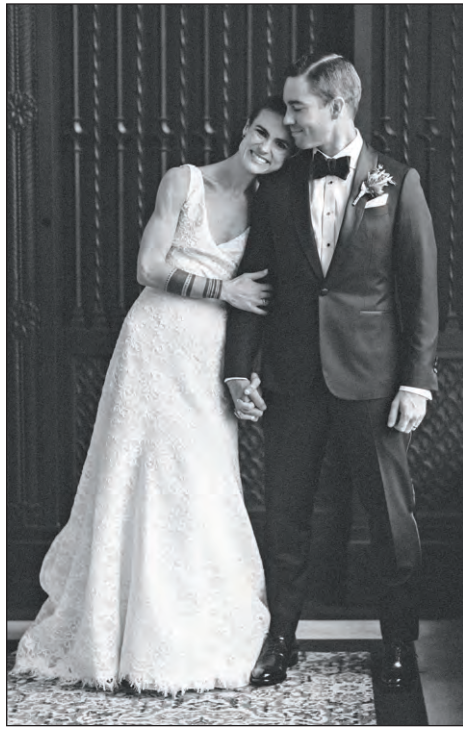
The bride is the daughter of Bill and Laurie Huddleston of Winchester, Tenn., and Michael and Liz Woods of Birmingham, Ala. The groom is the son of Scott and Michelle MacGriff of Darnestown, Md., and formerly of Grosse Pointe Farms.

The bride's sisters, Madelyn Snow and Margeaux Woods, served as matron of honor and maid of honor, respectively. Her niece, Evelyn Snow, was the flower girl; her nephew, Hudson Snow, served as ring bearer.

The groom's brother, Christopher MacGriff, was the best man.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama and works in sales development for TripActions.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan Ross School of



Mr. and Mrs. Spencer MacGriff

Business. He is a mergers and acquisitions implementation consultant with Ernst & Young.

The couple honeymooned in Montreal and reside in Evanston, Ill.

# Garden Club welcomes Bees in the D president

Garden Club of Michigan welcomes guest speaker Brian Peterson-Roest, president of Bees in the D, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the undercroft of Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

The club's Conservation Committee invites the public and all local garden club members to the presentation, which provides an introduction to an array of bee species and other pollinators and their importance to the ecosystem and food supply. Participants also learn about honey bees and the practice of beekeeping. Information will be shared on the best native plants to grow to help attract and, ultimately, benefit all pollinators.

Bees in the D is a nonprofit organization devoted to the education and conservation of honey bees and other pollinators in southeast Michigan.

Peterson-Roest has taught fifth grade at Musson Elementary School in Rochester Hills for 21 years, is an adjunct professor at Oakland University and president of the Michigan Science Teacher Association.

Bees in the D received the Garden Club of Michigan Community Grant Award in 2019 and 2020 and was honored at the 2019 annual meeting with special recognition for Contribution to Conservation in Michigan.

Reservations are required for the presentation; attendance is limited to 100 guests. To register, email mtfarley60@gmail.com.

Guests are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter to donate to Crossroads Food Bank. Light refreshments will be served. Honey and lip balm will be available for purchase from Bees in the D; proceeds support the Bees in the D mission.

# GPPL hires emerging tech librarian

Jessie Schenk recently joined the Grosse Pointe

Public Library as its new emerging technology librarian, stationed at its Central branch, 10 Kercheval.

"Jessie's focus will be to educate the community and our staff on new technologies," said Jessica Keyser, library director. "Her expertise and library experience will add a new depth and breadth of knowledge to the GPPL."

The emerging technology librarian position was created to meet a need identified in the strategic plan, specifically to enhance technology learning opportunities for the community and library staff.

A resident of Grosse Pointe Park, Schenk earned a master's degree



Jessie Schenk

in library science from the University of Michigan. Most recently, she was an information services librarian at the Novi Public Library.

"I'm honored to join the Grosse Pointe library staff and look forward to continuing to contribute to my community," Schenk said.

# ENGAGEMENTS

## Cameron-Holton

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Cameron Sr. of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their daughter, Grace MacKenzie Cameron, to Ryan Michael Holton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Holton of Milford.

An October 2020 wedding is planned.

Miss Cameron and Mr. Holton both are graduates of Northwood University. Miss Cameron is a sales associate with IHS Markit in Southfield. Mr. Holton is the finance director for Champion Buick/GMC of Brighton.

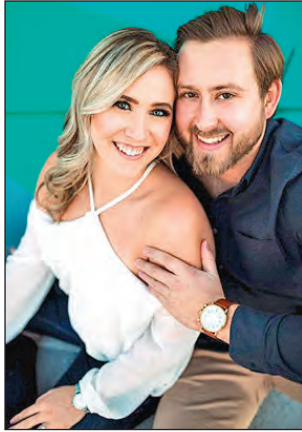
The couple reside in Farmington Hills.

## Kauth-Warren

Kenneth C. and Elizabeth Kauth of St. Paul, Minn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Anne Kathryn Kauth, to Charles Holton Warren, the son of Anne Widlak and John and Anna Warren of Grosse Pointe Farms.

A September 2020 wedding is planned.

Miss Kauth earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr College and is completing a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business. She is the chief of staff of marketing at Lyft, the ride-sharing technology



Grace Cameron and Ryan Holton

company in San Francisco.

Mr. Warren earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowdoin College, a Master of Public Administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a



Charles Warren and Anne Kauth

Master of Business Administration degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management. He is the co-founder and CEO of Convex, a software company in San Francisco.

# Lakeshore Optimist Club welcomes new member

Suzy Berschback of Grosse Pointe Farms was welcomed as a new member into the Lakeshore

Optimist Club Wednesday, Nov. 27, by club President Julie Baumer.

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local clubs whose members work to make the future brighter by "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," in their communities and themselves.

Berschback joined the club specifically to help launch a Junior Optimist International Club at Pierce Middle School. Young people have the opportunity to learn the importance of volunteerism, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and citizenship through the Junior Optimist International program. As a result, youth report feeling an improved sense of kindness and an increased awareness for those in need.

The club meets 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Meetings include guest speakers and are open to all.

The club hosts a variety of programs throughout the year and supports myriad organizations.

To learn more about the club, find Lakeshore Optimist Club on Facebook, visit lakeshoreoptimist.com or contact baumerjulie16@gmail.com.

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# SPORTS

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Sweet wins

North, South and ULS each earn big wins on the court PAGE 2C

3C GYMNASTICS, HOOPS | 4C SWIMMING | 5-6C CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## Boys hockey

### RIVALS

# North/South game to be continued

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

A 2-by-6-inch divot forced the suspension of the Grosse Pointe North boys hockey rivalry game last weekend with host Grosse Pointe South at Eastside Hockey Arena.

They played more than half of the game before officials called for the Zamboni to come out and try to fix the problem with 2:51 left in the second period.

The hope was the Zamboni would freeze the spot after rink management filled the divot with ice. They would finish the second period, take a break and then play the third period with South leading 4-2.

"We weren't playing our game, but I don't think the game needed to be postponed," South head coach Paul Moretz said.

"We are playing well, but we need to stay out of the penalty box," North head coach Rob Blum said.

The Blue Devils scored on a power play at the 13:44 mark of the first period when sophomore River Kraus tallied, with sophomore Jacob Spitz and senior Alexander Miciuda drawing assists.

The Norsemen stormed back and took the lead with back-to-back goals.

Senior Evan Berger scored a power-play goal at the 5:15 mark of the opening period, assisted by seniors Joseph Lucido and Coy Catrett, and junior Dylan Holman scored an unassisted goal at the 1:18 mark of the first period.

The Norsemen had the 2-1 lead and carried the play for a majority of the first period.

The Blue Devils tied it with a power-play goal at the 10:46 mark of the second period when senior Keegan Spitz lit the lamp. Senior Adam Strehlke and junior Anthony Furicchia had assists.

They took a 3-2 lead when senior Alexander Mills scored on the power play at the 7:37 mark of the second period as junior Aaron Vyletel had the lone assist.

It was 4-2 when Mills scored again at the 4:05 mark.

However, the Blue Devils were whistled for a penalty at the 2:51 mark, and a minute later officials called for the Zamboni to finish the ice.

After the Zamboni cleaned the ice and both teams waited around 15 minutes for the divot to freeze, officials called for the suspension of the game.



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT  
Grosse Pointe North head coach Rob Blum, center, and Grosse Pointe South head coach Paul Moretz, right, listen to an official discuss the ice situation.

Seniors Connor Obermok for North and William Strickler for South were between the pipes.

A makeup date has yet to be announced. When play resumes, the Norsemen will be on the power play with 2:51 left in the second period trailing 4-2.

There are four weeks left in the regular season as the playoffs begin the week of Feb. 24.

In other action last week, South beat Chippewa Valley 10-2 to improve to 14-1-0-1 overall, while North lost 5-2 to University of Detroit Jesuit to drop to 7-12 overall.



South's Alexander Mills, No. 2, parks in front of North netminder Connor Obermok with North's Evan Berger defending.



North's Coy Catrett, left, and South's Keegan Spitz go after a loose puck in the rivalry game last weekend.



Eastside Hockey Arena officials try to fix the divot on the side of the boards before the game was eventually suspended.



Several Norsemen celebrate after scoring a goal against Grosse Pointe South.

## Girls hockey

### GROSSE POINTE NORTH

# Cassar stands tall in goal

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Junior goaltender Mia Cassar was stellar in net last week, leading the Grosse Pointe North girls hockey team to a 2-0 home win over Academy of the Sacred Heart.

"We really needed this win, and the girls went out and played a great game to get it done," head coach Casey Quick said.

Cassar stopped more than 30 shots to post the shutout and stop the Norsemen's losing skid.

"Mia was excellent tonight," Quick said. "Her performance really helped us get this win for us and boost our confidence."

Sacred Heart goalie, Mailan Daniels, was also solid in net. She came up with several big saves on shots that looked to be sure goals.

The Norsemen scored at the 8:39 mark of the opening period when sophomore Elle Sables tallied, assisted by senior Darby Pickford.

They completed the

scoring later in the period when freshman Lucy Driscoll scored. Pickford and sophomore Toni Miano had the assists.

The Norsemen's offense peppered Daniels with a ton of shots, but they couldn't find the back of the net.

Sacred Heart had a chance to get a goal in the final minute as the Norsemen had two players in the penalty box.

However, Cassar and the defense stood tall, keeping Sacred Heart off the board.

Later in the week, North lost 2-1 in overtime to host Walled Lake and 9-1 to Livonia Unified.

Against Walled Lake, Pickford scored the goal with sophomore Harmony Gosseling drawing the lone assist.

Cassar once again played well in net, stopping 28 of 30 shots.

Against Livonia, freshman Gabby Brumme scored unassisted to account for the Norsemen's offense.

North is 3-12 overall.

### UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

# Knights endure overtimes

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The host University Liggett School girls hockey team needed an overtime goal from sophomore Maddie McKee to edge Bloomfield 3-2 on Monday evening.

The Knights were pushed to the limit by Bloomfield, but prevailed in a league contest.

"We were spent from the previous overtime game at Cranbrook, but the girls found a way to win," head coach Greg Paddison said. "We took too many shots at the goalie's chest and not low."

The Knights were in position to win the game in regulation, but Bloomfield scored with only 34.1 left in the third period.

They had a ton of pressure in front of ULS senior goalie Evie Bournias and were able to poke the puck into the back of the net.

In the opening period,

freshman Bella Standish scored a power-play goal, and in the second period it was senior Anika Vreeken scoring. Bloomfield scored its first goal in the first period.

Last weekend, ULS lost 2-1 in overtime at Cranbrook, despite outshooting the Cranes 42-13.

"That was a tough loss," Paddison said. "We badly outplayed them, but their goalie was good. It seemed as if we won the game in overtime when Maddie (McKee) scored, but the official waved it off saying he lost sight of the puck and meant to blow his whistle."

The Cranes scored shortly after that and earned the OT win on home ice.

ULS is 12-3 overall, and play a home game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, against St. Catherine, and a home game at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, against Troy.

## Girls basketball

## GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

## First place

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

It took one quarter for the host Grosse Pointe South girls basketball team to dictate the tempo for what turned out to be a 63-26 win over Warren Cousino last weekend.

The Blue Devils' pressing, trapping defense forced turnovers that provided easy transition baskets and a 14-2 lead.

It was 23-4 after the first quarter and 36-8 at the half. The huge lead was extended to 47-15 after three quarters.

"We played well, and have played well for a while now," head coach Kevin Richards said. "We're speeding teams up and forcing them to play out of their comfort zone."



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

South's Payton Roy, left, is providing senior leadership to the 10-2 Blue Devils.

The Patriots finished with 30 turnovers, and on offense the Blue Devils hit 10 three-point baskets.

"We're getting scoring from a lot of our players," Richards said. "That takes the pressure off any one or two players."

Junior Alexa Downey led the team with 16

points, followed by sophomore Kamryn Richards and junior Sarah Rogers with 11 points apiece.

Seniors Payton Roy and Sophie Iafrate had seven points apiece.

Earlier in the week, South defeated visiting Port Huron Northern 59-33 as Downey had 24 points, followed by Iafrate with 11 and

Richards with nine.

Grosse Pointe South remained in first place in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division at 6-0.

Last weekend, South lost 81-45 to one of the top 10 teams in the state, Detroit Edison.

With the defeat, the Blue Devils fell to 10-3 overall.

## GROSSE POINTE NORTH

## Norsemen split two

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team had its chances to upset Macomb Dakota last week.

The Norsemen forced the mistake-prone Cougars into 31 turnovers, but they didn't convert enough of those into points in a 57-44 home loss.

"They are more physical than us, and that was a difference," head coach Gary Bennett said. "We took care of the ball. We just weren't very good tonight."

The Norsemen had only 13 turnovers, but the Cougars' height advantage posed problems.

Another key to the loss was senior standout Christina Braker getting in foul trouble. She fouled out with 5:31 left in the fourth quarter.

With her absence on the court, the Cougars took advantage and scored most of their baskets in the paint in the fourth quarter.

The Norsemen trailed 13-12 after the first quarter and 27-22 at the half.

The deficit reached double digits in the third quarter, but the home team used a 10-1 run to get within seven points, 44-37, early in the fourth period.

Braker, as well as junior Maddie Kohler and senior Hannah Davis made key baskets to help the Norsemen stay within arm's length.

Unfortunately, the Norsemen couldn't get closer, despite the Cougars' propensity to turn the ball over.

Braker led the team with 15 points, followed by Kohler with 13 and Davis with nine. Only five players scored points for the Norsemen.

North traveled to Utica Eisenhower later in the week and came away with a 54-52 victory, improving to 3-3 in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division and 7-4 overall.

Freshman Annabel Ayrault and Kohler scored 16 points apiece to lead the Norsemen.

## Boys hockey

## UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

## Knights sweep foes

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys hockey team climbed back to the .500 mark last week, winning each of its three games.

The Knights got to that level with a thrilling 4-3 shootout victory over Toledo St. Francis de Sales.

"We tightened things up after a lackluster second period," head coach Mike Maltese said. "We

had a lot of energy out there. It was a nice win and gives us a lot of momentum moving forward."

The Knights scored just 10 seconds into the game when sophomore Doug Wood fed senior Will Nicholson for the goal.

De Sales scored three unanswered goals, scoring one late in the first period and two in the second to take a 3-1 lead.

To make matters

worse, the Knights were two men short after back-to-back penalties to end the second period.

The Knights killed the penalties and gained momentum after junior Tom Gebeck scored to cut the deficit to 3-2.

At the 10:06 mark of the third period, senior Tristan Reilly tied it with a power-play goal. Junior Alec Leonard had an assist.

Junior goalie Grant Lindsay stood tall in net, making the key saves to

keep it a 3-3 game.

The game immediately went to a shootout and Lindsay made three straight saves, while Nicholson scored on the Knights' first attempt, which turned out to be the game winner.

ULS beat Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 6-1 the day before to clinch a spot in the Catholic League playoffs.

"We had to beat them by at least four goals to get the playoff spot," Maltese said. "We played very well."

Earlier in the week, ULS blanked Catholic League foe Madison Heights Bishop Foley 10-0 to move to 9-9 overall.

Next for the Knights is the annual MIHL Showcase at Trenton's Kennedy Recreation Center. They face Warren DeLaSalle at 5:20 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, in the Teifer Rink, and play Big Rapids at 6:20 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the Practice Rink.

They host Allen Park at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11.

## UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
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The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System ("Owner" or "School District") will receive sealed Bid Proposals for:

SUMMER 2020 WORK PROGRAM PHASE 2 – MONTEITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
PARCELLS MIDDLE SCHOOL & SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Bid Proposals will be received by Dr. Gary Niehaus, Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, at 389 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, on or before **12:00 p.m.** (local time) on **February 14, 2020** ("Due Date"). The Board of Education will not consider or accept a Bid Proposal received after the Due Date, the date and time specified for Bid Proposal submission. Bid Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately following the Due Date at the same location. **Bid proposals for the three (3) separate schools will be evaluated and awarded separately with a bidder's option to submit combination proposals.**

Pre-Bid Proposal meetings will be held on the following dates and times:

- 11:30 a.m. at Administration Building located at 389 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI. a. January 30th, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. at Monteith Elementary School located at 1275 Cook Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods. All persons attending the Pre-Bid will be required to meet at West dock entrance off of the Chalfonte Ave. parking lot.
- January 30th, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. at Parcels Middle School located 20600 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe Woods. All persons attending the Pre-Bid will be required to meet at West entrance off of the rear parking lot along Sunningdale Park.
- February 3rd, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. at Grosse Pointe South High School located at 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms. All persons attending the Pre-Bid will be required to meet at South Visitors Entrance off of Fisher Road.

Each Bid Proposal 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 of Education or the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Contractor is not an Iran Linked Business. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount no less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount(s).

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

Bid documents, including Bidders Information Manual, scopes of work, Drawing and Specifications will be made available Monday, January 27, 2020 at the following website:

[https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/54f0e584a238df0800778ee6/\(Search for Grosse Pointe Summer 2020 Work Program Phase 2\)](https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/54f0e584a238df0800778ee6/(Search%20for%20Grosse%20Pointe%20Summer%202020%20Work%20Program%20Phase%202))

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nick Kuelske at (313) 596-0520 or email at [nkuelske@tcco.com](mailto:nkuelske@tcco.com), and Luke Augspurger at (313) 402-7014 or email at [LAugspurger@tcco.com](mailto:LAugspurger@tcco.com).

## GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Published: GPN, January 30, 2020

CITY OF HARPER WOODS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE

## AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on February 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2004 GMC Envoy	1GKDT13SS42412764
2006 Scion XB	JTLKT324264099704
2017 Nissan Sentra	3N1AB7AP3HY264403
2007 Chevy Impala	2G1WT55NX79391296
2007 Chevy Trailblazer	1GNDT135772151581
2004 Chrysler Sebring	1C3EL66R54N350212
2006 Mercedes CLS500	WDDDJ75X06A065047
2005 Pontiac Grand Prix	2G2WP522151247125

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Sgt. Thomas Teatsorth  
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: January 27, 2020  
PUBLISHED: January 30, 2020

A copy of this notice can be viewed on [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org) under Public Notices.

Division  
leaders

Junior Kaitlyn Gray, right, and her University Liggett School girls basketball teammates moved to 5-0 and remain in first place in the Catholic League Intersectional II Division last week with a 46-26 home win over Austin Catholic. The win was the Knights' fourth in a row and moved them to 8-2 overall.



## Gymnastics

## GROSSE POINTE UNITED

## Consistency lifting gymnasts

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe Unified gymnastics team placed sixth out of 20 squads in the Jeanne Caruss Invitational last weekend, scoring 137.6 points.

They placed third in the balance beam and vault.

Maeve Jamieson and Cate Gagnier competed in Division 1, and the other girls were in Division 2 for head coach Courtney Hamidi.

The girls' best event was the vault where they scored 36.3 points. Gagnier, Amanda Nguyen and Jamieson finished second, tied for eighth and 10th in the event with scores of 9.6, 9.0 and 9.0.

Lexi Poulus and Kate Ennis also competed and

scored 8.7 and 8.65, respectively.

On the floor exercise, the team had a 34.7 with Gagnier taking third with 9.225. Nguyen had 8.95, followed by Jamieson with 8.3, Ava Rogowski with 8.225 and Sammy Lucido with 7.95.

Hamidi watched her gymnasts score 33.825 on the balance beam. Rogowski led the team with an 8.8, which was sixth. Ennis tied for eighth in D2 with an 8.5, while Gagnier tied for eighth in D1 with an 8.35. Other scores were Maddie LoPorto with an 8.175 and Nguyen with 7.65.

On the uneven parallel bars, Gagnier was fourth with 9.125, while Jamieson had an 8.125. Other competitors were Lucido, Nguyen and Rogowski.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY HAMIDI

Gymnasts, from left, Maeve Jamieson, Sammy Lucido, Ava Rogowski, Lexi Poulus, Amanda Nguyen, Maddie LoPorto, Cate Gagnier and Kate Ennis, have consistently executed solid routines this season.

## Boys basketball

## SOUTH &amp; NORTH

## Blue Devils crush foes; North splits

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team completed the first half of its Macomb Area Conference White Division slate last week, finishing a perfect 5-0 after dismantling visiting Warren Mott 81-45.

"We played well and it was nice to see the unselfishness on the court," head coach Steve Benard said.

The Blue Devils clicked from the opening tip, leading 7-0 in the first minute of the game. It was 18-7 after the first quarter and 37-14 at the half.

The Marauders couldn't gain any momentum from the Blue Devils, who once again used the three-point shot to build the big

lead.

In the second half, freshman Anthony Benard hit three straight three pointers, with each attempt coming further behind the line with the same end result — a swish.

The Blue Devils won the third quarter 17-16 and added a 27-point fourth quarter to finish off the Marauders.

The home team finished with 15 three-point baskets and 16 two-point baskets. Benard's squad had assists on 80 percent of its field goals.

"We're finding the open man with an extra pass, and that is great to see," Benard said.

Anthony Benard led the way with 22 points, followed by senior Miles Jamieson with 14, junior Jordan Johnson with eight and sophomore

Will Johnson with eight.

Senior Thomas Hessburg and Jordan Johnson led the team in rebounding, grabbing nine and seven, respectively, while senior Alex Shaheen had double-digit assists yet again.

Earlier in the week, South defeated host New Haven 73-61.

"We built a big lead in the fourth quarter, and won a big road game," Benard said. "The guys did a great job on the road. It was a nice victory."

Benard had a team-leading 21 points, followed by Will Johnson with 17 and Jamieson with 11. Shaheen had 10 assists.

Grosse Pointe South improved to 5-0 in the MAC White Division and 9-2 overall.

## North results

Grosse Pointe North overcame a 16-point deficit last week to beat host Utica Ford 69-68.

The Norsemen trailed

in the second half, but chipped away by forcing turnovers and turning up the defensive intensity.

Later in the week, the Norsemen lost 59-54 to visiting New Haven to

fall to 2-3 in the Macomb Area Conference White Division and 2-9 overall.

Senior Cameron Perrino led the way with 21 points and junior Jordan Shepherd had 18.

## UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

## Rally falls short

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys basketball team ended its four-game winning streak Monday evening with a 44-42 home loss to Waterford Lakes.

Everything that could go wrong did go wrong for the Knights, but they used an 18-10 fourth quarter to get back in the game after trailing by double digits early in the period.

Head coach Solomon Spann watched his Knights claw their way back in the game by increasing the defensive intensity and watching Lakes miss 10 straight free throws in the final few minutes.

Junior Cameron Strong's basket with 7.1 left brought the Knights within a bucket, giving them a

chance to sneak out with an improbable victory.

Lakes missed its ninth and 10th straight free throws, and the Knights rebounded the ball. After a timeout with 1.5 left, a long three-point attempt missed the mark and the Knights lost.

The Knights trailed 23-16 at the half, and it was 34-24 Lakes at the end of the third quarter.

Strong finished with 17 points, followed by junior Sawyer Szajenko with eight, senior Anthony Green with seven and junior Mike Clark with five.

The Knights made only five of 20 free throws and turned the ball over more than 20 times.

In other action, ULS edged Detroit Cristo Rey 51-50 to see its record hit 4-1 in the Catholic League Intersectional II

Division and 6-6 overall.

During the second half of the league schedule, the Knights host Clarkston Everest Collegiate at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, and then travel to Allen Park Cabrini and Frankel Jewish Academy at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

They host Cristo Rey at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, and finish league play with a road game at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, against Waterford Lakes.

At the halfway mark, ULS and Everest Collegiate are tied at 4-1, while Cristo Rey and Waterford Lakes are just one game back at 3-2.

Cabrini and Frankel Jewish Academy are fifth and sixth.

In the Intersectional I Division, Gabriel Richard is in the lead.



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## Swimming

## GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

## Blue Devils crush foe; stay in first

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys swimming and diving team improved to 2-0 in the M a c o m b A r e a Conference Red Division last week, beating Fraser 150-35.

The Blue Devils swept most of the events to

dominate the meet from start to finish for head coach John Fodell.

John Gelle, Ryan English and Chandler Bower finished first, second and third in the 200-yard freestyle, turning in times of 1:49.50, 1:49.79 and 1:56.10, while in the 200-yard individual medley it was Thad Mackrell, Peter Costello and Jack

Hurst taking first, second and third with times of 2:06.76, 2:13.83 and 2:21.40.

Keiran Rahmaan, Raef Akkary and Michael Currier swept the 50-yard freestyle, posting times of 22.79, 23.97 and 23.99, and the trio of Logan Hepner, Griffin Cantin and Abram Mercer finished first, third and fourth in

diving, earning 250.55, 119.70 and 100.35 points.

Tucker Briggs, Ethan Kinkade and Christopher Bower took the top three spots in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing with times of 56.25, 58.22 and 59.90, and the Blue Devils once again swept an event, taking first, second and third in the 100-yard freestyle with

Rahmaan, English and Drew Vandeputte posting times of 49.95, 50.80 and 51.62.

Gelle, Joshua Dixon and Hurst finished first, second and third in the 500-yard freestyle with times of 5:05.15, 5:20.80 and 5:25.42.

Mackrell and Briggs took first and second in the 100-yard backstroke

with times of 57.33 and 1:02.14, and in the 100-yard breaststroke Vandeputte, Jackson Jogan and Costello finished first, second and third with times of 1:02.43, 1:06.17 and 1:06.24.

The Blue Devils also won each of the relays to help with the dual meet victory

## GROSSE POINTE NORTH

## Big Reds edge out Norsemen

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North boys swimming and diving team had its chances, but in the end lost a close meet 95-88 to visiting Chippewa Valley last week.

The Norsemen won their share of events, but the Big Reds were able to earn a few more second-

and third-place finishes to edge the home team.

Head coach Nick Valice watched his Norsemen get off to a fast start as Gianni Carlino, Owen Schaaf, Ian Donahue and Jack Gehlert won the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:46.03.

Carlino and Alex Agius finished second and fourth in the 200-yard

freestyle with times of 1:51.14 and 2:09.98, while Donahue won the 200-yard individual medley at 2:03.66.

Schaaf and Kyle MacGillis placed second and fourth in the 50-yard freestyle with times of 23.78 and 25.87, and in diving Trever Mulkey and Andrew Peabody finished first and second with 191.46 and 185.10

points.

Gehlert won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 59.96, and Peabody was runner-up in the 100-yard freestyle at 56.41.

Carlino came back to win the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:50.68 and Gehlert was third at 5:26.73.

The Norsemen kept it close by winning the 200-

yard freestyle relay with Carlino, Gehlert, Donahue and Schaaf posting a time of 1:36.09, and the duo of Noah LaFluer and Donahue took first and second in the 100-yard backstroke to earn 10 points.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Schaaf was first and MacGillis fourth with times of 1:03.47 and 1:15.85, and in the final

event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, Agius, Peabody, Jonathan White and Cordy Wettstein took second at 3:56.94.

The Big Reds placed first and third in the relay to earn 10 points, and the Norsemen had four points for second.

Grosse Pointe North dropped to 0-2 in the M a c o m b A r e a Conference Red Division.

## Boys hockey

## NORTH &amp; SOUTH



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT

## MIHL Showcase

Grosse Pointe North senior Brian Clogg, above, and Grosse Pointe South senior Brian McKenna, shooting below, and their teammates will compete in the annual MIHL Showcase Thursday, Feb. 6, through Saturday, Feb. 8, at Trenton's Kennedy Recreation Center. North plays Feb. 6 at 5:20 p.m. against Allen Park Cabrini, and at 6:50 p.m. on Feb. 8 against Rochester United. South faces Salem at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 7, and Grandville at 10:20 a.m. Feb. 8.



## Tennis

## GROSSE POINTE

## USTA selects local teenager for team

Grosse Pointe's Maya Joint is among the nine top 14-and-under juniors who will represent the U.S. in the renowned Les Petits As Le Mondial Lacoste event from Jan. 23 to Feb. 2 in Tarbes, France.

The 13-year-old Joint is coached by Emily Kelley.

In addition, the boys' and girls' team are also competing in the prestigious Junior International Teen Tennis in Bolton, England.

The boys players are Kaylan Bigun of College Park, Md., Nikita Filin of Wilmette, Ill., Mitchell Lee of Oakland, Calif. and Alexander Razeghi

of Humble, Texas. USTA National Coach Jon Glover will travel with and coach the boys.

The other girls players are Clervie Ngonoune of Washington, D.C., Brooklyn Olson of Bradenton, Fla., Lexington Reed of Orlando, Fla. and Mia Slama of Boca Raton.

USTA National Coach Lori Riffice will travel with and coach the girls.

All nine players were selected based on their results at a 16-person Les Petits As USA Playoffs that was held in October.

Both tournaments are renowned for their previous participants. Andy Murray, Kim Clijsters, Justine Henin and

Caroline Wozniacki are among the previous finalists in Bolton, while a number of former Les Petits As champions have gone on to become No. 1 in the world, including Rafael Nadal, Clijsters and Martina Hingis.

Americans have had significant success in recent years. The U.S. has had five Les Petits As singles champions in the last nine years, including CiCi Bellis, in 2013, and Frances Tiafoe, in 2012.

Former American winners at Les Petits As also include Michael Chang, Donald Young and Bethanie Mattek-Sands, while Lindsay Davenport was a finalist.

## Hockey

## GROSSE POINTE

## Connolly benefit

The East Side Youth Sports Foundation and Bulldogs Hockey Club have planned a special presentation and dedication Saturday, Feb. 8, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the ESH Ice Arena in Detroit, for Briggs and Logan Connolly, the two boys tragically lost in a house fire in 2019.

The Bulldogs Hockey Club has dedicated its 8U year-end tournament to the Connolly boys by renaming it the "Brogran Cup." The first will be presented to the championship team by Walter and Azucena Connolly. Immediately following will be a lobby presentation with the unveiling

of a tribute to the Connolly boys, and a statement from the family, announcing a new hockey scholarship fund in honor of the boys.

The celebration of the boys' lives will be a family event, and will include activities for all ages, followed by a game of sled hockey.

The evening will conclude with an adult only charity broomball event.

The day starts with learn to skate at 8 a.m., and then a portion to play the sport from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Learn to play for the children in the 2013 birth year, as well as the

5th seed vs. 6th seed for the Mites follows that, and from 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the ice is resurfaced.

The Mites Consolation 1 game, third-place game for 2011/12 birth years and finals are next, followed by an on-ice trophy presentation.

There will also be a lobby presentation and shadow box dedication, which includes a group photo in the late morning, early afternoon.

The Michigan Sled Dogs vs. Grand Rapids Sled Wings square off in the afternoon, and then the day concludes with an adult-only event, the 8U broom ball fund raiser.



