

Grosse Pointe News

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 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



DESIGN COURTESY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

A conceptual rendering of a glass-walled, strolling promenade as part of the proposed new addition to The War Memorial.

Bird collision concerns addressed

Preliminary site plan approved

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — While city council unanimously approved The War Memorial's parking lot variance request and preliminary site plan for the improvements and addition to its campus during the meeting Monday,

Feb. 10, the discussion was dominated by concern over bird-window collisions, specifically in regard to a section of the addition set to be constructed, which potentially could be all glass. The amount of glass is subject to further study, reported Charles Burke, president and CEO of The War Memorial.

"I want to emphasize that this is conceptual, that this is the beginning phase," he said. " ... Everything presented thus far is conceptual by nature and at a point of starting." Burke clarified The War Memorial has heard the community's concerns and is open to exploring the various bird safety options such as Feather Friendly com-

mercial bird collision deterrent technology, which the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House has used, or even UV sprays. "I would also like to say the renderings in terms of scale seem bigger than they really are," he said in regard to the addition. "It's no higher than the current elevator

See CONCERNS, page 2A

Park attorney could face discipline

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City Council unanimously voted at its Monday, Feb. 10 session to discuss possible disci-

pline toward City Attorney Dennis Levasseur after three citizens complained of unprofessional behavior by the lawyer.

See ATTORNEY, page 3A

Residents seek answers to art center questions

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Not satisfied with the amount of information provided by city leaders, several residents planned to organize a community discussion about the A. Paul and Carol C. Schapp

Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery undergoing development on Jefferson. The forum was to be held Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Atwater Brewery, following discussion about the A. Paul and Carol C. Schapp

See ANSWERS, page 3A

Farms cell tower agreement amended

By Laurel Kraus
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Following discussions between city officials and AT&T beginning in July 2019, Grosse Pointe Farms City Council unanimously voted as part of the consent agenda at the meet-

ing Monday, Feb. 10, to amend its 27-year contract with the company regarding the lease of a cell tower on the city hall lot at 90 Kerby.

The contract consists of an initial 10-year term, with three five-year automatic extensions, and will bring in \$34,800 per year to the city in rent costs.

This is an increase over the previous annual rent, which was approximately \$29,500. The contract also includes language which states if the Farms were to sell the property and move city hall elsewhere, AT&T would split the cost of relocating the tower with a stipulation that the new location be compatible from an engineering

See TOWER, page 3A

Chamber reviews 2019, honors outstanding Pointers

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Some of the 2019 highlights reflected on by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce at its 14th annual membership dinner Jan. 30, included the formation of its first strategic plan, attracting record attendance at events like its annual North/South Tailgate and hosting the 45th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Parade. The chamber also welcomed 31 new businesses last year, as well as Director of Communications Danielle Biaz and intern Ethan Reeside to its staff.

"Jenny and her team and the board of directors made 2019 an incredibly productive and successful year," said outgoing chairman Ted Everingham, who was honored for nearly a decade of service to the



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Awardees, from left J. Patrick Wright of Racing for Kids; Mary Lou LeFevre, representing Mike LeFevre of Mike's on the Water; Maria Fields, University Liggett School; Andrew Spiteri, Grosse Pointe North High School; Claire Sheeren, Grosse Pointe South High School; and Jimmy Saros, Jim Saros Real Estate Services.

chamber. Everingham, who is moving up in the world, passed the gavel to incoming chairwoman Tomasine Marx, also

announced the chamber is moving up in the world, relocating to street level at 106 Kercheval from the basement offices it's had

since 2009. Marx then invited the community to stop by the new offices

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Pointer of INTEREST
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Christina Pitts
 Home: Grosse Pointe Woods Consultant, author finds joy in trying new things.



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Woods chosen for annual tri-county DIA exhibit

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A stroll down a stretch of Mack just might resemble a trip to an exclusive gallery this spring.

For the second time in the program's 10-year history, the Woods has been chosen to participate in the Detroit Institute of Arts' annual InsideOut initiative, a community engagement effort that exhibits replicas of DIA work in Wayne, Oakland and

Macomb counties.

From June through October, the Woods will display a portion of the pieces selected for InsideOut 2020's city participants, said Megan Hawthorne, a DIA spokeswoman.

"We look at communities we have not gone into recently, or that are supporters of the museum," she said.

Among other considerations for city selection are walkable or bike-friendly districts that lend themselves to greater public interest in the art-

work.

"Every single year the communities get very excited about it," Hawthorne added.

Bruce Smith, Woods city administrator, said the community will display four pieces of DIA art from June to October. The exhibit marks the Woods' second successful application for InsideOut, since the community was selected about nine years ago, Smith said.

"They want everybody to be able to see these pieces and spark their interest and enthusiasm

to see more of what's down there at the museum," Smith said.

Attention generated from displaying works in the DIA's world-class collection also can translate to increased business in local neighborhoods or other tourism from visitors to the Woods, he said.

"They might see a shop or something that interests them," Smith added. "So this could be good for everybody."

Specific locations of the artwork will be determined between the city

and the DIA's department of community engagement, but the high-quality reproductions of original art will be weather-proof and designed for outdoor display, attached to buildings or exterior walls. The DIA will provide maps of where the artwork will be displayed to help promote the exhibition.

InsideOut expanded its reach to a much broader audience of travelers in 2019 when it installed 24 reprinted pieces at Detroit Metro Airport's

North Terminal in August. Masterpieces installed from the museum's collection include "The Nut Gatherers" by William Adolphe Bouguereau and "Dancers in the Green Room" by Edgar Degas.

While the specific pieces to be exhibited in the Woods will be determined by size, location and related factors, Smith said he expects a positive response from the community and visitors to the Woods. Early discussions

See EXHIBIT, page 3A

CONCERNS:

Continued from page 1A

building that's there and the structure, although I cannot give you the exact height, it's at the bottom roof line of the current Alger house, so on both sides it's protected (from) north and south by trees.

"Now I know the issue is not height per say," he added. "It is the transparency of whether there's three sides of glass or four sides of glass or one side of glass and that is something that we will work through with people that are subject matter experts in this."

Burke also urged council to consider bird safety with all building projects in the Grosse Pointes, citing equity of treatment.

"I say this in earnest to everyone here," he said. "We are committed to



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

For The War Memorial and residents' consideration, Councilman Joe Ricci brought a sheet of regular glass and bird-safe solar glass, center, as well as a booklet of buildings that have implemented the solar glass, to the meeting Monday, Feb. 10.

learning more and to being sustainable and responsible for the stewardship of the environment and wildlife via experts and industry best practices."

This includes the creation of a sustainability task force, which will work on issues such as solar power, rain gar-

dens, permeable surfaces and native plantings.

Many community members filled council chambers as a show of support for bird safety considerations as the project moves forward.

"I think it's wonderful that The War Memorial is going to be dealing with this issue upfront," said

Grosse Pointe Audubon member Marcia McBrien, citing a recent expensive bird safety renovation of the Javits Center in New York. "... We'd like to do it right from the get go and not have to go back and fix it later."

Councilman Joe Ricci suggested using solar glass for the windows, as well as bird deflectors.

"There are things out there and I just ask The War Memorial to look at everything and be open, because I think this is a very great project and I think we just need to do it right," he said.

The project includes the addition in front of the ballroom on the street side—the square footage of which is yet to be determined—and various improvements such as a community room, Alger family museum, terrace off the back of the ballroom and sidewalks

for access to the lakefront grounds.

The status of the Alger house on the National Register of Historical Places, Burke said, sets a high bar for the work.

He also addressed concerns brought forward at the public work session Tuesday, Jan. 21, emphasizing The War Memorial has no desire to have a restaurant; The Ford House currently is undergoing such a project.

There will, however, be traffic flow and parking lot renovations. While the parking requirement for the space as determined by the Farms was 312 parking spaces, the council unanimously voted to allow a variance of 10 spaces.

With a total of 302 spaces set to be available post-renovation, The War Memorial plans to share 60 spaces with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

and use 38 for valet services during select peak times.

"This is a preliminary site plan," Mayor Louis Theros clarified of the approvals. "The War Memorial will have to come back for a final site plan, which will cover such things as construction materials. For instance, whatever brick they'll use (and) whatever glass they're going to use, so that's nothing we're deciding today."

The final site plan approval will include information on construction staging, the timeline and final drawings and elevations.

Anyone interested in contacting The War Memorial regarding this project can do so at feed back@warmemorial.org. Additionally, The War Memorial will be providing quarterly community updates.

HONORS:

Continued from page 1A

or, if short on time, simply wave, as there are now windows.

"We are a great team," Marx said. "We are working for you, working for our community. Great things are in store for

2020."

Apart from carrying on its signature events like Legacy on the Lake and Restaurant Week, the chamber is taking over hosting duties for the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast this spring. It's also collaborating with the College for Creative Studies on a design project later in the year.

ect later in the year.

Before presenting the Pointer of Distinction Awards, Marx recognized Ellen Durand for 31 years of business ownership in Grosse Pointe, first with Village Toy, then with El's Boutique. El's closed at the end of 2019 so Durand could start another venture.

"I've had so much support in this community," Durand said. "Especially in the month of December, it's been hard, but the love of customers, families, kids and businesses showed — because it's a great place to have a business."

The chamber next honored its 2020 Pointers of Distinction, awards created to recognize individuals and organizations that are among the very

best in our very special community," Everingham said. "These awards are meant to recognize extraordinary people doing extraordinary things nearly every day."

Youth Achievement awards were presented to University Liggett School senior Maria Fields, Grosse Pointe South High School senior Claire Sheeren and Grosse Pointe North High School senior Andrew Spiteri.

"There is no 'i' in 'success,'" Fields said, upon receiving her award. "I learned that firsthand."

Fields credited her education and teachers for helping her become the person she is today. She also thanked her parents.

"There are not enough words to describe how

grateful I am to them for all they've done for me," she said. "My family is my team — my team of coaches, cheerleaders and friends. They have shaped me into who I am today."

Sheeren, too, thanked her parents for their support. She also thanked God, as well as the community for its support of her charitable work, including the Run, Walk & Roll event she created.

"It's great to live here in a place where everyone is really supportive," she said, noting the second annual Run, Walk & Roll event will take place this spring, "so if anyone is interested in supporting or donating, I would love to talk to you."

Spiteri said he was honored to be recognized, then thanked Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Gary Niehaus and "all those who are involved in the Grosse Pointe schools" for their leadership and guidance. He also thanked his family for their support.

The Community Service award was presented to Mike LeFevre, owner of Mike's on the Water in St. Clair Shores, whose restaurant consistently collects donations for various charities.

"The community we live in is so special and giving," LeFevre commented prior to the ceremony. "There are so many organizations that need support. At Mike's, we do that all year round — and we're only open seven months a year."

LeFevre, who was vacationing in Egypt at the time of the event, thanked the chamber for his award via video. His mother, Mary Lou

LeFevre, accepted it on his behalf.

The Excellence in Business award was given to Jim Saros Real Estate Services, founded in 1937. The award was accepted by Jimmy Saros, a third-generation operator of the business, who credited his father, James G. Saros II, for mentoring him.

"It was a really exciting and great 2019 for our team," Saros said, noting that opportunities in real estate abound throughout metro Detroit and Grosse Pointe. "While completing our new office development, we more than doubled the size of our team and have seen a sales increase of 38.8 percent since 2017."

Saros thanked his wife, Kelly, as well as the City of Grosse Pointe for its help during the ground-up rebuilding of the business's new headquarters.

Racing for Kids was selected to receive the Excellence in Nonprofit Activity award. Its executive director, J. Patrick Wright, accepted the award, but was quick to share the honor with "three cogs" of the "well-run machine" that is Racing for Kids: Chief Operating Officer Debby Wright, Director of Public Relations Kathleen Conway and Director of Events Linda Finger.

"I like to think we take the goodness of Grosse Pointe to sick children around the world," he said. "We feel not only privileged to be Grosse Pointers, but privileged and honored for this award tonight."

For biographical information about all of the 2020 Pointer of Distinction winners, visit grossepointenews.com.

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ATTORNEY:

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The council verbally reprimanded Levasseur, who read a statement expressing remorse, but members were compelled to delay any formal response until a March 9 session, partly due to Levasseur's inability to offer unbiased counsel about how the body should proceed.

In January, Martin Steiger told the council he received a private message from Levasseur following a social media skirmish during which contributors to a community page debated the city's handling of a neighborhood development. Levasseur suggested comments from participants should be more positive and constructive. Steiger said he thought the dialogue had

ended, but later read a message from what appeared to be Levasseur's Facebook account, telling Steiger, "You should find a job."

"It came out of left field," said Steiger, a stay-at-home dad and lawyer.

A screen capture of the exchange shows Steiger replying, "Excuse me?" "Excuse you for what?" Levasseur answers. "Having no ideas to benefit your community? Have you ever done anything like join the Democratic Voter Protection Program? Have you ever mentored a kid in Detroit? Have you ever written a check to the Foundation? No. You just attack what you don't understand. Attack me and you will understand the real world."

Said Steiger, "I don't know exactly what he meant by what he said."

He later met with a council committee, including Mayor Pro Tem Jim Robson, that investigates personnel complaints.

"If the bags under my eyes are twice as big as they were 30 days ago, this is the reason," Robson said at the Feb. 10 session. "When my wife wonders why I'm staring off into space in a restaurant, I'm thinking about this complaint."

Council member Michele Hodges read a statement from Mayor Robert Denner, who was traveling, that called Levasseur's exchange with Steiger "completely inappropriate."

"The city attorney may be removed at the will of the council," read Denner's statement, adding that local officials "have a responsibility that goes beyond normal working hours and activ-

ities, and governs their actions as professionals and representatives of our great city at all times."

Levasseur read a statement, regretting the exchange "that was, rightly or wrongly, viewed as threatening."

"It was not my intent at any time to threaten Mr. Steiger and I don't believe I did," he said.

Council member Lauri Read expressed alarm about a pattern connected with Levasseur.

"It concerns me that we had one resident make a complaint, but we had two citizens come forward after," Read said.

Brian Vosburg told council he also experienced an unpleasant Facebook exchange with Levasseur. Vosburg and Graig Donnelly, who clashed with city leaders in 2014, both suggested

further action by council is appropriate.

"I'm not satisfied," Donnelly told members during the public comment segment. "The actions of the city attorney are not isolated."

Donnelly learned that Levasseur once submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to his employer, inquiring about policies that might have impacted Donnelly's job status. The request appeared to be retaliation for Donnelly's involvement in a contentious council discussion about the former barricade at Kercheval and Alter, Donnelly said.

Levasseur's occasionally testy responses to residents stems from pride in the city and lack of patience with those who don't offer solutions, Levasseur said a day after the Feb. 10 session.

"We have an incredibly

talented community and I'm looking for the best in everybody," Levasseur said. "Unfortunately, I spoke in a bit of frustration."

He added that he resents poor treatment by some participants at meetings who get "yelled at and hissed at" by other residents. His job is to help preserve the democratic process, Levasseur said.

Levasseur has been Park city attorney for 12 years. Some who attended the meeting, including Greg Bowens, co-founder of the Grosse Pointe-Harper Woods NAACP, praised Levasseur's work on behalf of the community. Bowens said Levasseur hires "black and brown" people, contributing to local diversity.

"He's given people a chance. I've seen that," Bowens added.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Chillin' in the Park

Grosse Pointe Park hosted its annual Chilly Fest at both Patterson Park and Windmill Pointe Park, with trolley service in between. The event included a chili cookoff, ice carvings, games, camel rides, a wood carving demonstration, skating and more. Rose Picek gets to work on a s'more sandwiched between two fudge-striped cookies.



Josephine Roy and Emily Ervin have mixed reactions while riding a camel named Gunner. For more photos, visit grossepointenews.com.



Grosse Pointe South High School junior Kerrigan Dunham, sophomore Eathan Harr and math teacher Ryan Wheaton clown around while making balloon shapes like swords and hats for kids.

EXHIBIT:

Continued from page 2A

from a recent meeting of chosen participants included inviting young students to take "selfies" and post photos of the artwork and write descriptions of the

images, Smith added. "It's good for the city because these sites will be posted, so people from all over the metro area can come to Grosse Pointe Woods and other cities to see the art work."

"I really am excited," he said.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, FEB. 17

◆ Municipal offices closed for President's Day.
◆ All Pointes Flurries-N-Fun Week, NERF Mobile Games, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Lavin's Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. Cost is \$10. Register in advance; space is limited.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m. at city hall, 795 Lakeshore.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

◆ All Pointes Flurries-N-Fun Week, Board Game Bonanza, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. Email the number of participants to craigc@grossepointepark.org.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

◆ All Pointes Flurries-N-Fun Week, Build a Pizza, 10:45 a.m. or noon at The Bricks Pizzeria, 15201 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Cost is \$20 and must be paid in advance at the Lavins Activity Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. Space is limited.

ANSWERS:

Continued from page 1A

ing months of speculation by some Park observers who've asked for a public meeting since the center was announced last year.

Council members were invited to attend the discussion at a council meeting Monday, Feb. 10.

Along with active conversations and comments in the form of Facebook posts by concerned residents, some have been vocal at council sessions about what they describe as unanswered questions. For example, Mary Rouleau asked last month when public hearings that were mentioned in December would be scheduled.

"I am personally skeptical about whether a fine arts center will be a draw

for future residents," she said. "But, that said, there are many, many questions about the art center, including a full accounting of costs to not only construct, but to maintain (the facility), including identifying all sources and amount of public revenue being contemplated, the expected public access to the building, including fees, and more transparency regarding the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation."

In October, the council approved the purchase of a \$366,000 land parcel from the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation to develop the center. Councilwoman Lauri Read opposed the move, saying an appraisal of the property and other matters should first be addressed.

Mayor Robert Denner said additional informa-

tion about the development is pending URIF's progress, which is scheduled to continue through 2020.

But residents like Rouleau have called for a halt to advancement in construction of the cen-

ter, which is projected to cost approximately \$18 million in funds city leaders say will be secured from donors.

"There has been an ongoing lack of disclosure and due diligence," Rouleau said.

TOWER:

Continued from page 1A

standpoint.

The initial agreement was created in 1993 with an initial term of five years and four five-year

extensions.

Since that expired, the two entities have been working with a year-to-year extension of the lease. The term was set to automatically extend July 6, had the amendment not been approved.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Pointer goes with the flow

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Christina Pitts uses the metaphor of a river journey to describe her life. She goes along for the ride, never knowing where life will take her, but finding adventure, challenge and joy at every turn.

She grew up in East Detroit (now Eastpointe), attended East Detroit High School, then studied at the University of Michigan.

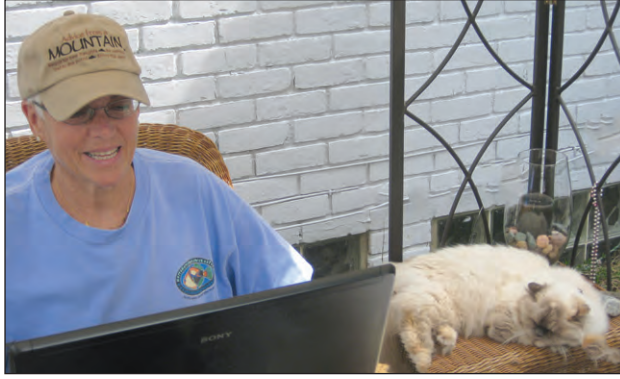
"I helped pay for college working as a tennis instructor," she said.

She began assisting at age 9, earning a nickel an hour. A few years later, she became an instructor.

"At 16, I played in a tournament at Yost Field House on a clay court. An extraordinary experience for a young teen: an out-of-town state tournament. Wow. A pretty big deal."

Enamored with U of M, Pitts applied only there and, as a student, was part of forming its first women's tennis team in 1965. She majored in English and speech and minored in philosophy.

"Then I hung around to get my teaching certificate, just in case," she



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTINA PITTS

Christina Pitts works on her laptop while Dusty takes a nap.

said. Summers during college she was a secretary at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. After graduation, she worked full-time as coordinator of the teaching program for surgery students, interns and residents.

"I learned tons about medicine," she said, "and thought about a career in medical education or becoming a doctor. (Then I) realized science wasn't for me."

Three years later, she had an offer to put her teaching degree to use.

"There was a glut of teachers — 10,000 teachers for 10 jobs," she said. "But a counselor at a local high school called. 'I have a job for you.' It was an opportunity of a lifetime I

couldn't pass up."

Pitts taught English seven years, during which time she earned her master's degree in English literature at Oakland University. During her teaching career, she formed the high school's first girls' softball team.

"Title IX had just leveled the playing field," she said. "The girls needed a team, so I coached it."

Six years into teaching, a friend suggested, "You'd be a great lawyer." Pitts pondered the possibilities, then decided to take the LSAT. If she passed, she decided she'd give law school a go.

Pitts kept teaching while taking night classes at a local university.

"It was a heavy load: a full day teaching, then four nights, four classes, four hours, but I pushed on."

"I left teaching in my second year of law school," she added. "It was a tough decision, but I wasn't giving enough to the students, who deserved my full effort and attention."

Instead, she clerked at two law firms while completing her degree, the grind motivating her to get her degree in record time. A desire to be her own boss inspired her to form her own company, which is still thriving after 30 years. Pitts-Aldrich Associates offers consulting, coaching, leadership and team development, and strategic planning.

"I don't think I'll ever retire," Pitts said. "I love my clients and my work. It nurtures my mind, body, spirit and soul."

"My vision, a legacy of exceptional contribution,

inspires me," she added. "I want to leave a legacy. I support people to legacy in themselves. I ask, 'What do you want to leave behind that helps the world be a better place?' My mission is to inspire the power of one to greatness. I help clients discover their greatness and successfully navigate the waters to get there."

Pitts provides a unique and enriching learning experience via HorsePlay, offering "wisdom from the world of horses" to business executives, leaders and teams, as well as individuals, families and groups.

"Ten years ago, we wanted to distinguish ourselves from other consultants," she said. "HorsePlay is it. We partner with horses, as teachers and guides, to help us to be better humans personally and professionally."

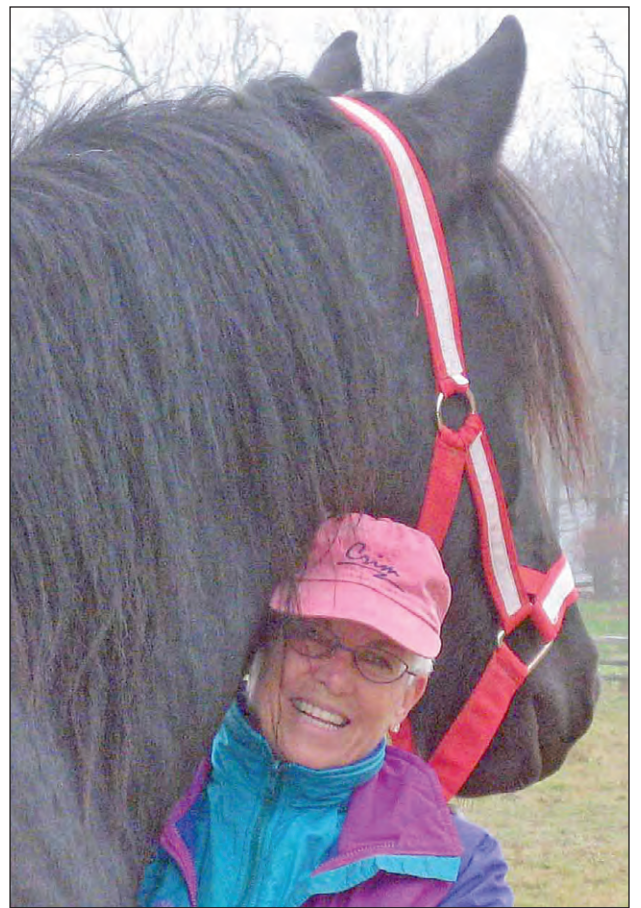
"We learn from nature, a great teacher. In nature, endorphins and other supportive chemicals in our bodies maximize, so we simply feel better," she added. "As prey animals, horses are superb teachers, ultra-sensitive to their environment. They mirror back to us what's truly going on with us, supporting us to find our authenticity and to act with integrity."

"Very few people in the country do this work. It's not about riding; it's about groundwork, about building relationships and partnerships. Am I safe with you? Do you respect me? Can I trust you? We all yearn for these. The big question we need to ask ourselves is 'Do I sometimes treat others as if they're prey? Or the flip side: 'Do I let others treat me as though I'm insignificant?'"

Pitts operates her business according to a set of core values — integrity, courage, wisdom, patience and prosperity (the wellbeing of the whole) — and her life as well. She practices those values in selecting volunteer work and ways to donate her professional skills.

She volunteers at Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage as a "cheerleader, thanking those on the front lines for their consistently superior service," she said. "The hardest job on the planet, after good parenting, is in health care."

Pitts continues to offer



Pitts poses with therapy horse, Raven.

pro bono services to various charities and raises funds for The Family Center and other nonprofits. She's raised thousands of dollars running marathons for The National Association for Children of Alcoholics and The American Diabetes Association and participating in a few 150-mile bike rides for the Michigan Multiple Sclerosis Society. She's a 30-year mentor for Mentium 100, supporting women's leadership. She also volunteers her services in local and national election campaigns.

Two causes have a special place in her heart. Several years ago, Pitts was able to prolong her brother's life by giving him one of her kidneys. After the transplant, "he lived another 13 years," she said. "The kidney was still going strong when he passed away."

Her experience as an organ donor led her to a mentoring role with transplant patients, through the Henry Ford Transplant Institute. Her own cancer journey — "my year of living dangerously in 2014" — has led her to mentor cancer patients and join the Patient-Family Advisory Council for the Henry Ford Cancer Institute.

Pitts also is a published author. Her first book, "Brown Paper Bag," a novel in stories, letters and poems, was published in 2007, marking her 60th birthday. She also contributed a chapter to a professional book on personal leadership. This year, she published "Reflections," 400 pages collecting her poetry and

stories more than 20 years, with 700 of her photos.

"The collection is a tribute to the natural world around us," she said, "a conduit to connect us with the small gifts of nature's beauty offered to us every moment in our lives."

She and her partner, Lynne Aldrich, have commissioned a sculpture for the new Henry Ford Cancer Institute's Brigitte Harris Cancer Pavilion, opening in July.

"We're so excited about the diversity of meaning and experience people will derive when engaging with this extraordinary work of art," she said.

"Next up is an audio book of favorite poems," she added. "And, I have 1,350 letters from my father written to my mother during World War II — a love story over oceans and deserts, when telephone wasn't an option and people didn't know whether their beloveds were alive or dead. I'd like to do something with this."

Pitts' interests include sailboat racing, photography, gardening, neighbors' dog walking, yoga and bicycling. She's an avid reader and lifelong learner, hoping to study painting and re-unite with the piano.

"I don't plan my life," she said. "My days are a voyage on a magnificent river. I go with the flow, the current, eddies and rapids. I don't need to know what's around the bend; I like the surprise of discovery once I arrive. Then I either stay on that river or chart a new course."



Pitts gives a kiss to therapy horse, Dylan.




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City of Grosse Pointe

Scrounging for parts

A catalytic converter worth \$1,600 was stolen off a 59-year-old Grosse Pointe woman's car between 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, and 4:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, while it was parked in a lot on Notre Dame.

One car, two arrests

After a vehicle was pulled over at Cadieux Road and Waterloo at 9:31 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3, the 22-year-old Clinton Township driver was arrested for driving while license suspended and the 42-year-old Detroit passenger was arrested for a felony warrant out of Detroit.

Stood up

A 44-year-old St. Clair Shores man is suspected of fraud after a 68-year-old Grosse Pointe woman hired him to replace the wrought iron railings at her Neff Road residence. She gave him a down payment of \$1,200 and he never did the work, despite making more than 20 appointments.

—Laurel Kraus
Report information

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Retaliation via the law

The ex-girlfriend of a 29-year-old Detroit man is suspected of throwing a landscaping block at his windshield at 10:46 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, in the 400 block of Bournemouth Circle.

The next day, the man called public safety to report the ex-girlfriend was in possession of a rental car due back Jan. 28.

Hiding in plain sight

While being rented by a Moross resident, a dumpster trailer belonging to a Clinton Township business was stolen and discovered for sale on Facebook Marketplace by a 24-year-old Detroit man Sunday, Feb. 9.

When officers went to collect the trailer, they found the VIN sticker

and company sign had been removed in an attempt to conceal the identity of the trailer, but then found the company sign in the trailer when they looked inside.

Officers were unable to locate the suspect at the time.

Driving while license suspended

After making a sudden lane change without signaling and a Secretary of State check showed no insurance, a 46-year-old Detroit man was arrested at Mack Avenue and Radnor Street for operating under the influence of alcohol and driving while license suspended at 2:41 a.m. Monday, Feb. 10.

Ditching the evidence

Officers pulled over a 29-year-old Detroit woman in the 2200 block of Moross Road after she drove by them at 60 mph at 2:58 a.m. Monday, Feb. 10.

When officers approached the vehicle,

she could be seen pouring out a bottle of liquor into her console area, which she threw when she noticed them, but she denied drinking that night.

A preliminary breath test showed her blood alcohol content at .174 percent and she was arrested for operating under the influence.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Bad night, worse night

A vehicle traveling 54 mph on Lakeshore Road with no passenger-side headlight was pulled over at 1:12 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The 33-year-old Taylor woman could not provide any requested information and was reportedly distraught over being lost and hitting an animal earlier that night. She was arrested for driving while license suspended

and no insurance.

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

of insurance.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Ex suspected

A 2010 Jeep Liberty's rear driver-side tire was cut multiple times between midnight Tuesday, Feb. 4, and 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the 1000 block of Beaconsfield.

The vehicle's owner told Park public safety she suspects her former boyfriend of causing the damage.

Uninsured driver

A 53-year-old Royal Oak man was arrested after he was detained for driving 17 miles over the speed limit at Mack and Outer Drive Saturday, Feb. 8.

Police arrested the driver after he presented what a public safety officer described as "obviously fraudulent" proof

Grosse Pointe Woods

Operating under the influence

A 32-year-old Chesterfield Township man was arrested at Mack and Vernor after he was discovered passed out at the steering wheel of his vehicle around 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

The suspect, who admitted using \$10 worth of heroin a few hours earlier, was found in possession of a syringe and plastic bag containing white residue, according to Woods public safety.

The driver's vehicle was impounded and he was charged with operating under the influence of drugs.

—Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Farms to redesign website

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The City of Grosse Pointe recently completed its website redesign project and Grosse Pointe Farms now plans to follow closely in its footsteps.

A proposal to contact a local company to redesign the city's website was brought before council at its December meeting but was unanimously voted to be tabled until the next meeting to allow time for the city's communications committee — made up of council members Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Neil Sroka and Lev Wood — to meet and discuss the options.

At the meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21, city council passed the proposal as part of the consent agenda.

"The committee was really generated initially about seven years ago to design the website, so we met over the course of many months and developed the current website," City Manager Shane Reeside explained. "Recently, within the last year, we've asked the communications committee to take another look at that website... and I think the initial response was it's not a bad website. I think we were ahead of the curve at the beginning and it's still a relevant website; however, I think the functionality of the website is problematic."

Functionality that could be improved upon includes ensuring the website meets current Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, as well as certain safety protocols.

The contract with

Revize LLC, which specializes in municipal websites and is headquartered in Troy, will cost the city \$15,679.

"I'd say overall the thing that is impressive about this proposal is that for what is getting done, that's actually a very good rate," Sroka said.

Included in the redesign will be citizens' communication center applications such as a notification center with text and email alerts and a news center with Facebook and Twitter integration; citizens' engagement center applications such as a citizen request center with Captcha and online bill pay; site administration and security features such as an audit trail and a bid posting/management application; mobile device and accessibility features, which will be ADA compliant and enable better

viewing of the website on mobile devices; and staff productivity applications such as an agenda posting center and an online web and fillable form builder.

"The advantage, I think, of this platform is that we'll be able to do a lot of that stuff in house," Reeside said. "We will be

able to create forms, create things that we typically had to have created for (us) and then given to a webmaster to reprogram the website to put it online. This gives us the tools to take a much more active role administratively to update features on the website."

There are approximately 300 communities in Michigan that use Revize for their websites, including the City of Grosse Pointe and Birmingham.

"The reality is our website is ahead of the curve, but it does need a refresh," Sroka said.

Response time questioned

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Grosse Pointe South High School freshman girls basketball head coach Bob Zarnek pulled through after suffering a heart attack during half time of the varsity game against Grosse Pointe North Friday, Jan. 10, but some attendees were disturbed with how long it took medical services to arrive.

While Grosse Pointe Farms public safety officers were onsite in less than three minutes, the MedStar ambulance response time was 8.5 minutes. Farms Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen confirmed it was slower than normal due to the ambulance crew coming from another emergency situation.

"Every now and then that'll happen, but that's not acceptable in this town," Jensen said.

He reported he has contacted the ambulance company regarding the

situation. "We are not happy about it and we discussed it and it's being handled," he said.

—Laurel Kraus

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Teen vaping dangerous

The dramatic, near-death story of Grosse Pointe North junior Daniel Ament ought to suffice to warn the area's teens about vaping.

Sadly, it may take more than even this extreme example to penetrate many a teenage mindset. And for those who are already hooked on nicotine because of vaping, the difficulty of quitting can compound the problem exponentially.

Mr. Ament, now 17, received the nation's first double lung transplant for vaping-related damage last October. He has begun telling his story publicly, including during a Jan. 30 town hall at North High School.

Vaping dangers run the full range of possibility. Some users have died, as Mr. Ament would have without a transplant after 29 days on life support; others have had life-impairing injuries. But many, many more appear unaffected — and vaping is new enough that long-term data is non-existent.

Mr. Ament's recovery looks to be lengthy and includes a daily regimen of 20 pills. While he has regained enough of an academic foothold to plan on graduating as scheduled with the Class of 2021, he has had to give up his post-high school dream: becoming a cadet at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Vaping products deliver a substance into the mouth and lungs via an aerosol of fine particles. The substances can be derived from generally smoked items such as tobacco and marijuana; there also is a whole new realm of flavor-only products, mostly fruity.

For the Grosse Pointe Public School System — for all school districts, presumably — and parents, vaping poses a danger that looks particularly hard to fight.

Prevention efforts have to start early. During the town hall, students were polled on when they first tried vaping: 30 percent said middle school, which suggests it's already omnipresent there.

The majority of students at the town hall who vaped said they started in high school, but middle school is where the foundation needs to be built — as well as at home. Schools already have begun keeping bathroom doors open and adding hall monitors to watch for signs of use in school.

It probably feels like martial law to the students, and it's probably only suitable until schools and the community figure out better ways to combat vaping.

Parents also need to be reminded that no matter how much their teens and pre-teens appear to ignore them, they remain the crucial influencers — and that their offspring generally absorb what they say even when it generates the classic eye roll or worse.

Talking early and often about good choices during adolescence plays a part in bracing teenagers against the ill-advised behaviors they will encounter. It's an ever-growing roster that includes alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs, cigarettes and now vaping.

Many of these activities aren't illegal for grown-ups. But researchers have learned enough about the teenage brain to suggest that adolescent use of many of them, such as frequent drinking, hikes the risk for addiction and even damage to the still developing teenage brain.

National statistics cite a 50 percent increase in vaping among middle- and high-school students in just one year, from 2018 to 2019. There aren't statistics yet to show whether teens have been influenced by the rising occurrence of lung damage, which began drawing national attention late last summer.

Let's hope they have, because the rapid rise of teen vaping has become downright scary. Although a large majority of students say they use only flavored vaping products, nicotine has shown up in seemingly non-nicotine products. And the rest of the ingredients are rarely identified and may never have been studied for their effect on the lungs.

Meanwhile, Daniel Ament has begun his quest to spread the word. He has a fledgling website, Fight4Wellness.com, and he has a nonprofit corporation in the works. What schools can't accomplish with open bathroom doors and discipline, he may be able to do, teen to teen to tweener.

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Shores resident Gene Gargaro, chairman of the DIA board of directors, beside a reproduction of Gerrit van Honthorst's "Sophie, Princess of Palatine," as part of the DIA's 125th anniversary celebration in 2010.

PHOTO BY JOHN MINNIS

OUR VIEW

Vote yes on DIA millage renewal

Even for those with no interest in presidential primary politics, getting a ballot for the March 10 election is important so local voters can lend their support to renewal of the 0.2-mill levy for the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The first 10-year millage has turned out well for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. It supports about 65 percent of the DIA's annual budget and, in return, those residents get free museum admission — plus strong programming that provides free field trips, including transportation, to students. Senior citizens also have free access to weekly programs designed for them, including transportation if they come as a group.

The benefits surely outweigh the costs for everyone who visits the museum. Even those who don't go should know that the DIA still ranks as a destination for people beyond the tri-county area and plays an important role in the fabric of tourism for Southeast Michigan. This month's upcoming exhibit, "From Bruegel to Rembrandt," for example, has already attracted some far-flung notice.

And the cost to taxpayers is minimal — about \$20 a year for every \$100,000 in a home's taxable value. For example, for a house with a \$150,000 taxable value (generally assessed at \$300,000 or more), the levy costs \$30 a year. That's a pittance in the mix of school and local taxes these days.

What hasn't gone perfectly was the DIA's original plan to build a self-sustaining, \$400 million endowment during the decade voters approved for the ini-

tial levy. Fundraising stopped in its tracks during the City of Detroit's 2013 bankruptcy proceedings. At times, it was unclear whether the DIA would even survive, or survive as a husk with its artwork sold off to help pay Detroit's debts.

Fortunately, the DIA emerged from bankruptcy court intact and as a stand-alone entity.

The endowment has reached around \$240 million. Hopefully, the next 10 years will see a renewed effort to build the fund to a point where it can support the museum without a levy.

That's partly because the state law authorizing the museum to ask for millage sets a 20-year limit, according to Eugene A. Gargaro Jr., chairman of the DIA board. Another round after this would require action from the state Legislature, hardly a sure bet.

Mr. Gargaro, who lives in Grosse Pointe Shores, said he can't speak to the longer term future. But his love of the DIA is boundless. He touts the current "Frida Kahlo" exhibit and just as fervently points out the agreements with each county — rare if not unique in the world of publicly supported museums — that spell out the DIA's commitment to free admission and outreach programs.

Mr. Gargaro noted that the DIA also has more than 1,000 volunteers — a huge group that any institution would be proud of. "The art is world class, the people make it what it is," he said.

Voters in this corner of the county can be those people, too. Vote yes on the 10-year renewal of the DIA millage.

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.

Woman's Club says thanks

To the Editor:

The Grosse Pointe Woman's Club had a very successful scholarship benefit luncheon at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on Nov. 20, 2019.

The scholarships are for the benefit of a Grosse Pointe South and a Grosse Pointe North student. The awards are presented to them in May.

Full Circle entertained us with a wonderful upscale fashion show. Our drawing prizes were donated by Jumps

Restaurant, Ferlito's Restaurant, Trattoria Serventi Restaurant, Mimi's Bistro, George Koueiter Jewelers, Maloof Jewelers, Moehring Woods Florist and a generous club member.

SUE PLATH
President GPWC

LWV turns 100

To the Editor:

On Feb. 14, the League of Women Voters of the United States, lwv.org, celebrates its 100th birthday. How appropriate that it also coincides with Valentine's Day.

Our own local Grosse

Pointe league, founded in 1950, along with more than 700 local and state leagues across the country, will be celebrating this remarkable achievement. Check out our Facebook page for stories from our own members as to why they joined LWV and support the simple mission: "Empowering voters. Defending democracy."

Our more than 100 LWVGP members work actively in the community in many areas, from conducting candidate forums for local municipal and school board elections, spring voter registration at the local high schools and a variety of programs throughout the year to educate voters.

Just this year, we had presentations on voting rights, particularly all the new changes as a result of the work statewide on the Promote the Vote campaign, as well as a program on the upcoming national census and its importance to our community.

We also publish, annually, 7,000 copies of a brochure, "Know Your Government Officials," listing all the local, state and federal officials. This brochure is now available at local city halls and libraries.

Volunteers "staff" our Vote411.org effort, gathering information on local candidates, while the state LWV, lwvmi.org, publishes a comprehensive voter guide on state representative, senator and gubernatorial candidates. We truly work to make sure voters are educated and ready to make an informed decision.

We also have positions on natural resources, immigration, health care reform, equal pay for women and much more.

Check us out and join us in a heartfelt happy birthday League of Women Voters!

TOM WELLS

President,

League of Women Voters
of Grosse Pointe

See LETTERS, page 7A

The opinions expressed in letters and guest columns are not necessarily views shared by the Grosse Pointe News.

I SAY By Mary Anne Brush

Love is in the air



At my niece's wedding a few years ago, the minister quoted from Bruno Mars' song, "Grenade."

"I'd catch a grenade for ya ... Throw my head on a blade for ya ... I'd jump in front of a train for ya."

The minister turned to the groom. "Would you put the cap on the toothpaste tube for her?" she asked. "Would you close the toilet seat for her?"

Her point to the soon-to-be married couple? It's the little things in daily life that matter most, not the heroics.

With love in the air this Valentine's Day, I asked four local couples I know

— from a mix of social circles and range of ages, their names changed to protect their privacy — to weigh in on what they believe makes for a strong, lasting relationship. What was the most romantic thing their spouse ever did? And if they had to pick one word as the key to a successful marriage, what would it be?

For Ted, who has been married 13 years, the most romantic thing his wife ever did was make a cake out of frosted donuts and give him a six-pack of his favorite Michigan beer (they lived in Florida at the time) for his 31st birthday.

Separate bathrooms was "the best thing for our marriage" and his word is "trust."

Nick sees himself first and foremost as a family man. He and Téa will have been married 30 years in August. The

most romantic thing Téa has ever done, according to Nick, is support him and encourage him to be the best he can for their family.

His word is "laugh — together, at each other, at things that happen in your life together."

Eric and Tami have been married 37 years. Each shared the most romantic thing the other did.

"I am a deer hunter and spend a few weekends each year at our hunting cabin," Eric said. "I really enjoy this hobby and sitting in the quiet woods, enjoying the outdoors. Tami always tucks many little love notes in various hiding places that I end up finding while we are apart. The notes are tucked in my sleeping bag or backpack or even in my cooler. Just little reminders that she loves me and misses me and it always makes me smile.

This has been a ritual of Tami's for all the years we have been together."

For Tami, it was a Christmas gift Eric gave her early in their marriage that "holds a very special place in my heart. We had a favorite movie that came out in 1996 with Jeff Daniels called 'Fly Away Home.' I absolutely loved this movie and the theme song '10,000 Miles' by Mary Chapin Carpenter. I tried to find this music in a cassette tape or album at the time (no iTunes, Spotify or Apple Play, not even cell phones). I literally went to every music store looking for this music, with no success. One Christmas morning Eric had this gift wrapped next to a cassette player. He figured out a way to record this beautiful song for me on a cassette. After I opened it, we played the song and actually danced together in our pajamas. The song still warms my heart."

Eric's word is "listening." Tami's is "connection."

When Harry met Sally, he was 30; she was 29. They've been married 28 years.

As far as romantic moments go, there are too many to list, Sally said, from "seemingly mundane moments with little notes, a fresh cannoli, a task completed without request, a favorite dinner cooked," to more traditional moments like sunset walks and sailing to dinner while on vacation.

She does, however, single out "the most romantic moment" when, in the midst of a petty argument, Harry stopped and said, "Can we do one thing and then we'll finish?" Without saying anything further, he put on "Let's Get it On" by Marvin Gaye and they slow danced in the living room.

"We never did finish that argument," Sally said.

"Balance" is the key ingredient to success in their marriage, she added — in particular the balance of compro-

mise. "When we were first married, an older couple sold us their washer and dryer and told us the key to success was 50/50 in giving to the relationship," she said, "but through the years we've come to appreciate that depending on what's going on and our capacity individually and where we're at with all the things life brings, the balance shifts a bit in different periods of time. Sometimes it needs to be 80/20 or 60/40 and sometimes it's 100/100, but as long as we really don't keep score except to make sure that neither is at 0 and we're meeting the other where we can, it works."

Trust, laughter, listening, connection, balance. These are essential components — along with dancing, apparently — keeping these four couples together over a combined 82 years of marriage.

I'm pretty sure if it came to catching a grenade for the other, they'd each do that, too.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Trombly plan

To the Editor:

After a decision to close Trombly Elementary school due to enrollment issues, the Grosse Pointe Public School System has come up with a plan to keep the school open thanks to a "generous benefactor" that wants to remain anonymous and has earmarked the money for early childhood development programs.

A noble cause, but what is the sense of keeping an entire school open for four, and later nine, classrooms? The issue of declining enrollment was the problem that led to the Trombly closure.

Has the school board looked into what the costs will be for teachers, remodeling, air conditioning, maintenance, etc., for four classrooms? Wouldn't it be wiser to simply set aside a classroom in every school and accomplish the same objective of providing early childhood development without the costs associated of keeping an entire school open?

Per the recent budget report by the school board, the GPPSS continues to stick its head in the sand and operate at a budget deficit — now and for the foreseeable future.

There is no baby boom coming.

Lastly, when can we expect the GPPSS to release actual enrollment numbers, completed last fall, to be made public?

VINCE MUNIGA
Grosse Pointe Park

OneGP?

To the Editor:

For the last few years I have been listening to Grosse Pointe South students' increasing complaints of a prison-like environment and lack of trust at the school. They have complained that this is leading to decreasing morale and school spirit.

I listened but discounted the rumblings as teenage angst, wanting more freedom and the

high school administration exhibiting proper level of control. In this era of repeated mass school shootings and other violence, most agree that more control is needed for our children's own security.

The level of extreme control exhibited by the administration that I witnessed at the GPS vs. GPN boys basketball game last Friday was not "normal." It was extreme. I felt like I was in a prison yard, trapped between two rival gangs. This was not OneGP.

As a longtime Grosse Pointe Park resident and a fan of high school athletics, my wife and I have attended an insane number of South athletic events from before children up to this year with our senior daughter on the basketball and volleyball teams. We have travelled all over the city following South teams. It has been a great pleasure.

At the game on Friday night, South and North students were standing in assigned and cordoned off areas on opposite ends of the lower level bleachers. They were sitting directly across their respective team's benches.

This part was great. The energy and excitement of having jammed student sections on the lower level, all enthusiastically standing and supporting their teams was wonderful.

So what is the problem? The problem was the 30-foot-wide vacant section at mid-court that was labeled "handicap accessible."

First, there was nothing "accessible" about

this area. The name was a farce and an excuse for physically separating the student sections. The more realistic name for the area as controlled by the administration was "demilitarized zone."

I arrived just after the start of the game, the parking lot and the gym were as packed as I have ever seen, but there was a huge empty area at mid-court. I took up my favorite spot in the middle of this section, at the top of the lower level, for the best view of the game and unfortunately the best place to experience the DMZ.

Both schools had their athletic directors and two to three assistant principals stationed between the two student sections preventing any interaction. North students were not allowed to pass by South students to go to the concession stand.

South students were not allowed to exit to the S-lot where most were parked. They were not allowed to cross on the floor or in the bleachers to talk to friends. In fact, there was no interaction between the two student sections at all.

The "rival gangs" were not the problem; the prison guards were the problem (more likely acting on orders by their wardens). Any student that dared to cross into the DMZ was politely ushered back to their assigned section.

This draconian level of control in a friendly environment does not exhibit OneGP.

This is embarrassing for our community and our schools.

TIMOTHY KERR
Grosse Pointe Park

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945

75 years ago this week

POST OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN: On Tuesday morning, Leland F. Lindow, in charge of the post office on Maumee, got word from the Detroit Post Office that the office was to be closed down to take effect Feb. 28. He immediately posted a sign to that effect. However, word of the closing leaked in advance of its formal notice and various parties in the Pointes got busy sending wires of protest. Six days after the order from Washington, a letter rescinding the order was issued.

1970

50 years ago this week

NORTH TO BE DEDICATED: Gov. William G. Miliken will be the speaker at the dedication of Grosse Pointe North High School on Feb. 22. Mrs. Paul G. Hykes, president of the Board of Education, has extended a cordial invitation to the entire commu-

nity to attend the ceremony and hear the governor's address.

Obituaries: Alfred C. Scott, Roy K. Stewart, Herbert W. Kelleher, Richard W. Long, Adelia L. Wichman, Ralph R. Lawrence, Rudolph J. Ziegenfelder, Cyril H. Moore, Don R. Heath, Lucy Distel Kahn, Martha Davenport, James Domenico

Obituaries: Harriet R. Seyler, Michael J. Demchak, Paul N. Van Hee, Constance Guerrant Wood, Lawrence John Linclau, H. Gordon Wood, Leslie C. Putnam, Michael A. Slusarick, Lewis Davies, Robert J. Priest M.D., John J. Withers, Mercedes T. Rewalt, Donald J. Dossin, Harry C. Smith, C.F. Bachle

1995 2010

25 years ago this week 10 years ago this week

GAP MILLAGE DEFEAT SURPRISES MANY: Grosse Pointe public school officials asked taxpayers to approve two millage renewals: 18 mills on non-homesteads for five years to qualify the school system to receive its \$6,500 per-pupil funding from the state; and 8.5 "gap" mills to bring per-pupil spending up to \$8,300, the level the district spent before state voters approved school finance reforms last March. The "gap" millage proposal was defeated 5,406 to 4,813, while the non-homestead proposal passed 5,610 to 4,536.

RECALL SIGNATURES MEET THRESHOLD: Petitioners trying to recall the mayor and four council members of Grosse Pointe Shores are a step closer to forcing the issue. A sufficient number of valid signatures appear on five recall petitions to force a recall election in May, according to the Wayne County clerk.

Obituaries: Janet D. Birk, Lee Carrick M.D., Laurence R. Ebbing Jr., Margaret D. Firnschild, Hermine Morath, Thomas U. Kimmel, Harold McCaughrin, Gertrude "Trude" Schmidt, Gordon J. Steil, Roger K. Tapp

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8A | SCHOOLS

Senior brings touring group to ULS

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Maria Mirkazemi has been performing since she was a child. She participated in The War Memorial's Youth on Stage program, Grosse Pointe Public School System Summer Select and That's Entertainment workshops and a variety of school drama programs and productions.

Now 18, the University Liggett School senior and Grosse Pointe Farms resident plans to take her love for the performing arts to the next level when she attends the Young Americans College of Performing Arts in Corona, Calif.

Before she leaves, Mirkazemi hopes to make a lasting impression on other young people who may not have enjoyed the same opportunities to nurture a passion for the arts.

In their junior year, ULS students select a topic for their academic research project, an intensive, inquiry-led educational program that allows them to conduct in-depth research based on their interests.

Mirkazemi's topic of choice was music's impact on adolescents' self-confidence. While she identified a number of articles in academic journals to support her research, she sought to conduct a study of her own by creating an opportunity at her school for ULS peers and students from Detroit to participate in something that made a difference in her own life — a performing arts workshop.

Locating an organization to provide an intensive three-day dance and



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINA MAXWELL

Pictured with Marcus Garvey teacher William Hoover, back, and Mirkazemi, second from right, are, from left, Marcus Garvey students Taniya Wilburn, Kaprice Starks, Mikakyla Harris and MaKrisTiana Dove.

choir workshop was the easy part, Mirkazemi said. She had participated in The Young Americans performing arts workshops in Harbor Springs since she was a child and was familiar with the benefits of the program.

Procuring funds to bring the touring group to Grosse Pointe for the first time was a bigger challenge, but Mirkazemi said she was able to raise money through ULS's drama program.

The next step was to identify students who might benefit from the workshop. Mirkazemi reached out to William Hoover, a family friend and teacher at Marcus Garvey Academy, a Detroit Public Community District school. When Hoover replied his own students might reap the rewards of

the program, as Marcus Garvey doesn't provide music classes this year, Mirkazemi offered to provide 10 full scholarships.

Transportation was the next hurdle, as Marcus Garvey is located at Kercheval and Van Dyke near Belle Isle. Hoover rented a van to transport the students, who attended the workshop Wednesday, Jan. 15, to Friday, Jan. 17, culminating with a performance Friday evening. Students learned songs and dances, including a Disney medley, Mirkazemi said. The students from Marcus Garvey were in middle school while participating students from ULS were in third through 12th grade.

"Throughout the course of the workshop, from the first day everyone had to stand up and sing by them-

selves," said Mirkazemi, who participated in the workshop herself. "... On the first day, they didn't want to stand up and sing on their own. By the performance, they were standing up and singing solos and making speeches all on their own."

Mirkazemi added an advantage to The Young Americans' approach is its peer-to-peer teaching style. All the instructors are between 18 and 23.

"It's like a friend teaching you what you're learning," she said. "It's very fast-paced so students don't have time to worry if they messed up, which takes them out of their comfort zone a lot."

"I was thrilled for my kids at Marcus Garvey and I was super impressed by Maria," Hoover said. "In our world where the arts often require philanthropy, it is beautiful to see a young lady like Maria go to such lengths to bring The Young Americans workshop to Grosse Pointe and to include children who have no music program."

See ULS, page 10A

Trombly Bob predicts late arrival of spring

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Steve Buckman pits the powers of prognostication of Trombly Bob against any other groundhog, including Philadelphia's Punxutawney Phil. And he has more than two decades of data to prove it.

Since 1999, the second-grade teacher at Trombly Elementary School has tracked Trombly Bob's predictions, which he generally makes during recess time. This year, since Groundhog's Day fell on a Sunday, the stuffed toy snuck outside to make his spring proclamation — possibly with a little help from a certain classroom teacher. The students recreated the event the next day at school under similar weather conditions.

According to legend, the groundhog wakes up Feb. 2, in its burrow and goes outside. If the sun is shining, the groundhog sees its shadow. Frightened, it retreats back into its burrow to sleep for six more weeks. This means there will be six more weeks of



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

Trombly Bob is reported to have seen his shadow on Groundhog's Day.

cold weather.

If it's cloudy outside, the groundhog doesn't see its shadow. Because it isn't afraid it stays outside, meaning warm spring weather will arrive soon.

Second graders in Buckman's class had their own opinions.

"It's just a myth," Kayan Kumasi said.

Anna Grose believed behind the myth lay a purpose; it was a way for farmers to "know that they can plant their flowers or their corn early so they

See BOB, page 10A

Teacher of THE WEEK



Steve Buckman

School: Trombly Elementary School
Years at Trombly: 32
Subject/Grade: Grade 2
Nominated by: Walt Fitzpatrick, principal
Principal's quote:

"Steve is a dedicated professional whose biggest asset is always saying yes or volunteering. He has been a fixture at Trombly since 1988 after spending a year at Brownell. It is very comforting knowing we can always rely on Steve for help and support."

"Steve currently serves as the teacher representative to the Trombly PTO; he runs the safety/service squad; he is part of the T3 Committee that creates activities for our monthly small groups. We cannot forget volunteering to spend the night on the Trombly roof with me last year. Steve also has volunteered to be part of the One School, One Book committee and served as a grade-level leader in science."

What motivated you to become a teacher?

During my teen years, I was involved in Scouting and had several opportunities to influence the learning and growth of

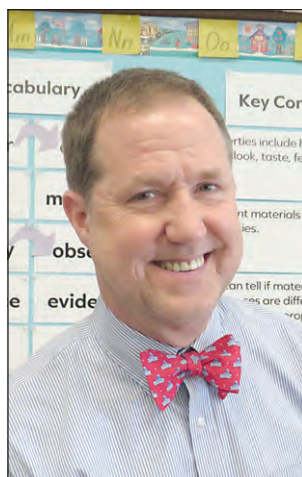
others. It was at that time I came across the idea of servant leadership. I quickly found that, for me, there was no greater joy than helping others to realize their goal or ambition through active support and participation in their success.

Who are some of your inspirations?

My source of inspiration really revolves around the interactions that I have at Trombly. I have been fortunate to work with outstanding teaching colleagues and families through the years. As a newly hired teacher, they showed patience, understanding and interest in my development as a teaching professional. Fast forward to today, the teachers with whom I work are knowledgeable, innovative and readily share ideas with one another as a team of learners should do. While my students are ever pushing me forward, the Trombly community of parents and volunteers makes this an inviting and rewarding place to be.

What advice would you give a new teacher?

All children learn differently and their ability



COURTESY PHOTO

and interest to learn can change from day to day; be flexible. There are things that happen in your students' lives that you simply cannot control; be compassionate. There are days that your students will give extraordinary effort and days where they will fall short; be encouraging. Be aware that students will work hard because you are their teacher; be proud of them. Above all, remember to do your best so that the children in your care can be their best.

Favorite quote:
"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou

Valentine's Day!
February 14

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South students grow with microgreens enterprise

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

For Amanda Bungard, a licensed speech-language pathologist at Grosse Pointe South High School, basking in the warmth of the school's greenhouse surrounded by greens on a cold winter day is therapeutic — for her as well as her students.

Tom Milano of Detroit Abloom agrees, describing the greenhouse as “a little healing center.”

Also healing, he said, is working with teachers like Bungard and autism spectrum disorder/cognitive impairment categorical classroom teacher Jill Harrison.

“They’re so loving. To see how they interact or how they are with these students, it’s wonderful,” Milano said. “That in itself is a healing situation. To come into the midst of these people who care so much — it really is extraordinary.”

The idea to work with Detroit Abloom, an organic cut flower farm and florist located in Detroit’s Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood, took root last April when Milano approached the teachers about growing tomato plants in the greenhouse. Students with special needs were responsible for planting and caring for the plants and selling seedlings to raise money for Camp Fowler, which the students attend for three days at the end of May. Among many benefits of the camp is increased independence, Harrison said, with the overnight stay representing, for many students, their first time away from their families.

At the beginning of this school year, Bungard and Harrison contacted Milano and his business partner, Nancy Weigandt, who oversees Detroit Abloom’s flower operation, seeking additional ways to integrate horticulture into the students’ curriculum and raise money. Their initial idea was to grow flowers in the greenhouse to sell for Valentine’s Day and other holidays.

Recognizing it was too early in the season for flowers, Milano suggested microgreens, which are easy to grow in the winter months. The partnership grew and flourished from there, with Milano and the teachers now working with Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods to market the products beyond South to the greater community.

“Microgreens are really terrific sources of nutrients, (containing) all types of vitamins, minerals; healthy as can be,” Milano said. “They’re really sought after by restaurants and people in the food business because they’re used to incorporate into salads, smoothies, as garnishes. So what a wonderful thing for this program to raise the health consciousness of the surrounding community by making microgreens available at affordable prices, especially to tout their benefits.”

“We started planting our first round of microgreens in November,” Bungard said. “They take 10 days to two weeks until they’re ready to harvest. Jill and her students helped take care of them throughout that time.”

Students from all three categorical classrooms at South participate on a



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

From right, Amanda Bungard and Jill Harrison assist Aydan Kvintus and Ali Alsamet with planting seeds.

rotating schedule. The benefits are manifold, Harrison said, from acquiring job skills to building stamina and understanding a process, such as participating on an assembly line.

Students spend time each day in the greenhouse, first planting the microgreens — kale, collards, cabbage and radishes — and watering them. Once they’re ready to harvest, they help with cutting the greens, measuring a cup of a mixture of the four types to place into plastic baggies and labeling them.

Developing these skills and learning about the plants are incorporated into their science unit, Harrison said.

“We’ve been studying plants this whole year,” she said. “... Right now they’re learning the plants’ cells and the parts in it. As we go further into the year, it’ll become more functional by the end of the year so it will relate to what they’re doing.”

Tasks are tailored to individual skill levels, with some students researching what the plants are and writing descriptions or helping create flyers and ads to distribute to staff in the building, while others help with planting, watering and packaging.

Bungard and Harrison agree it hits all different skill levels.

“Everybody has a part,” Harrison said.

Growing and selling microgreens — and other projects completed last year with Detroit Abloom, such as South’s butterfly garden, created in conjunction with Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods — would not have been possible without the support of South Principal and fellow gardener Moussa Hamka, Milano said.

“The principal of the school is so supportive,” Milano said. “He’s been totally behind this, encouraging it every step of the way. ... All of this is an outgrowth of his enthusiasm to do what’s best for the students.”

In fact, it was Hamka, according to Milano, who came up with the idea to refer to the students as having special skills rather than special needs, focusing on the skill development component of the curriculum.

Hamka said all the tomatoes in his own garden last spring came from the seedlings he purchased from the students. When he sees the students, he shows them pictures.

Benefits he touts of the enterprise include allowing students to engage in hands-on activities outside the classroom, giv-

ing them a sense of self-reliance and independence as they raise their own funds to attend camp and providing skills they can translate to life beyond South.

“It’s also nice to see that they’re able to plant seeds and care for them and nurture them,” Hamka said. “... It gives them the opportunity to be responsible for something outside of the classroom. I think that’s been powerful.”

A benefit to the community at large, Hamka added, is “the greenhouse is now being used as a greenhouse, which is what we all want to see. It was taking a space that was underutilized and now we’re utilizing it for the intended purpose for which it was created.”

Hamka credits Milano for his role in the project’s success.

“Tom has been a great partner,” he said. “He’s so passionate about plants.

But he’s equally passionate about our kids and he’s donated his time, he’s donated his resources. And you can just tell he’s got a beautiful spirit — very giving — and I think he’s a positive influence on our kids. That’s another benefit of this program is that we’re now connecting students who were more isolated in our building with the community and those connections are important for them. And hopefully, as these students graduate and they matriculate, maybe one day they can help Tom with his projects at Detroit Abloom. Facilitating these outside connections is critical for the social and emotional skill sets of our kids as well.”

To purchase microgreens or donate supplies or funds to South’s microgreens enterprise, contact Bungard at bungara@gpschools.org or Harrison at harrisj@gpschools.org.



Watering newly planted seeds are Sean Costello and Ella Silva, while Tom Milano looks on and Harrison assists.



Therapeutic

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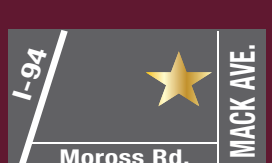


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10A | SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Monteith Elementary School kindergarteners, first graders and fourth graders display the cards they made for Maj. Bill White.



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

Trombly second graders in Steve Buckley's class confirm Trombly Bob saw his shadow and there will be six more weeks of winter.

Valentines for a vet

Grosse Pointe students sent a little love this Valentine's Day to a 104-year-old war veteran.

The Purple Heart recipient asked for Valentine's Day cards from around the country and students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System heeded the call.

U.S. Marine Corps retired Maj. Bill White is a World War II veteran injured in 1945 at the battle of Iwo Jima. A grenade blew up six inches from him, according to WGN-TV. White served 30 years on active duty and retired from the battlefield after he was injured. He lives in Stockton, Calif.

All 444 students at Monteith Elementary School made cards for White at the behest of student council members, who put up signs and posters and made morning announcements during Kindness Week.

Fourth graders in Susan Howey's class at Trombly Elementary



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN HOWEY

Trombly students included a Fan Faces magnet with their care package for Maj. White.

School not only sent White cards and thanked him for his service, but also made him a Fan Faces magnet. Fan Faces is a class business Howey started three years ago.

According to news reports, White loves making scrapbooks to keep a record of his personal history and plans to include every valentine he receives.

— Mary Anne Brush

BOB:

Continued from page 8A

don't freeze in the winter and die," she said.

Regardless of whether Trombly Bob — named after Robert Trombly, who served on the school board 30 years even before the

five Grosse Pointe school districts consolidated in 1922 — is correct in his predictions, the activity is a way to "let the kids have some fun and learn something along the way about our forefathers and agrarian cultures gone by," Buckman said.

This year, according to

Buckman, Punxatawny Phil and three of the four groundhogs in Canada say it's going to be an early spring.

Trombly Bob saw his shadow and predicts six more weeks of winter.

"I put complete faith in Trombly Bob," Buckman said.

ULS:

Continued from page 8A

To show his appreciation, Hoover, along with several members of the Mirkazemi family, agreed to host some of the 47 counselors from The Young Americans during their stay.

The next stage of the project, Mirkazemi said, is to conduct interviews with workshop participants to support her research. As a participant herself, she said she felt "very accomplished" to witness the impact the program had on both Marcus Garvey students and her ULS peers. While the arts are readily available at Liggett,

she said, not all students take advantage of them. She is hoping this experience may change that.

"By the end of the workshop, they were like, 'I want to be in choir,'" she said. "I want to be on stage as much as possible." That's what it's all about — getting kids involved in the arts.

"Maria's project embodied the Tim Russert quote, 'The best exercise for the human heart is reaching down to help someone else up,'" Hoover said. "Maria has benefited so much from quality music education experiences, yet she was thoughtful enough to reach back and bring others into a great music education experience."

Week Ahead

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

◆ The Grosse Pointe Public School System, supported by The Family Center, Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, CARE of Southeastern Michigan and the Grosse Pointe Public Library, is hosting a #OneGP Parent Camp 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Breakout sessions include social media, cultural competency, anxiety, trauma, unconscious bias, vaping, special education, early intervention and the transition to middle school. Childcare is provided. Register at bit.ly/ParentCamp2020.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL STAPLETON



Rainfall regularly causes muddy conditions at Ghesquiere Park, so the Woods-Shores Little League board hopes to raise funds to install new drainage systems and other improvements at the park this year.

Woods-Shores Little League seeking support for diamond upgrades

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

With the official opening day of the Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League still a few months away, league board members are delivering a different kind of pitch to the community at large.

The board has launched a campaign to improve the diamonds at Ghesquiere Park. Among its priorities are updated drainage systems, infields and bullpens.

“Last year, we couldn’t even get all our games in, because it rained so much,” board member Paul Stapleton said. “We have to play games within a certain time frame and we were not able to complete the season. Instead we were pumping (water from) the fields with pumps and hoses.”

The diamonds at Ghesquiere Park host 324 games, plus prac-

tices, six days a week during the eight-week season.

“Traffic compacts the soil, making it almost like cement,” board member Doug Stapleton said. “It’s a couple feet thick where the water doesn’t drain.”

It’s a vicious circle, he said, noting that games cancelled due to rain aren’t easily completed when the sun comes out. Not only does the rain leave stagnant puddles, even on clear days, but the grass can’t be cut because it’s too muddy. “It’s the worst it’s ever been,” Doug Stapleton said. “We get to games an hour before game time ... to start trying to restore the muddy puddles to something the kids can play ball on.”

Fixing home plate and the pitching mounds is a start, he added, but the perimeter of the field also needs to be reconstructed. A lip has formed due to grass-cov-

ered gravel buildup, which causes odd hops when balls are hit to the area.

“Short of dangerous, it’s uncomfortable for the kids,” Doug Stapleton said.

It’s been more than a decade since upgrades have been implemented at Ghesquiere, save for a facelift on Diamond 2, the girls softball diamond, for which the league received a grant. However, the grant did not cover drainage improvements.

“We haven’t done normal upkeep,” said Melissa Henderson, league president.

The scope of this project, she said, includes adding drainage, an overhaul of the infields, cutting in warning tracks, extending fair/foul lines, adding new fencing to the backstops and repairing bullpens. The league hopes to secure \$200,000 for the project.

Doug Stapleton said there are some misconceptions about who’s responsible for upkeep — and the funding — of the diamonds. While the city-owned park’s playground area is maintained by Grosse Pointe Woods, which also cuts the grass and cleans the bathrooms, all baseball-related maintenance and improvements fall on the league’s shoulders.

The league is 100 percent funded through donations and registration fees, which at \$200 per child are reasonable, Henderson said.

“That’s 20 games, playoffs, practices, winter workouts, uniforms,” she said. “We are constantly looking for ways to keep our cost for registration down.”

Apart from registration fees, the league brings in money by selling discount cards — three cards per family for \$30, paid at registration — which offer res-



In addition to a new drainage system, the league plans to overhaul the infields, cut in warning tracks, extend fair/foul lines, add new fencing to the backstops and repair bullpens.

taurant deals and other business discounts. Supporters of the league also may purchase ads in its annual program book.

Additionally, the league earns funds from its concession stand, which is run by student volunteers from Grosse Pointe North High School. In return, the league provides scholarships to those students.

“We lost that (revenue) last year,” Henderson said, noting the league raised \$100,000 to replace its aging concessions stand, which will re-open with the 2020 season.

Apart from expenses at Ghesquiere, the league has been a good neighbor by funding improvements at other locations it uses — the fields at Mason and Monteith elementary schools and Vernier Field in Grosse Pointe Shores.

“We spent \$15,000 on Monteith for new dugouts, drainage,”

Henderson said. “That’s money coming from the league to provide a better environment at the school. We spent \$3,500 last year at Mason. ... Our money goes back to the community.”

The league is playing with the idea of renovating one diamond first, so donors can see how their contributions are being spent and the project attracts more funding. While it would like to get the ball rolling in the coming weeks, the league would like to complete the overhaul in time for the 2021 state softball tournament.

“This will bring 16 teams and all their families and fans here for the entire week,” Henderson said, adding the tournament will give the league a chance to showcase its facilities and generate revenue for local businesses.

Added Paul Stapleton, “We want to have a world-class facility.”

The improvements to Diamond 2 did not go

unnoticed. In the last three years, participation in girls softball has grown by leaps and bounds, Henderson said, with 120 girls currently in the program.

“Last year, Woods-Shores grew 13 percent total,” she said. “Eight percent of that was the girls. The other 5 percent was baseball.”

“When you think where these teams have been,” Doug Stapleton said, “with the World Series representation ... our programs deserve something far upgraded from where they’re playing right now.”

The GPWSLL has made four trips to Williamsport, the home of the Little League World Series. Its first visit was in 1979, with follow-up appearances in 2013, 2017 and 2018.

“We’ve progressively gotten better as we’ve gone,” Henderson said, noting the 2018 team won two tournament games, eventually placing fourth in the country and eighth in the world. The league is asking everyone — the families and friends of current or past players, or even those who’ve never played ball — to help.

“Maybe it’s not your kids playing right now, but it’s time to give back,” Doug Stapleton said.

Donations for the project may be made on the league’s website — grossepointelittleleague.com — as well as at gofundme.com/improve-gpwsll-fields.

“We’ll work on funding in the next two months and hope to start (making improvements) in April,” Paul Stapleton said. “We’re getting our budgets together now. From that, we’ll pick and choose what we can do, what we can afford.”

Added Doug Stapleton, “We’re going to do the best we can with what we get.”



Puddles of water dot the outfield at Ghesquiere Park.

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2B | FEATURES

OBITUARIES

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

James R. Lemen Jr.

James "Jim" R. Lemen Jr., 89, peacefully passed away Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, at Beechwood Manor in St. Clair Shores. Jim was born Jan. 11, 1931, in Detroit, to James and Cletis (nee Trost) Lemen.

Jim grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. In the years following graduation, Jim met the love of his life, Genevieve (nee Sadowski). The couple married in 1975.

Jim founded Interlake Products and became a successful manufacturer's representative in the automotive industry. Jim was a devoted member of the Lions Club and Elks and a senior member of the Detroit Athletic Club for more than 40 years. He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed spending the summers fishing, hunting and boating. Jim loved to be by the water and was a longtime member of the Jefferson Yacht Club.

Jim was the loving husband of the late Genevieve; beloved brother of the late Sally E. Whitman; and dear uncle of Michael Faber (Cynthia), Lynda Head (Nelson), Wendy Stockley (Stephen), Richard Sadowski (Amy) and Scott Sadowski.

Visitation for Jim is from 10 a.m. until the start of the funeral service at noon Saturday, Feb. 15, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

Charles Palmer Lamb

A celebration of life for Charles Palmer Lamb takes place at noon Saturday, Feb. 29, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A lunch reception immediately follows.

Charles, a Grosse Pointe Park resident, passed away Monday, Dec. 2, 2019. He was 84.

Born July 26, 1935, in Detroit, to Wallace and Eleanor Lamb, Charles grew up in Grosse Pointe and spent most of his life here, even working as a paper boy in his youth. He attended Defer elementary and Pierce middle schools before graduating from Grosse Pointe High School. He then graduated from Michigan State University and Wayne State University Law School and worked as a tax and estate planning attorney and CPA. He worked at several large law firms, as well as maintained a private practice in Grosse Pointe.

Charles served in the

U.S. Army Reserves and spent time in El Paso, Texas. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

He enjoyed traveling, genealogy and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Charles is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rosemarie K. Lamb; daughters, Christine Lamb and Charlotte Lamb; sons, David Lamb and John Lamb (Julie) and grandchildren, Chloe Lamb, Jack Lamb, Henry Lamb, Charles A. Lamb, Cate Lamb and Mia Lamb.

He was predeceased by brothers, Lawrence Lamb and Albert Lamb.

Thekla Adlhoch Abels

Thekla Adlhoch Abels, loving wife of the late Henry, died peacefully Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020. She was the sister of Bill Adlhoch (Maggie); aunt of Bill and Scott Adlhoch; and great-aunt of Lindsay, Sam and Andrew. She also is survived by Henry's sons, Peter and Fred.

Thekla graduated from St. Catherine High School, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and master's degree in education from the University of Michigan. She taught for five years in St. Clair Shores, two years for the U.S. Army in Bad Hersfeld, Germany and more than 30 years in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

She was actively involved with the Catholic Kolping Society of Detroit and published its monthly newsletter for many years. Thekla also was an active member of her teaching sorority, Grosse Pointe Questers and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

A world traveler, she visited more than 50 countries around the world and circumnavigated the earth in 1967.

Thekla loved her family, especially her grandniece, Lindsay and grand-nephews, Sam and Andrew.

The family is grateful to the staff of American House Grosse Pointe and especially to caregivers, Jacqueline Kilcline and Virginia Moran.

Thekla will be dearly missed by her family and many friends.

Visitation takes place at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, followed by a memorial Mass at noon at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Contributions may be sent in Thekla's memory to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mount Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

Maryanne E. Frederick

Grosse Pointe Park resident Maryanne E. Frederick, 87, passed away Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in her home with God's grace and family surrounding her. She is survived by five of her beloved children, John J. Frederick Jr. (Debbie), Michael F. Frederick (Judy), Cheryl Frederick Thomas (Joseph), Karen E. Frederick and Patricia Frederick Dawes (Danny); 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two

great-great-grandchildren; brothers, Jerome Bresser and William Bresser and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Robert A. Frederick and her parents, Walter and Annabelle Bresser.

Maryanne lived for adventure, family gatherings and life events. She was selfless, a mother and mentor to countless children, and a genuine friend who brought great joy to those who knew her.

A philanthropist for many organizations and a teacher, Maryanne was a savvy businesswoman at Bresser's Cross Index Directory Co., which she co-owned; a board member at the Detroit Yacht Club, where she captained her boat, the "Blue Velvet"; an advocate for handicapped persons as the president of Crawford Armstrong Association for 20 years; and a faithful 30-year parishioner at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. She had a passion for helping those in need.

A funeral service took place Saturday, Feb. 8, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park.

Although Mom/Nana/Aunt/Sister/Friend loved her flowers, she had a passion for Capuchin Soup Kitchen and a new and reverent understating of the beauty of Hospice care. In her honor, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 4390 Conner St., Detroit, MI 48215, cskdetroit.org or Hospice of Michigan, hom.org or (888) 247-5701.

Lois A. Marshall

Lois Ann Marshall (nee Reinking) passed away Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, at age 93. She was born Dec. 15, 1926, in Fort Wayne, Ind. She attended St. Paul's Lutheran School, North Side High School and Valparaiso University.

Lois married Morrison C. Marshall May 17, 1947, in Fort Wayne. They lived in Detroit, where she worked for J. L. Hudson Co. She enjoyed her years as a



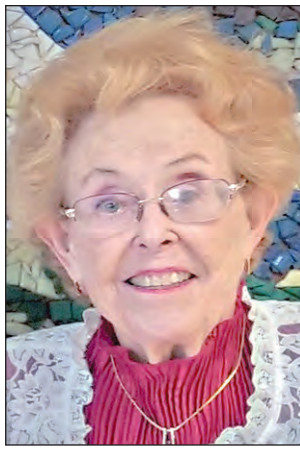
James R. Lemen Jr.



Charles Palmer Lamb



Thekla Adlhoch Abels



Maryanne E. Frederick



Lois A. Marshall



David Kingwill

full-time homemaker raising their children: Dale, Richard, Peggy and Karen.

After they became empty-nesters, Lois worked for the Atlas Dental Laboratory as office manager for 11 years. She and Morrison spent their winter months in Clearwater, Fla., after retirement.

Lois was a proud member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Valparaiso University Guild, Easy Riders Bicycle Club, Bethel Lutheran Church in Clearwater and Lake James Lutheran Chapel.

Lois enjoyed Bible study, sewing, playing cards, playing the piano, attending piano and organ concerts, bowling and spending time with family at the Marshall Cottage during the summer months. Her family fondly remembers her as a "cooking extraordinaire" with a talent for budgeting.

She was the loving mother of Dale Marshall (Jennifer), Richard Marshall (Sally), Peggy McCutcheon (Rick) and Karen Dahn (Mark); cherished grandmother of Nathan Marshall (Anna), Heather Hanlon (David), Wendy Marshall, Kelly Marshall, Kristen Adams (Mike), Kyle McCutcheon (Lorne), Kory McCutcheon, Steven Dahn (Jacklyn) and Sarah Noskey (Zach); proud great-grandmother of Braden, Hudson, Lincoln and Calvin Adams; Amelia, Declan and Lauren Marshall; and Daisy Dahn.

Lois was predeceased by her husband, Morrison Marshall; parents, Hugo and Ida Reinking; brother, Richard Reinking; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Jack McCoubrie.

Lois will lie in state Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11 a.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, dona-

tions in Lois' memory may be made to Christ the King Lutheran Church or Special Olympics Area 27 Livingston County, 1420 Woodhurst Court, Howell, MI 48843.

David Kingwill

St. Clair Shores resident David Kingwill, 79, passed away Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

He was the loving husband of Marian for 56 years; beloved father of Pamela Papworth, Jane Bourget (John) and Sara Zimmers (Doug); grandfather of Nicholas, Amy, Jennifer, Jack and Drew; and brother of James (Helen), the late Stephen and Kathleen Postma.

Visitation takes place 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Kaul Funeral Home, 28433 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. A funeral service is planned at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Christine Caulkins Finkenstaedt

Christine Caulkins Finkenstaedt, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, mother-in-law, sister, daughter and friend, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020. She was 95.

Chrissie (aka Tina, Minnie, Dearie, Nanny) was born Dec. 21, 1924, in Grosse Pointe, to Alma Fauser and George Peck Caulkins. The fourth of five children, she was a graduate of the Grosse Pointe Country Day School in Grosse Pointe Farms, now University Liggett School, the Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills and Bennett College in Millbrook, N.Y. Except for seven happy years in East Grand Rapids, Chrissie was a life-long resident of the Grosse Pointe.

Chrissie married William Clements Finkenstaedt in 1949, and spent the next 47 joyous (one of her favorite words) years with him until his death in 1996. They had five children, all of whom survive their parents: Eliza "Lisa" F. Hillhouse (William) of Littleton, Colo.; George C. Finkenstaedt (Sarah) of Kirkland, Wash.; William "Mike" C. Finkenstaedt Jr. (Susan) of Grosse Pointe Farms; Henry "Hank" C. Finkenstaedt (Leslie) of



Christine Finkenstaedt

Houston, Texas; and Timothy "Tim" C. Finkenstaedt (Mary Jo) of Wrentham, Mass. She also had eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Additionally, Chrissie is survived by many other family members, including nieces, nephews and their children and grandchildren.

Her one sister, Barbara C. Lamb, and three brothers, George P. Caulkins Jr., John E. Caulkins and Henry L. Caulkins II, predeceased her.

Chrissie was, first and foremost, a force of nature, incredibly organized and involved in all manner of activities; she was a friend to so many of all ages it is impossible to even begin counting. She was an active member of the charitable and philanthropic Tau Beta Association and Garden Club of Michigan. Additionally, her interests included tennis, skiing, golf, gardening, walking, crossword puzzles and bridge. Chrissie will be remembered, among many other things, for her regular six-mile roundtrip morning walks to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club along Lakeshore Road. She was forever an ardent fan of the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions.

Chrissie and her family are grateful beyond measure to Dorothy Williams for her many years of extraordinary friendship and compassionate care. They also would like to thank the dedicated caregivers of Hope Senior Home Care, staff of The Rivers Grosse Pointe and Custom Hospice.

A memorial service is planned for the spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Pewabic Pottery of Detroit, pewabic.org; Tau Beta Association, taubeta.org; The Garden Club of Michigan, gardenclubofmichigan.org; or a favorite charity.

Please share remembrances at ahpeters.com.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Paul on the Lake

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents "Fresh Start: A Healing Ministry for the

Divorced, Separated & Civilly Remarried." This free program involves sharing experiences and dialogue with others in a confidential group setting. A video

series is included and child care is provided. Meetings take place 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the school's faculty lounge these remaining Thursdays: Feb. 13 and 27 and March 12 and 26. To register, contact Deacon Bill Jamieson at bjamieson@stpaulonthelake.org or (313) 885-8855,

Ext. 145.

Couples of all ages are invited to reignite their marriages during a monthly "Beloved" series, including dinner, beginning at 6:30 pm. Friday, Feb. 17.

For more information, call (313) 885-8855, Ext. 144, or email agraves@stpaulonthelake.org.

PASTOR'S CORNER

By the Rev. Ben Van Arragon

Haters

This year, our congregation is revisiting one of our traditional confessions of faith: the Heidelberg Catechism. Composed in the 1600s, this doctrinal compendium places statements that are surprisingly relevant alongside ones that seem hopelessly outdated or outright offensive. Take, for example, the Catechism's treatment of the law:

Q. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 4).

Jesus distills the 660-plus rules of the Old Testament down to a tweet and he makes it all about love. We can work with that. If only the Catechism would stop there. Instead it continues:

Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

A. No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor. (Q&A 5)

What? Regardless of where you and I land on the social-political spectrum, one thing we believe is that we are fundamentally good, tolerant, loving people. In fact, the worst thing you can be in our culture is a hater.

The Catechism's argument hinges on two terms. The first is "natural." The true test of our natural tendency comes not when life is going well, but when we face adverse circumstances and adversarial people. As therapist Jim Herrington says, "When you get bumped, what's really inside you spills out." If you want to know your natural tendencies, look at the way you behave in traffic or discuss politics on social media.

The second is "hate." In the context of the Bible, the terms "love" and "hate" don't refer to feelings. They refer to one's posture and action toward another. To love is to turn toward someone — to be committed to their flourishing. To hate is to turn away from someone — to be committed to your needs over theirs. Hatred at times looks like animosity, but at others looks like apathy.

Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) to illustrate what he means by "love your neighbor." In this story, Jesus concludes that one's neighbor is the person you are most inclined to hate. Until you position yourself with care and compassion toward the person you find most deplorable, you cannot get out from under the label "hater." The way of love — modeled in the self-sacrificial death and life of Jesus Christ — is a way that does not come naturally and is profoundly costly. But it is also our only way out of the spiral of mutually assured destruction we see modeled in our online discourse, political dialogue and commodification of each other and our environment. We've tried everything else. What about love?

Van Arragon is pastor at the First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park. Visit firstcrdetroit.org.

Park cornhole league begins Thursday, Feb. 27

Grosse Pointe Park is offering a spring cornhole league, played indoors at the Lavins Activity Center on Thursdays, Feb. 27 to April 2. Men, women and coed teams will compete against each other each week. Cost is \$60 per team. Registration is required

by Friday, Feb. 21. To sign up, call (313) 822-2812, Ext. 200, or stop by the recreation office, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr. Registration also is accepted online at grossepointepark.org. For more information, email craigc@grossepointepark.org.

'Place Your Bet on a Star'

Star of the Sea auction follows derby theme

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Our Lady Star of the Sea is taking advantage of the extra day this month to host its annual gala, this year following a Kentucky Derby theme, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"The Derby — Place Your Bet on a Star" features silent and live auctions, a strolling dinner, raffles and an afterglow. Derby-themed clothing is encouraged, but not required. "Our raffles are incredible this year," said auction chairwomen Danielle Brousseau.

Apart from the Year of Dining Raffle, featuring 12 \$100 gift cards to some of the area's finest restaurants — tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100 — the Win, Place or Show Raffle is sure to be a hit. The raffle winner will choose to:

- ◆ "Win" — \$10,000 cash;
 - ◆ "Place" — A Churchill Downs suite and private estate experience for 10; or
 - ◆ "Show" — Two tickets to the 2020 American Music Awards, followed by an exclusive afterparty.
- Tickets are \$100 each and only 300 are available for purchase. In addition to the raffle items up

for grabs, some of the featured auction items include a three-day VIP Kentucky Derby experience, an in-home chef-prepared lobster and champagne dinner party, Caribbean vacations, an at-home murder-mystery party, fine jewelry and more.

"The generosity of this community is amazing," Brousseau said of the donated auction items. "Our community is amazing and very accepting to supporting not only this school, but all of our schools."

Brousseau said she looks forward to seeing Star of the Sea alumni and former teachers reunite for the event, which welcomes anyone who wants to support the school.

This year's honorary chairwoman is Patricia Stumb, who served as a teacher and principal at Star for more than 40 years. Her parents were founding parishioners who carried the cross during the church's first Mass more than 60 years ago, Brousseau said.

"Patty is incredibly inspiring," she added. "She is synonymous with Star for so many people. Everyone has a Patty story."

"Personally, I will never forget the day we toured the school 18 years ago and met Mrs. Stumb. Her love for the school, the students and Catholic education left no doubt that Our Lady Star of the Sea was the

best choice for our daughter. Now, even though she retired several years ago, her indelible influence is evident in the classroom today."

Proceeds from the auction support Star by enhancing curriculum, "but above that we always have a special project," Brousseau said.

"This year we are focusing on enhancing our educational technology with digital devices, software and learning platforms to offer options for tailoring education to student academic needs and personal interests," said Maria Walker, kindergarten teacher at Star.

Proceeds from previous auctions have benefitted students by updating the computer lab and implementing STEM and Robotics curricula, among other school additions.

"The better (it does), the better things we can bring in for the kids," Brousseau said.

The event is sponsored by Bob Maxey Lincoln, Falcon Dental Group, Fusion Integrated Training, RIM Custom Racks, Henry Ford Health System—Cottage and Pierson Clinic, Schena Roofing, Tito's Vodka and Wesley Orthodontics.

Tickets are \$100 each. For more information or tickets, call (313) 423-9104 or visit olsos-auction.org.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Marian Battersby

Putting an end to senior isolation

Q: My aunt has lived alone the past couple of years, since being widowed. I have noticed, when visiting, a significant decrease in weight and she appears to be somewhat confused. I am concerned about her frailty.

A: You are right to be concerned about your aunt. She might be one of a growing number of seniors who are suffering from senior isolation.

In the United States, the current growth of the senior population is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million in 2060. Some 18 percent of adults ages 65 and older in the U.S. live alone and 43 percent report feeling lonely on a regular basis. Isolation can have many effects on the quality of life aging adults experience.

Social isolation can cause emotional issues such as depression and anxiety. Physical signs may include an increased incidence of heart disease, immune deficiencies, diabetes or obesity. There is an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. An increase in the likelihood of premature mortality occurs by 26 percent.

Social isolation also can make seniors more vulnerable to elder

abuse and scams.

Many factors can contribute to feelings of isolation and loneliness such as no children, children scattered throughout or out of the country, being ostracized from their families and divorce or death of a spouse. Individuals who are caregivers for loved ones suffer the loss of social contact unless they seek respite care.

You can encourage your aunt to become more social and less isolated by finding a sense of purpose. Pursuit of hobbies, book or card clubs, or attending local senior centers provide good social venues. There are many ways to help others by volunteering, even if it is as simple as telephoning shut-ins. Help her find transportation by way of the Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, senior center shuttles, family, friends or private hires.

Preventive health also is important and helpful. Encourage regular exercise, doctor visits and vision/hearing exams. Exercise and

SAVE the DATE

"One is the Loneliest Number: Combatting Senior Isolation"

Sponsored by The Family Center, The Helm and Home Instead Senior Care
7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms
Register for this free event at familycenterweb.org or call (313) 447-1374

weight loss help reduce blood pressure by the same amount that loneliness increases it.

With some family and community involvement for your aunt, you will be able to positively impact her overall health and quality of life.

Marian Battersby is the franchise

owner of Home Instead Senior Care, an accredited non-medical home care agency in Grosse Pointe Woods. She is a certified senior advisor and certified dementia practitioner. Battersby can be reached at (313) 647-9682. Home Instead Senior Care is a member of The Family Center's Association of Professionals.

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. It is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 447-1374 or email info@familycenterweb.org.

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4B | FEATURES

Eastside Republicans host cartoonist/critic Henry Payne on Feb. 18

Syndicated cartoonist and Detroit News auto critic Henry Payne will speak to the Eastside Republican Club at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"Mr. Payne is a student of history and closely follows current events, so as the 2020 election campaign ramps up, we are eager to hear his perspective," said Dave Schumacher, ERC chairman. "As an auto critic and syndicated editorial cartoonist, we also look forward to hearing what's next for the auto industry and to watch him demonstrate his creative drawing skills."

"The forum is open to the public at no charge," he added, "so we invite everyone to hear Mr. Payne and to ask questions."

Payne has been a critic of mainstream media's

unbalanced reporting and outspoken about bias in climate change coverage.

The veteran newsman also is a lifetime "motorhead," Pulitzer-Prize-nominated cartoonist, author of three books and active race car driver.

His work is reprinted by USA Today, National Review, Townhall.com and other outlets.

Born in Charleston, W.V., Payne received a degree in history from Princeton University in 1984. As editorial cartoonist for two student newspapers, The Daily Princetonian and the Nassau Weekly, Payne won the College Media Advisers Cartoon Contest and the Tribune Company Syndicate's National College Cartoonist's Contest.

Upon graduation from Princeton, Payne began his newspaper career as staff artist and editorial

cartoonist with the Charleston Daily Mail. In 1986, he joined Scripps Howard News Service and began syndication with United Feature in 1987.

Detroit News hired Payne in 1999, and he now contributes auto reviews, videos and product reporting to The News. He also hosts the weekly "Car Radio" program for 910-AM Detroit and produces a weekly comic called "Car-toon."

The Associated Press has voted Payne the Best Editorial Cartoonist in Michigan.

Payne is the father of two boys and lives with his wife in Bloomfield Hills.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday each month from September through May at The War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is welcome.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

"Secret of the Earth," by Haydar Al Yasiry, won third place.

Artists explain their odes to the planet

The community is invited to hear visual artists expand on their odes to the planet at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, in the Presidents' Room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Thirty-six artists have pieces in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association's current show. The association's goal was to give artists the opportunity to contemplate the wonders of the planet and the need to keep it healthy.

In his piece "Secret of the Earth," artist Haydar Al Yasiry explains that clean water is the secret, because every living thing is



PHOTO BY JIM KLEIN

MJ Seltzer in front of her prize-winning "Legacy 1" and "Legacy 2."

created from water according to the Holy Quran.

Artist MJ Seltzer used her granddaughters as models for her two pieces, "Legacy 1" and "Legacy 2." She dedicates her pieces to environmental activist and Time Person of the Year, 17-year-old Greta Thunberg of Stockholm, and "all the world's children who will inherit the legacy we are leaving behind."

Juror KT Andresky chose the works included in the show.

"Ode to Our Planet" is open daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Sunday, March 8.

Dining & ENTERTAINMENT

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Gymnastics

GROSSE POINTE UNITED

Gymnasts earn season-high

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe United gymnastics team earned a season-high 140.425 points last week in its home victory over Fraser.

Head coach Courtney Hamidi was all smiles after her gymnasts finished off the Ramblers, thanks to dozens of high-flying routines.

Each of the girls who competed in each of the four events, the vault, uneven parallel bars, balance beam and floor exercise, scored at least

32.275 points.

Leading the way was Cate Gagnier, who had 37.225, followed by Amanda Nguyen at 33.900, Maeve Jamieson at 33.400, Ava Rogowski at 33.100, Emma Burney at 32.875, Sammy Lucido at 32.825, Madi Lucido at 32.625 and Kate Ennis at 32.375.

Elise Torp and Brooke Sabol also competed in some of the events to help the team.

GPUG scored a high of 36.45 in the floor exercise, while the team had 35.425 on the beam, 35.15 on vault and 33.4

on bars.

Hamidi's squad improved to 7-2 overall.

GPUG's remaining schedule includes an away meet Tuesday, Feb. 18, against Canton, senior night on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and the regional meet Saturday, March 7, at White Lake Lakeland with Groves, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Fraser, Milford, Novi, Port Huron Northern, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Waterford Kettering and West Bloomfield competing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY HAMIDI

Cate Gagnier soared to a score of 37.225 to win all-around honors against Fraser.

Basketball

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils double up on titles

Boys net tough wins

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Head coach Steve Benard knew last week would be a test for his Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team.

First came an away game against his alma mater, Romeo. A win clinched the Macomb Area Conference White Division title.

In an emotional game, the Blue Devils prevailed 58-50 as sophomore Will Johnson and freshman Anthony Benard scored 14 points apiece, and senior Alex Shaheen added 13.

Two evenings later, South hosted New Haven and needed a second-half comeback to win 71-55.

"We have played well for a long stretch, and I knew a let-down could happen," Benard said. "New Haven is a well-coached team and they get after it. It was a tough one to get up for after clinching the division title earlier in the week and playing at home. The guys responded well in the second half."

The visiting Rockets jumped out to a 13-7 first-quarter lead, and a three-pointer at the second quarter horn gave them a 26-25 advantage at the half.

Benard's squad regrouped and played with more energy in the third quarter. They out-scored the Rockets 21-11 in the third quarter and 25-18 in the fourth to win and stay unbeaten in the MAC White at 9-0.

Benard scored a team-high 18 points, followed by Will Johnson with 14. Shaheen and junior Jordan Johnson each had



PHOTO BY PAUL KANIA

South's Miles Jamieson, shown in a previous game, played well in the Blue Devils two wins last week.

11 points to help the Blue Devils improve to 13-2 overall.

South hosts the No. 4 seed from the MAC Red Division at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the opening round of the MAC Red/White Division Tournament, which will be either Sterling Heights Stevenson or Chippewa Valley.

North results

Staying in the MAC White Division, Grosse Pointe North dropped its games last week, 78-67 to Warren Mott and 53-38 to Utica Ford.

The Norsemen dropped to 2-7 in the division, eliminating them from the Red/White Division tournament contention, and 2-13 overall.

The Norsemen will play three squads from

the MAC who did not make the MAC Tournament in its respective divisions.

Both North and South are preparing for a Division I district tournament that begins Monday, March 9, at Detroit Martin Luther King.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association will draw all brackets 15 days before the start of district play.

After the top seeds are determined and separated to opposite sides of the bracket, the draw process will place the remaining teams on the bracket based on a randomly-selected order determined earlier in the season.

At the moment, the top seeds, according to points, are Hamtramck and East Detroit.

Girls grit way to close wins

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

With first place on the line in the final minute, junior Alexa Downey's go-ahead three-point shot was all net, and sophomore Kamryn Richards drained two free throws, to lift the Grosse Pointe South girls basketball team to a 50-47 win over visiting Macomb Dakota early last week.

"Alexa let that shot go with confidence, and boy was it clutch," head coach Kevin Richards said. "Kamryn made some big free throws in the final minute, too, to help us win. We knew it would be a close game. We made some big plays."

The host Blue Devils didn't shoot the ball particularly well and turned it over 18 times, but a 15-9 fourth quarter was enough to vault them into the top spot in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division with a week left before the Red/White Tournament.

One key to the win was the full-court defense forcing the Cougars into 28 turnovers, including back-to-back miscues late in the fourth quarter that turned a three-point deficit into a one-point lead.

The Cougars hit a three-pointer to give them a short-lived 47-45 lead, but Downey's triple with 1:05 left in the game gave the Blue Devils a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The Cougars had a couple of high percentage shots in the paint in



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

South's Alexa Downey was clutch in two big wins over Dakota and Eisenhower.

the final 60 seconds, but none would fall.

Richards' made free throws put the home team up 50-47, leaving the visitors with a chance to send the game to overtime.

Their final shots missed the mark, and the Blue Devils came away with the huge victory. South swept the regular season series with Dakota, winning 49-46 on the road a couple of weeks ago.

South led 19-12 after the first quarter and 25-23 at the half. Dakota out-scored South 15-10 in the third quarter to lead 38-35.

It was a see-saw final quarter with each team grabbing a slim lead. Turnovers and missed layups kept it a one possession game.

Richards led the Blue Devils with 20 points, followed by Downey with 14, junior Cameron Lundh with six, junior Audrey Becker with three, senior Payton Roy with three, junior Sarah Rogers with three and

senior Keely Conlan with one.

The Blue Devils had trouble rebounding with the taller, more physical Cougars. Head coach Phil McCune's squad held a huge rebounding advantage.

Leading the Blue Devils in rebounding was Lundh with seven, followed by Downey with six.

With the loss, Dakota finished its division mark at 8-2. Now, South had to regroup and travel to Utica Eisenhower with a share of the division title and No. 1 seed in the tournament up for grabs.

South didn't let down after the emotional win over Dakota and beat Eisenhower 54-51 to clinch the No. 1 seed in the MAC Red Division with its 8-1 mark.

Downey led the way with 20 points, followed by Rogers with 13 and Richards with 12.

Grosse Pointe South is 12-3 overall and travels to Romeo on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Swimming

NORTH & SOUTH

Blue Devils defeat Norsemen

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys swimming and diving team clinched at least a share of the Macomb Area Conference Red Division regular season title last week, beating Grosse Pointe North 127-58.

The Blue Devils won eight events to the Norsemen's four. South head coach John Fodell's Blue Devils have a lot of depth, and they used it to distance themselves from the Norsemen.

South won the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay, with John Gelle, Jackson Jogan, Keiran Rahman and Tucker Briggs posting a time of 1:41.71.

North's group of Gianni Carlino, Owen Schaaf, Ian Donahue and Jack Gehlert took third with a time of 1:46.02.

North's Carlino won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:49.28, while South's Ryan English, Joshua Dixon and Chandler Bower took second, third and fourth with times of 1:49.99, 1:55.70 and 1:56.65.

Donahue gave the Norsemen a second straight event win, taking the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:02.18.

However, the Blue Devils finished second, third and fourth with Drew Vandeputte, Thad Mackrell and Peter Costello turning in times of 2:02.56, 2:08.58 and 2:15.55.

The Blue Devils swept the 50-yard freestyle with Briggs winning with a time of 22.78, and the duo of P.K. Nugent and Michael Currier tying for second with a time of 23.58.

For the Norsemen, Schaaf was fifth with a time of 24.05.

South's Logan Hepner won the diving competition with 282.50 points, followed by North's Andrew Peabody and Evan Mocan with 168.95 and 146.10 points, respectively.

Rahmaan, Ethan Kinkade and Christopher Bower finished first, second and third for the Blue Devils, posting times of 53.69, 58.17 and 58.81. North Alex Agius was sixth with a time of 1:01.11.

North's Donahue came back to claim first place in the 100-yard freestyle, swimming a 50.78. South's Currier, Raef Akkary and Jake Chunn placed second, third and fourth with times of 51.37, 51.51 and 54.82.

The Norsemen won their second straight event when Carlino took first in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:51.66. South's English and Gelle finished second and third with times of 4:57.68 and 5:09.25, and North's Gehlert was fourth at 5:16.47.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Briggs, Akkary, Currier and Rahman won with a time of 1:31.94, and the Norsemen's crew of Agius, Chandler Bower, Christopher Bower and Peabody placed fourth at 1:44.86.

Heading to event No. 10, the 100-yard backstroke, South's Mackrell, Gelle and Rahman led the Blue Devils to first, second and third with times of 56.73, 58.39 and 1:00.83, while North's Agius was 10th at 1:09.81.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Vandeputte edged out Schaaf for first as they had times of 1:02.52 and 1:03.14.

It was the Blue Devils' English, Gelle, Akkary and Briggs winning the 400-yard freestyle relay

with a time of 3:26.48, while the Norsemen's Donahue, Gehlert, Carlino and Schaaf took second at 3:32.10.

Grosse Pointe South is 4-0 in the MAC Red Division, and Grosse Pointe North is 1-3.

Last weekend, North and South competed in the annual Wayne County meet with the Blue Devils taking second with 419.50 points and the Norsemen finishing ninth with 85 points.

Northville won the title with 449.50 points and U-D Jesuit rounded out the top three with 303.50 points.

Below are the top finishes for each North and South in each event.

In the 200-yard medley relay, the Blue Devils' Gelle, Jogan, Rahman and Briggs took second with a time of 1:37.87, which was just a fingertip away from the winner, U-D Jesuit.

The Norsemen's group of Agius, Kyle MacGillis, Jonathon White and Gehlert finished 15th with a time of 1:55.70.

The Norsemen's Gohlert finished 20th with a time of 1:56.38 in the 200-yard freestyle.

For the Blue Devils, six swimmers competed. English finished fourth with a time of 1:47.94, while Jeffrey Krotche was seventh at 1:51.02. Dixon finished 10th with a time of 1:53.02, while Jack Hurst and Luke Willson placed 23rd and 44th with times of 1:57.16 and 2:02.50.

In the 200-yard IM, Vandeputte, Mackrell, Costello and Adam Johnson finished third, fourth, 10th and 17th for the Blue Devils with times of 2:01.69, 2:03.63, 2:08.48 and 2:11.65.

South's Briggs was second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.01, while Currier was ninth at 22.93. The Blue

Devils' Akkary, Nugent, Kinkade, Brennan Rogowski, Jake Chunn and Will Roberts also competed, finishing 10th (22.95), 15th (23.25), 18th (23.43), 28th (23.91) and tied for 31st (24.32). North's Schaaf was 22nd with a time of 23.01.

South's Hepner won the diving competition with 438.45 points, and Griffin Contin was 26th at 93.80.

For North, Trevor Mulkey placed fourth with 317.60 points, while Peabody, Evan Mocan and Adam Mercer placed 10th, 20th and 30th with 283.75, 181.85 and 89.80 points.

The Blue Devils once again had a plethora of competitors in the 100-yard butterfly, led by Rahman taking fourth with a time of 51.85.

Kinkade and Chris Bower finished in the top 20, placing 12th and 15th with times of 56.56 and 57.52.

Chandler Bower was 21st with a time of 58.57, while Hurst was 22nd at 59.41.

South's Flynn Mackrell, Drew Rulison, Peter Weglarz and White finished 31st, 34th, 37th and 43rd with times of 1:01.44, 1:02.06, 1:02.67 and 1:04.80.

For North, Agius and Gehlert placed 24th and 27th with times of 59.94 and 1:00.47.

North's Peabody was 39th in the 100-yard

freestyle with a time of 55.75.

South's Briggs, Currier, Akkary, Krotche, Chunn, Wilson and Jack Corrión finished first, third, eighth, ninth, 27th and 41st with times of 48.28, 49.75, 50.82, 51.02, 53.28, 55.45 and 56.00.

In the 500-yard freestyle, English, Gelle and Dixon were in the top 10 for the Blue Devils, taking third, sixth and ninth with times of 4:52.99, 5:01.26 and 5:04.97.

Event #8: 500 free For the Norsemen, Agius placed 25th with a time of 5:34.88.

South's 200-freestyle relay team of Rahman, Currier, Akkary and Briggs set a new county record with a first-place time of 1:28.13, and North's team of Donahue, Agius, Schaaf and Carlino placed seventh at 1:36.14.

Carlino and Donahue finished 18th and 21st for North with times of 59.02 and 59.37 in the 100-yard backstroke.

For South, Rahman, Mackrell and Gelle finished second, third and ninth with times of 53.55, 56.02 and 58.02.

Other Blue Devils who completed in the event were Aidan Lezotte, 21st at 1:00.12; Roberts, 29th at 1:03.20; Flynn Mackrell, 32nd at 1:03.88; Weglarz, 33rd at 1:04.08; Rulison, 38th at 1:04.52; Thomas

Drawbaugh, 40th at 1:05.13; and Luke

Dixon, 53rd at 1:08.20. For South in the 100-yard breaststroke, Vandeputte was sixth with a time of 1:00.23, while Jogan was ninth at 1:02.12; Costello was 12th at 1:03.83; Nugent was 18th at 1:05.62; Johnson was 23rd at 1:06.93; Chris Bower was 26th at 1:07.90; and Rogowski was 28th at 1:08.79.

For the Norsemen, Schaaf was 10th with a time of 1:03.34, while Donahue placed 21st at 1:06.16. Carlino and Kyle MacGillis finished 34th and 47th with times of 1:10.16 and 1:12.44.

In the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, South's Gelle, English, Currier and Akkary finished second with a time of 3:18.61, while North's Carlino, Gehlert, Donahue and Schaaf placed fifth at 3:29.03.

Coming up for members of the Norsemen and Blue Devils is the annual Michigan Interscholastic Coaches Swim Association meet Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15, at Calvin College.

Later this month, South hosts the MAC Red Division Championship meet.

Competing against the Blue Devils are Chippewa Valley, Macomb Dakota, Fraser, Utica Eisenhower and Grosse Pointe North.

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The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Wayne County, Michigan, will receive sealed bids for installation of new student lockers at Monteith Elementary School. The work generally consists of:

- Installation of new surface-mounted (free-standing) student lockers, associated trims, etc.

Specifications and Bid Forms will be available to Prime Contractors starting **Tuesday, February 11, 2020** by contacting the office of the Architect. The Architect's office will issue the requesting company's electronic (.pdf) files of the Contract Documents. The cost of document reproduction will be the responsibility of the requesting party.

Bid documents are also available for examination (no purchase) at the following locations:

- Ehresman Architects
- Construction Association of Michigan (CAM)
- McGraw-Hill Dodge
- Construction Market Data (CMD)
- Construction Data Company (CDC)

A **PRE-BID MEETING** will not be held for this project. It is the responsibility of the bidding Contractor to visit the site and become familiar with the project site, conditions which may affect its bid, etc.

Sealed bids will be due **Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (local time)** at the Administration SBuilding of the Grosse Pointe Board of Education, 389 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI, 48230, in the Support Services Office at which time and place the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

The School Board will not consider, accept, or open a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission in this advertisement for bid.

The bids shall 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 the Superintendent of the School District. The board will not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

The bids shall also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Iran Economic Sanctions Certification. The Board will not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized certification.

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.

This project will not be funded by federal or state monies.

Please direct questions to Richard VanGorder, Manager of Buildings and Grounds at 313-432-3082.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The Grosse Pointe Public School System
Christopher Profeta, Secretary

Published: GPN, February 6, 2020



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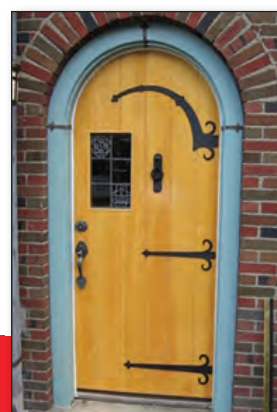
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4C | SPORTS

Wrestling

NORTH & SOUTH

Blue Devils, Norsemen earn high marks

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South wrestling teams competed in the Macomb Area Conference Blue/Gold/Silver Division Tournament last weekend.

Warren Mott won the title with 191.5 points, followed by St. Clair Shores Lakeview at 138, Utica at 127, St. Clair at 108.5, Warren Cousino at 108, Port Huron Northern at 94, Grosse Pointe South at 81 and Grosse Pointe North at 79.

The teams finishing behind the Blue Devils and Norsemen were St. Clair Shores Lake Shore, Clawson, Hazel Park, Madison Heights/Bishop Foley, L'Anse Creuse North, Warren Lincoln, Center Line, New Haven, Sterling Heights, St. Clair Shores South Lake, Port

Huron, Warren Fitzgerald, Eastpointe East Detroit and Sterling Heights Stevenson.

South head coach Patrick Salazar led his Blue Devils to another MAC Silver Division regular season title, and was the top finisher among those teams in the tournament.

Leading the way for the Blue Devils was Morgan Richards, who lost a 4-0 decision to Mott's Colin Gaddey in the 112-pound championship match.

In the consolation finals, Sean O'Connell lost by pin to Port Huron Northern's Andrew Howison in the 145-pound division, and Graham Romer dropped a 10-8 decision to Sterling Heights' Jarvis Elia in the 160-pound division.

The Norsemen, under head coach Derek Davison, had three grapplers compete for gold

medals. Artan Berisha won a 16-4 major decision over Lakeview's Kyle Cichowski in the 152-pound division, while Logan Ladach lost a 10-7 decision to Lake Shore's Conner Canter in the 125-pound division.

In addition, in the 160-pound division Elliot Lyman took the silver medal after dropping a 6-1 decision to St. Clair's John Westfall.

Next for the North and South wrestlers is a Division I individual district tournament Saturday, Feb. 15, at L'Anse Creuse.

Competitors are from Chippewa Valley, Fraser, L'Anse Creuse, Macomb Dakota, L'Anse Creuse North, Anchor Bay, Roseville, Lake Shore, Lakeview, Sterling Heights, Warren Cousino and Warren De La Salle high schools.

College signings

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

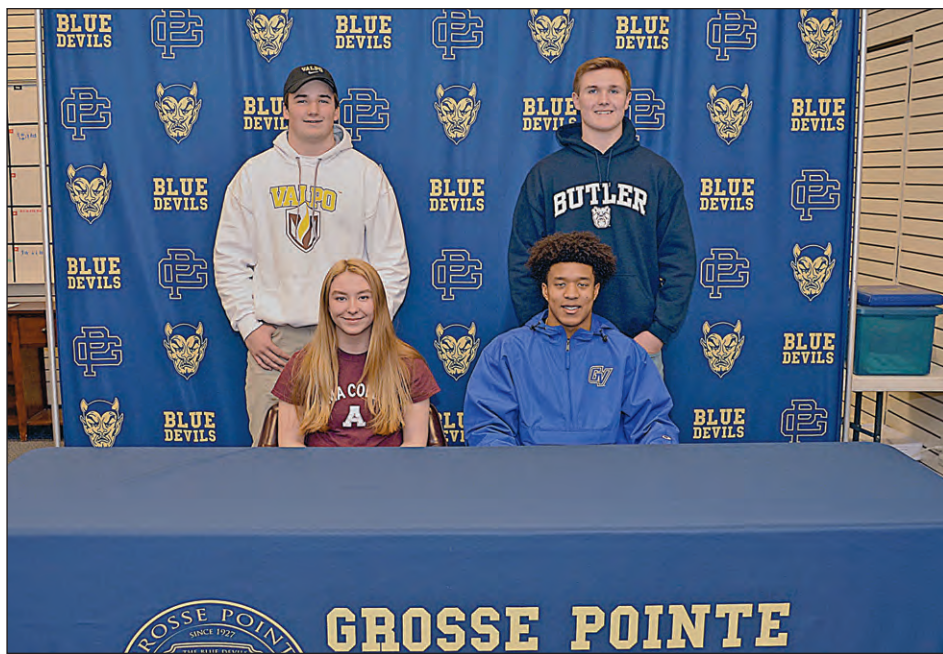


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

College-bound athletes

Grosse Pointe South seniors Rachel Kostrzewa and Grant Hart, sitting, and James Doerer and Nick Fannon, standing, each recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play college sports, starting in the fall of 2020. Kostrzewa is competing in cheerleading for head coach Michelle Sabourin at Alma College. Alma's competitive cheer season starts in February and ends at the end of April. The team's routines include stunts, and the team won a Division III national championship in 2018. Hart is going to compete in football at Grand Valley State University for head coach Matt Mitchell. The Lakers finished 8-3 in 2019, and open the 2020 campaign Thursday, Sept. 3, at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. GVSU is one of the top Division II programs in the nation. Doerer and Fannon are also playing football at Valparaiso University and Butler University, respectively. Landon Fox is the head coach of Valparaiso and the team finished 1-11 in 2019. They compete in the Pioneer Football League of the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, and open the 2020 season Thursday, Sept. 3, at North Dakota State University. Butler is in the same conference as Valparaiso and the head coach is Jeff Voris. The Bulldogs finished 3-9 in 2019. They open the 2020 season Saturday, Sept. 9, at South Dakota State University. The Valpo/Butler game is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24., at Valparaiso.

Basketball

NORTH GIRLS, LIGGETT BOYS

Easy victories

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team extended its winning streak to five games with wins over Warren Cousino and Detroit Country Day.

The Norsemen opened the week with a 43-19 Macomb Area Conference Red Division win over Cousino.

The pressure defense got to the Patriots. Junior Maddie Kohler led the way with 17 points.

Last weekend, the Norsemen forced 21 turnovers in a 72-22 home victory over the once-state power Country Day.

The led 16-7 after the first quarter, and used a 23-10 second quarter to build a comfortable 39-17 halftime lead.

Nine different players

scored, led by senior Christina Braker with 16 points.

Junior Meadow Venet added 14 points, followed by freshman Sophia Borowski with 10, Kohler with nine, junior Jordan Solomon with seven, senior Hannah Davis with five, freshman Annabel Ayrault with five, sophomore Elizabeth Siciliano with four and freshman Mia Stephanoff with two.

Grosse Pointe North clinched the No. 3 seed in of the MAC Red Division with a 6-3 mark and is 11-4 overall.

North travels to Utica, the No. 2 seed from the MAC White Division, on Thursday, Feb. 13, in its tournament quarterfinal game.

ULS boys

The University Liggett School boys basketball

team got back on the winning track last week, beating Allen Park Cabrini 66-25 and West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy 73-47.

In the first contest junior Terrance Hurt led the way with 13 points, while junior Michael Clark had nine and junior Cameron Strong had seven as the Knights broke a modest two-game losing streak.

Three players led the offense against Frankel Jewish Academy as Strong and Clark scored 15 points apiece, and junior Sawyer Szajenko had 10.

ULS improved to 6-2 in the Catholic League Intersectional II Division and 8-7 overall.

The Knights finish their league schedule with a 7 p.m. road game Friday, Feb. 14, against Waterford Lakes.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Maybe Lions mimic what Chiefs do

The Kansas City Chiefs won its first Super Bowl since 1970 with a come-from-behind 31-20 win over the San Francisco 49'ers in Super Bowl LIV in Miami Sunday, Feb. 2.

The Chiefs scored 21 fourth-quarter points to pull out the win. This is the same team the Detroit Lions should have beat earlier in the season.

Yes, the Lions. The lowly Lions had the Chiefs on the ropes, but lost.

The Chiefs were outplayed for three quarters. Thanks to quarterback Patrick Mahomes making several magical plays in the final quarter and the defense stepping up to play their best with the game on the line, the Chiefs delivered.

Mahomes was 26 of 42 for 286 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also ran for 29 yards with one

TD. He was named the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player.

The defense had a huge quarterback sack late in the fourth quarter on a fourth down play, plus picked off 49'ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo twice, to secure the win.

KC head coach Andy Reid took the Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl years ago. This was his second try at the Lombardi Trophy.

The Chiefs are in position to make it back-to-back titles next season, thanks to Mahomes and his dynamic group of receivers. They are a complete team.

Maybe our Lions will make a run at making Super Bowl LV. Don't count on it.

They have a weak head coach and general manager.

They have the third

pick in the 2020 draft and should get a great player with that pick, not a tight end like they did in 2019.

The city of Detroit would go bananas if it won the Super Bowl. I hope it happens in my lifetime.

I don't see it happening with the Ford family owning the franchise.

While we watch another losing season or 8-8 at the best next season, other teams will be making deep runs in the postseason.

It's the same old song and dance.

At least the team I rooted for won. I am a Mahomes fan and I like the Chiefs.

Maybe they make it back-to-back in 2021 Super Bowl when it's played Feb. 7 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

—By Bob St. John
Sports Editor



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GOLF

Meijer gets job done

The 2019 Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give was recognized as the Most Family Friendly and Best "Foodie" Experience on Tour during the Gold Driver Awards held by the LPGA tournament partners.

The Gold Driver Awards are determined by a panel of three independent judges who utilize a point-based system to determine winners in 10 categories from the 33 LPGA Tour events.

The Most Family

Friendly event is awarded to the tournament that best incorporated family-friendly elements through sponsors, events and ticket packages.

The Meijer LPGA Classic took first place in this category for Discovery Land, the kids' destination that doubled in size — to 4,300 square feet — to incorporate more toys and activities for young golf fans.

It was also recognized for the unprecedented addition of a Family Care Area, called The

Kimberly Clark Family Care Area, for nursing mothers and parents to utilize during tournament week.

It was the first time a tournament on the LPGA Tour added specific rooms for lactation use and diaper changing on the golf course.

The 2020 Meijer LPGA Classic will be held June 8-14 at Blythefield Country Club and will host a full field of 144 of the best women golfers for 72 holes of stroke play over four days of competition.

