

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 3/1			
Since tracking began in March 2020			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	8,103 (+28)	101 (+2)	
Harper Woods	3,079 (+3)	78 (+3)	(Increase 2/22 -3/1)

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VOL. 83, NO. 09, 32 PAGES
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MARCH 3, 2022
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Without water

Fisher water main break lowers pressure in Pointes

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE CITY AND FARMS — While an excess of water has topped the list of local

concerns for months, last Friday saw two of the Pointes with an opposing problem: not enough water and for some resi-

See WATER, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Fisher water main break that occurred early morning Friday, Feb. 25, left much of the Farms and City with little to no water until it was repaired that same morning.

Election deadlines approach

By Michael Hartt
Schools Reporter

With the start of spring setting in, the deadline is fast approaching for those interested in running for one of three eligible Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education seats.

To be placed on the ballot, those interested must file an Affidavit of Identity and either nominating petitions or a \$100 fee with the GPPSS school district filing official, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, by July 26.

Those eligible for the position include anyone who is 18 years of age or older; a citizen of the United States; a resident of Michigan at least 30 days; and a resident of the school district on or before 30 days prior to

See ELECT, page 9A

Seeking answers for flood fix

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — None of the 369 storm water discharges into Michigan rivers and Great Lakes during 2020 came from Grosse Pointe Park.

None of the 3.84 billion gallons of untreated combined sewage overflows.

Meaning raw, untreated sewage.

Nor did any of the 29.68 billion gallons from retention basins.

Among discharges of raw sewage, Port Huron did it 42 times during the year for a total of 17 million gallons, according to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great

Lakes and Energy's 2020 annual report on the topic.

Redford, Inkster and Dearborn Heights combined for 16 raw discharges totaling 20.4 million.

The Great Lakes Water Authority, which among other things manages sewer water treatment for 125 communities in south-

east Michigan, including the Grosse Pointes, reported making 29 overflow discharges totaling 25,315.5 billion gallons, nearly 2 billion of which were untreated, raw sewage.

At the Chapaton retention treatment basin at Jefferson and Nine Mile in Macomb County, eight

overflow discharges during 2020 consisted of 176.5 million gallons, all treated.

Nine discharges totaling 424.7 million gallons of treated water came from the Milk River Combined Sewer Overflow Retention Treatment Basin, which accepts storm water from St. Clair Shores and Harper Woods, plus combined storm and sewer water from Grosse Pointe

See FIX, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

This void along the Lakeshore seawall near Warner may be addressed this summer with funds from the state-allocated \$750,000.

Emergency seawall repairs likely on the way

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND SHORES — This summer could see the reconstruction of up to 16 significant voids along the Lakeshore seawall, as the Farms, Shores and Wayne County explore the best use of the \$750,000 earmarked for the Lakeshore seawall project as a line item in the state's fiscal year 2022 budget.

"There's between 14 and 16 open

voids along the seawall and so Hubbell, Roth and Clark, who's done some of the engineering and work on getting estimates and so forth, is currently putting together a proposal for a repair of those voids," Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said. "What we need to do now is to meet with the county, so we can reach a consensus on how to administer the repairs and handle the allocation of funding."

The repairs could look similar to

See REPAIRS, page 4A

Shores addresses unrealized healthcare savings

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — When Shores city council began requiring retirees to cover 20 percent of their healthcare premiums as of July 1, 2020 — going against what was promised in their contracts — council said it was not about the savings but

about decreasing the city's Other Post Employment Benefits liability.

"It's the liability, it's not the savings," Mayor Ted Kedzierski said during the June 2020 council meeting. "... Our liability was over \$11.2 million. (Mark Manquen, a partner with Manquen Vance, the city's health insurance plan provider)

thinks this will drop it by more than \$2 million."

An official calculation by the city's actuary was not completed prior to the vote, leaving the numbers presented in the first fiscal year audit since the changes to tell a different story.

Prior to the change, the city's OPEB liability had been \$10,275,796. Following the

changes and as of June 30, 2021, the 2020-21 audit reported, the city's total OPEB liability rose to approximately \$10,355,000.

Setting aside this \$79,000 liability increase, council took time during the Shores most recent council meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 15, instead to delve into the mat-

See SAVINGS, page 3A

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Week Ahead 3A
Opinion 6A
Schools 9A
Features 1B
Obituaries 6B
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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Andy Miele

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Local hockey hero reflects on Olympic journey.



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St. Clare combating flooding

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — While seemingly counter to its nearly century-old mission of spreading enlightenment and education, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church and School hopes by its latest campaign to have a lesser impact of sorts on the community.

Yet, St. Clare is being lauded for leadership in separating the combined sewer system under its 88,000-square-foot parking lot to reduce the risk of water backups into basements, as happened throughout Grosse Pointe Park last summer during heavy storms.

“We’re quite committed to doing proper underground work for everybody’s benefit,” said Mike McDevitt, St. Clare’s maintenance coordinator.

Each square foot of the lot represents 0.6 gallons of water during a one-inch rainfall, or 52,800 gallons for the whole surface.

“We’ve had a history, during the worst rain storms every season, of storm and sewer water combined coming up to our floors,” McDevitt said. “We’re doing a campaign to do major improvements on the property, so we’re tying that in with the parking lot. If we’re going to dig up the parking lot, our thought was to separate the storm water from sanitation lines and hope it helps the city and ourselves reduce water issues.”

“It’s a win-win for St. Clare and the city,” said Nick Sizeland, Park manager.

Park officials are having a campaign of their

own to reduce stormwater infiltration into the municipal sewer system.

A big-ticket goal is to install an up to \$2 million extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV, to divert unmanageable storm sewer flow into Lake St. Clair rather than risk backups into basements.

Less flashy but effective initiatives are separating combined sewers in alleys — most road sewers are already separated — while also disconnecting residential downspouts, where feasible, to let rooftop runoff soak into yards.

“You can’t just point a finger and say, solve it,” Sizeland said of flooding, assisted last June by pump and power failures at Great Lakes Water Authority stations in Detroit. “It’s going to take a partnership. St. Clare is doing that now.”

“We’re working with an engineering firm on proposals,” McDevitt said. “The city is being responsive to us. We’re working together to figure out new county requirements for stormwater retention and filtration. It is a major undertaking, one of those once-in-a-lifetime projects.”

“We’re doing a ton of work right now on sewers that are independent of the EERV,” said Park Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. “We’re trying to shore up our system so in a perfect world we never have to use an EERV.”

“Almost 100 percent of our alleys are connected (to a combined sewer system),” Sizeland said. “During rain events, that’s a lot of water. Jefferson is still connected to the sanitary system. That’s a large

road surface. We also have Detroit dumping into our sanitary system on Alter Road and on part of Mack and Bishop. In the case of what happened in June, the Detroit system backed up. We were getting their feed.”

Wiener said the city is focused on three objectives:

- ◆ reducing the amount of stormwater entering the sewer system,

- ◆ maximizing the volume of water the sewer system carries and

- ◆ maximizing the volume and speed at which the sewer system can discharge.

“The best word is ‘optimization,’” Wiener said. “Under normal circumstances, our sanitary system has ample, ample capacity. I’m not allowed to go into numbers (due to litigation over the summertime flooding), but our sanitary flow is way in excess of what we would normally need, even if there is some infiltration or something coming

from upstream.”

Parking for the forthcoming Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, scheduled for groundbreaking this fall on Jefferson near city hall, is being designed with storm water management in mind, Sizeland said. So is a 56-space parking lot planned behind businesses south of Kercheval between Maryland and Lakepointe, according to owner Sean Cotton, also owner of the Grosse Pointe News.

Back near city hall, St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church organized an infrastructure group and is working with the Park and the regional water authority to improve sewer flow.

“St. Ambrose wants the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to clean sewer lines on Alter Road,” Sizeland said. “We’ve had good conversations with DWSD, but the problem for them is getting the money to do it.”

FIX:

Continued from page 1A

Woods.

“After a rainstorm,” according to a description of Milk River operations in a Feb. 10, 2021, EGLE news release, “there may be more water entering the sewer system than the system can handle. When this happens, the sewer flow is diverted to the Milk River Pump Station and CSO treatment basin instead of backing up into residential basements located within the service area.”

Well, duh

“We shouldn’t be using basements as sewage retention basins,” said Andrew Richner, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park, where last summer two big storms plus Water Authority pump station malfunctions downstream in Detroit equaled basement backups.

Yet, the state won’t permit the Park to divert excess storm water into Lake St. Clair.

The ban extends to rains so rare they’re statistically forecast to happen only once per 1,000 years.

It applies when storm pumps fail in a downstream jurisdiction upon which the Park depends, causing backups of combined runoff and sewer water into 3,000 Park residential and commercial basements as happened June 25 and, to a lesser degree, less than three weeks later July 16.

It applies even though most of the Park’s storm water network operates independently of the sewer system, thereby lessening the degree of cross contamination should excess storm water runoff need to be diverted into the lake, as happened with many communities and agencies listed in the state report.

“We need to fix the problem,” Richner said.

Pattern of failure

“In the last five years, Grosse Pointe Park would have experienced a total of, maybe, three discharges,” said Dale Krajniak, former Park

manager. He retired in 2019. “At least two would’ve resulted from excessive rains that overtook the Great Lakes Water Authority due, in part, to equipment failures.”

During two storms in 2021, some pumps failed at three GLWA stations that are supposed to collect flow from the Pointes and other eastside municipalities.

“If everything worked perfectly, there still would have been flooding, but not nearly to the same extent,” Krajniak said.

It’s part of a recent pattern.

“In 2016, there was a problem downstream in Detroit,” Krajniak said. “The Park had to shut down its pump station, yet north of Jefferson only about a dozen houses flooded. The south side flooded terribly. When pumps don’t work, where is the water supposed to go?”

No one from the GLWA or EGLE responded to interview requests. Neither did the Park’s voice in the state House of Representatives, Joseph Tate, D-Detroit.

Need approval

“One of the realities is EGLE does not want to grant a blanket permit,” said Park Councilman Max Wiener, an engineer and chairman of the infrastructure committee. “They have a major problem with outfalls. There

are tons of outfalls in neighboring communities. With that storm in June, there were outfalls in front of us, behind us, all over the place. Most of these outfalls are grandfathered in.”

“Nobody builds outfalls anymore,” said Nick Sizeland, current Park manager. “But, in the case of these rain events, we have to think outside the box and do something.”

“For us to get permission, it has to be very tailored,” Wiener said.

First idea

The Park’s current plan to fight storm-induced flooding supplants a 2018 proposal that already is considered out of date.

“Given the major storm event (in June), we don’t think it would have been effective,” Wiener said. “Now, we’re looking at a way more robust design.”

Both proposals involve installing an extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV, at or near the Park’s stormwater retention tank at Patterson Park.

The tank, extending 60 feet underground and more than consuming the foundation of a mansion which it replaced, is designed to combat storm-induced sewer backups by holding excess rain water for controlled, delayed release.

In 2018, engineers contracted by the Park proposed installing an EERV under Essex Drive near the entrance to Patterson Park. The design allowed sewer water — not only from the Park but also

from upstream communities sending flows through the Park to southwest Detroit for treatment by GLWA — to enter the storm water network, then flow by gravity to the holding tank for drainage into Lake St. Clair.

“One of the realities is we have an interconnected system with neighboring communities,” Wiener said. “There’s water coming in from neighboring communities.”

“During an extreme event, the valve could be opened manually to release sewer water into (the retention tank),” Sizeland said. “After further study, we found it would help but not maximize the project because you’d have a bottleneck at the juncture. The concern is it could back up. That was based on storm volumes experienced in 2016, which were nothing compared to what happened last June.”

New idea

The new idea is to build a large sewer pipe straight from Essex to the holding tank; no link or junction with a storm water line.

“It’s bigger, there’s no bottlenecking and it will transfer water quicker for discharge into the lake,” Sizeland said.

There also are plans to add a seventh pump at the station to beef up volume and redundancy.

“We need backups to the backups,” Sizeland said. “Originally, the EERV was estimated to cost about \$400,000. It could be \$1.5 to \$2 million

now.”

The new design gives Park officials more control over flow. “We can put in other controls to have minor treatments of incoming water,” Wiener said. “That’s one of the biggest issues with EGLE. They want to know we have flow controls so we can monitor what’s actually going through as opposed to just bridging it and blending it.”

He doesn’t characterize the EERV as a silver bullet, a guarantee against flooding.

“It’s like a parachute,” he said. “You don’t want to use it, but if there’s an emergency, you’ve got it. In the last decade, the EERV would have been turned on twice, for the June event and the 2016 event. This is something we never want to use, but it’s a parachute before you have \$50 million to \$80 million damage and an environmental, health and safety catastrophe for residents.”

The Park’s ability to shed water could benefit other members of the system, just as discharges by upstream communities have benefitted the Pointes.

“Being able to relieve pressure would have taken stress off of Detroit as well,” Wiener said. “A good example is when Candice Miller in Macomb County opened her discharge, it took stress off of us. We would have had more flooding if she had not done that release.”

Sizeland said he’s submitted documentation to the state about the EERV projected performance, the magnitude of storms in the Park, sewer backups, flood damage and the city’s current versus expanded capacity to handle volume if allowed to install the relief valve.

“Give me the answer of what you need,” Sizeland asked of state environmental administrators.

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City crime rates remain low in 2021

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — After 2020 saw a significant decrease in crime in the Pointes as a result of the pandemic, rates have yet to rise to their normal, pre-pandemic levels, according to the City of Grosse Pointe annual 2021 public safety report.

“Much like the COVID trends of 2021, crime trends tend to mirror that,” Director of Public Safety John Alcorn said. “There were some ups and downs that kind of coincided with the pan-

demie.”

Part I Index Crimes — encompassing the more serious crimes such as homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson — remained below the five-year average of 85, but rose from 48 in 2020, to 60 in 2021.

Separated out, these include 39 larcenies; 10 aggravated assaults; six motor vehicle thefts; one forceable sexual offense; one arson, which was at Koi Nu Asian; and three home invasions.

“Of those three,” Alcorn noted, “two have been completed with arrest

and prosecution and suspects have been identified in the third case.”

For the second year in a row, he added, there were no robberies.

Part II Index Crimes — consisting of less serious felonies and misdemeanors — also remained below the five-year average of 146, with 100 in 2021.

Of these, 37 are attributed to fraud, 21 to operating while intoxicated and 14 to malicious destruction of property.

Although rising from 47 in 2020, to 73 in 2021, arrests still remained significantly lower than the

five-year average of approximately 120.

Of the 367 fire operation calls, 236 were medical responses and 15 came as requests from mutual-aid partners for fire assistance.

“The calls for service, which is kind of an average of every response that we have in the city, increased from the COVID low of 3,482 in 2020, to 3,640 in 2021,” Alcorn reported. “Again, still well below the five-year average of just over 5,000.”

Not to be left out of the report was the flooding June 26, during which

officers responded to multiple fires in flooded basements and secured impassable streets filled with floodwater or downed wires. Later, the department was selected out of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods to house a Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Document Center.

“Of the many emergency responses required during that storm,” Alcorn noted in a letter to council, “was a memorable one at the intersection of Notre Dame and Waterloo, where officers waded through chest-high water to check on the occupants of a partially submerged vehicle.”

Last year also saw the department commence various new initiatives, while maintaining those already in place.

The Seniors and Law Enforcement Program, or SALE, in which officers volunteer to be paired with elderly residents to check in periodically and be available for special requests or concerns, worked with 35 residents in 2021.

During the year, three new officers also were added to the youth services program, which

saw 18 juvenile offenses.

“We’ve increased the number to give the officers another opportunity (and) so we can get more coverage,” Alcorn said. “We’ll have more officers on duty that specialize in dealing with kids.”

The Grosse Pointe Fire Prevention Team, formed pre-pandemic by then-City and Park Director of Public Safety Stephen Poloni to educate elementary students on fire safety, kicked off in 2021, by visiting Maire Elementary School as its first stop.

Along with beginning the process to earn certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program in May, the department also was integral in forming the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Crisis Intervention Team, made up of volunteer officers specially trained in helping people with addiction or mental illness access resources outside the criminal justice system.

“Hopefully next year we’ll have some stats to go along with that,” Alcorn said, “but we’ve already seen a couple runs where CIT officers were called and it’s been successful early on.”

The winner is ...

In honor of former Detroit Lions Quarterback Matthew Stafford's recent trip to the Super Bowl — in which he led his L.A. Rams to victory — the Grosse Pointe News sponsored the raffle of a Matthew Stafford Collector Package. A prize package worth more than \$500, courtesy of C's Cards and Collectibles, included a Stafford rookie card, 1957 Detroit Lions program book and two sealed packs of 2021 football cards. Last Tuesday, raffle winner Mike Costanzo, left, was presented his winnings by C's Cards and Collectibles owner Jason Jacklyn.

COURTESY PHOTO



SAVINGS:

Continued from page 1A

ter of an additionally lower than expected healthcare savings following the changes.

Manquen claimed the city would see \$139,000 in healthcare savings, Kedzierski said, running under the assumption the city's current costs were \$413,638.

Again, the calculations were overshot and, therefore, so was the impact.

“We ended up last year with the annual cost being \$343,980,” Finance Director/Treasurer Candice Giles reported. “Without the employee contribution, it would have been \$382,972.”

Councilwoman and finance committee chair Sandra Cavatio attributed this to an incorrect assumption of the number of retirees exempt from the premium cost sharing and the city changing to a

new actuary with new tax reporting, as well as the fact that savings vary from year to year depending on the cost of healthcare.

“Overall, healthcare is going up, so we still have an increase in savings,” she said.

Although Giles did agree to anticipate an uptick in costs as people return to doctors visits post-pandemic, she noted 21 retirees and employees set to age into Medicare within the next 10 years, eight of them within the next five years.

“As we start seeing these people go to Medicare — they are contractually binded to go into Medicare once they hit the age that they are eligible — we’ll start to see those costs going down, I would say,” she said.

Retirees say they also were contractually binded to receive fully covered healthcare plans throughout their retirements.

One collective bargaining agree-

ment states, “In the event that current employees may be required to share in the premium cost of hospitalization insurance, retirees or widows would not be required to participate in any of the premium cost sharing.”

“While employed, the retirees had bargained in good faith and had taken many concessions and pay cuts in order to assure health care during retirement,” retired Lt. David Younk wrote in a letter to council in January. “These contracts were negotiated, approved and ratified by the city council and the current mayor.”

The Shores retiree healthcare costs have been on a downward trend since 2015, City Manager Stephen Poloni noted toward the end of the council discussion.

“We were at \$468,000, so we have been (on a) downward trend on expenses for healthcare since that point,” he said, “so we are moving in the right direction.”

WATER:

Continued from page 1A

dents, none at all.

On the back of two minor water main breaks in the Farms Thursday, Feb. 24, the early morning hours of Friday saw a significant Fisher main break, exacerbated because of its adjacent location to the 20-inch arterial Ridge main.

Ridge “is a major-size main,” Farms City Manager Shane Reeside explained, “and so we had enough water volume coming off that break to reduce water pressure systemwide.”

With Farms residents waking up to little or no water in their homes, and The Helm at the Boll Life Center making the call to cancel in-house programming for the day, the City of Grosse Pointe also experienced a widespread loss of water pressure because of its connection to the Farms system.

“I arrived just before 7 a.m. and we lost all water access just prior to that time,” Neighborhood Club Executive Director Stuart Alderman said via email. “... Since we need to have access to water for health reasons — water fountains, toilets, etc. — we had to close our facility (for approximately two hours).”

The locations of breaks throughout the Farms included the Fisher and Ridge location, an 8-inch main on Grosse Pointe Boulevard and two breaks in one area on Piche.

“That’s significant in the fact that that was four breaks in a 48-hour, two-day period, but frankly it’s not unheard of,” Reeside said. “We actually have had periods where we’ve had more than that in a short period of time.”

With the exception of the Fisher break, he added, none of the water main breaks would have been problematic in and

of themselves.

The culprit? One already known for causing potholes to unearth themselves left and right lately: the freeze and thaw cycle.

“We’ve gone from, in the last week, being around 50 (degrees) and sunny to being in the low teens,” Reeside explained, “so the freeze/thaw cycle does impact the ground movement (which) impacts the potential for water main breaks.”

By around 8:30 a.m. Friday, the Farms water department — the crew already had worked until midnight to fix the Grosse Pointe Boulevard break — along with help from Bidigare Contractors, was able to isolate the Fisher break by shutting the valves on either side of it. This allowed the water pressure in the Farms and City to rise back to normal as the break itself was repaired.

“I’d like to commend

Grosse Pointe Farms in handling the situation (at) a very, very speedy pace and very fast response,” City of Grosse Pointe Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said.

Administration for Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, which experienced minor low water pressure issues that did not impact patient care, echoed a similar sentiment.

“We are grateful to the city of Grosse Pointe Farms for their swift communication and support,” a statement read.

The Farms typically sees an average of 25 to 30 water main breaks any given year, most of which occur during the winter months.

“I wouldn’t be surprised, because (of) the soil conditions that we may see more breaks,” Reeside said, “but it’s fairly atypical that we have breaks of this magnitude off of a main that is a 20-inch line.”

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m. via Zoom.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Harbor Committee meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

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

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Pointes will always be home to Olympic hockey captain

By Mike Adzima
Sports Writer

Even in his wildest dreams, Andy Miele never quite imagined he would hold the position in his hockey career that he was able to have this year. The Grosse Pointe Woods native had the honor of representing the United States as part of the men's hockey team in the 2022 Winter Olympics. Not only did he achieve his dream of wearing the Team USA jersey in the Olympics, Miele got to do it with the captain's "C" on his chest.

It has been a long journey for Miele in the game of hockey, from his childhood in the Pointes to being captain of Team USA in Beijing. The 33-year-old played one year of varsity hockey at Grosse Pointe North High School before competing in junior hockey with the USHL and playing four years of college hockey at Miami University in Ohio. For the past decade, Miele has played in the American Hockey League and made a few appearances in the NHL for the Arizona Coyotes. He has played professionally in Sweden and Russia, where Miele has most recently played in

Russia's KHL for Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod.

From the minor leagues in America to professional leagues overseas, Miele's hockey career has taken him around the world, most recently to Beijing. Once the opportunity became possible due to the NHL again not letting its players compete in the Games, Miele knew he wanted to be a part of it.

"I was under the impression, knowing guys in the NHL, that they were most likely going to go so I didn't think much of it," he said. "We started hearing rumors that NHL guys weren't going. One of my teammates and I started talking about it and once it was official the NHL wasn't going, we got on the phone with our agents right away. ... It was a no-brainer that of course I would go if I made the team no matter what the protocols are."

The announcement that NHL players would not compete in this year's Olympics came in December. With Miele being a veteran and one of the top American players not currently in the NHL, the interest between him and the Olympic team was



COURTESY PHOTOS

Grosse Pointe Woods native Andy Miele served as captain of the United States men's ice hockey team at this year's Winter Olympics in Beijing.

mutual. While traveling with his current team, he finally got the call that he would be an Olympian.

"There was a lot of interest and we were in Sochi on a road trip and that's when I got a call from the GM saying I officially made the team," Miele said.

Miele joined Team USA in Los Angeles for preparations before heading to the Games in Beijing. Not only were his Olympic dreams coming true, but he ended up getting another surprise once he was in Beijing with his teammates.

Being named captain of the Olympic men's hockey team was not something Miele ever expected. It was not even until the day of the team's first game of the tournament that captains were announced and reality quickly set in.

"They waited to tell us

until the morning skate of the first game," Miele said. "The coach named all the assistant captains and didn't say my name so I figured I wouldn't be wearing a letter. Then he said, 'Our captain's going to be Andy Miele.' ... I've always been assistant captain and never a captain, so there was a lot of pride and joy, but leaving the rink I realized I was the leader of a team the whole country would be watching."

While handling the pressures of being captain, Miele got to keep a piece of home with him during the games to represent the whole team. His grandfather, who passed away last summer, was a Navy veteran and Miele's grandmother gave him his grandfather's memorial American flag to take with him to Beijing. His family flag became a

symbol for the entire team to represent their country and remind them of the family and friends at home cheering them on.

"From past tournaments, they always put a flag up in the locker room and they let me bring his flag and use it as the team flag," Miele said. "We hung it over the locker room and it was an unbelievable feeling to have his flag there with me."

Team USA jumped out to a hot start once the tournament began. Miele and the Americans earned wins over China, Canada and Germany during the preliminary round and took the top overall seed for the elimination bracket.

However, things took a turn for the U.S. in the Olympic quarterfinals. The Americans suffered an upset loss in a shootout at the hands of Slovakia,

ending their run in the Olympics. Miele ended the tournament with four points — one goal and three assists — in four games. The experience was something he would not trade for the world, despite the bittersweet ending.

"We finished the prelims as the top seed and were on top of the world think-

ing we were in position to at least win a medal," he said. "You feel like you let down a country and all your family and friends who supported you and there were some tough days after that ... but there's been tremendous support and it reminds you that it's a lot bigger than just winning and losing. Being an Olympian is something that sticks with you your entire life and I'll always be the Olympic hockey captain for 2022."

Getting to be captain of the Olympic hockey team is something Miele will never forget, just like his roots in the Pointes. From playing and training at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena to growing his love for the game of hockey with his friends and family in his hometown, the captain of Team USA will forever be a Pointer at heart.

"Growing up in Grosse Pointe was such a huge part of my career," Miele said. "All my friends and family played hockey. Me and my friends from Grosse Pointe North would play street hockey together in the summers and in the winter would go out on the lake. If we weren't doing either of those we were playing mini sticks in someone's basement. Everyone from the neighborhood has played a big part in my career and still supports me to this day."



Above, Miele with fellow USA teammate and Michigan native Steven Kampfer. Right, Miele and other members of the USA men's hockey team at the Olympic opening ceremonies.





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REPAIRS:

Continued from page 1A

one conducted at Woodland Shores last year, where water had begun infiltrating the

city's utilities, Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni said.

"They drove new piling sheets down on this side of the wall and they broke up all the concrete, filled it in," he explained. "The county came and put stone in and then they cemented it. We're looking at doing that same kind of repair for the Farms and the Shores."

The Woodland Shores repair, having cost approximately \$25,000, also provides a blueprint for estimates on the 14 to 16 additional repairs.

Poloni cautioned there are some voids, such as in the Clairview area, that span three to four times the size of the Woodland Shores void, subsequently increasing the price point.

In case the \$750,000 doesn't cover all 16 repairs, he added, priority would be given to those close to or already infiltrating Lakeshore Road.

As the state funding addresses immediate

action on the deteriorating seawall, the three governmental entities continue to pursue large-scale federal funding to address a permanent fix of the three-mile stretch.

To date, two applications have been filed: one through Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence's office requesting federal dollars as part of an overall infrastructure bill and the other for a shoreline restoration feasibility study through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The study, if granted and successful, would lead the way toward softening the shoreline, creating a better ecological environment for fishery and constructing layers of walls just off the shoreline to slow wave action.

"We're hopeful that more substantial funding will become available beyond the state allocation, which is important too," Reeside said.

Grosse Pointe News



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PUBLISHED EVERY
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WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

16980 KERCHEVAL AVE.
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$44.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$65 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

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Grosse Pointe Park

Unwanted

Every once in a while, someone is arrested for being unwanted.

An unwelcome visitor in the form of a 28-year-old Detroit man was the subject of a call to police shortly before 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27.

A resident in the 1300 block of Wayburn told officers the man was ordered to leave and not return. He did the former, but not the latter. Police caught him fleeing the area. They charged him with trespassing, resisting and obstructing a patrolman.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Litany of suspensions

A 2003 Chevrolet with no license plate drove past an officer at Vernier and Mack at 4:20 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

When pulled over, the 42-year-old Detroit driver was only able to produce a Michigan license and an incomplete vehicle title. He explained he was planning to sell the vehicle, which he bought in January.

The Detroit man was found to have 13 previous and one current license

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

suspension, along with warrants out of Detroit, Hazel Park and Warren. He was issued citations for driving while license suspended, failure to transfer title and no proof of insurance; the vehicle was impounded.

Speeding while revoked

A 31-year-old Woods man, driving his 2017 BMW, was pulled over for speeding 42 mph in a 25 mph zone at Allard and Chester at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23.

A LEIN check showed the man's license was revoked, with eight prior suspensions, two of which were for operating while intoxicated. He also had warrants from Taylor, Eastpointe, Detroit and state police.

He was issued citations for driving while license revoked and speeding. The vehicle was impounded.

Need a ride?

A resident in the 1400 block of Yorktown reported two unordered Uber drivers showed up to her house Tuesday, Feb. 22. The next day, another one arrived.

When the drivers called the resident, the first showed the caller ID as spam, the second had no name and the third

showed as Uber.

The woman stated she does not have an Uber account. While the credit card number registered to the account was not her own, her email address did receive confirmations of her ride orders.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Spending spree

An unknown suspect gained access to a Grosse Pointe resident's Chase Bank account and spent approximately \$42,000 on various services throughout the country.

The investigation is ongoing.

Stolen car

A 2015 blue Ford Taurus was stolen from the 400 block of St. Clair between 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, and 1 p.m. the next day. Broken glass was found where the car was parked on the street.

Sick suspect

An unknown suspect stole two COVID-19 tests out of a package of four from a front porch on

Elmsleigh Lane between 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, and 8:30 a.m. the next day.

Identity theft

Using a Grosse Pointe woman's Social Security card, an unknown suspect opened a Wells Fargo bank account in her name Saturday, Feb. 26.

Helping hand

While on patrol at 3:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, a sergeant came across a disabled motorist at Mack Avenue and Lakeland Street. The driver advised him she ran out of gas and had four young children with her. Officers assisted her by retrieving a gas can and filling her tank.

Operating while intoxicated

After responding to a report of a woman slumped over the wheel of her vehicle at Fisher Road and Maumee Avenue at 6 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, officers arrested a 37-year-old Warren woman for operating while intoxicated and possessing a handgun without a permit.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public

Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Testing fate

After his vehicle crossed the center line on Lakeshore Road and nearly collided head-on with a patrol vehicle at 1:14 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, a 41-year-old Detroit man continued driving slowly down the middle of the road, taking up both lanes.

When the officer conducted a traffic stop, he found significant damage to the vehicle from a collision and the side airbags deployed.

The man admitted to drinking alcohol at a birthday party and a preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.19 percent.

After a LEIN search showed his license was revoked with 18 current suspensions, the man was arrested for operating with blood alcohol content of 0.17 percent or more and driving while license suspended.

Driving on drugs

After being pulled over for driving 17 mph on Lakeshore Road at 10:57 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, and having an expired license plate, a 23-year-old Detroit man was

arrested for operating under the influence of drugs and cited for the expired plate.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Broken headlight, warrants

A Detroit resident was stopped by Grosse Pointe Shores police shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the intersection of Vernier and Lakeshore roads after noticing the right headlight on his red Dodge Ram pickup was defective.

The man was ticketed for driving on a suspended license and not having insurance. He was taken into custody after officers discovered he had five non-extraditable warrants out of Oak Park, Farmington Hills and Detroit.

He was released around 4 p.m. after posting a \$200 bond.

— Ted O'Neil

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

Inventory remains low in Pointes, Harper Woods

January housing data has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. While the January data is not surprising, it is unlikely to reveal much. Low inventory remains an issue and while that likely is constraining sales, it is uncertain how much of what we are seeing is because of the lack of inventory or a return to normal seasonality because January closings reflect December sales.

What is seen is that sale prices continue to progress year over year and days on market is remaining well below 60, which is considered average.

Interestingly, we are seeing homes selling under asking price, which may indicate either homes are being unrealistically priced or buyers are finding some room for negotiation — or perhaps a bit of both. In Harper Woods, the percentage of asking price in January was 97.7 percent, down from 99.6 percent in January 2021. The percentage of asking price in the Grosse Pointes mirrored Harper Woods in January at 97.7 percent, just a bit over the January 2021 rate of 97.1 percent.

The absorption rate, however, remains exceptionally high, which suggests buyers need to be careful as they prepare offers to purchase. The absorption rate in Harper Woods for January 2022 was 81.5 percent, with an inventory of 27 and 22 closed sales. This compares to January 2021, which saw an inventory of 22, 25 closed sales and a

113.6 percent absorption rate.

In Grosse Pointe, January 2022's absorption rate was 78.3 percent, with an inventory of 69 and 54 closed sales, compared to January 2021, which saw an inventory of 102, 64 closed sales and an absorption rate of 62.7 percent. Remember, an absorption rate between 15.4 percent and 18.2 percent is considered a balanced market.

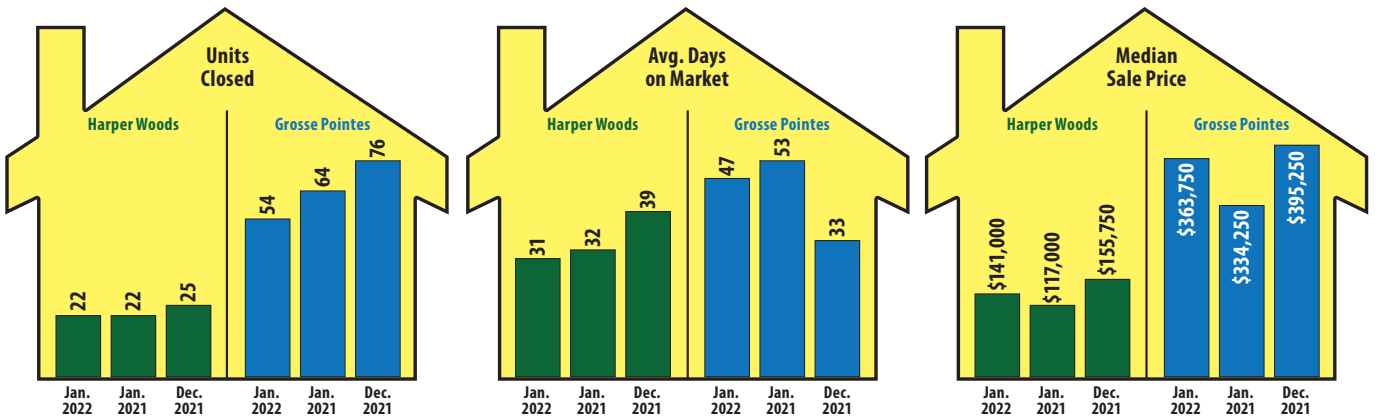
It may take until the end of the first quarter for any unexpected trends to evidence themselves and even then,

with interest rates likely to start rising soon, how consumers react is unknown because although rates will be going up, they still will be close to being historically low.

Finally, should you be considering the sale or purchase of a home, consult with an industry expert. There remain

too many moving parts for anyone to safely proceed otherwise. This is why it is in your best interest to make an informed decision. Members of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors are best able to help.

— Information courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Students, local journalism get national nod

The Grosse Pointe South High School newspaper, The Tower, got a plug nationally with a mention in a Feb. 27 Bloomberg Opinion piece, “High School Newspapers Are a Thrifty Way to Teach Civics,” in The Washington Post.

“Much has been written about the need to revive civics education after years in which standardized-testing requirements emphasized math and English language arts at the expense of instruction in history and government,” wrote Andrea Gabor for Bloomberg.

“High school journalism builds on the same logic for promoting civics. It also provides a cost-effective way to strengthen students’ writing and research skills, while giving them early lessons in how to report and edit responsibly and assess the quality of the information they are bombarded with.”

The author cited many examples of good high school newspapers across the country, including The Tower.

“(F)rom Grosse Pointe South High School in Michigan to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of the 2018 mass shooting in Parkland, Fla.,” Ms. Gabor wrote, “student newspapers have been covering everything from the new SAT format — which will be shorter and digital — to the future of mask mandates.

“The Grosse Pointe paper also published a guide to assessing misinformation and the validity of news sources after local demonstrators who opposed COVID mandates falsely claimed, among other things, that the vaccines would infect them with HIV.”

In another recent validation of local journalism, last Sunday’s “60 Minutes” aired a detailed segment called, “An attack on our democracy: Financial firms gutting some local newsrooms.” The piece detailed how national hedge funds are gobbling up major metropolitan newspapers and homogenizing the news that locals get, with little or no connection to where readers live and work.

It underscores something we here firmly believe: local journalism and a free press matter.

Schools and districts should support student press outlets, the Bloomberg writer opined, and more state legislatures should enact freedom laws for them. We agree.

“Today there are more public high school news outlets than commercial and weekly newspapers combined,” Ms. Gabor wrote, “and some play an important role in reporting on local news. While principals and teachers find themselves in the crosshairs of the culture wars, and parents battle over what should be taught in the schools, the young people who are most affected by these debates have the best chance of cutting through the acrimony and having their voices heard.”

We support local journalism, like here at the Grosse Pointe News and student journalism, in particular, at The Tower at South and the North Pointe at Grosse Pointe North High School.

Let us — students and professionals alike — keep up this important work.

Wayne County vaccinations*

As of 3/1	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	744,083	677,456
% of residents 5+	73.6	67.0
% 5-11 years old	28.7	24.8
% 12-15 years old	56.1	51.7
% 16-64	76.0	69.0
% 65+	92.9	85.9

*Excluding Detroit **1 of 2 doses *** 2 doses or J&J

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ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

OUR VIEW

Yes, Ukraine affects Pointes

As a local, community-based newspaper, we prioritize our coverage to focus on the Grosse Pointes and surrounding communities.

While we remain dedicated to our local coverage, we would be remiss to not address our concern about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, a dangerous, escalating situation that threatens our worldwide economy, freedom and peace. Locally, it affects many of our residents with ties to Ukraine.

We condemn Russia’s actions. Russian President Vladimir Putin’s campaign to “demilitarize” and overthrow Ukraine’s democratically-elected government is a brazen, de facto declaration of war.

According to the BBC, this is the first time since World War II that a major power has invaded a neighboring, sovereign state in Europe. Mr. Putin has pushed a false narrative to justify Russia’s actions, declaring Ukraine must be freed from oppression and “cleansed of the Nazis.” Of course, the irony here is rich, given Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is Jewish and has zero ties to

any neo-Nazi movement. The world sees through these lies.

Mr. Putin’s agenda with Ukraine has been misrepresented as news through Russia’s state-controlled mass media outlets. The difference between Russia’s version of a free press and that of the West’s is staggering. In 2014, Russia doubled down and introduced new laws to further extend that state control. The laws inhibit media outlets from carrying out independent policies, while crippling journalists’ access to sources and to work without outside pressure.

Global politics can get complicated, often with no clear line of good guys vs. bad guys. This situation isn’t one of those.

The cost of Mr. Putin’s recent actions will result in economic and political chaos, a refugee crisis and most tragically, profound human loss. We at the Grosse Pointe News sincerely hope Mr. Putin somehow recognizes these losses would be too great a price to pay, and that freedom rings once again for the citizens of Ukraine.

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.

Identifying, addressing inherently divisive concepts in our own school system

To the Editor:

On Jan. 15, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued 2022 Executive Order 1, which ended the use of inherently divisive concepts, including critical race theory, and restoring excellence in K-12 public education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Executive Order 1 charged the Superintendent of Public Instruction to begin the work of identifying and addressing inherently divisive concepts — including “critical race theory and its progeny” — in public education. It defined “inherently divisive concepts” to mean “advancing any ideas in violation of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.”

Specifically, Executive Order 1 required the SOPI to identify policies, programs, training or curricula that fall within

the definition of divisive concepts. I respectfully submit this interim report to you and the citizens of Virginia.

On Feb. 23, the Virginia Department of Education released its interim report and took actions to rescind certain policies, programs and resources that promote discriminatory and divisive concepts as directed by Executive Order 1. The report also contained a sampling of critical race theory-based materials.

The preliminary report also noted the concepts have become widespread in the Virginia Department of Education and in Virginia school divisions that they will need to proactively review policies, practices and pedagogies around the state to uphold the Civil Rights Act and comport with Executive Order 1.

So what does this have to do with Grosse Pointe? Well, many of the actionable issues found in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s initial report are also present in our local school system.

The first example pro-

vided in the Virginia Department of Education report highlights the adaptation of basic tenants of anti-racist education. Grosse Pointe public schools have seen these same principles of anti-racism adopted by the board of education’s “Resolution on Racism” in August 2020, and by the documents introduced by the Race Equity and Inclusion Council in their presentation to the board of education in October 2020 and September 2021.

Another example identified in the Virginia Department of Education report were shifts in school culture from excellence and opportunity to equitable outcomes for all students.

The 2022-2024 Grosse Pointe schools’ strategic plan clearly shows a move within the district from an “excellence in education” to an “equity of outcome” based approach. Grosse Pointe schools’ strategic plan is completely devoid of any reference to academic excellence and instead filled with an equity based approach to education.

Finally, the Virginia Department of Education report rescinded guidelines that placed substantial focus on building an equitable culture to remedy the learning loss caused by COVID-19 and school closures. The previous Virginia administration had created “equity checkpoints.”

Most concerning were statements such as “Education equity is achieved when we elimi-

nate the predictability of student outcomes.”

The Grosse Pointe 2022-2024 strategic plan contains this same type of language including the goal to “allocate resources as the district continues to navigate healing and recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reconfiguration.”

In other words, they will attempt to spend district funds to fix problems that they themselves created by closing two elementary schools and by keeping our school buildings closed for over a year while private and parochial schools were open during COVID.

The time has come for residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods to demand more from our school district administrators and school board members. A return to “Excellence in Education” must begin now.

TERRENCE COLLINS
Grosse Pointe Park

CRT, DEIG from personal experience

To the Editor:

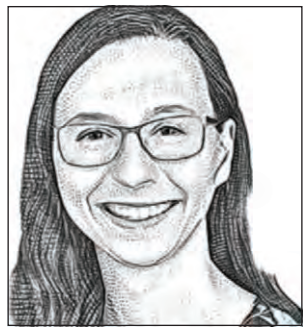
I live in Colorado where CRT/DEIG is alive and well. I am about to pull my two middle-school-aged daughters out of their school and my 84-year-old mom out of her apartment (she lives with us) in order to move to Grosse Pointe, which seems more balanced.

Consequently, I read the Grosse Pointe News

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

Playing in a winter wonderland



February has historically been what I would consider the worst month of the year. Despite also being the shortest month, its dreary, dark and frigid days always have seemed to drag on and on.

This year, I went into the month determined it would be what I made it and I'm happy to report

that, for once, I didn't end up finding it all that dreary.

With the change in attitude, I also seem to have inadvertently changed my perspective on snow. I'm one of those people who typically loves the white flakes around

Christmastime, but once the clock strikes New Year's, I'm over it. Interestingly, that seems not to be the case this year. I'm finding myself stopping to stare out windows more and appreciate its beauty as it falls.

As I write this, large snowflakes are fluttering through the air, bathing The Village in an aesthetic snow globe

feel, and taking me back to a time when snow didn't mean having to clean off my car and maneuver through stressful traffic: when it instead meant snow days and playing outside to my heart's content.

If I had a highlight reel of my greatest memories of snow growing up, top of the list would be the day my little brother and I lined up a bunch of 1-foot-tall snowmen all the way across the dirt road in front of our house.

We then laid down in our ditch, trying to stay out of sight, and waited for cars inevitably to come down the road. To a certain degree, I can still remember the con-

fusion of the drivers who came to a stop before our miniature snowman army, likely contemplating whether they should reverse back down the road and go a different way so as not to destroy a child's creation.

In the end, if I'm recalling correctly, each one pushed forward, taking out at least a few snowmen beneath their tires. Little did they know, that was exactly our cue.

Racing forward with a yellow, rectangular sled as our stretcher, my brother and I would dramatically pick up what was left of the smashed snowmen and transport them via "stretcher" to

our front lawn to be rebuilt and replaced until the next unsuspecting car came along.

I remember one driver in particular who, after realizing what we were doing, put his car in reverse to run over a few more snowmen with a cheeky grin before going about his day.

While this is undoubtedly my most creative snow endeavor to date — I'm skeptical I'll ever surpass it — there's no shortage of wintertime memories that I fondly recall.

From the significantly large slide made of snow that my best friend's father constructed for us to sled down — an impressive feat looking

back even now — to leaving unattractive shovel marks on the lawn, because extra snow was needed to build snow forts; to taking to pen and paper to plan out grandiose dreams of the ultimate snow fort, complete with a tunnel system and various-themed rooms.

While I lacked the motivation and effort required to actually make that last dream a reality, I had a pretty good plan involving the use of a recycling bin to create large bricks. Who knows, maybe next February, I'll spend a weekend making it and give my niece and nephews a starter-pack snow memory of their own.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1947

75 years ago this week

NEW SEWERS FOR FARMS DEEMED VITAL: From the number of phone calls being received at the village offices of the Farms it is evident that the citizens of the village have taken a keen interest in the

proposed program to provide storm water sewer relief throughout the entire village under one program, rather than to put off one group in preference to another which would be necessary if done piece-meal over a period of years.

COUNCIL OF VETERAN AFFAIRS NEARS END: After 16 months of operation the Veterans Information

Center of the Grosse Pointe Council of Veterans' Affairs on Kercheval, which aided personally or by telephone approximately 5,000 veterans of World War II in their reconversion from military to civilian status, will terminate its activities Feb. 28, 1947.

Obituaries: Jermome Van Becelaere, B.E. Taylor, John H. Prescott

1972

50 years ago this week

PARK FIRE CHIEF RETIRES: Just because Park Fire Chief Henry E. DeClerck retired this week doesn't mean it's the end of his interest in firefighting. Not by a long shot. He will still use his personal scanner Police-Fire radio on which he hears fire calls from all over the east side. The chief has been a firefighter for 44 years, has witnessed about 1,200 fires in his career and worked under five different directors.

TO IMPROVE ELWORTHY FIELD: Members of the City of Grosse Pointe City Council voted unanimously to establish an Elworthy Field Trust Fund as part of the city's municipal accounting system. Mayor John L. King announced contributions totaling \$30,392 have been received for placement in the fund for the improvement and redevelopment of Elworthy Field.

Obituaries: Jerome K. Keanu, Thomas J. Crowther, Leonard Rubarth, Phyllis Chavarria, Robert C. Moore, Theresia Senesi, Elizabeth Heiden, Catherine D. O'Neill, Nestor J. Decker

have taken a couple of years, but the folks at the Grosse Pointe Soccer Association have finally been able to begin construction of a second soccer field at Ghesquiere Park. In 1995, the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council gave the association permission to build two soccer fields in the park. The group built the first last year, but had to wait until now to begin construction on the second field.

NORTH, SOUTH GYMNAST ARE 1-2 IN LEAGUE: Grosse Pointe North's gymnastics team doubled its pleasure in the Great Lakes Eight Conference. The Norsemen, who posted a 5-0 record in league dual meets, won the conference meet last Saturday at Clarenceville, scoring 130.65 points. It also was a good day for Grosse Pointe South, who came in second with 126.9 points.

Obituaries: Stuart E. Davidson, George Ebert, Michael Madarasz, Emelia W. McLean, Alice Lungershausen, John S. Woodruff

2012

10 years ago this week

VICKOUT IN SHORES: City Manager Brian Vick announced his resignation Feb. 27. "As of March 3, I resign my position," Vick wrote in an email from his municipal account. Vick was hired in October 2008, by former Mayor James Cooper, who lost election last November to Ted Kedzierski.

LIBRARY WINS: Grosse Pointe voters showed overwhelming support for the Grosse Pointe Public Library in the Feb. 28 election, evidenced in the nearly 3 to 1 voter ratio favoring the millage proposal, which increases the millage rate up to .7 mills for eight years. It passed in each city.

Obituaries: Esther V. Gompers, Patricia E. Brown, Steven Michael Hopkins DVM, Marjorie "Midge" F. Robinson, LaVerne Eddie Johnson, Betty Jo Rush, Jack Dykema Shattuck RPh

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

all the time to make sure that I don't jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Attached is my experience with the pernicious affects of DEIG and how it relates to CRT. For what it's worth.

The Relationship between Critical Race Theory and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Gender

CRT refers to a theory that focuses on the way racism operates in our society to create inequities. As conceived, CRT was an important way of viewing how the American legal system codified racial discrimination. CRT was, and is, an important perspective that shines light on ways power has been used to disenfranchise groups because of their identities.

CRT provides the analytical framework to recognize the inequities; DEIG provides the "tools" to remedy them. The natural correction to CRT was to ensure that people are treated equally under the laws. DEIG, which is a complete over correction, seeks to make everything fair (i.e., equitable) in society.

Sadly, DEIG does not solve legitimate problems of inequity in society. Instead, it creates identity-based tribes and tries to correct perceived wrongs to those tribes.

Because it's based on critical theory rather than classical western ideas of logic and evidence, it's subjective, ineffective and divisive. DEIG's "remedies" don't respond to data or facts. DEIG swats a fly with a hammer and only responds to subjective feelings of marginalization, victimization and grievance.

More specifically, it creates an environment

where grievance replaces gratitude and equity replaces merit. Most parents know that you can either focus on the worm in the apple (i.e., grievance) or the apple (i.e., gratitude). You can either hire the best candidate or the best candidate to make life fair. But, you can't have it both ways.

As a practical matter, here is what DEIG looks like in lower, middle and upper schools where the goal is fairness at the expense of academics:

In science, kids are asked to draw a scientist and then questioned why their "stick figure drawings" look like white men;

American involvement in WWII is taught as a means of oppressing black Americans rather than "the time American soldiers (black and white) saved the world;"

"Freshmen" — an outdated and clearly sexist moniker — are now called ninth graders to avoid making female students feel left out; "Wreath and Garland Sale" evokes Christianity more than other religions and morphs into "Holiday Market;"

Kids are taught in preschool and kindergarten to choose their gender and explain what indicia they will use to signal that decision, before

teaching them about typical sexual development (but, under DEIG it's not called typical sexual development; that would be unfair to people who don't identify as male or female);

Health is now referred to as Cisgendered Development; and

Health class is now for girls "assigned at birth" and boys "assigned at birth." Girls "assigned at birth" that social transition to boys take health with, well boys, because they are boys now, anatomy notwithstanding.

It doesn't matter that CRT isn't mentioned in the Grosse Pointe Public School System strategic plan or curriculum; pay close attention to anything that attempts to "make everyone feel heard" and see if the language feels divisive.

Is the Golden Rule insufficient? Is there evidence that things are getting worse for marginalized groups? Kids nowadays seem much kinder and accepting than previous generations; is that impression not supported by facts?

Most parents spend a lifetime extolling one lesson: Life isn't fair! And, for better or worse, that understanding makes all of us stronger, together.

JENNY GANNON
Morrison, CO

1997

25 years ago this week

Ghesquiere Park to Get Second Soccer Field: It might

HOOR Detroit: Best of Retailers

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTEES — Nine area retailers have been nominated as finalists in HOOR Detroit Magazine's Best of Detroit 2022 competition. From the ultimate bike shop to best toy store, Grosse Pointe has its hat in the ring to represent Detroit's best in many categories. To vote, visit hourdetroit.com/best-of-detroit-2022-online-ballot now through Tuesday, March 15.

Apple Blossom Baby

Reigning champions in the category, Apple Blossom Baby has been nominated once again for best kids' clothing store in the area. Owner Anne Murphy said the upscale baby boutique enjoys catering to its community with unique merchandise.

"I love the way our community supports us and I like supporting the community," Murphy said.

Community is at the center of the store, as the shop was inspired by Young Clothes, a Grosse Pointe children's store from 1945 to 2002.

Apple Blossom Baby is in the running for best kids' clothing store against Egg, Lil' Rascals, Little High Flyers and Perfect Trading.

Bikes, Blades & Boards

Bikes, Blades & Boards competes for the title of best bike shop in the Detroit area. Owner Brian Breslin said what

Farm Field Table, right, and Coreander's Children's Bookshope, below, are among the Grosse Pointe retailers nominated for HOOR Detroit's Best of 2022 contest.

PHOTOS BY RENEÉ LANDUYT



Churchill's Bistro Cigar Bar

Running against Ambassador Cigars & Spirits, Godfather, Hill & Hill, Robusto's and Wild Bill's Tobacco for best cigar shop, manager Ernest Yeldo said what makes Churchill's Bistro Cigar Bar the best is its extensive inventory and customer service.

Churchill's offers a rewards program, which allows the business "a little bit more of an intimate relationship" with its customers, Yeldo said.

"We know what everybody likes, what they don't like," he added, "and providing that for them allows us to maintain inventory for them."

The Grosse Pointe Woods location of Churchill's has been serving the community since July 2016, with its two other locations also servicing the metro Detroit area.

Hill & Hill

Also in the running for best cigar shop against Churchill's, Hill & Hill Tobacconists Ltd. stands out with overall knowledge and the wide array of pipes it boasts, according to owner Jim Simon.

"I import 11 lines of cigars myself since 1985," he added, "of which three of the lines are the biggest sellers. They're rolled like nothing else in the world."

Simon's imported cigars hail from the Dominican Republic, from a 10-man factory he found on his own search. The cigars even have a stamp of approval from some big names, including Bill Clinton and the late James Gandolfini, of "The Sopranos."

Serving the community since 1974, Simon is proud to keep his shop running every day of the year, other than Christmas.

Coreander's Children's Bookshope

Among big names like John K. King Used and

makes the shop stand apart is the customer service it offers.

"For us, it's just customer service comes first," Breslin said. "It's not about the product that we sell or the brands that we sell. It's just the service that we offer. We're always willing and want to go above and beyond for our customers. ...

"We try to be as helpful as we can all the time for everybody," he added. "I think that's always been our biggest success is that we care."

Bikes, Blades & Boards

competes against Al Petri and Sons, American Cycle and Fitness, Ferndale Bike, Detroit Bikes and KLM Bike & Fitness for the title of best.

Capricious

Up against Alexander's of Northville, Carl Sterr, Coup D'etat, Hersh's Essence Clothing and Tender, store manager Gigi Badalamenti said Capricious is the best high-end clothing store in the area due to the business's high-quality

customer service and all-inclusive experience.

"There really isn't a place you can go anywhere now and get service with ... knowledgeable stylists, that you can get outfitted head to toe," Badalamenti said. "We have undergarments, the shoes, hosiery, jewelry, handbags and then outfits, so I think that kind of differentiates us from anybody."

"We're a one-stop shop," she added, "with the best customer service I've ever seen."



Apple Blossom Baby in The Village is among the 2022 finalists.

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Mombeau's TABLE ARCHIVES

The Grosse Pointe News' own cooking expert has been creating savory and sweet masterpieces and sharing her delicious recipes on our print pages for over a year. Now we've archived them online so that you can go back and search your favorites -- or share them with others!

For both beginner cooks and pros, Mombeau's Table always has an interesting spin on the recipes we love. Each week is a new surprise! Give them a try and warm up the chilliest days for family and friends.

Grosse Pointe News
grossepointenews.com/mombeaus-table

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HOOR
Real Estate All-Star

Rare Books and Literati Bookstore, newbie Coreander's Children's Bookshope on Kercheval in the Park has been nominated as a finalist for best bookstore. What makes Coreander's special, manager Jennifer Kendall said, is the in-store experience.

"I think it's a combination of the feeling the person has when they walk in the door and the environment they're in in the actual store itself," she said, "because you're put not just in a space with books, but in a space with literature. You're really connected to stories of your childhood. You're sharing them with your children or grandchildren and it's just that feeling you have when you're in here that's incredibly unique."

"I think it's partly the architecture of the building and the artwork and design," she added, "the secret spot underneath the stairs that the children run to, back to the cafe."

Also finalists in the category are Book Beat, John K. King Used and Rare Books, Literati, Pages Bookshop and Source Booksellers.

Farm Field Table

With a location in Ferndale and recently selling at a storefront in the Park, Farm Field Table has provided Grosse Pointers with quality meats both in-store and by delivery for years. The business is a whole animal butcher, partnering with farms practicing sustainable farming.

Farm Field Table is a finalist in the best butcher shop/deli category, competing against Marrow, Stage Deli, The Village Butcher and Vince & Joe's Gourmet Market for the top. In last year's contest, Farm Field Table placed third in the same category.

Viviano Flower Shop

Placing first in 2021, Viviano Flower Shop hopes to continue its title as best flower shop in the area. It competes against Blossoms, Blumz, Fleur Detroit and Thrifty.

A community staple, Viviano is a fourth-generation family business.

"We are celebrating our 85th anniversary this year and proud of our Detroit history of helping people celebrate all of life's celebrations," owner Cecilia Viviano said, "from birthdays, holidays, new births, weddings, funerals, anniversaries and the everyday celebration of the beauty of life. From the simplest events to the grandest, the Viviano family creates beautiful floral designs to bring joy to others."

Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy

Co-owner Julie Everitt said Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy stands apart as a great toy store due to its personalized customer experience.

"I think the No. 1 thing that keeps us a favorite is how we wait on our customers one-on-one," Everitt said.

She added the large selection, appealing to many different age groups, also helps.

Up against Whistle Stop for the best toy shop in the area are Funky Monkey Toys, Genuine Toy Co., Modern Natural Baby, Nerd Out and Toyology.

Liggett Players present 'Newsies'

The University Liggett School Players' production of Disney's "Newsies: The Musical" is coming to the main auditorium Thursday, March 10, through Sunday, March 13.

"Newsies" is based on the real-life Newsboys strike of 1899, in New York City, that forced William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer to change their view of the newsies from sweatshop workers to human beings looking to make a living.

Performances take place at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 10; 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 11; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13. The Sunday matinee performance will feature the rose ceremony, honoring seniors, before the performance begins.



The University Liggett School Players' production of "Newsies" runs March 10-13.

Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased online at seatyourself.biz/uls.

"Newsies" is packed with nonstop thrills, high-energy dance numbers and a timeless message that is perfect for the whole family. Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, "Newsies" is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy

and leader of a band of teenaged newsies. When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right.

Based on the 1992 motion picture, "Newsies" features a Tony Award-

winning score by Alan Menken ("Little Shop of Horrors," "Sister Act") and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein ("Kinky Boots"). It features the now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day" and "Santa Fe."

The super-sized show will be performed by 45 student actors, including a cast of middle school students, 20 tech students and 18 musicians.

Director Phillip Moss, ULS creative and performing arts chair, once again is singing the praises of his student leadership team.

"There are almost 90 students involved in the show," he said. "From crew to pit and on stage, this show has students from grades 6 through 12. That said, the work of



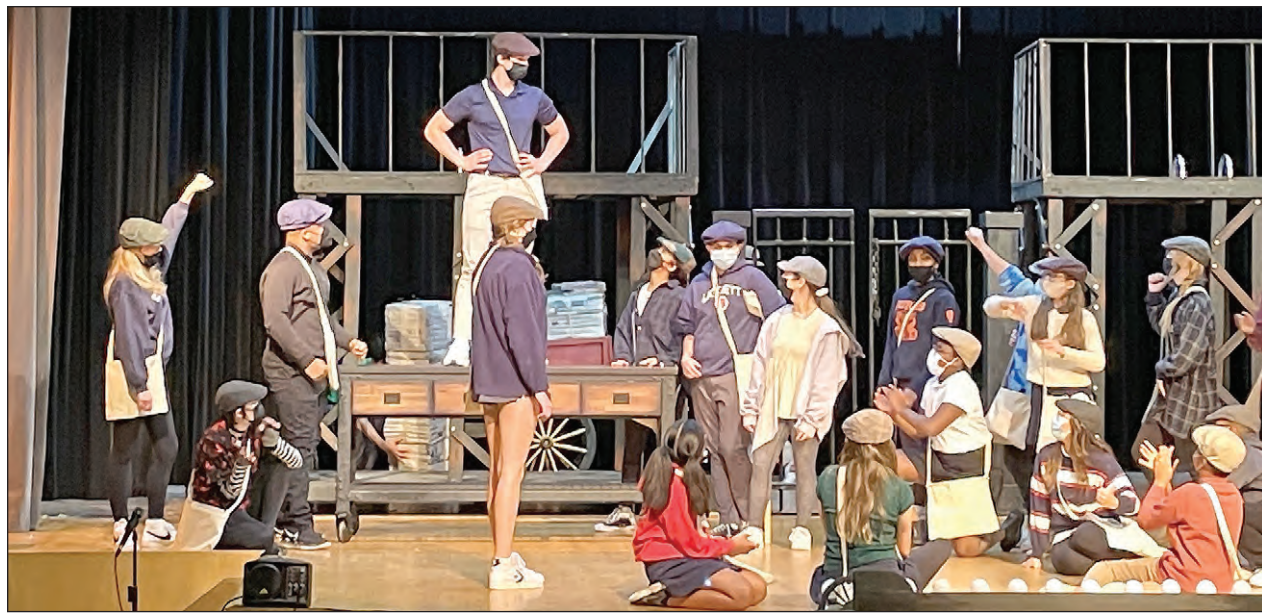
Dahlia Medvinsky and Giovanni Thams perform a scene from University Liggett School's production of "Newsies."

the student leadership team has been amazing."

Newsies features sophomores Giovanni Thams as Jack Kelly and Mark Saigh as Crutchie, senior Emilia Bronk as Davey, middle schooler Mac Costanzo as Les and junior Dahlia Medvinsky as Katherine.

The show also includes

choreography by senior Kennedy Marshall; music directed by Alexa Layson, ULS band teacher; orchestra direction by Rose Urbiel, ULS orchestra director; and vocal music preparation by Jessica Fielder, ULS vocal music teacher. Medvinsky served as a student vocal coach during production.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULS

Students from University Liggett School rehearse a scene from "Newsies."

ELECT:

Continued from page 1A

the election.

The Affidavit of Identity, when submitted, must be signed and sworn by a notary and must contain the candidate's name and address; the title and term of office the candidate is seeking; the candidate's ward and precinct where they are registered as a voter; a statement that a candidate is a citizen of the United States; the number of years the candidate has resided in the state and county; the manner in which the candidate wishes to have their name appear on the ballot; a statement that the candidate either is or isn't using a name they

were given at birth; a statement confirming all fees and fines have been paid; and a statement that the candidate acknowledges the legal consequences of making a false statement in an affidavit.

If a candidate chooses to fill out nominating petitions in lieu of paying the \$100 fee, they would need signatures from a minimum of 40 electors of the school district and a maximum of 100.

The Michigan Association of School Boards is holding virtual candidate forums to answer questions about the filing process starting later this spring. Those interested in the forums should visit masb.org/getonboardmi for more information.

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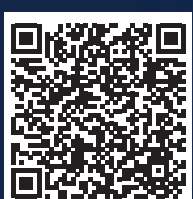
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‘Talk’ of the town

GPT’s Purdon Studio Theatre presents ‘Talk Radio,’ March 11-19

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

On the heels of a successful run of “Nunsense,” Grosse Pointe Theatre is switching gears — or turning the dial — with its Purdon Studio Theatre production of “Talk Radio.”

The show initially was scheduled for March 2020, but was forced to postpone due to COVID-19. With zero in-person productions during 2021, it’s finally time to tune into “Talk Radio.”

“This show has been on my bucket list for a while,” said director Kevin Fitzhenry, noting he read the play in college, when he was doing his own talk radio show for Oakland University’s WXOU. “I read it and I thought, ‘I love this guy.’ The character is fun. He’s not really likable. He’s not warm and fuzzy. He’s like a train wreck — you don’t want to watch, but you can’t look away.”

“Talk Radio” zeros in on radio talk show host Barry Champlain, who “loves to hang up on people, loves to berate them and get on their cases,”

The details

What: “Talk Radio”

When: 8 p.m. Friday, March 11, and Saturday, March 12; 8 p.m. Thursday, March 17, through Saturday, March 19; and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Rating: The show contains adult language and themes and is appropriate for ages 18 and older.

Where: Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

How: For tickets, visit gpt.org/talkradio or call (313) 881-4004

Fitzhenry said, comparing the lead to a Howard Stern-type character. “He finds out his show is going national without his authorization. His boss tells him to play it cool ... which he decides not to do.”

Throughout the night, Champlain, played by Grosse Pointe Theatre newcomer Joe Sfair, spirals out of control and takes his coworkers and callers down with him.

“For a show written in 1987, the same themes and situations are very prevalent today,” Fitzhenry said, noting that mounting tensions with Russia, societal issues and other modern themes are part of the script.

Added GPT Executive

Director Linda Zublick, “‘Talk Radio’ is not outdated. In contemporary times, they’re now called podcasts. This is a precursor to where it all started.”

Fitzhenry said he was drawn to “Talk Radio” for the challenge of directing a play that is mostly auditory.

“Because the action takes place in a radio station, five actors perform over 23 different characters who are never seen, only heard,” he said.

“Because of the wide array of characters that call in throughout the show, we really had fun playing around with different voices, vocal tone and techniques. Rehearsals are never dull — we keep cracking our-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPT

Joe Sfair stars as Barry Champlain.

selves up.

“It’s going to be entertaining,” he added. “The audiences will really enjoy the cast of characters who call in. It’s people they can laugh with, people they’ll think are crazy, people maybe they can cry with.”

Despite the two-year gap between initial casting and taking the stage, “Talk Radio” only had to recast two people due to scheduling conflicts. They were all thrilled to come back, Fitzhenry said.

As a Purdon Studio Theatre production, “Talk Radio” steps away from more mainstream plays and musicals, offering cast members and audiences the “black box” experience.

“This is a production where we select more contemporary pieces to give actors a wider opportunity to play characters not found in our mainstream productions,” Zublick said. “It’s always an experience to put on these shows. And we get to introduce the audience to something they’re not familiar with.”

As a “black box” production, “Talk Radio” will be performed in an intimate setting, with a limited number of folks seated up close and per-



Fiona Donough provides the voice for six different characters in the show.

sonal to the 10-member cast.

“There are typically 50 to 100 seats in a small, confined space,” Fitzhenry added. “But this allows the audience to sit closer, so there has to be a lot more details worked out.”

The show will be hosted at a new venue for Grosse Pointe Theatre: the undercroft at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

“We created a great partnership with them last summer when we had our outdoor Singin’ in the Streets performances on their lawn,” Zublick said. “We’re excited to continue that partnership. It’s a beautiful space to give a theatrical experience to the

audience.”

Zublick noted that GPT will continue to operate with patron safety in mind. Several safety precautions have been put in place this season. All cast and crew members are required to be vaccinated. Digital ticketing and ticketless check-in allow for easy seating with minimal contact.

“As requirements change, we’ll keep an eye on them,” she said. “People can find updated information on our website. We’re adapting our guidelines as we listen to the experts across the state.”

Tickets for “Talk Radio” cost \$15 and are available online at gpt.org.



Christopher Peterson, left, as Kent and Joe Sfair rehearse.



Virginia Lee and Tim Stone run over their lines as various callers to the radio show.

The players

Justin Bradley of Grosse Pointe Woods
Fiona Donough of Grosse Pointe Park
Virginia Lee of the City of Grosse Pointe
Lorena McDowell-Parker of Grosse Pointe Farms
Michael McDowell-Parker of Grosse Pointe Farms
Christopher Peterson of Sterling Heights
Phil Potter of St. Clair Shores
Joe Sfair of Eastpointe
Tim Stone of Grosse Pointe Woods
Kris Wright of Southgate

The crew

Director, Kevin Fitzhenry
Producer, Kathleen Lusk
Apprentice director, Erin Getzin
Hair and makeup, Sara Shook
Lighting, Eric Leszczynski
Sound, Fitzhenry and Kris Wright
Set design and construction, Fitzhenry and James Barich

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Rotarian leads charge to assist Sudanese refugees

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

During his 35-plus years as a Rotarian, Dean Valente has been involved with his fair share of community projects. Among them is the Rotary Tot Lot in the City of Grosse Pointe, which he helped renovate not once, but twice.

Last March, after listening to Grosse Pointe North High School graduate Sarah Warnez present to the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club about South Sudanese Leadership and Community Development, Valente decided to embark on his first international Rotary effort.

SSLCD is a 501(c)3 based in Grand Rapids that promotes the health and well-being of South Sudanese villagers in northern Uganda through empowering women, promoting economic development and training leaders to keep the peace.

“Sarah came and talked and it struck a chord with me,” Valente said. “It really opened up

my eyes and tugged at my heartstrings.”

As an international organization, Rotary has had its hand in efforts around the world, including water purification, teaching Ugandan girls about menstruation and sanitary health, among other projects. Rotary District 6400, which includes southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario, has built a reputation for being a “super district,” Valente said, because of its many storied efforts. As such, he decided to reach out to other Rotary clubs to support the SSLCD.

“After hearing about the program, I got in contact with John Musick, current chairman of SSLCD,” Valente said. “Sarah, myself and John made appearances at clubs in the district. Using Zoom or written presentations, we presented to all the clubs in district. This was a fundraising effort as much as an outreach effort to inform people about what the situation is in South Sudan.”

The situation includes 1.25 million South Sudanese living in exile outside of the country, Valente said. It’s a situation that has been going on nearly 20 years.

“The two camps we support are in northern Uganda,” he said. “There are 15,000 to 20,000 people living in these two camps. They live in thatched-roofed huts, with no electricity, no water. They use common latrines.”

It’s been almost a year since Valente began his outreach efforts. Quite a few clubs stepped forward with donations, including a matching grant from District 6400, totaling more than \$20,000. A large portion of the funds will be used for agriculture and water projects, as well as rebuilding latrines, purchasing livestock and leasing fields for crops.

Another portion will be used for education and empowerment programs for women and girls, as well as conflict resolution and peace-building supports.

“We’re trying to help them help themselves in reformulating how they exist,” Valente said.

A third installment of funds will help create local business and commerce, he added.

“Sort of a savings and loan, for lack of a better term, within the camps,” he said. “We hope they create financial resources to help within the camps and develop business opportunities for themselves.”

Valente also noted he hopes funds can be used to further relations between refugee camps and surrounding communities.

“I give credit to Uganda for being willing to take on so many refugees,” he said. “Locals don’t always appreciate having refugees in their backyard. COVID caused problems too. The two camps we’re working with are within several kilometers of a large village. Our hope is that part of the program fund is used to build bridges between the camps and the local community. We hope

they can come up with ways to open dialogues and create dynamics that avoid violence as way to solve conflict.”

Conflict-resolution programs have been supported by Rotary International for years, he added.

“I tip my hat to the Ugandan government and people who made room in their hearts to cope with it,” he said. “And if we can help a little bit, that’s great.”

Valente said he took on the project because he couldn’t fathom the idea of being displaced from one’s home.

“Refugees have been so displaced for years,” he said. “These camps have been around 10 or 15 years; this is their life. The men in these camps are constantly going back to South Sudan to see if there’s still fighting or if they can find work to support their families. They’re living in a constant state of flux. I couldn’t imagine that.

“Suffering is everywhere,” he added. “Rotary helps try to alle-

Contributing clubs:

Blissfield Rotary Club
Northville Rotary Club
Westland Rotary Club
Duluth, Minn. Rotary Club
Hines Park Rotary Club
Monroe Rotary Club
Allen Park Rotary Club
Detroit Rotary Club
Grosse Pointe Rotary Club
Wayne Rotary Club
St Joseph Rotary Club
District 6400

viate it a little bit.

“They may or may not realize it’s Rotary. It’s great if they do. I just hope someday the kids will pay it forward and do something nice for someone else.”

Valente still is accepting donations to help South Sudanese Learning and Community Development. Checks, made out to Grosse Pointe Rotary Foundation and noting SSLCD, may be mailed to P.O. Box 36366, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Ford House

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

◆ Nooks & Crannies Tour, select times Tuesdays and Sundays, through March 31.

◆ Storytime: “Lulu & Rocky in Detroit,” 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays during March.

◆ Night Skies & Nightcaps, 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 4. Learn to mix the perfect nightcap from Detroit City Distillery.

◆ Talk: The Arts of Detroit, 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 11. Learn about the 1920s roots of two of Detroit’s premier arts organizations.

◆ Maker Studio: Flower Pressing, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Cost is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers.

◆ Guided Bird Walk, 8 a.m. Sunday, March 20, with Rosann Kovalcik of Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe Woods and Bill Rapai, president of the Grosse Pointe Audubon Society.

◆ Talk: “Last Ice” with Amy Sacka, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. The Detroit-based photographer will discuss her journeys on the ice.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Questers

Pettipointe Questers Chapter #243 will meet at the home of Rita Goss at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 3. Meetings take place the first Thursday of each month at various locations, usually on the eastside of Detroit. Ann Ryan will talk about the “History of Purses.” Members are invited to bring their favorite antique or new purse or purses to the meeting to share. The major objectives of Questers, an international organization founded in 1944, are to stimulate the appreciation and collecting of antiques and encourage the preservation of historical landmarks. For more information, email pettipointequesters@gmail.com.

Library

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

◆ Live Zoom Chat with Kelly Fordon, 4 p.m. Saturday, March 5.

◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8, via Zoom.

◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, via Zoom.

◆ Writing Group, 4 p.m. Monday, March 14, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ Mindfulness and Meditation, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, with Dr. Lakshmi Saleem.

◆ Fireside Chat with the Housing Experts, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 9. The topic is “Selling Your Stuff.”

◆ The Demographics of the Aging Population, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, with facilitator Thomas Jankowski, Ph.D. This program is free for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

◆ Watch “Queen Bees” at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 11. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Rosa’s Fitness Combo Class, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays, with instructor Rosa Hunter. The class

includes tai chi, yoga, ball exercises, cardio and balance, as well as brain exercises, sign and foreign language, affirmations and more.

Garden Center

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center presents the program, “The Story of the Forgotten Fruit,” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, via Zoom. Andrew Moore — a writer, gardener and expert on the pawpaw fruit — delivers a program that includes a brief history of the pawpaw fruit, why it has been overlooked in modern times and how the native Michigan fruit tree can be reintegrated into the American culture and diets. The lecture is free for Garden Center members, \$10 plus a processing fee for nonmembers. Register at gpgardencenter.org/pawpawpassion.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 23801 Kelly,

Eastpointe.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

Men’s Club

The Men’s Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next lunch and speaker meeting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Tompkins Community Center, located in Windmill Pointe Park. Chris Pratt of the Michigan Education Association, speaks. Visitors are welcome. The club encourages attendees to wear face masks when not eating, drinking or speaking to the group. Cost is \$20, paid at the door. To reserve a seat, email gmcattendance@gmail.com or call (313) 550-9661.

Sunrise Rotary

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club hosts its next meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Conference Center, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. The speaker is Michele Hodges, mayor of Grosse Pointe Park. Guests are welcome.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. A speaker has yet to be determined. Visit grossepointerotary.org for information. Those who wish to join the meeting via Zoom should email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents the following events:

◆ “The Wine Counselor: The Fundamentals of Food & Wine Pairing,” 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10. Tickets are \$59.

◆ An Evening with Chef Joe Paxton: War Memorial Classics, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16. General admission tickets are \$60; a reserved table for eight is \$440. Ticket sales end March 11.

◆ Live at the Alger:

Brad Phillips, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17. VIP tickets are \$45 and include a pre-concert reception; concert-only tickets are \$30.

◆ “The Wine Counselor: Bourbon’s Bigger Than Ever,” 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23. Tickets are \$59.

◆ “Cocktails by Candlelight,” 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Cost is \$20 and includes one drink ticket, light charcuterie and complimentary board games. A full cash bar is available.

Register online at warmemorial.org.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods hosts a meeting of its Community Book Club from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at The Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe. The group will discuss “Man’s Search for Meaning” by Viktor Frankl. This meeting, led by therapists Marquita Bedway and Frank Wilberding, was rescheduled from Jan. 25. Call (313) 447-1374 or email info@familycenterweb.org.

Healthy GP

Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods meets via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Its mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community, as well as promote optimal mental health through action, education and collaboration. Those interested in attending meetings should email Sasha Murphy at smurphy@careofsem.com.

Alliance Francaise

The Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe is an organization that promotes French culture through monthly activities for members. The group seeks members for its new membership year, which begins in September. It also offers French lessons for adults at Assumption Cultural Center, from September to May each year. Detailed membership and French classes information may be found at afdegrossepointe.org.

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Two locals named to Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

Tim Kiska of Grosse Pointe Woods and Beth Konrad of Grosse Pointe Farms are among five people named to the Class of 2022 for the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

They will be inducted during a banquet April 24, at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University.

Kiska's wife, Pat Anstett, was inducted into the hall in 2017.

A 1970 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, Kiska began working as a copy boy at the Detroit Free Press while pursuing a music degree at Wayne State University. He told the Grosse Pointe News in 2018, when he started The Detroit History Podcast, his goal was to be a music major and then try out for the band Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention.

Three days at the Free Press changed that.

"I was a copy boy, so that meant I sharpened pencils, refilled glue pots, ran errands," he said. "I fell in love with it. The clatter of typewriters and the whir of the wire machines with people running around covering



Tim Kiska



Beth Konrad

stories. I never fell out of love with it."

Kiska was at the Free Press from 1970 to 1987, then worked at The Detroit News from 1987 until 2002. He also was a political analyst, specializing in polling, at WXYZ from 2006 to 2002.

Over the years, his beats included the city of Detroit, Wayne County, the courts, Downriver suburbs and the automotive industry. His least favorite? Spending three years as a gossip columnist at The News.

"That was the worst," he laughed. "I hated it."

He currently is an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He said while the technology today's college students are immersed in is far different than what he experienced at their

age, the fundamentals are unchanged.

"Things like spelling a person's name right," he said. "You have to be fair, you have to be accurate. The transmission belt has changed, but the basics are still there."

Konrad, currently the principal of her own communications consulting firm, is the winner of three Emmys and a Society of Professional Journalists Distinguished Service Award. She graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1968, and currently serves on the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council under her legal name of Beth Konrad-Wilberding.

"I never really had the journalism bug in high school, but a humanities class I took turned me on to writing," she said. "I didn't get interested in

journalism until I was at Indiana State and the program I was in was really ahead of its time."

Konrad said that while at WRIF, Roger Skolnik, the program director, and Joe Vaughn, the news director for the station's AM side, allowed her to work on a variety of stories.

"It was very brave at the time for a rock station to do real news," she said.

She has worked for ABC Radio in Detroit and NBC Radio in Chicago and San Francisco. Konrad started as a morning anchor and investigative reporter at WRIF in Detroit after graduating with a bachelor's degree in radio and television from Indiana State University. Her transition from radio into television was as director of public affairs and editorials at WDIV, followed by serving as vice president of PBS-WTVS in Detroit.

Konrad said no one story she covered necessarily stands out, as "each experience led to a greater experience," although covering anything to do with sexual assault was always difficult while stories about foster care were "rewarding and fulfilling."

Konrad also has a mas-

ter's degree in communications from Wayne State and has taught journalism there and at Loyola University in Chicago.

"It's great when you start working with a student as a freshman and have them in class all four years and get to watch their growth," she said. "I have former students who have gone into print, broadcast and digital media, as well as public relations. It really is a gateway to a lot of opportunities."

Kiska and Anstett met while he was at the Free Press and she was at The News. Her career spanned more than 30 years, including stints with the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Today and Congressional Quarterly.

The bulk of her time was spent as a medical reporter and editor at the Free Press and Anstett was the Michigan State University College of Communication Arts & Sciences Outstanding Alumni in 2019.

She calls her 2016 book, "Breast Cancer Surgery and Reconstruction: What's Right for You," her "most fulfilling project."

While at the Free Press, Anstett's reporting led to improvements in mammography standards in

Michigan and prompted new guidelines at the University of Michigan to guard against fraudulent expense accounts and doctors using research money for private gain.

She now is working on another freelance endeavor about cybersecurity in the healthcare industry, with input from oldest daughter Caitlin Kiska, a cybersecurity threat management engineer.

"There's always something new that catches your eye," she said.

Kiska and Anstett both say that sharing careers in journalism has made for a smooth marriage.

"We never had to explain why we were wrapped up in a particular story or why we'd be late," she said. "There's a lot of commitment and time and stress involved. It was a great support system. And we're news junkies. We like to stay current."

Kiska agreed. "I walked into the newsroom one day and had to call Pat and tell her I wouldn't be home for two weeks," he said. "GM had just announced they were building the Saturn plant in Tennessee, so they flew a bunch of us down there and we interviewed anything that moved."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINA JUNGA

Contest win

The Junga family of Grosse Pointe Farms — namely 7-year-old Cordelia, left, and 9-year-old Stella — won the holiday pet contest at Lou's Pet Shop. Pictured with them, along with their loot, is Charlie, the family's rescue dog.

Madonna U. appoints Day acting president

Michael A. Grandillo, Ph.D., Madonna University's seventh and first lay president, announced his retirement effective Feb. 21, 2022.

In accordance with the University's Presidential Succession Plan, the Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Ian Day of Grosse Pointe Farms as acting president, in addition to his role as chief operating officer. This change also is effective Feb. 21.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead Madonna, a truly remarkable university, whose Felician mission and Franciscan values have earned it a reputation of distinction for a quality education and a commitment to serving others," said Day about

the appointment. "As higher education institutions everywhere face enormous challenges, my leadership approach remains one of inclusivity and transparency with our exceptional students, faculty and staff."

As acting president, Day will perform the day-to-day duties of the president, as set forth in the university bylaws. He also will continue to embrace and advance the mission and Franciscan Felician values of the university, and work with the board, Felician Services Inc., and the Felician Sisters of North America in the operation of the university, among other duties.

"The Board of

See DAY, page 6B



Ian Day

March for Meals underway

The fourth annual March for Meals, benefiting Meals on Wheels began March 1, and runs through Thursday, March 31. This year's event is virtual once again.

"This is the fourth year The Helm has hosted a March for Meals," said Peggy Hayes, executive director of The Helm. "We have decided to once again have a virtual march, leaving you in control of how to exercise and show your support of Meals on Wheels. Visit helmlife.org and click on the 'March for Meals' tab at the top and you'll find everything you need to support this event."

In 2021, The Helm served more than 23,000 nutritious meals to homebound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves. Every \$5 donated provides funding for one meal. A \$25 donation buys five meals; \$50 pays for 10 meals.

The website, helmlife.org/march-for-meals-3, lists several three-mile routes around the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities. Participants are

invited to choose one of these walks or create their own. Exercise may be completed anytime between now and March

appreciate the support of the staff and congregation in helping us get the word out and financially contributing to



31. All monies must be submitted to The Helm by Thursday, March 31, to count toward this event.

"We are excited that Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is once again our lead partner on this event," Hayes said. "We

Meals on Wheels. "Meals on Wheels is a vital program in our community," she added. "We are grateful to everyone stepping — or marching — up for those who rely on Meals on Wheels for daily nutrition and sustenance."

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SENIOR LIVING

MARVELOUS

Mazatlán

For retirement living or travel, look into this pacific paradise

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

If you're one of those people who think you could learn to live with miles of pristine blue beaches, amazing fresh-daily seafood, and lots of fun (and relaxing) things to do, you may want to check out Mazatlán, Mexico.

With its flourishing year-round activities and upbeat culture, Mazatlán is fast becoming a favorite destination for vacationers, snowbirds and those seeking unique permanent full-time retirement living.

This mid-size city on Mexico's west coast offers balmy weather, surprisingly affordable prices and views that come straight out of a postcard, making it an ideal place to visit—or live. It's the second largest city in the Mexican state of Sinaloa with a population of 470,152* and growing, for very obvious reasons.

Mazatlán is one of Mexico's few coastal colonial towns, a friendly community of locals and happy expats, all enjoying their proximity to one of the biggest shrimping ports in the world. Fresh, wild-caught and farmed shrimp is always on the menu in some form, including in local dishes like tacos and burritos, and in familiar recipes like omelets, salads and pastas, according to Janet Blaser, writer for International Living, and part-time resident of Mazatlán.

Other seafood varieties abound as well, such as mahi-mahi, swordfish, tuna and snapper. Mazatlán is truly a seafood lover's paradise.

For housing, the neighborhoods come in many varieties and styles, with homes and condos priced from under \$100k (US) to houses listed for millions of dollars. Fortunately, very nice housing can be found in the \$200-300k range, per retirement community website, topreirements.com.

Many full-time retirees live along the coastline, within walking distance of the beaches. From older homes on tree-lined streets to ocean or mountain-view high-rises, there is something for every budget. Modern gated communities continue to spring up, some on beautiful award-winning golf courses, for those who can't leave the game behind.

The downtown historical center, Centro Historico is

located on the seaside and continues to renovate. A five-mile boardwalk takes in the Pacific Ocean and also features Mazatlán's very first bicycle path.

Theater, art shows, festivals, celebrations, pageants, concerts, dance recitals and more take place downtown, so there is always something to do. Carnivale is one of the most highly-anticipated events in Mazatlán each year.

Two gorgeous oceanfront parks draw visitors and residents alike, for the breathtaking natural beauty.

The Malecon (seafront), is a series of scenic roads and pedestrian spaces, stretches from Mazatlan along the Pacific coast. It's one of the longest in the world and features high cliffs, monuments, hotels and gazebos, according to International Living.

Medical care is always one issue to be considered for those relocating to another country. American health insurance is not accepted in Mexico, but you can buy health insurance policies there. Mazatlán has two modern hospitals as well as many neighborhood clinics. Most doctors and dentists speak English, and the cost for a standard office visit is about \$25, according to Blaser.

She offers that Walmart and Home Depot are present for convenience (and homesickness), along with many local neighborhood tiendas (stores) and banks. The recently expanded Mazatlán International Airport offers year-round flights to the U.S. and elsewhere, so visiting the states or having incoming visitors is no problem.

Adapting to life in a foreign country is not without its challenges. It takes a sense of adventurousness to wander from the familiar, and taking residence in Mazatlán, is no exception.

You'll want to brush up on Spanish for ease of communication, and be sure you can adapt to the tone of living in a busy tourist town. Familiarizing yourself with various areas before settling on a residential location is always good advice.

Crime can be a concern, as it can be in any populous city, so many Americans opt for life in a gated community for added security.

For those who want to take the road less traveled, and truly possess a spirit of adventure, Mazatlán can be a retirement dream come true.

*SOURCE: worldpopulationreview.com

INFORMATION SOURCES: CNBC, internationalliving.com, topreirements.com
Follow 'The Janet Blaser' on Facebook for more on life in Mazatlán

PHOTOS: UNSPLASH



From top: Mazatlán has a reputation for miles of beautiful, natural beaches. Spectacular sunsets are visible all along the coastline, and a daily spectator ritual for residents. Downtown Mazatlán is modernly renovated while retaining its historic charm. A world fishing seaport, Mazatlán boasts some of the best fishing imaginable.

THE ENCORE YEARS

Fitness and people the answer for this Renaissance man



By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Staying active has never been a challenge for Hugh Sparkman.

After retiring from his first career, he spent another 15 years in a completely different line of work before giving retirement another shot.

Even then, slowing down and settling in are two things the 84-year-old Harper Woods resident has yet to make happen. A lifetime of physical activity has helped Sparkman stay in great shape.

"My activities tend to be physically active," he said. "I gravitate toward things I can play. ... I've gotten into my 80s pretty physically fit, but it happened over 50 years."

Sparkman enjoyed a more than 30-year career with the Detroit Recreation Department — a natural fit for someone physically active. As director of three community centers, he had access to basketball courts his entire career.

"I played basketball into my early 50s," he said. "Then I started playing tennis with my daughter at Eastside Tennis when I was in my 50s. I was barely an OK player."

He's improved, he said, and now he'll play anybody, if they can fit in a match on one of his off days.

Mondays, he plays with two of his sons and three others — a group of six who've been playing together more than 25 years. Tuesdays and Thursdays, he plays in a men's senior group. Saturdays, three generations of his family get together to play.

The transition from the basketball court to the tennis court echoes the transition Sparkman made in his career. After retiring from the Detroit Recreation Department, he became a truant officer in southwest Detroit. To get the job, he had to make a four-year commitment. He ended up staying 15 years, retiring a second time in 2010, at age 73.

If variety is the spice of life, Sparkman certainly had a flavorful education. The Detroit Southeastern High School graduate made the rounds when it came to his college career, spending one year each at Michigan State University, University of Michigan — where he met his wife — and University of Detroit before graduating from Wayne State University.

He also served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1965.

Sparkman, a competitive chess player well into his 40s, said his drive to stay active has to do with mental health, too.

"It's about wanting to get up in the morning," he said, "about having quality of life."

While he pays attention to his activity levels, his wife of 61 years, Joan, pays attention to what he eats.

"I've been the same weight for 30 or 40 years," he said. "I would be very concerned if I was not physically able to do a lot of stuff." Up until a few years ago, Sparkman played competitively through the U.S. Tennis Association. He was the Michigan Senior Olympics tennis champion two years ago.

"The last year I played competitively was 2015," he said. "I was ranked 12th in the Midwest. That fall, I had knee replacement and haven't played a USTA tournament since."

It was following knee replacement surgery Sparkman began playing Texas Hold 'Em, another of his favorite pastimes, at The Helm. The poker game meets at The Helm at 10 a.m. every Tuesday.

"It's an elimination tournament," he said,

"so you can be there for 10 minutes or you can be there for three hours."

Currently, he and a few friends head the weekly poker tournament, which was formed in 2008 and led by Harry Burkey, until he stepped down two months ago.

"Don and Sarah Ludlow, George Serra and others are stepping up to continue a program Harry Burkey started," Sparkman said. "For so many years, up until very recently, it was his program."

Pre-pandemic, around 20 participants would compete; however, numbers are down since COVID restrictions lifted. Sparkman, who has won Player of the Year five of the 10 years he's played, provides lessons to the novice poker player. It's a job his predecessor, Burkey, used to handle.

"It's all free," he said of instruction. "It's to expose what we're doing. We want to get the word out there."

Texas Hold 'Em is not the only role Sparkman has had at The Helm. He and his wife delivered Meals on Wheels before the pandemic.

"She started with Meals on Wheels first

about 15 years ago," he said. "I would help out if the weather was bad or if she couldn't make it. The first thing I did was drive people to appointments. ... After a couple years, I switched to Meals on Wheels."

Sparkman said he not only stays active for the physical benefits, but for the social aspect as well.

"At 84, I've got to put myself in a position to meet new people," he said. "I make friends playing poker. I make friends playing tennis at Eastside. I do that because all the people I used to know 30 years ago are dead. So I'm active within my family and outside my family."

He also enjoys taking bike rides and going for walks with his wife, as well as spending time with family. The couple, who married in 1961, have five children, 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sparkman has a ranch on 20 acres in Everett, where the family likes to gather for special occasions.

"It gets people together who are not here," he said. "It's there and you're there for each other."



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Top left, Hugh Sparkman. Above, Sarah Ludlow, Allan Gazoul, Georgeanne Padot, George Serra, Merry Jo Eleczko, Adele Kerske, Jim Reno and Hugh Sparkman sit down for a game of Texas Hold 'Em at The Helm.

SENIOR LIVING - THINGS TO DO

Lakeside Palette Club brings artists together

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

It's a landmark year for the Lakeside Palette Club of St. Clair Shores, celebrating their 75th anniversary.

The club was established 1947 by Mrs. Russell Strigley and a group of ten other local artists. The original group met at the Blossom Health Inn on Jefferson, with its inspiring views of Lake Saint Clair.

Today this loyal club has over 100 members and meets at the St. Clair Shores Public Library. The group's objective remains the same after more than sixty years, though: Study and paint together while stimulating and promoting interest in local creative arts.

Lakeside Palette Club members come from all walks of life, all ages and backgrounds, and all skill levels from beginners to pros. The artists include painters, photographers, sculptors, mixed media artists, as well as those practicing other forms of the visual arts.

The talented group meets monthly, giving members an opportunity to socialize, make new friends and share a common love for all things artistic.

Members eagerly join together for regular 'paint

outs' during the summer months at locations like The Ford House, Lake St. Clair Metropark, Blossom Heath Park, and other natural beauty settings.

There are art demonstrations by members and guests at the monthly meetings, where even seasoned pros can learn something new.

"You don't have to be an artist to join our group," said Wendy Kohlmann, second vice president and publicist for the organization. "Some of our members are the spouses and friends of artists," Kohlmann said.

The group also includes many local art-loving seniors with the free time to talk about and make art with kindred spirits.

Members participate in regular art shows, and can take advantage of weekly studio time every Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"There are two juried shows annually, in May and November, where members can sell their art. These shows take place at North Lake High School at 23349 Elmira, St Clair Shores," Kohlmann said.

"The group has been invited to participate in many local events such as the Saint Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade, and we always have a members' gathering at a local restaurant for the Christmas holiday" said Kohlmann.

Joining her on the leadership team are June Nash, LPC president and Michelle Callow, first vice president. There are also opportunities for members to join the LPC board.

To join, contact membership coordinator Debbie Burnham (586) 293-1139, email lpcofscs@gmail.com, or visit lakesidepaletteclub.org.



At left, Stephanie Hazzard, exhibition manager for the Anton Art Center in Mt. Clemens, recently offered a critique of members' work, including works in progress by Mary Jane Lopez.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNE NASH

Above, this recent watercolor painting by June Nash, entitled 'Temptation', was completed during paint-along sessions with other club members via Zoom.



At left, photographer and painter Wendy Kohlmann recently showed this artistically-toned photograph titled, 'Light out of the Darkness'.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY KOHLMANN

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.

Thomas Patrick Kliber

Thomas Patrick Kliber, 70, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.

Tom was born March 29, 1951, in Detroit, to Alice and Ralph James Kliber. He grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods, attending school at Our Lady Star of the Sea and later Austin Catholic Prep. Tom graduated from Villanova University in 1973, and received a business degree, then a law degree from the University of Detroit. He practiced law in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Tom was a scholar, but his passion was photography. A member of the Grosse Pointe Camera Club, he was a gifted and recognized nature photographer, and won awards for his work.

When he was 3 years old, Tom had a memorable adventure during a lightning storm. He witnessed a fireball come through the house, pass by him and out the window, striking another house and setting it on fire. That experience gave him a healthy fear of lightning, which lasted until he discovered how beautiful lightning can be when photographed. After that, Tom ran to lightning storms with his camera and tripod. He captured stunning images of lightning, many over Lake St. Clair.

Tom traveled the world with his camera and particularly loved photographing New England and Iceland. He often could be seen early in the morning standing on the shore of the lake photographing sunrises. He loved being on the boat with his father and spent many happy days at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Tom was a kind, gentle man who truly walked in the footsteps of George Bailey. Like the character in "It's A Wonderful Life," Tom touched many lives and made the world a better place. He always could be counted on by his family and friends. A spiritual man and very grounded, Tom was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

Tom is survived by his sister, Beth Kliber, and many extended family members who will miss him dearly. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, James.

Tom was a great admirer of Father Solanus Casey. Memorial contributions may be

made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207. His family suggests remembering him by enjoying a sunrise over the lake.

Carolyn Jean Steketee

Carolyn Jean Steketee (nee Jeffrey), 92, formerly of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Midland. She was born Sept. 5, 1929, in Detroit, to Ernest C. and Matilda A. (nee Moeller) Jeffrey, both now deceased.

Growing up in Harbor Beach and Detroit, Carolyn was a 1947 graduate of Denby High School. She received a degree in dental hygiene in 1949, from the University of Michigan, where she met her husband of nearly 73 years, Kenneth J. Steketee. She and Ken were faithful members of Historic Trinity Lutheran Church.

Carolyn's accomplishments were many. She was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother; excellent cook and seamstress; and community volunteer. At the Michigan State Fair, Carolyn won blue ribbons for produce, canning, needlepoint and houseplants. Carolyn was a Master Gardener, volunteering her time on the Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Commission, planting and maintaining many landscape projects throughout the state. She belonged to Fox Creek Questers, Grosse Pointe Garden Club, Village Garden Club, Cancer Loan Closet and Grosse Pointe Hunt Club. She was an avid collector of antiques and beautiful objects, meeting family for fun outings during her search. She enjoyed camping with her family throughout the United States and Canada in earlier years, which instilled a love of the outdoors in her children. She traveled extensively in many countries with her husband, collecting many treasures along the way. She always loved to hear people laugh.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband, Kenneth; their four beloved children, Kenneth C. Steketee (Bonnie), Carol Pittsley, Susan Otis and Jerry Steketee (Ann); and her sister-in-law, Ruby Steketee. She deeply loved her grandchildren,

Mark and Stacy, Ben and Kristen, David, Alex and Adriann, Stefan and Leslie, Katie and Jason, Jessica, Sarah, David and Maribeth, James and Raquel, Hannah and Jack. She was thrilled by her 10 great-grandchildren. Many nieces and nephews have shared their fondness for and special memories of Aunt Carolyn.

In addition to her parents, Carolyn was predeceased by Robert Jeffrey (Lois), Grace Jeffrey, Gerald Jeffrey (Ginger) and Charles Jeffrey (Diane).

Carolyn's family is deeply appreciative for the love and care she received from Independence Village of Midland and Laurus Hospice. A memorial service to celebrate Carolyn's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements and care were provided by A.H. Peters Funeral Home of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Peter Truman Brown

Peter Truman Brown, 87, passed away Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, in Weston, Fla.

Born in Albany, N.Y., to Truman Brown and Constance (nee Towner) Brown, Peter moved to Stuart, Fla., in 1999. Before that, he was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe.

After high school at Brooks School in Massachusetts, Peter enlisted in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of corporal while stationed in Germany during the Korean War. Upon his discharge, Peter obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

While a student and afterward, Peter worked as a stage manager on major theatrical productions and as a radio and television director. Following graduation, Peter turned his love of theater into a career, initially working in various stage management capacities, before serving as a road manager at Motown Records for artists such as Diana Ross & the Supremes. From there, Peter began a long career as an automotive executive with American Motors Corp., and then Chrysler, where he was responsible for managing auto shows, exhibits and corporate events.

Throughout his life, Peter enjoyed spending time with family and friends; sports, especially tennis and golf;



Thomas Patrick Kliber



Carolyn Jean Steketee



Peter Truman Brown

and traveling.

Peter is survived by his wife, Mariela (nee McCausland), whom he married in 1975; sons, Peter Anthony (Angie) and Brian (Andrea); grandchildren, Truman, Lily, Robert, Jack and Daphne; and a beloved extended family.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 11, in the chapel at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Davie, Fla. Expressions of sympathy in the form of memorial contributions may be made to St. Bonaventure, 1301 SW 136th Ave., Davie, FL 33325.

David Carter Shrake

David Carter Shrake passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sharon; daughter, Sandra Kopacko (James); son, Michael (Laura); grandsons, Calvin Kopacko and Luke and Nicklas Shrake; brother, Dennis (Jolene); sister-in-law, Irene; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, Scott; parents, George and Hilda; and siblings, Nancy, Suzanne, George, Richard and Donald.

David was a descendant of Robert "King" Carter and other Carter family members who settled and owned land in the early 1600s in Manassas, Va., near the Civil War battle of Bull Run.

David was proud of his military service, having survived boot camp at the infamous Parris Island recruit depot, then served with the 2nd, 8th and 24th U.S. Marine Regiments.

He was a proud grandpa and enjoyed watching his grandsons play in their sporting activities. He also liked to travel both abroad to Australia, Italy, France and the Caribbean, as well as in the U.S. to California, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Maine and New York, though his favorites were Key West, Destin and Naples, Fla. He enjoyed his wife's cooking, easy listening jazz and reminiscing.

David retired in 2002 after a 38-year banking career. In retirement, he



David Carter Shrake



Phyllis A. DeMars

proudly held a part-time greeter position with the A.H. Peters Funeral Home. He often commented that it was the perfect job considering all the dark banker suits he owned. Aside of a happy home life, his position with A.H. Peters gave him purpose in retirement, until his subsequent retirement from there.

A memorial gathering and visitation with military honors will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation takes place from 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 4.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to American Cancer Society, cancer.org; or Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org.

Visit ahpeters.com for more information.

Phyllis A. DeMars

Phyllis A. DeMars passed away at home Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, after living courageously with cancer more than a decade.

Phyllis was born Aug. 8, 1955, to Peter J. and Constance Cracchiolo, both now deceased. She grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1973. She furthered her education at Wayne State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in special education.

She married Gregory J. DeMars in 1980, and together they raised three children in Grosse Pointe. Phyllis was an exceptional teacher, focusing on early reading intervention and learning disabilities. She initially taught at Our Lady Queen of Peace and then Our Lady Star of the Sea for more than 20 years. During this time, she founded the Enrichment Center, which helped many children achieve academic success and served as a model for local schools to develop similar programs.

Phyllis was an accomplished artist who produced many oil paintings, as well as played the piano and organ. Phyllis was a devoted Catholic, attending weekly Mass and spending many hours in prayer and religious study. She lived God's work daily by volunteering in the community,

pursuing philanthropy and caring for those around her. Increasing access to Catholic school education was important to her, as she supported De La Salle and Regina high schools and Our Lady Star of the Sea and Most Holy Trinity schools. She was committed to leaving this world and community a better place.

She and her husband started The DeMars Family Endowment Against Human Trafficking and The DeMars Family Endowed Scholarship for Regina High School Students. She was a longtime board member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary of Ascension St. John Hospital, a docent at the Solanus Casey Center and Detroit Historical Society, and previously on the boards of the Italian American Cultural Society and Northeast Guidance Center for mental health services.

She was a proud mother to Gregory M. DeMars (Melissa), Sara Harrison (Michael) and Bethany Matus (Alex). Her grandchildren were her greatest joy: Colette and Matteo DeMars; Lucas, Marcus and Natalie Harrison; and Owen, Everett and Ashton Matus. She also is survived by her husband, Gregory J. DeMars; siblings, Bernadette Lindquist (Eric), Grace Cracchiolo-Torre (Anthony), Peter T. Cracchiolo (Camille), Nancy DeMars and Carol Holmden (Dave), and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral Mass took place Feb. 28, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to The DeMars Family Endowment Against Human Trafficking, Ascension St. John Foundation, 19251 Mack Ave., Ste. 102, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; Fontbonne Auxiliary at Ascension St. John Hospital, 22201 Moross, PBII, Ste. 450, Detroit, MI 48236; The DeMars Family Endowed Scholarship for Regina High School Students, Catholic Foundation of Michigan, 1145 W. Long Lake Road, Ste. 201, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302; or the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

DAY:

Continued from page 3B

Trustees looks forward to continuing its relationship with Ian Day in his new role as acting president," Board Chair David J. Boyd said. "We are confident that he and his executive team will build on the university's nearly 85 years of success."

When Day joined the Madonna family in mid-2020, he brought with him some 30 years of

experience in higher education. In the past two years, he has helped guide the university through the pandemic, overseen the completion of the Welcome Center and other facility improvements, and provided support and leadership to the enrollment management team to aid in recruiting and retaining students, among other achievements.

Prior to Madonna University, Day led the enrollment division at

Canisius College, a Catholic Jesuit institution in Buffalo, N.Y., where he and his team matriculated the most diverse class in school history and increased total headcount 14 percent in 2019.

During his 10 years at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, he served as chief enrollment officer and director of athletics.

He also spent time at Tiffin University in Ohio, in a variety of roles, including vice

president for campus services, director of athletics and director of admissions.

Day has a bachelor's degree in education from Alderson Broaddus University and a Master of Science in Management degree from Purdue University.

A lifelong Roman Catholic, Day grew up in Aldridge, England. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Grosse Pointe Farms and have three children, Justin, Haley and Evan.

Collection benefits human trafficking survivors

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The global statistics on human trafficking — the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery or commercial sexual exploitation — are staggering.

The U.S. Department of State estimates nearly 25 million adults and children are enmeshed in some form of human trafficking around the world. Women and girls account for 71 percent of all human trafficking victims, while men and boys make up the other 29 percent.

According to official Michigan State Police reports, Michigan ranks 10th among states with the highest incidences of human trafficking.

Though human trafficking is prevalent, it often is misunderstood. The term “human trafficking” may bring to mind women and children who have been forcibly taken and sold into sexual slavery by strangers, or people locked in rooms far from home, but in reality most victims are exploited by their neighbors, relatives, romantic partners or other acquaintances, according to the U.S. Department of State.

A recent report in USA Today noted that U.S. marshals assisted with the recovery of 950 “critically missing children” in 2021. One of every six children recovered likely was a victim of human trafficking, the report noted.

Over the past decade, the FBI’s human trafficking investigations have been responsible for the arrest of thousands of traffickers and the recovery of numerous victims.

Local businessman and Grosse Pointe Farms resident Sean Lane is hoping to provide support for local survivors of human trafficking by helping collect needed items.

To keep confidential the whereabouts of local human trafficking survivors, he remained mum on details of the organization the collection will assist.

“I am working in association with — and hoping that others in the community will support — an area charity in place to assist, educate and support survivors of human trafficking,” Lane said. “Due to the sensitive topic, the retribution and potential harm to survivors or supporters, I have to keep the location under my hat.

“... I feel that if you’re going to donate yoga

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- ◆ Tissues
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- ◆ Soap
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- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products

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pants, T-shirts or socks to the Salvation Army, why not donate instead to someone who’s going to be rescued with literally just the clothes on their back,” Lane said. “When they’re identified or come forward for assistance, they’re coming in with nothing. ... I want to help these individuals get to a point where they can regain their independence and have a better quality of life.”

Lane said he will provide porch pick-up service to homes in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael A. Mitchell directs the Detroit Concert Choir during rehearsal at Grosse Pointe North High School.

Detroit Concert Choir hosts ‘Celtic Celebration’

The Detroit Concert Choir, under the direction of Michael A. Mitchell, presents “A Celtic Celebration of Song,” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

A second concert takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday,

March 13, at Sts. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church, 629 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

The concert — which features Celtic fiddler Sonja Lee and piper David Jones — includes musical treasures from the Celtic lands, with favorites from The King’s Singers, VOCE8, Enya/Lord of the Rings and traditional songs that cele-

brate St. Patrick’s Day. Tickets are available through Eventbrite, online at detroitconcertchoir.org or by calling (313) 882-0118. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students.

COVID-19 safety measures and protocols are listed on the DCC website.

Detroit Zoo moves birds indoors due to avian influenza concerns

The Detroit Zoological Society is being proactive to protect birds at the Detroit Zoo from a highly contagious and deadly virus.

Thursday, Feb. 24, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI, in the state after the virus was identified in a non-commercial flock of birds in Kalamazoo County. Similar infections have been reported across the U.S. in recent weeks.

Avian influenza can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment and on caretakers’ clothing.

While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined the recent detec-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER HARTE

This peafowl is among the birds moved indoors at the Detroit Zoo, due to concerns about avian influenza.

tions of HPAI do not present an immediate public health concern, the USDA and MDARD urged those involved in the care for or production of poultry to review and increase their biosecurity measures to prevent the

spread of illness among birds.

In response, DZS animal care staff is in the process of moving the majority of birds indoors, where they will remain as long as necessary to ensure their health and

safety.

“This is an important preventative measure,” said Dr. Ann Duncan, director of animal health for the DZS. “By bringing these animals indoors, we can more closely monitor them and pre-

vent contact with wild birds who may be carriers of HPAI.”

As a result of this move, many beloved birds will be out of public view, including the flamingos, ostrich, cassowary, sandhill cranes, all birds housed in the Matilda R. Wilson Free-Flight Aviary and peafowl who roam the zoo. The Polk Penguin Conservation Center will remain open and accessible to the public, because it has separate air handling systems for birds and zoo visitors.

DZS officials acknowledge guests will feel the birds’ absence when visiting the zoo, but want to emphasize the importance of putting the animals’ health and well-being first.

“The animals and their needs are always our top priority,” said Dr. Hayley Murphy, executive director and CEO for the DZS. “We understand some guests may be disap-

pointed they are unable to view the birds at this time, but we are pleased to still be able to offer dozens of world-class attractions, including our award-winning Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Despite this temporary change, we hope to see you at the zoo. It is only with your support that we can fulfill our mission of protecting and preserving the lives of the animals in our care.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTI TRUESDELL

This sandhill crane also was moved indoors.

Worship Service



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7 p.m. - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study

Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones



Amy Pennar and her husband, Krzysztof Pennar, stand next to one of the nine tables at Grace Community Church loaded with collected toys.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Team Jake toy drive an overwhelming success

The third annual Team Jake toy drive took off Dec. 31, and was expected to last until Jan. 20; however, the drive was extended until Feb. 6, to accommodate the outpouring of community support, said Amy Pennar, of Grosse Pointe Woods.

The toy drive took place in honor of her son, Jake Pennar, who at age 9 lost his battle with a rare brain tumor in January 2021. This year's drive was spearheaded by Jake's sister, Stacey.

"Jake began the toy drive two years ago as a way to bring joy to children in the hospital," Amy Pennar said. "This year's toy drive was called the '21 Days of Jake' toy drive. It high-

lighted the 21 days between Jake's birthday, Dec. 31, and heaven day, Jan. 20.

"Our initial goal was to beat last year's donation of 2,021 toys," she continued. "When we first shared the goal, my adult brain doubted we could raise that many toys. But I heard Jake's voice say, 'Don't worry, Mama, I've got this.' And boy did he! When we flew past our original goal, Stacey declared a new goal of 3,021 toys. She has already set her eyes on next year, declaring a goal of 4,021 toys to be distributed to two hospitals. I love that my children think and dream big. As adults, we see limits, but Jake and Stacey see the possibilities of



A group of students, their siblings and parents, as well as Jake Pennar's parents and sister stopped by Zanshin Karate for the toy drive. They, along with Zanshin owner, Sean Farnsworth, posed with all 180 toys collected.

blessing others as limitless."

Grace Community Church in Detroit served as a toy collection site and offered to match donations up to \$5,000. In less than one week,

while the Grosse Pointe North High School Student Association added 40 toys to the tally.

Zanshin Karate in Grosse Pointe Park raised money via a board-breaking event Feb. 6, which was extended to all eight Zen Bei Butoku-Kai International dojos in Michigan and one in Pennsylvania. The event raised \$300, plus 158 toys.

"We received \$8,475.21 in cash donations," including the match dollars from Grace Community Church, Pennar said. "Stacey used the money to shop for the toy drive. She purchased 1,214 toys. It was the most amazing shopping spree.

"Afterward, when we were driving home, she said, 'Imagine all the kids who are going to have a smile on their face.' It's beautiful to see how she understands the importance of blessing others. We know Jake is proud."

Team Jake supporters earned the match by raising \$5,000 in cash and collected toy donations, Pennar said. The funds were used to purchase additional toys.

Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy in St. Clair Shores also served as a collection site, as well as helped advertise the toy drive and donated boxes to pack the toys.

"They allowed donations purchased from other stores," Pennar said. "They continue to

be incredible supporters of our family and the annual toy drive."

Support also was provided by Licavoli's Market in Grosse Pointe Woods. The Italian eatery hosted a "Chef Jake Pizza Kit Night" on Jan. 8, and raised \$457 and collected 35 toys. The shop's Sugar Coated Designs by Josie also hosted a cookie fundraiser, which generated \$243.

Students at University Liggett School collected 124 toys for the drive,

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Grosse Pointe North Student Association members Shannon Kane, Lucy Turrini, Clare Ramsdell, Ada Johnson, Madison Watkins, Jack Gehlert, Tom Sheffield, Ben Sheffield and Loudan Fuchs stand with the 40 toys they collected for the Jake Pennar toy drive.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The University Liggett School baseball team, Jake's best friends and Jake's medical team helped unload the toys at Children's Hospital.

LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

2C DEAR ABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 5C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 7C & 8C COMICS & PUZZLES

Pointe vs. Counterpointe

Presented by Grosse Pointe News staffers Anne Gryzenia and Meg Blondin Leonard

Beach, please!

What's better about the beach than the slopes? Hmm ... everything. From the food to the sand to the breeze to the sunshine — everything is just ... lighter. Most of all, everyone's mood.

Scientific evidence has proven that sunlight boosts serotonin, gives us more energy and helps keep us calm, positive and focused. But we don't need science to know this. It's almost an instant attitude adjustment when you soak in that first drop of sun or saltwater goodness.

And is there anything more enticing than a beach drink? Sorry, but one can only get so excited over more hot chocolate or coffee. Yes, I'm looking at you, skiers. Add a shot of something fun in your mug to keep you warm, you say? Meh. We have the sunshine to do that.

Besides, what could be better than mulling over a page-long list of things like a "Bahama Mama," "Painkiller" or "Key Lime Martini?" Spoiler alert: Nothing. Nothing is better than that.

Though the drive to a beach destination can be long, or the airport factor can be frustrating, we can get in a car or an airplane and put ourselves in a completely different climate and atmosphere within a matter of hours. Not to mention, a family of six can pile everything they need into one suitcase. It's a no-brainer — just grab some bathing suits and sunscreen!

Conversely, as most of us know, packing for a ski trip tends to be a bit cumbersome (read: a nightmare) and can be an annoying, expensive and labor-intensive endeavor.

If we're being fair, a family ski trip can provide a shared activity that is healthy and fun and can definitely make lasting memories for all. But there's just something about surf and sand that provides a re-set like no other.



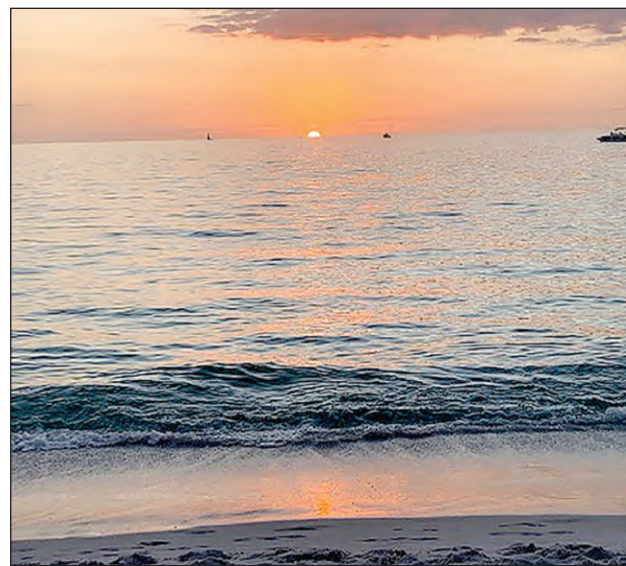
COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, City of Grosse Pointe's Nicole McEnroe, left, got her mom, Melisa, into the pool to cool off on another warm and sunny Florida afternoon in Naples. Right, the sun sets in Naples, casting a pink and gold hue over the beach.

We are Team Snow Cone over Snowball, Team Sunburn over Frostbite and Team Vitamin D over Ski.

Either way, the weather is a huge driver of the fun factor for both vacay types. No snow? No ski. No sun, less fun. But even when we are hedging our bets on when the sun will burn off the clouds, we are still on a beach. You skiers are standing in wet slush.

Gotta go! Don't want to miss another stunning sunset with aforementioned drink in hand while the kids play endlessly in the sand.



Ski families like Drew, Lisa and Jake Brown of the City of Grosse Pointe, above, took Vitamin Ski over Sea at Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs on President's Day. Drew Brown celebrated his 13th birthday during the family's ski vacation Feb. 23. Left, on Feb. 22, Christy Bedsworth of the City of Grosse Pointe took it nice and easy, with a bit of challenge, on the intermediate blue runs at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs. With temps in the mid-teens, Bedsworth put her hand and foot warmers to good use during her family's full day on the slopes.

Vitamin ski

Families throughout the Pointes who are lucky enough to get out of town during mid-winter break usually indulge in one of two choices:

- a ski trip, or
- beach vacation.

Clearly, the more intellectually-evolved choose No. 1.

Now you may ask yourself, why elect for more snow and cold in the dead of winter? Wouldn't it benefit our mental health to soak in some Florida sunshine? Don't our bodies need the essential vitamin C that comes from our lime-infused margaritas?

Nah. Beach vacations are for wimps.

Give us Pure Michigan. Delight our senses with crisp blue skies lorded over the hills covered in dazzling white snow. Inject a thrilling run down a double black diamond into our veins.

We are our state's heartiest and wisest folk. We take advantage of the Mitten's natural elements in February, not some MTV Spring Break destination.

Skiing fosters family bonding through invigorating exercise. Try as you may, but sun-dialing on your beach towel does not count as cardio.

After our day's outdoor adventures, we fellowship over a meal, usually with other cool ski families. We make memories by sitting next to a roaring fire, playing a board game or finishing a puzzle against the evening's falling snow. We unplug from our daily deluge of texts and Tweets and replace them with games of Scrabble and Skip Bo.

Besides, perhaps the least-known but most enticing part about skiing in Northern Michigan is that calories do

not count north of the Zilwaukee Bridge. (Thankfully this applies to summer months as well, Michiganders.) Go ahead and try, but you won't be able to fact-check against that.

And if you are still not convinced about hitting the slopes, we simply ask you this: Exactly who among us wants to face the prospect of wearing a bathing suit in February? Granted, the warming layers and snow pants required for skiing can cause one to rival the appearance of the Michelin Man, but we gently remind you that's probably just an illusion. Please see the above-mentioned rules regarding the Zilwaukee Bridge as proof.

Besides, we skiers have high PSRs (primitive survival ratings), so forgive us if we have the wherewithal to ensure we make it from the mountaintop to the ski lodge without freezing to death. That pre-lunch Bloody Mary isn't going to drink itself.

The bottom line is you can try and escape your Midwest reality of brutal winters for sandy beaches for only a brief moment in time. Your seasonal affective disorder will come flooding back when your flight lands from Orlando to the balmy 22 degrees and slate gray skies Detroit is certain to greet you with this time of year.

And the travel gods will make sure the Sunday Scaries have set in before you even warm up in the car on I-94. Even if it's only Thursday. This is nature's way of letting you know your tropical vacation is over.

So go ahead, talk amongst yourselves and decide what type of vacationers have it best. But the (correct and only) verdict is in: Ski bunnies rule. Beach bums drool.

The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

Heavy settle

I'm a guy who falls into relationships too easily, ending up with women I'm not particularly interested in. I thought I had discriminating taste, but obviously my relationship track record says otherwise. How can I grow up and stop being so impulsive?

— Disturbed

You're far from alone. People will insist they're highly "discriminating" in choosing partners -- and then move in with somebody on the third date.

They, of course, portray this as the height of romance -- when it's really the height of "Hello?! You barely know this person... were you dropped on your head as a baby?"

We humans have a powerful longing to be in a long-term love thing, and probably because of that, we're far less choosy about romantic partners than we believe we are -- at every stage of a relationship.

Social psychologist Samantha Joel finds we have a GO! GO! GO! bias in romantic relationships: a

strong tendency to make decisions that move a relationship forward -- from the first night we meet our soon-to-be beloved to the 615th time they go all human nightmare on us.

People find all sorts of reasons to stay when every molecule of sense they have is screaming "FLEE!" Being in love is, obviously, a biggie, as is fear of being single (and the stigma that can go along).

Breakups also become "logistically difficult" when partners' lives become "intertwined," through marriage, moving in together, or merging their groups of friends.

As for you, understanding that falling in love is often the twin of falling in an open manhole is a start. In the early stages, take it slow -- and sober. Meet for coffee for an hour, and have someplace to be afterward (and actually stick to that and vamoose). Avoid marathon calls and texts.

When you're into somebody, see whether they're a good fit by holding them up to your standards for a

partner. All your standards. Don't just check the "she's hot" box and crumple up the list.

Finally, in a world where we all experience harsh challenges every day, like the Uber driver arriving five minutes late, it's easier than ever for people to contain their worst qualities.

It might take you a year to know someone's true character. This suggests it's wise to hold off on "entwinements" (like sharing a pad) till you've seen enough to answer the fun questions, such as, "Hmm...what's the likelihood I'll end up emotionally and financially eviscerated and then dumped in a ditch to be picked apart by buzzards?"

Grille Cheese

Female, 25, straight, single, and looking for a boyfriend on dating apps, as are my female friends. We're all wondering what's with these guys who post profile photos of themselves lying across the hood of a Lamborghini

with their ridiculous greased abs on display. It's like the opposite of cool; it's immature and ostentatious and clueless and tacky. Seriously, is there reasoning behind this behavior? My friends all agree it's a major turnoff.

— Grossed Out

There's this notion (held by some men as well as some feminists) that men and women are just people with different funparts and "What men want, women want." Um, no.

Note that you never hear dudes complaining to the bros, "Eew! So gross!" about getting unsolicited boob pics -- first, because they never get them, but if they did, it'd be like they caught the boobie leprechaun with the pot of nymphomaniac hotties at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Women seeking a relationship tend to be turned off by the conspicuous display of abs (versus a guy "inconspicuously" showing he's fit), and the display of the sick-expensive car is likewise a fail.

Social psychologist Jill M. Sundie and her colleagues find a man's motivation to engage in



"conspicuous consumption" -- flashy, wastefully extravagant displays of wealth -- is triggered by "short-term mating goals."

In plain English: "Yeah, he wants a lasting relationship -- lasting from about 3 a.m. to sunup."

Women read this signal loud and clear -- which is why you boyfriend-seeking ladies are "grossed out."

Guys will counter, "But wait...women like men with money!" Well, yeah, but there's some nuance to that.

Women seeking more than a three-hour sex tour are primed by evolution to find a man who'll "invest" -- and not just in his "baby" (aka his 911 Turbo S): "Dylan, buddy, I know you need your tumor removed, but Daddy's rims are almost six months old!"

By the way, these flashy car pics could even be a fail for a guy hoping to target the hookuperellas on an app, because they often signal he's a liar.

Twenty-two years old and ab-splayed across the hood of a Ferrari? The ladies know exactly what to look for. Yep...just zoom in on the photo for the clip-on bow tie and balled-up polyester valet vest -- right behind the back wheel of LeBron's car.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com. @amyalkon on Twitter. Weekly podcast: blogtalkradio.com/amyalkon. (c)2022, Amy Alkon, all rights reserved.

Fire those who deserve it

Q: Stop worrying about employees who quit their jobs. If they don't want to work for you or your company anymore, let them leave. Everyone should worry about companies that employ incompetent, rude, lazy and untrainable employees who remain employed but deserve to be fired.

I run into such employees every day at my company and many other companies, and I walk away wondering how and why they retain their jobs.

All my friends have had the same experiences. For example, I took a pair of slacks to be shortened by a tailor. When I picked them up and put them on, they were too short and were ruined.

I took a suit to a dry cleaner that shrank it so that I could no longer wear it, and they refused to take responsibility for what

they had done.

I was buying a shirt and when the salesperson wrote up the sales ticket, she carelessly put the pen down on the counter and got ink on the shirt. There wasn't another shirt in stock so I couldn't buy it.

The next two are incredible: I got a double-scoop ice cream cone while walking through a shopping area. After the clerk stacked the ice cream on the cone, he sneezed on it, an obvious accident, but continued to hand it to me; I, of course, refused it and told him I wanted another one, but the lack of sense of that employee to think I would accept it was incredulous.

At a restaurant for lunch, our waitress approached our table and asked if we were ready to order. We said we needed a few minutes. She returned 15-20 minutes later despite us waving to get her attention. On com-



ing back to our table, she rudely said, "Do you know what you want now? Because I am really busy."

Our complaints could go on and on, but you get the idea. These things happen to all of us, but nothing is done about it, even when we complain to a manager or when a manager sees it.

I understand these are likely temporary or part-time workers, but each of them deserves to be fired.

Surely there must be responsible people out there who value having a job, part time or full time, and who value themselves enough to deliver a good performance, even though the job is not going to turn into a career. Why do employers keep this type of person?

A: The most likely reason these employees are not fired is that business owners need to protect themselves

At Work

by Lindsey Novak



these days from real or fabricated claims of discrimination. To avoid such claims, an owner needs to have a written complaint detailing the employee's ill behavior.

Though each employee's action you experienced was unprofessional, few customers are willing to write a formal and detailed complaint letter to the store owner or manager.

Customers may also fear retaliation if the managers accidentally or intentionally release their names to the accused employees.

You are right about those employees possibly needing to be fired, but they may instead need: 1) Further training to continue in the job, 2) To receive a written warning

for the owner to maintain a proper record for legal purposes, and finally, 3) To be fired if all legal protection is accomplished.

Though their misconduct is clearly unacceptable, protecting the business owner from backlash may not be worth one's effort. Waiting and hoping the employee will quit might be easier and more practical in all those situations.

Email life and career coach LindseyNovak@yahoo.com with all your workplace questions and experiences. For more information, visit www.lindseyparkernovak.com.

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Man wonders how to mention wife as he begins dating

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 40 years. Fifteen years ago, she was diagnosed with cancer and given 18 months to live. Well, she is still around.

Because of the illness and experimental medications, she was bedridden, and her dementia grew steadily worse. Left with no other options because of problems with insurance, I placed her into a nursing facility six years ago.

I am still at an age at which I have, I hope, many active years ahead

of me. I visit her often, but I have a need for companionship that she obviously can no longer fulfill. I'm friends with a few women (usually friends of friends), and from time to time have the urge to become closer. I go out to diners, music venues, art shows, etc.

I am torn about whether to live my remaining days in loneliness or pursue the possibilities. Is it wrong to want companionship in my situation? At what point should I explain

my situation without scaring off a nice lady friend? Your opinion would be helpful to me as another perspective. -- ANONYMOUS, OF COURSE

DEAR ANONYMOUS: What happened to your wife is unfortunate, and you both have my sympathy.

Wanting and needing companionship are normal. It is important to ask yourself: If the situation were reversed and YOU were in a nursing home suffering from dementia, to what extent would you want your wife to go on with HER life?

Whatever you decide after that, it is crucial you not forget you have a responsibility to make sure she is being well cared for. This means visiting her often to ensure it, because dementia patients do better when they know

someone loves them.

As to how to explain to women that you are married, well, the ones who are friends of friends already know that. And those you meet who don't know should be told during the course of your first serious conversation. It's the honorable thing to do.

DEAR ABBY: I got married six months ago to an awesome guy. Now we're expecting.

Although I don't want the child, I am trying hard to want it. But I keep coming back to overwhelming regret, because it is too soon. I know this means the world to him. Truly, he is amazing, but his light is my doom.

I need time away from him to see how I feel. We are never apart, and it's making me irritable, like I have nothing of my own anymore. HE'S ALWAYS



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

THERE. I suppose it is a good thing, but I can't breathe. What do I do?

I feel like an awful wife and person now. What if the baby comes and I turn into some evil mom? -- NEUROTIC IN NEVADA

DEAR NEUROTIC: Healthy relationships, marriage included, are all about honest communication.

Tell your amazing husband you need time alone to recharge and process your thoughts.

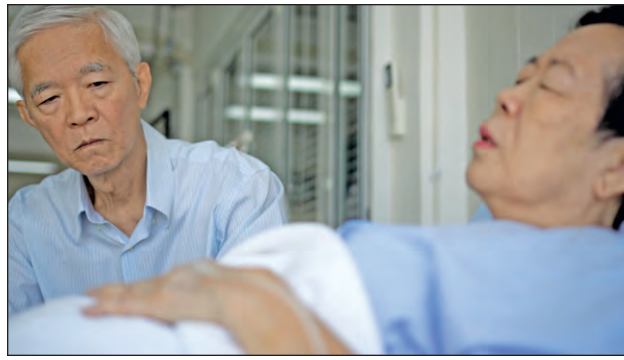
Was he this way before you were married, or could it be because you are pregnant and, in his eyes, "vulnerable"?

You are not an awful person for needing alone time, and it won't make you an evil mom, so calm your fears.

You may just need respite, which you won't receive until you make it known. Because, I assume, you are seeing your OB-GYN regularly, it is important you discuss the emotions you are experiencing with them. You may be suffering from depression, which some pregnant women do.

Your feelings may also be normal, considering your pregnancy was not planned.

See ABBY, page 10C



Discovering traditional Irish recipes

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This month, I'm planning to share recipes from Ireland, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. I have a lot of great ideas ahead so stay tuned. We begin with a comfort classic that you won't want to miss out on.

Cottage pie has been so much fun to research, well to me anyways. I bored my husband with details until I thought he went numb. But I'll happily bore all of you as well. Cottage Pie is a cousin of Shepherd's Pie. The main difference is the meat that is used. Shepherds Pie is traditionally made with lamb while Cottage Pie uses beef.

Today, both of these dishes have a mashed potato topping. But after some digging, I discovered Cottage Pie was named

because they would place thinly sliced potatoes over the top to resemble the shingles on the local peasant cottages. This is the way I'll be sharing the recipe today.

The UK and Ireland both claim fame for this recipe. Both countries, at the time the dish was created, were booming with potato crops in the 18th century. Mutton was traditionally used because it was cheaper but things changed in the 19th century and beef was more readily available.

It was the perfect way to not waste unused food. Any leftover meat or vegetable was made into a delish, warming and filling pie. This is plain, simple and humble. However, it's a dish you say, emmm, yummm

and wow. I added mushrooms and parsnips for extra texture and flavor. I really hope you try this one out. It's cheap and fast to make.

Cheers.
Mombeau

Irish Cottage Pie

- 1lb ground beef
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1lb chopped white mushrooms
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 parsnips, diced
- 1 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 tsp fresh thyme
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 tbsp flour
- 1 cup red wine
- 1 cup beef broth
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- Roughly 5 yukon gold potatoes
- 1 cup Kerrygold



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

Derbyshire Cheddar, grated

(Enough to cover the top of the pie)

Preheat your oven to 375. I like to begin by sauteing the vegetables first. Add them to a large skillet with 2 tablespoons of olive oil and 1 teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Cook on medium heat for about 5 minutes or until soft, and then add the ground beef and thyme.

Break up the meat and cook until it is brown and no longer pink. Strain out the oil from the beef mixture.

Next add the tomato paste and cook for 2 minutes. Add the flour and let it cook for another 2 minutes.

Pour in the red wine, worcestershire sauce and beef broth. Let the mixture come to a simmer until it's thickened. Meanwhile, thinly slice your potatoes. Once the beef and vegetable mix-

ture thickens, pour into a casserole dish.

Layer the potatoes over top of the meat. To finish, sprinkle the potatoes with some kosher salt, olive oil and the grated cheddar. Cook for 35 minutes uncovered. Remove once the filling is bubbling and the potatoes have browned. Tip: if the top isn't quite browned enough, broil for 1-2 extra minutes.

Also, it's best served with a bowl of buttered green peas.



Merlot prices

Living in the heart of Sonoma County wine country gives me direct access to winemakers, occasionally in grocery stores or parking lots.

Two weeks ago, I bumped into a friend, a winemaker for a small winery, who bemoaned that prices for merlot grapes were rising a lot higher than he had anticipated, which made his job more difficult.

His winery's cabernet sauvignon always has been made with about 20% merlot. Since merlot prices are always lower than he has paid for cabernet, the winery could continue to keep the cabernet sauvignon priced reasonably.

But the way prices for merlot were rising, he said, he had only two choices: either raise the price of the cabernet or use a lot less merlot and replace it with lower-caliber grapes, which would undoubtedly change the style of wine. Neither choice was ideal.

The story of California merlot goes all the way back to 30 years ago when there were only 8,000 acres of merlot growing in all of California.

An episode on the CBS show "60 Minutes" called "The French Paradox" spoke of how regular consumption of red wine obviated the rich diet and

smoking regime so popular in France. Heart disease, often associated with both smoking and heavy ingestion of fats, was lower in France than it was in the United States.

The counterintuitive conclusion was attributed to regular red wine consumption by the French.

Almost immediately after that episode aired, many Americans dashed out to purchase red wines, eventually settling

on merlot because it wasn't as stringent as was cabernet. And almost immediately after that, growers throughout California began feverishly to plant merlot grapes, notably in some regions in which the variety doesn't grow very well.

By 1996, California was awash in merlot grapes. We had reached 58,000 acres of it, a huge percentage planted in the wrong soils and in the wrong climates, making particularly uninteresting red wines.

It led to the main character in the film "Sideways" to disparage

all merlots, which wasn't fair to the grape.

Fast-forward to today. The majority of the poor-quality merlot grapes that were planted in the early 1990s have mostly been removed, with some of that land converted to growing other varieties. Along with that removal of merlot was the sad conversion of some excellent cooler-climate merlot grapes.

Today California has only about 35,000 acres of the variety, much of it planted in the right soils and climates to make a fine wine. But obviously it's insufficient to meet the demands of wineries that need quality merlot.

And growers face a dilemma. Some would like to plant more merlot to meet the demand of wineries that need it, but they also fear that too much additional merlot acreage could collapse prices.

That would be a benefit to wineries, of course, but growers cannot afford to be making long-term plans with the possibility of short-term disaster.

How does this affect the price of merlot wines that are on the shelf? Not much, notably if you are in the market for a great quality

merlot at a fair price.

There are dozens of high-caliber red wines that are either marketed as merlot or contain that variety as part of a blend that sell for \$12 to \$20.

Wine of the Week:

2018 La Storia Merlot, Alexander Valley, Estate Bottled, "Block 500" (\$34) -- Even at this price, this superb red wine from Trentadue in Geyserville is a terrific value -- loads of black cherry fruit with traces

of black olives and anise in the finish; it gets better with aeration and will be best in 3-6 more years. Bottle Barn in Santa Rosa has this wine for \$19.99(!), and shipping costs are reasonable.

To find out more about Dan Berger and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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4C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

Families bond amidst snow, sand and wondrous sites for mid-winter break



The Magee Family of the City of Grosse Pointe ventured west and spent time exploring Phoenix, Ariz., and the Grand Canyon.

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Families from around the Pointes headed out of town to hit the slopes or build sandcastles on the beach in late February, taking advantage of a mid-winter break.

At least one Grosse Pointe family went the less-typical route, soaking in all the sights with a visit to the Grand Canyon.

No matter the destina-

tion, families enjoyed their time away from work and school, landing in spots like Northern Michigan, Park City, Utah, Arizona and the Sunshine State, to name a few.

Several local families submitted their vacation pics to the Grosse Pointe News, all of which capture Mother Nature's beauty, family bonding and friendships these special getaways provided.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Charlotte Bedsworth of Grosse Pointe Farms enjoyed the winter thrills of Pure Michigan on the slopes of Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs.



From left, Tracy Magee, sons Conor and Brady, along with husband, Kevin, bundled up to enjoy the brilliant open skies over the majestic Grand Canyon. The Magees visited the South Rim, which is located 7,000 feet above sea level.

Naples, Fla., did not disappoint, bringing fabulous sunsets and salty ocean swims for Lily Gagnier, left, of Grosse Pointe Farms, and her friend Nicole McEnroe of the City of Grosse Pointe.



Left, the Young family, from left, Lanna, Steve, Evelyn and Alex of the City of Grosse Pointe, enjoyed schussing down the many mountains that surround the Canyons Ski Resort in Park City, Utah. Above, from left, multiple Grosse Pointe families gathered to ski in Park City, Utah for mid-winter break, including Libby Willson, Isabella Haindl, Evelyn Young, Liam Willson, Lex Willson, Owen Domzalski, Henry Domzalski, Cooper Riley, Jack Riley, Seth DeMattio, Luke Wilson and Alex Young.

EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- » **Loverboy**
The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, 8 p.m.
377 Riverside Drive East.
- » **Marion Hayden & Straight Ahead**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Rayse Biggs**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Stomp**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
350 Madison St.
- » **Tool**
Little Caesars Arena, 7:30 p.m.
2645 Woodward.

- » **Marion Hayden & Straight Ahead**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Pistons vs. Pacers**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **Rayse Biggs at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Slash featuring Myles Kennedy and The Conspirators**
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Stomp**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
350 Madison St.

- » **Oliver Tree presents Cowboy Tears**
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Rayse Biggs at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Stomp**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m.
350 Madison St.
- » **Wynton Marsalis Orchestra Hall**, 8 p.m.
3711 Woodward Avenue.

- » **Stomp**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m.
350 Madison St.
- » **Metro Parent's Virtual Camp Fair Week 2022**
Online Event.
www.eventbrite.com
- » **Mother Daughter Book Club**
Offsite, 7-8 p.m.

- » **Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom**
Offsite, 10:30-11 a.m.
grossepointelibrary.org
- » **"The Six Triple Eight" Film Screening & Discussion**
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E Warren Ave.
- » **The Sling Tour: Clair with Arlo Parks**
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Tuesday Night Book Discussion**
Offsite, 7-8 p.m.
grossepointelibrary.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

- » **Classical Roots with Lara Downes**
Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
3711 Woodward Ave.
- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Indiana Pacers**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **The House**
Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road.
- » **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Streaming**
Orchestra Hall, 8 p.m.
3711 Woodward Avenue.

- » **Wynton Marsalis Orchestra Hall**, 10:45 a.m.
3711 Woodward Avenue.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- » **Classical Roots with Lara Downes**
Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8-10 p.m.
3711 Woodward Ave.
- » **History Speaks**
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 12 p.m.
315 E Warren Ave.
- » **Marion Hayden & Straight Ahead**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- » **Ayron Jones**
Saint Andrew's Hall, 7 p.m.
431 E Congress St.
- » **Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra Concert**
The War Memorial, 3-5 p.m.
32 Lake Shore Drive.
- » **Metro Parent's Virtual Camp Fair Week 2022**
Online Event, Free.
www.eventbrite.com
- » **New Edition: The Culture Tour with Charlie Wilson + Jodeci**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub**
5169 Trumbull, 7:30-11 p.m.
970 Yemans.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Atlanta Hawks**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.

- » **Metro Parent's Virtual Camp Fair Week 2022**
Online Event.
www.eventbrite.com

- » **Mother Daughter Book Club**
Offsite, 7-8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- » **7th & 8th Gr. Book Group**
Central Library, 7-8:30 p.m.
10 Kercheval Ave.
- » **The Melodic Blue Tour**
Saint Andrew's Hall, 7 p.m.
431 E Congress St.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Arizona Coyotes**
Little Caesars Arena, 7:30 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **GP Badminton Association**
Parcells Middle School, 6:30-8 p.m.
20600 Mack Ave.
- » **Metro Parent's Virtual Camp Fair Week 2022**
Online Event.
www.eventbrite.com
- » **Overkill With Special Guests Prong**
Harpo's Concert Theatre, 6 p.m.
14238 Harper Avenue.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. Chicago Bulls**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **Metro Parent's Virtual Camp Fair Week 2022**
Online Event.
www.eventbrite.com
- » **Noah Jackson & Full Circle: Residency & Session**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Sean Dobbins**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval. 6:30 p.m.
- » **Thoughts to Action Discussion Group**
Offsite, 7-8:30 p.m.
grossepointelibrary.org

Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



My sister-in-law said she had the best secret for braving the winter: a heated scarf. I have already reviewed a heated vest, but I love it so much I was willing to take the gamble on this — because upon further review, not only does it claim to be a heated scarf, the actual intended use for it is a heating pad that wraps around your neck for all of your neck and shoulder problems.

This piqued my interest because, as bad luck would have it, I happen to have a very stiff neck.

First off, I was not impressed with the color selection. I ended up with a sort of dusty purple color. No matter, because it sort of just goes under whatever coat you are wearing. It's very soft, like a polar fleece.

The battery charging situation is like all of the other contraptions: You

take the battery pack out and charge it wherever you charge your phone and such. It charged in a few hours (only for the first charge; subsequent charges are far faster) and before I knew it, my kids were making fun of me and my new neck-heating heated scarf.

The scarf has three temperature options. The hottest is really meant for muscle therapy, but is fantastic on a freezing day. This setting will only get you about 90 minutes, which it claims should be two hours. The second warmest is about two hours and the lowest setting will give you about two and a half hours of heating time on one battery charge.

Make fun of it all you want, but it takes the chill out of winter faster than you can say "10 below windchill factor"

and feels extremely relaxing at the same time.

And although it's shaped and intended for your neck, it can easily be wrapped around a knee, put on your back, stomach, feet — whatever is aching after your President's Day weekend activities.

The tourmaline beads and built-in carbon fiber (providing infrared heat) promote blood circulation and are said to relieve muscle soreness. Whatever all of that means, the thing is great and just feels relaxing and very warm.

Bonus points for being machine washable (minus the battery pack of course).

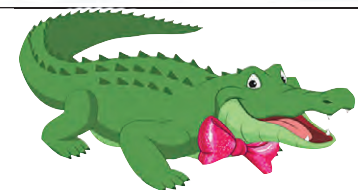
This product, by UTK, can be found on Amazon for about \$39.99 and can be delivered overnight.

It also is a great gift for the athlete in your life or anyone who loves to be



warm and cozy.

We give it four alligators: It's not a need to have, but it sure is a nice to have!



4 Out Of 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOPHIE FILM

Left to right, Takashi Yamaguchi, Julianne Nicholson and Margo Martindale.

MOVIE REVIEW "Sophie and the Rising Sun" 2016 - Rated R 1 hr 45min

This film takes place in Salty Creek, a small fishing village in South Carolina. The year is 1941 and war is raging in Europe, however the United States hasn't gotten involved yet. One day, a badly beaten Asian man is left on a park bench. His appearance is a mystery and he's taken in by a kindly woman, Anne Morrison (Margo Martindale.) She nurses him back to health and lets him stay in her garden shed. While the town assumes he's Chinese, Grover Ohta (Takashi

Yamaguchi) is in fact Japanese American.

Mr. Ohta has quite a green thumb, and helps restore Anne's sadly neglected garden. He introduces several new flowering plants and creates beautiful color palettes.

He's also interested in art and spends his Sundays at the shore painting the striking marshy landscapes. While there, he runs into a fellow artist, Sophie Willis (Julianne Nicholson), a fiercely independent woman who enjoys crabbing, painting, and getting dressed up and attending matinees at the local movie house with Anne. The



Takashi Yamaguchi.

two strike up a friendship but it's strictly platonic at first.

She invites him for dinner and the couple spend many nights enjoying each other's company. Then disaster



strikes when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.

When the town finds out Mr. Ohta is actually Japanese, they naturally turn on him.

Walking down a country road one day, a couple of soldiers accost him and nearly beat him to death. Of course, Anne does the honorable thing and hides

chases her away and tells Sophie it's wrong for the races to mix. It's an ugly and revealing incident that sets the tone for Sophie's relationship with her years later.

When Sophie visits Ohta at the fishing shack, the couple takes their relationship to the next level and they become lovers. It's definitely taboo, considering Americans attitude towards the Japanese at the time.

Will love conquer all and their relationship prevail? Will the townspeople run Mr. Ohta out of town? Will they do him bodily harm or worse? You'll just have to watch this wonderful movie and find out for yourself.

"Sophie and the Rising Sun" is an absolutely beautiful love story. As a photographer, I really

after viewing it. I think you will too!

Note to parents: The film is rated R because of a brief shot of a woman's breast and a short but tasteful love-making scene.

Streaming on Kanopy (Free with your library card), Tubi, and Prime.

★★★★☆

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

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

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!



Julianne Nicholson.

him out in her late husband's fishing shack. She has her maid Salome (Lorraine Toussaint) take him food while he recovers from his injuries.

When a meddling friend Ruth (Diane Ladd) asks after him, she lies to her and says she put him on a bus and he's left to be with his family in Canada.

Through a series of flashbacks, we encounter Sophie as a young girl. Ruth, who was a good friend of her mother's, berates her for playing with black children. One of them is her best friend and Ruth

appreciated the striking cinematography. The score contributed significantly to the gentle atmosphere of the film. It ranged from 1940's era big band jazz, to quiet classical music, and occasionally brief snippets of Japanese sounding songs. The soundtrack added to the overall feel of this movie.

I also felt the supporting actors were perfectly cast and gave an accurate portrayal of small town life in the south during the war years. I kept thinking about this movie for days

About this column:
My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition.

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy. I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

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

Classic Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: My son's father has taken a permanent leave of absence from our lives. "Arthur" and I divorced when my son was 6. He is now 11.

After the divorce, Arthur was supposed to have custody of our son every weekend. The court order said he should pick up the boy Friday evenings and return him Sunday nights.

Arthur immediately made it clear that Friday nights were for bowling, and he had to work on Saturdays. He offered to pick our son up Saturday nights and return him Sundays. I told Arthur that wasn't good enough. I also said he needed to spend more than one evening a week with his son and should make whatever arrangements were necessary to follow the court order.

At that point, Arthur became angry and stopped having any contact with us. He said I made things too difficult.

Arthur pays child support, but he never calls or sees his son. He doesn't send birthday cards or Christmas gifts, either. I feel very bad for our boy. He is growing up without a positive male role model in his life. I have not remarried, and my parents live in another state.

Was I wrong to insist that Arthur follow the rules? Arthur says it's my fault he no longer sees his son. I really would appreciate your advice, Ann. -- Single Parent in Iowa

Dear Iowa: Too bad you picked such a lemon for a husband. Unfortunately, you two have a lot of deep-seated anger and unresolved problems.

You are still fighting it out, and your son is the battleground. For the child's sake, you both need to be a lot more giving.

After five years of living apart, the wounds should have healed. Apparently, they haven't, so please get some counseling, and I learn how to resolve whatever differences you have.

Dear Ann Landers: My in-laws are nice people, but they cannot seem to be on time for anything. Last Saturday, they showed up two hours late for dinner.

They made the usual tiresome excuses, but there were no apologies, and I know it will happen again before long.

My wife gets annoyed,

but she never would confront her parents.

How can I handle this without starting a major family feud? -- Too Many Times in Kentucky

Dear Kentucky: Hold up dinner exactly 30 minutes by the clock, and then start eating, whether they are there or not. Leave their dinners on the table; don't rehearse anything. I'll bet after this happens once or twice, they will be on time.

Dear Ann Landers: You asked your readers for their views on older women marrying younger men and vice versa.

I was married for 28 years to a man my own age. He divorced me and married a woman who was younger than our children.

Since then, I have dated men of all ages. The older men I went out with seemed to have no sense of humor and very little passion for life. Many wanted a nurse for their old age and treated me like a dumb blonde.

I am now dating a man who is 10 years younger than I am. He is confident and sure of himself. He is not controlling, jealous or condescending. We can be silly and laugh a lot, and we can also engage in serious discussions.

Some of my friends assumed the only thing we had in common was sex. Others told me to be careful because younger guys are usually looking for a mother figure.

Nevertheless, anyone who has spent time with us can see that we are well suited to each other. We share the same values and have similar interests. Whether or not anything will come of this, I don't know, but I enjoy his company and think the world of him. With a relationship as solid as ours, age is irrelevant. -- "Older Woman" Out East

Dear Woman Out East: A few years ago, I wrote a book, and one of the chapter titles was "Age Is Only a Number, Baby!" I believed it then, and I believe it now. Some men are old at 25; others are young at 65. It's what goes on between the eyebrows and the hairline and not farther down. Here's more on the subject:

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 24-year-old divorcee and have been dating a 63-year-old widower for the past seven months.

He is not a millionaire,

nor is he famous, but he has something that is almost impossible to find in men my age these days. I'm talking about integrity, maturity and a sense of responsibility. Best of all, he is a gentleman and knows how to treat a woman.

This man was not looking for a trophy girlfriend. He is very much into physical fitness and wanted a woman who shared his enthusiasm for scuba diving, weightlifting, running, motorcycling and dancing.

Both his family and mine have been supportive of our relationship. My parents saw me leave an abusive marriage, and his children know how much he suffered when his wife of 38 years died after a long illness. They just want us to be happy.

I realize if we stay together, I may wind up being his caretaker and possibly a young widow, but I am perfectly willing to take that risk. -- May-December Magic

Dear Magic: This could work because your eyes are wide open and you understand the risks. I wish you all the best. Here's one more on the subject:

Dear Ann Landers: A family in Michigan had three daughters. The youngest, "Stella," married a wealthy man her own age. After a few years, he fell in love with a married woman. Together, they plotted and executed the murder of the woman's husband. Stella's husband is still in prison. Stella died after enduring years of grief.

The second daughter, "Hortense," married a young businessman. During his midlife crisis, he fell in love with another woman and deserted Hortense and their five children, along with his elderly mother, who lived with them. Grieving over the breakup of the family, his mother and youngest son died.

I married the youngest daughter, "Grace," when she was 24 and I was 46. I was concerned about our age difference and suggested she pick a younger suitor. Taking this as a mark of good character, she said, "Let's proceed."

We have been married for 47 years and have two sons. I am now 93, Grace is 71, and we are still dancing. I bless the day we met. -- H.B. in Salem, Ore.

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DEAR ABBY:

Continued from page 2C

DEAR ABBY: My mother, who died recently, wasn't subtle about favoring my younger sister. My sister, "June," is grief-stricken and talks about our mother positively -- a lot.

Our mother was cruel to me at times, and June knows it, but she continues to talk glowingly about her. I want to say to her, "She may have been an angel to YOU, but she was a b---- to me my entire life," but, of course, I don't. I would just like to forget all about her.

When June does this, I usually remain silent. I want to be supportive, but at the same time, I think my feelings are important and should be respected. What should I do? -- GRIEVING LESS IN WISCONSIN

DEAR GRIEVING LESS: When your sister starts up about what a wonderful mother your abuser was, remind her, as tactfully as you can, that you didn't benefit from the same treatment. Then express that, while you sympathize with her loss, you no longer wish to discuss your mother with her. If she needs to vent about

her sadness and loss, she should do it with other relatives or close friends or join a grief support group as many people do. After that, if she raises the subject again -- as she may -- shift the topic to something else.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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ANDREWS MCMEEL
SYNDICATION.

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. EST today (1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Pisces into Aries.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 3, 2022: You can be shy. However, you work hard as long as you're inspired. You are multi-talented, friendly and very witty, which is why you are well-liked and have many friends. This year is all about socializing and enjoying yourself with others. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Ask for help if you need it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Avoid ego conflicts with parents, bosses and the police today, because people are intense, passionate and volatile about what they want to do. You might have a ruthless drive for power or encounter someone who has that drive. Tread carefully! Tonight: Listen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You might become a victim of your beliefs about politics, racial issues or religion. (Don't kid yourself. You think you're right.) This is a brief influence. It's important to remember there are many ways to look at every situation -- not just one. Tonight: Be tolerant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Physical passion is the stuff of movies today. You also might feel passionately about financial matters. (You won't give an inch.) You will fight for your share. If you encounter disputes, be wise and postpone these discussions until next week. Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Demonstrate care and patience today. If someone close to you is overpowering, step aside. This is a poor day for an argument, because people will get caught up in ego conflicts. Therefore, be wise and table important discussions for next week. Practice patience. Tonight: Cooperation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You will work hard to achieve what you want today. Nothing will stop you. Be careful that you're not taking charge because you're on an ego trip. Today, everyone wants to run the show! You also might want to make improvements to your job and your health. Tonight: Go gently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today you want romance to be passionate and worthy of a diary entry. (Who has time to write?) You also might have strong feelings when dealing with your kids. Be patient and check your ego at the door. Think about how you can improve your closest relationships. Tonight: Be agreeable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
This is a classic day for power struggles at home or with family members. You care about the appearance of things more than most people can fathom. Perhaps this is the reason for your argument. Or perhaps it's about power and control. Tonight: Stay calm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You are a willful sign, and today everyone is pushy and willful! "Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" Take a breath and step back to

allow a little space in your discussions with others. Avoid dangerous neighborhoods today. Tonight: Be aware.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You love the outdoors, you love animals, and you love to figure out ways to get rich. Today these very areas might be where you become obsessed and want others to follow your lead, especially in financial discussions. It could pertain to buying something. Check the Moon Alert. Tonight: Guard your assets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
This is a powerful day because Venus, Mars and Pluto are lined up in Capricorn. This is no casual event. People will make a grab for power, even to the point of being threatening. At the first hint of violence, run in the other direction. On the upside, you will work very hard today. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
If you think something fishy is going on, it is. There's a lot of intense (possibly violent) energy that is hidden today. Therefore, be aware. Be mindful. Be wary of anyone who looks angry or unbalanced. Easy does it. Tonight: Hide.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
A power struggle with a friend or a member of a group might take place today. The key to this day is to make your goals the goals of others -- or vice versa -- so you are working for a win-win solution. Good luck! (It's possible.) Tonight: Be patient.

BORN TODAY
Actress Julie Bowen (1970), actress Jessica Biel (1982), actor Matthew Marsden (1973).

Contract Bridge

BRIDGE IS A LOGICAL GAME

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ 10 9 7 5 4
♦ A 9 8 6
♣ 7

WEST
♠ 9 8 7
♥ K
♦ K Q 7 5 3
♣ A K Q 8

EAST
♠ K 6 4 2
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 10 2
♣ J 10 9 3

SOUTH
♠ J 10 5
♥ A Q J 2
♦ J 4
♣ 6 5 4 2

The bidding:
West 1♦
North Pass
East Pass
South 1♥

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Most hands played by declarer fit into a pattern that he has encountered many times before. Because of this, many declarers tend to treat similar situations in similar fashion, which is not always the healthiest approach to the play of a hand.

Consider this deal where West led the queen of clubs against four hearts. East followed with the jack, and West shifted to the nine of spades. Declarer

played low from dummy, losing to the king, and East returned a low trump.

At this point, South put on his thinking cap. Had he finessed, which seems the natural thing to do, he would have gone down one. But South was not a player who relied solely on past experience.

He realized that finessing would be the proper play in most hands, but he also realized it would be the wrong play in this hand. So he went up with the ace, felling the king, played the ace and another diamond, and wound up making 10 tricks after ruffing two of dummy's diamonds in his hand.

There is no denying that South was lucky to find West with the singleton king of hearts. But good luck is frequently the byproduct of good dummy play, so South was entitled to some measure of glory in nabbing the singleton king.

Declarer realized at trick three, after East had shown up with the jack of clubs and king of spades, that East could not also have the king of hearts. Had East held that card, he surely would not have passed his partner's opening bid.

So, after concluding that West had to have the heart king, South went up with the ace — not because he expected to drop the king, but because he recognized that his only chance was to find the king unguarded.

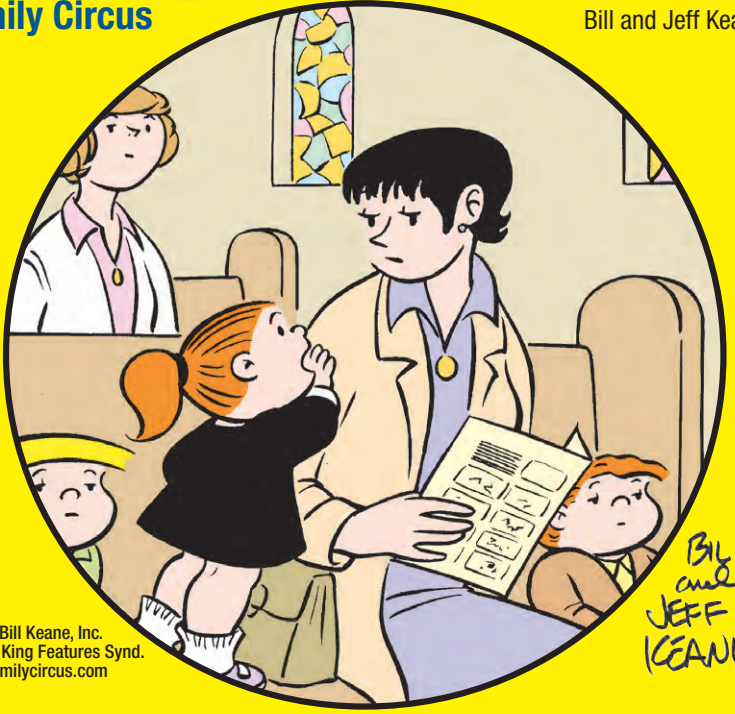
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



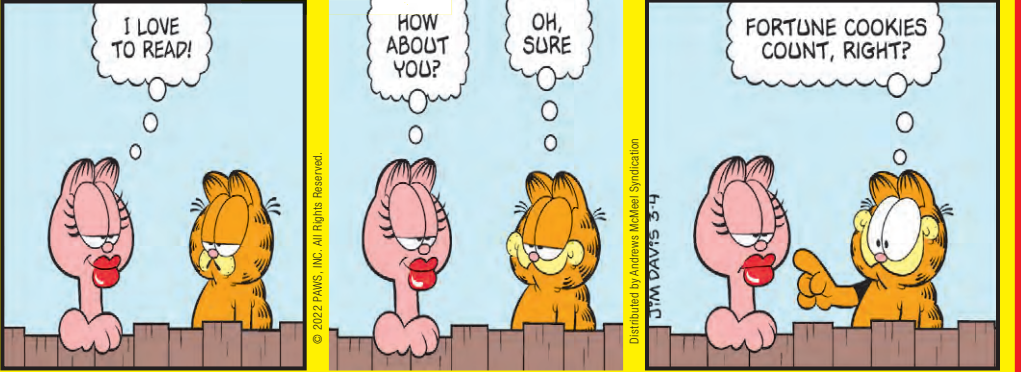
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Bill and Jeff Keane

"How much longer until we goeth home?"

Garfield

Jim Davis



Dilbert

Scott Adams



Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



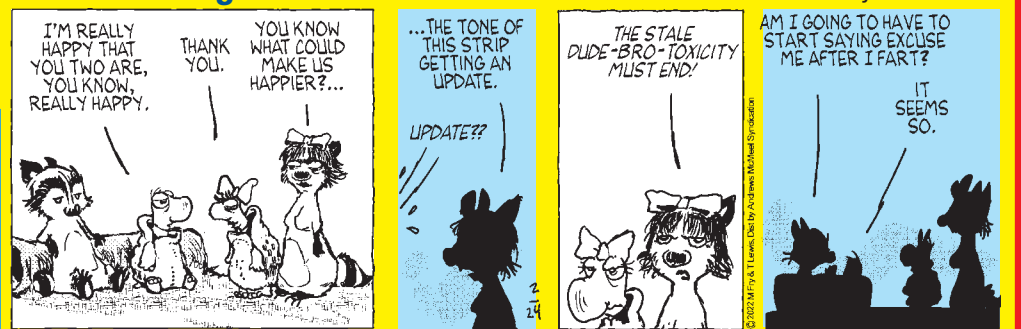
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



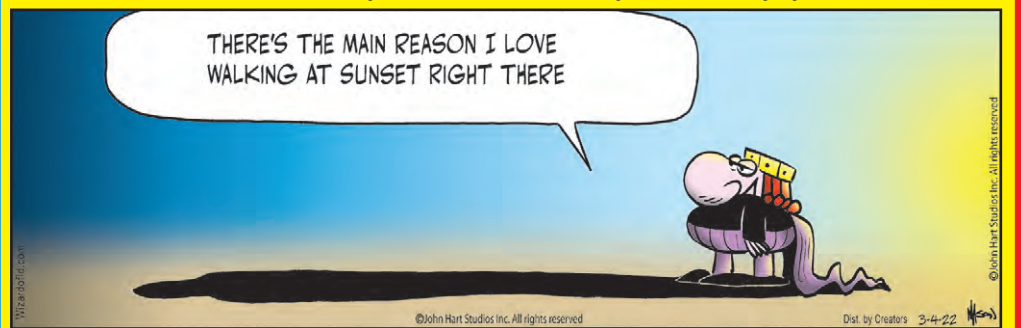
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

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



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

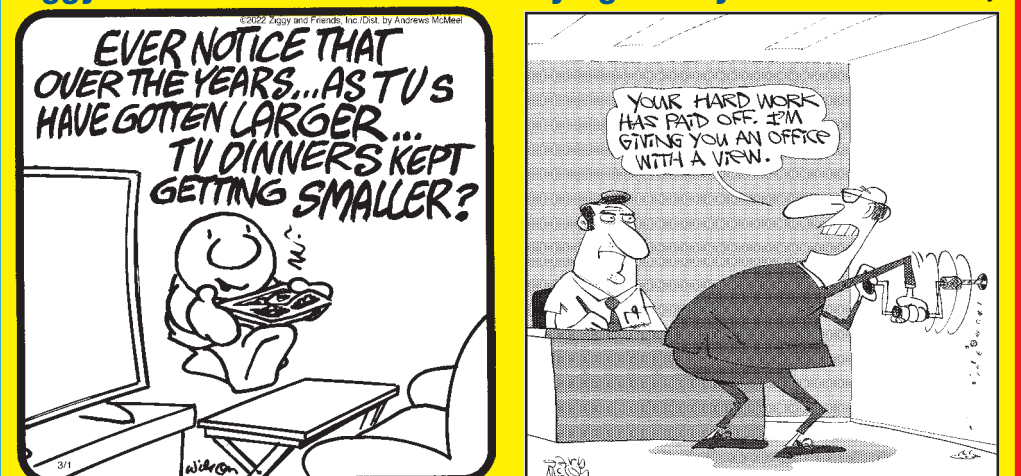


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/3 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 3, 2022

ACROSS

- 1 Requests
- 5 Six-point NFL plays
- 8 Warning by a lewd link
- 12 Not a soul
- 14 Sizzling
- 15 "Holy Toledo!"
- 16 Committee type
- 17 Misspeak, for example
- 18 Photo
- 19 Person whose anthem may be "Born on the Bayou"?
- 22 Person whose anthem may be "Born To Run"?
- 23 Mile divisions: Abbr.
- 24 Cartoon cat
- 25 Bossa nova's Brazilian birthplace, briefly
- 28 Word after "midnight" or "mineral"
- 30 Two- (cheap)
- 31 Song selectors
- 34 Person whose anthem may be "Born Under a Bad Sign"?
- 38 British texter's signoff
- 39 More, in Monterrey
- 40 Big bass brass
- 41 One with a guest list

- 42 Class where srs. may read "Beloved"
- 44 Site for selling collectibles
- 45 Person whose anthem may be "Born To Be Wild"?
- 48 Author Lee
- 50 Hug it out, say
- 53 by Yoplaht (French-style yogurt)
- 54 Enters slowly
- 58 Garten on the Food Network
- 59 Decorative vase
- 60 Portrait painter's session
- 61 Little housebuilder in a fairy tale
- 62 Old cloth
- 63 Make bigger
- 64 Chowd down

- 10 Small, seedy fruit
- 11 Teensy
- 13 Galapagos Islands' country
- 15 Device for some virtual bowling
- 20 Ice cream sandwich brand
- 21 Untagged at recess
- 25 Pioneering sculptor
- 26 Asawa or justice Bader
- 27 Ginsburg
- 28 Crushing on
- 29 Progeny
- 29 Like a bad mattress, perhaps
- 30 Washbowl
- 31 Seriously hoppy brew
- 32 South Sudan's capital
- 33 Kill it, to a drag queen

- 35 How a 31-Down might be offered
- 36 Simba's love
- 37 Meat served with eggs or frites
- 42 Subway in a Duke
- 43 Ellington song
- 43 Key to comic delivery
- 46 Witherspoon of "Big Little Lies"
- 47 Dog's skin woe
- 48 Typical length of a TV drama
- 49 Vibe
- 51 Word in an apartment address
- 52 Book part
- 55 Mo. airport
- 56 Airport landing stat
- 57 Son of Beyonce whose name is a title

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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This Is Your Song by Erica Hsiung Wojcik

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14				15			
16				17					18			
	19			20			21					
	22											
		23					24					
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33
34			35			36				37		
38					39					40		
41					42			43		44		
	45		46					47				
48	49							50			51	52
53				54		55	56	57			58	
59				60							61	
62				63								64

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

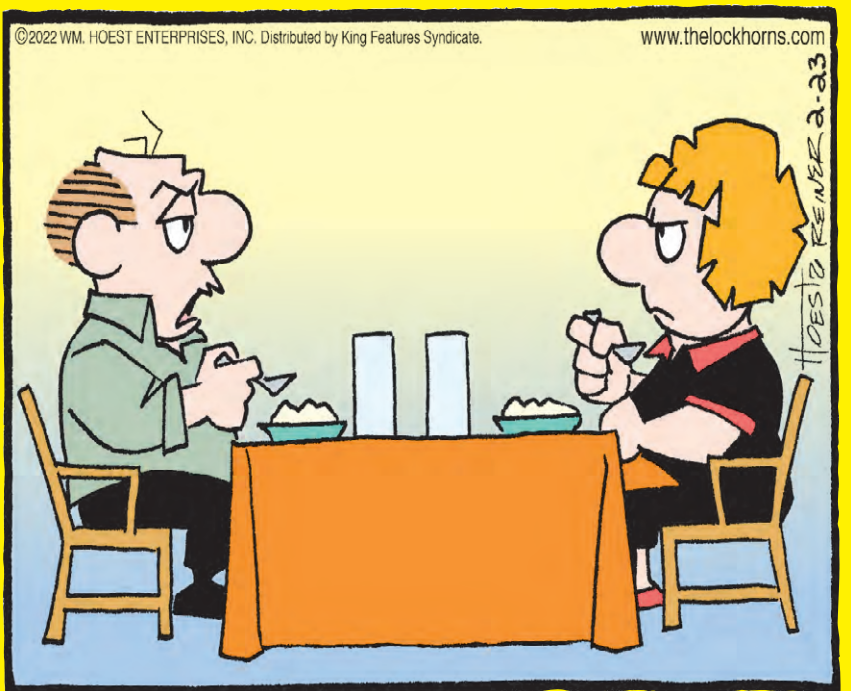


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

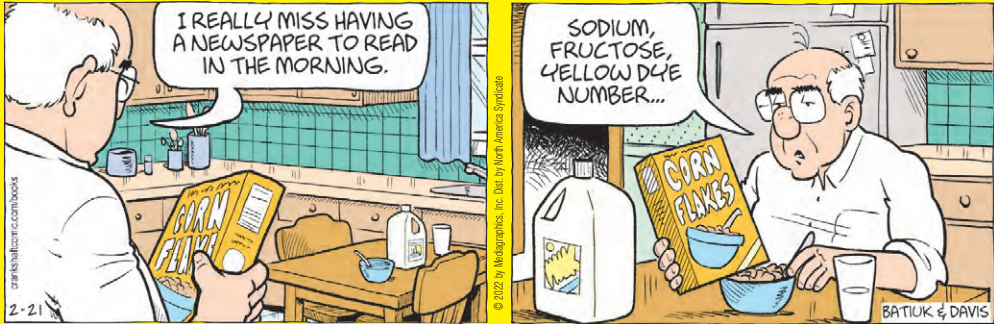
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

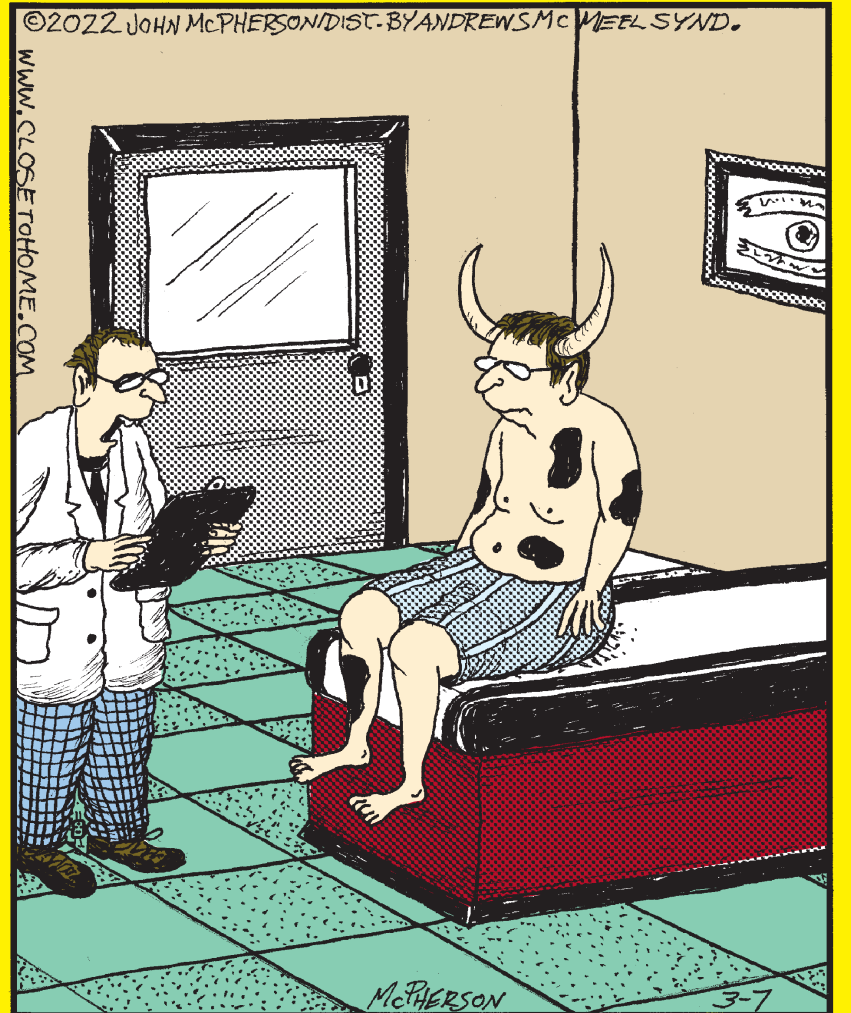
Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



"THIS CHICKEN À LA KING ISN'T FIT FOR A SERF."

Close To Home

John McPherson



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



B.C.

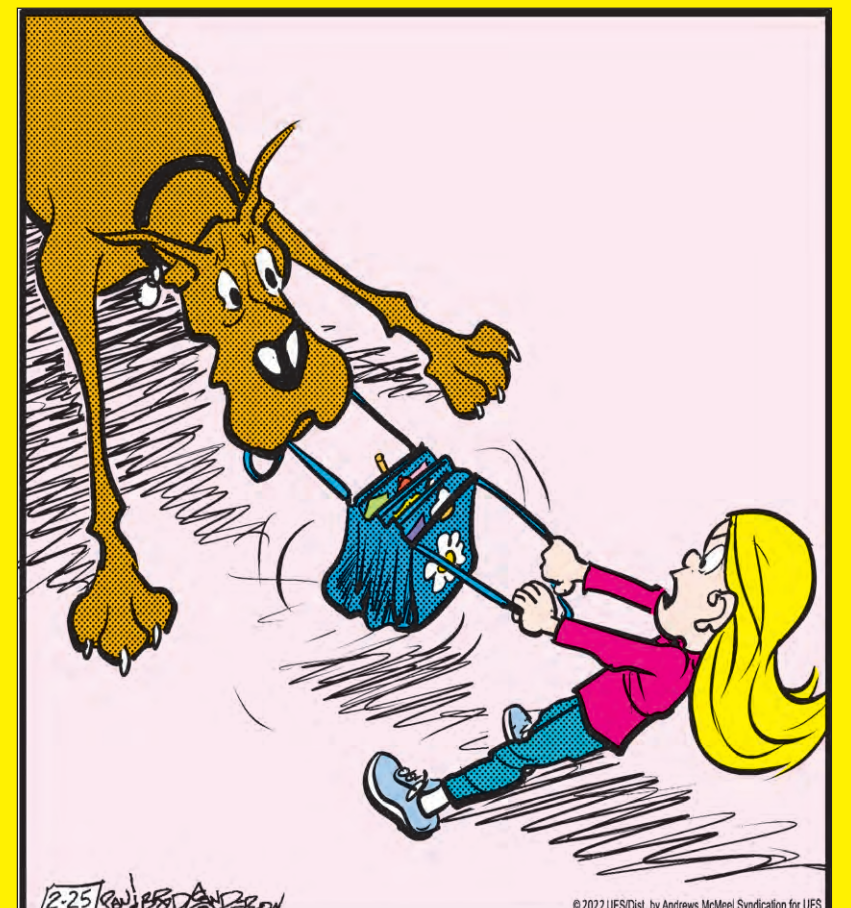
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



"Well, as we suspected, it's mad cow disease."

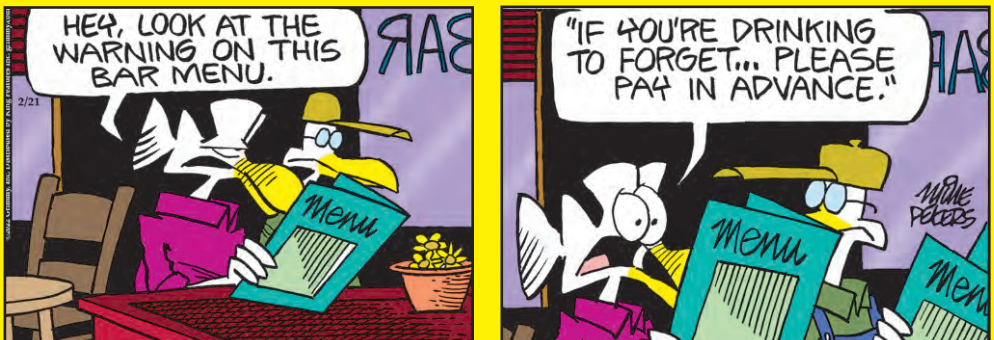
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



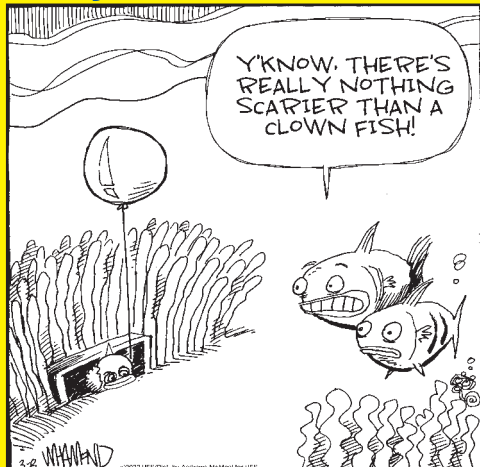
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



"For the last time, there are no cookies in my purse!"

SPORTS



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PHOTOS BY BARBARA JOHNS

Liggett's Stephen Wheatley scored a goal in the first period of Saturday's regional championship game against De La Salle.



Knights' goalie Maksim Johns gets a hug from a teammate following the team's 5-2 playoff loss.

Knights fall in regional final

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

The 2021-22 season for the University Liggett School boys hockey team got off to a bit of a slow start, but the Knights hit their stride in the middle and later parts of the season. It all led to the Division 3 state playoffs, which began last week with the regional tournament. The Knights began the regional with a 5-3 victory over Detroit Country Day on Thursday to advance to Saturday's regional championship game.

Waiting for Liggett in the finals was De La Salle, who earned a comeback 3-2 overtime win against University of Detroit Jesuit in its regional semifinal showdown. The Pilots had been one of the top teams in the state in Division 3 all season and ended up defeating the Knights 5-2, ending Liggett's season.

"Defensively we did what we could, but they kept coming at us," Liggett coach Colin Smith said after the loss. "Eventually it got to us and started wearing us down a bit. We tried to counter, but in the end

we just didn't have it."

It was clear from the beginning Saturday that speed was going to be key in the regional final. De La Salle established a fast pace out of the gate and got on the board first. Pilots senior Seaton Heilman scored the first goal of the game less than five minutes into the action to give De La Salle the early lead.

The first period continued as a 1-0 game until the closing minutes. With just over two minutes remaining in the opening frame, Liggett's Stephen Wheatley scored on a feed in front of the net from Doug Wood to even the game at one goal apiece. The Knights may have thought they would be going into the first intermission with a tie game, but De La Salle edged back in front with just seconds to go with a goal by Brady Madryl to make it 2-1 after the first.

De La Salle extended its lead to two goals early in the second period and the game remained 3-1 heading into the third. It was not until less than 10 minutes remained in the game when the Knights were able to strike back. Ian Gudenau scored for Liggett and managed to

cut the Pilots' lead back to one.

However, it would not be a one-goal game very long. De La Salle's Robert Vanderbronck answered moments later to once again put his team up by two goals. The Knights went on the power play late in the game, but did not manage to pull any closer. The Pilots added another goal on an empty net to take the regional title and move on to the state quarterfinals with the 5-2 win.

"The growth, not even as hockey players but as people, from the start of the year to the finish was huge," Smith said about his team after the final game of his first season with Liggett. "Our senior class was tremendous. They were our anchor until the end. It's sad to see them go. I know it was my first year, but I had the best time I've ever had coaching and those guys were the engines that ran the caboose."

The Knights finish the season with a record of 19-7. They captured a Catholic League Cardinal Division championship and finished second place in the MIHL East division.

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Throughout her gymnastics career, Rachel Rybicki has aspired to be the best competitor she can and make it to the collegiate level where she can compete among the nation's best. The Grosse Pointe South High School senior has been competing as a gymnast almost as long as she can remember and is seeing those high aspirations start to come to life.

Rybicki trains out of and competes for Olympia Gymnastics in Shelby Township, where she has been competing at the top junior level for years. She began catching the eyes of colleges as her career became more

competitive. Now, Rybicki will be joining one of the top collegiate gymnastics teams in the nation a few months after her graduation from South.

"I've been doing level 10 for the past four

years now and that's when I decided to go to Alabama to continue working in academics and gymnastics," Rybicki said. "The school is great for athletics, so the opportunities there are nice. The

coaching staff is awesome and they have a great program. I wanted a program that I'm going to be happy with but also competitive in and that's what Alabama has." The journey to Alabama started when Rybicki was a kid. Her mom, Juli, had plenty of experience of her own as a gymnast and coach and started her daughter in gymnastics lessons. As interests in other sports came and went, gymnastics always remained constant in Rybicki's life and quickly became a passion.

"When I was a little kid my mom started putting me into classes," she said. "I played many sports when I was younger. The others sort of fizzled out, but I stuck with gymnastics. I genuinely enjoyed doing it

and as time went on I took more classes and kept improving at it."

Rybicki's mom has played a major role in her career as a gymnast, introducing her to the sport and cheering her on from the stands while keeping her role as a mom instead of a coach. The coaching Rybicki has received at Olympia has been crucial for her career and development as an athlete and a person.

Training at Olympia goes beyond improving at gymnastics. Rybicki credits the coaches at her current program for teaching her new skills — for gymnastics competition and outside the gym.

"I'm learning a bunch of new skills and perfecting my form, but there's so many lessons I learn that have nothing to do with gymnastics," Rybicki said.

Part of Rybicki's training is now focused on getting her ready for the collegiate level. Competing with a pro-



COURTESY PHOTO

After years of competing at the highest levels of junior gymnastics, Rachel Rybicki will soon move to the collegiate level at the University of Alabama.

gram like Alabama, currently ranked in the top 10 gymnastics teams in the country, is going to be a completely different experience for her. Perhaps the biggest adjustment Rybicki feels she has to make is focusing more on competing with a team.

The competitions in which Rybicki has been taking part over the

past few years have included both individual and team scores. However, college gymnastics is decided by team scores when schools go head-to-head. Focusing more on the team aspect and polishing up every aspect of her abilities have been priorities for

See *ATHLETE*, page 5D

Athlete of the Week proudly sponsored by Joe Ricci Automotive

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2D | SPORTS



South's boys swimming and diving team finished in first place ahead of North and Macomb Dakota during Saturday's MAC Red championship meet.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAMELA RAHMAAN

South, North swimmers rock the block at MAC Red Championship

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Swimmers from the Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North boys swim and dive teams ruled the pool, with either team finishing first in every individual event at the MAC Red Championship swim meet Feb. 25 and 26 at South.

The Blue Devils and Norseman took 11 of 12 events, with only Macomb Dakota edging out South in the 400 Free Relay.

South's win marked the 24th consecutive season the Blue Devils have won their league championship, finishing on top this year with 440.5 points. The Norseman came in third with 142.5 points. Macomb Dakota finished second with 301 points.

South won seven individual events, including the 200 IM, 50 Free, 100

Fly, 100 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast and diving. South also won two of three relays — the 200 Medley and 200 Free.

North's Gianni Carlino took the top spot in two events, the 200 and 500 Free, touching the wall in 1:43.30 and 4:39.51, respectively. Carlino completed his 500 swim nearly 5.01 seconds faster than his nearest competitor, Zach Wheeler from Chippewa Valley.

South junior Logan Hepner won the diving competition with a score of 535.40. North's Trevor Mulkey took second, finishing with 356.80 points.

"It was an all-around great effort from the entire MAC team," South junior Keiran Rahmaan said.

Other meet highlights include:

◆ South's 200 Medley Relay team of Rahmaan, and seniors Drew Vandeputte, Jake Vallan and Tucker Briggs fin-

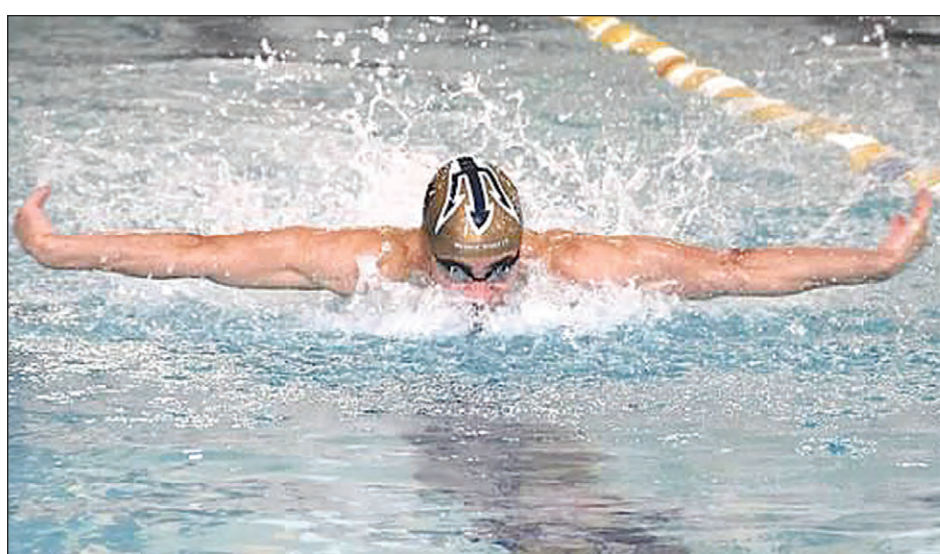
ished in 1:34.09, breaking the MAC Red meet record of 1:36.01, held since 2014. The team also broke the pool record of 1:35.48. Their record-breaking time also qualifies for All-American Consideration.

◆ The 200 IM winner, South's Vandeputte, finished in 1:54.30, breaking his own MAC Red meet record from 2021.

◆ The 100 Fly saw South's Rahmaan finish in 50.50, beating his own 100 Fly MAC Red meet record from 2021 of 51.51.

◆ The 200 Free Relay with Vallan, Rahmaan, Vandeputte and Briggs finished first with a time of 1:25.98. The team broke the MAC Red meet record of 1:26.91 set in 2021, as well as the pool record of 1:26.91.

◆ Rahmaan swam lights out once again with a 51.54 in the 100 Back, breaking his own 100 Back MAC Red meet



Keiran Rahmaan, glides his way to victory with a 50.50 in the 100 Fly. Rahmaan set a meet record in the event, beating his own record from 2021.

record from 2021 of 52.28.

◆ Vandeputte swam a 57.34 in the 100 Breast, breaking his own 100 Breast MAC Red meet record last year of 58.28.

Vandeputte and Rahmaan tied for Swimmer of the Meet, based on National Interscholastic

Swimming Coaches Association PowerPoints. South head coach John Fodell shared Coach of the Meet honors with coach David Smith of Dakota.

"We had amazing swims in all events," Rahmaan said. "And it's going to take that same effort, and more, to pull

off the state championship. More than anything, the team has pulled together, built camaraderie and has had an amazing season."

The Division 2 State Championship meet for both North and South is set for Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, at Oakland University.

Hockey seasons end in regionals for Norsemen and Blue Devils

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

As the puck dropped last Tuesday evening to begin playoff hockey, the boys hockey teams from both Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools were in action. The Blue Devils and Norsemen took on their respective opponents at Fraser Hockeyland in the opening round of regional play. Unfortunately, both teams ended up on the losing side of their matchups and saw their hopes of playoff runs ended early.

South faced off

against Detroit Country Day in the opening game, which began looking like the even matchup many expected; however, the Yellow Jackets were able to strike first. Country Day jumped out to a 1-0 lead just over five minutes into the opening period.

The momentum of the game quickly took a turn as Country Day scored another with just over five minutes left in the first period to extend its lead to two. Less than two minutes later it added another goal to make it 3-0 at the end of the first period.

Despite some chances

in the second period, South was unable to cut into the deficit and neither side managed any scoring in the middle frame. With the scoreboard still in favor of Country Day 3-0 heading into the third period, time was starting to run out for the Blue Devils.

With just over nine minutes left, the game saw its first goal since the opening period. South got on the board as Ryan Bernard scored to make it a two-goal game. The Blue Devils managed a few more chances on goal in the closing minutes, but were ultimately unable to come up with anything else and saw their season end with a 3-1 loss. Country Day moved on to face University Liggett in the regional semifinals, where they were defeated by the Knights 5-2.

The second game Tuesday evening saw North taking on University of Detroit Jesuit, the same team that eliminated the Norsemen from the playoffs in last year's

regional tournament. It was the same story this year in a game that was not nearly as competitive as last year's playoff showdown between North and the Cubs.

U of D Jesuit scored its first goal of the night less than four minutes into the opening period. The Cubs added two more to end the first with a 3-0 lead. The second period saw U of D continue to dominate, scoring four goals in less than five and a half minutes. With the scoreboard at 7-0 after the second, the Cubs scored the final blow just a couple of minutes into the final period to end the game 8-0.

U of D Jesuit advanced to Thursday's regional semifinals where they lost to De La Salle Collegiate 3-2 in an overtime thriller. North's season ends with a final record of 1-23, with the lone win coming against Wyandotte Roosevelt earlier this month. The Blue Devils end the year at 13-8-2 to wrap up the first season under coach Brandon Contratto.



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCKENNA

River Kraus takes a shot on goal for the Blue Devils in their playoff loss to Detroit Country Day.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC LIBRARY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Grosse Pointe Public Library will receive bids for landscaping & property enhancement for the implementation of its Phase II balance of work scope at the Woods Branch.

The Request for Bids and related documents can be found at www.grossepointelibrary.org. Bids are due Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 10 AM.

Grosse Pointe Public Library reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept any bid which, in its opinion, may be for the best interest of Grosse Pointe Public Library.

Published: GPN, March 3, 2022

Girls hockey teams gear up for postseason

By Alexis Bohlinger
Staff Writer

The Michigan Girls High School Hockey League has finished league play and will kick off the state playoffs March 3, at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena. The University Liggett Knights finished their season undefeated and will automatically advance to the quarterfinals as the first-place seed.

Grosse Pointe South High School finished behind the Knights with a record of 14-1-0 as the second-place seed. They also will advance to the quarterfinals, which take place Tuesday, March 8.

The Grosse Pointe North High School girls varsity hockey team will need to win both play-in games to advance, having finished their season the 14th seed with a record of 4-12-0. The Norsemen will face off against Regina/Lutheran North United first.

"We are hoping to draw off of our players that are

coming into the tournament with more experience," North head coach Casey Quick said.

Heading into the quarterfinals, both University Liggett and Grosse Pointe South are expected to give it their all to make it to the state championship game Saturday, March 12, at USA Hockey Arena.

The Knights are defending the state championship from the 2020-21 season.

"There's a lot of pressure being the ones on top," Liggett head coach Cassie Jaeckle said. "From a coach's perspective, everything gets reset at this point."

Being a single-game elimination tournament, it's anyone's game and Jaeckle is preparing the Knights for every competition.

"We've got to put the work in," she said. "We can't wish for it. We've got to work for it."

Jaeckle said she is looking forward to a competitive tournament.

"There are a lot of good

teams in the league this year that can make a run for it," she added. "Livonia and Grosse Pointe South are strong, and Northville is a team that I think will really make a splash at the tournament this year."

According to South head coach Hailee Craig, her girls have finally started to find their flow heading into the state tournament.

"Advancing to the quarterfinals gives us a little more practice time to work on plays and I think this will greatly benefit us," she said. "Our girls are very excited and I think we can do well at the tournament this year."

The Michigan Girls High School Hockey League will take the ice Thursday, March 3, and Saturday, March 5, for two rounds of play-in games, followed by the quarterfinals Tuesday, March 8. The semifinals and finals will take place at USA Hockey Arena Thursday and Saturday, March 10 and 12.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Olivia Dimuzio takes a shot for South in the fourth quarter of a 67-15 win over East English Village Prep in the opening round of district playoffs.

Blue Devils dominate in playoff opener

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The 2021-22 regular season had plenty of ups and downs for the Grosse Pointe South girls basketball team, but that all seemed in the past Monday night. The Blue Devils traveled to Hamtramck High School to begin the postseason with the opening round of district play. South took on the Bulldogs of East English Village Prep and guaranteed itself at least one more game this season as the Blue Devils cruised to a 67-15 victory.

"It was a night where kids could get some confidence and were able to get plenty of playing time," South coach Kevin Richards said after the win. "Our bigs are getting better. We have the Bachert twins and in the past week we brought the Przybylski twins off of JV and they came in aggressive and looking to shoot, which is something good to have down the stretch

with a couple of extra shooters and quick defenders."

After some minor mistakes in the game's opening minutes, the Blue Devils quickly took control. South experienced one of its best nights on offense for the entire season while remaining strong defensively. The Blue Devils held a 20-4 lead at the end of the first quarter and proceeded to outscore East English Village 23-2 in the second quarter to lead by nearly 40 points at halftime.

The second half was just as dominant for South, allowing Richards to mix up rotations and allow some of his regular starters to rest. Nearly every Blue Devil on the roster was able to get on the court and contribute to the win.

South extended its lead to 44 points at 55-11 after the third quarter and forced a quick end to the game with a running clock in the fourth. The final eight minutes were

fast as the Blue Devils continued to pull away and advance to the district semifinals with a commanding win by 52.

Eleven Blue Devils found their way onto the stat sheet Monday night, scoring at least one basket. Kamryn Richards led South with 20 points in the win. Elsa Bachert had eight points and junior Madison Duff finished with six.

"We need multiple scorers, even if we can get everybody who goes in two or four points," said Richards about his team's offense. "We've been defending well and in our last seven MAC games, Dakota was the only team to score more than 42 points on us, but we've got to be able to score more than that to win and we've been scoring in the 30s or even 20s sometimes."

South advanced to Wednesday's district semifinals for a matchup with the district's top seed, Hamtramck.



PHOTO BY TOM GEBECK

Gabrielle Vosburg and the South girls hockey team earned the No. 2 seed in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League playoffs after a 14-1 season.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan 2022 March Board of Review

The 2022 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
March 21, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS
March 21, 2022 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 22, 2022 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor's Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 22, 2022 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 885-5800.

GPN: 3/3/22, 3/10/22, 3/17/22



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

Regular Meeting	Monday February 14, 2021	7:00 p.m.
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A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms was held at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road and called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2022, by Mayor Theros.

Present: Mayor Louis Theros, Mayor Pro Tem John J. Gillooly, Councilmembers Sierra Leone Donaven, Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Neil Sroka, Joe Ricci and Lev Wood. Absent: None.

Council approved the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 10, 2022.

Council approved a proposal from McKenna & Associates to update the City's Master Plan.

Council approved a request to award the 2022 Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Replacement Project to Calgon Carbon.

Council approved the Consent Agenda.

- Consideration of a request to re-appointment Cathy Champion to the Board of Review for a term of three years expiring February 2025.
- Consideration of a request to reschedule the second meeting of the Board of Review from March 15, 2022 to March 8, 2022.
- Consideration of a request to appoint Bob Gorski to the Beautification Advisory Commission for a term of three years expiring February 2025.
- Consideration of a request to purchase a police vehicle to replace scout car 34 which was totaled in the June flooding event using funds from the insurance carrier.
- Consideration of a request to trade-in two police patrol vehicles and purchase two police patrol vehicles for \$60,452.
- Consideration of a request to approve the expenditure of \$30,648.02 to replace the engine in DPW Garbage Truck #15.
- Approval of legal expenses.
- Consideration of a request from the Director of Finance and Operations to approve January 2022 invoices.

Council received the January 2022 Public Safety Report.

Council received the Quarterly Financial Report for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2021.

Council approved a Council Proclamation declaring February 2022 "Black History Month" in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Council held public comment.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, **Derrick Kozicki, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk**

Published: Grosse Pointe News 3/3/2022

4D | SPORTS

North ends regular season with win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Following three straight losses in recent weeks, including a loss in the MAC league championship game, the Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team did not seem to have momentum on its side with the playoffs quickly approaching. The Norsemen had one last regular season contest last week before moving on to this week's district tournament, giving them one last shot to pick things up before the playoffs begin. North hosted Lake Fenton Thursday evening and was able to notch a 49-44

victory in the final contest of the regular season.

There was never much separation between the two sides during Thursday's game. The Norsemen and Lake Fenton went back and forth much of the game, with the first half being quite closely contested. The Blue Devils led by three points, 11-8, at the end of the opening quarter.

Things remained tight in the second frame as North quickly overcame the small deficit. The teams went back and forth to close out the first half, with the half-time score a 20-20 tie, showing just how evenly



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North varsity girls basketball coach Gary Bennett earned his 650th career victory when the Norsemen defeated Lake Fenton 49-44 on Thursday.

matched this contest was from the beginning. It was the Norsemen

who were able to start pulling in front during the second half. Offense

was a bit hard to come by in the third quarter for both sides, with North and Lake Fenton combining for just 14 points to open the second half. However, the Norsemen had the advantage in the more defensive quarter and took a 29-25 lead into the final eight minutes. North managed to do just enough to remain in front during the fourth quarter. The Norsemen held onto the lead and kept a slight distance while Lake Fenton fought hard to come back but ultimately fell short. In the end, North was able to collect the win by five points and snap a short losing

streak in time for the postseason.

Three players were able to reach double digits for the Norsemen during the win. Natalie Babcock led North with 17 points. Sophia Borowski had 15 while Annabel Ayrault finished the night with 12 points.

Thursday's win also marked the 650th career victory for North head coach Gary Bennett. His squad finished the regular season with a record of 16-4 and a second consecutive MAC Red division championship. The Norsemen opened the postseason Wednesday night against Warren Fitzgerald in the district semifinals.

Little League registration deadlines and evaluations approaching

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With spring not far away, Little League baseball and softball registration deadlines are approaching. Player evaluations for some leagues begin in the coming weeks, while games and practices begin next month. For families still looking to get involved, here is everything to know about what lies ahead for each local Little League before the season begins.

evaluations for their own age group and the group above. Evaluation day also will include an equipment swap for families to bring used bats, gloves, helmets and more to give away. For more information about registration and evaluations, visit grossepointebaseball.com or email info@grossepointebaseball.com.

Practices are scheduled to begin Monday, April 4, and opening day for games is Monday, April 25.

Park Little League

The Grosse Pointe Park Little League is holding evaluations at University Liggett School this Sunday, March 6, beginning at 10 a.m. Practices are scheduled to begin Friday, April 1, and the first day of games is Monday, April 25. Opening Day ceremonies, including a parade, take place Saturday, April 30.

For more information on how to register for evaluations, go to gppll.com.

Woods-Shores Little League

All levels of the Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League will have player evaluations this Saturday, March 5, starting at 8 a.m. at University Liggett School. Practices are expected to begin in mid-April, and this year's Opening Day parade is scheduled at noon Sunday, May 1.

Visit grossepointelittleleague.com for more information on registration and player evaluations.

Little League Softball

Registration for Grosse Pointe Little League Softball is open until Friday, March 11. Players in the Minor and Major age groups must attend evaluations at Grosse Pointe South High School either Sunday, March 13, or Sunday, March 20. Little League Softball Opening Day is Friday, April 29.

Information regarding registration and more is available at grossepointesoftball.com.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Little League baseball player evaluations for the Park, Woods-Shores and Farms-City Leagues will take place in the coming weeks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISA MCENROE

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE
AUCTION OF
IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on MARCH 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2011 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCUOD76BKB97171
2005 FORD MUSTANG	1ZVFT8ON555128110
2007 CHEVY MALIBU	1G1ZT67N27F189219
2016 NISSAN SENTRA	3N1AB7AP8GY308698
2008 JEEP LIBERTY	1J8GN28K28W221974
2008 HONDA ACCORD	JHMCP26888CO62790
2011 DODGE CHARGER	2B3CL3CG3BH548556
1999 CHEVY MALIBU	1G1NE52MOXY106540

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

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: February 23, 2022
PUBLISHED: March 3, 2022

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2022 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

and

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH.

G.P.N.: 02/17/22; 02/24/22; 03/03/22; 03/10/22

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE OF REVIEW OF THE 2022 ASSESSMENT ROLL:

Notice is hereby given the Board of Review of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Wayne County, Michigan, will be in session in the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Council Chambers/Courtroom)

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Conference Room)

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Council Chambers/Courtroom)

for reviewing the 2022 Assessment Roll. Appointments to appeal to the Board of Review may be made beginning February 28, 2022, by calling the Assessing Department at (313) 343-2435. Appeals by letter must be received by March 25, 2022. If appealed by a representative, they must have a letter of authorization signed by the owner.

Tentative State Equalized Factors:	
Commercial property	1.000
Industrial property	1.000
Residential property	1.000
Personal property	1.000

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates
02/24/22, 03/03/22, 03/10/22

Eric Dunlap
Assessor



COURTESY PHOTO

Rachel Rybicki trains out of Olympia Gymnastics in Shelby Twp.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

Rybicki as she gets ready for the next level.

"I have to improve on all of the little details because that's what they look at in college," she said. "It's also going to become more of a team sport. Right now there is a team score involved, but it's still very individual. While in college, things are much more team-oriented. ... You compete against one other team at a time."

An all-around competitor, Rybicki is focusing on those small details to make sure each part of her game is

the best it can be. Floor, vault, beam and bars make up the events of a standard gymnastics competition, and Rybicki is talented enough to see each as a strength.

"I definitely like the more artistic aspects of beam and floor," she said. "Some people don't enjoy the beam, but I've found recently that it's one of my favorite events. If I had to pick a favorite it would probably be beam, but it's hard to. I really enjoy everything."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.

Blue Devils victorious in high-scoring battle

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With just a few games left on the calendar before district playoffs begin, the Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team has its sights set on peaking at the right time. The Blue Devils hosted Detroit Renaissance Thursday looking to gain momentum with a late-season win. It was a fast-paced, offensive showdown for much of the night with South emerging victorious 76-65.

Thursday's game was fast from the beginning. Neither side had much trouble when it came to scoring out of the gate. Renaissance outpaced the Blue Devils a bit in the opening quarter, taking a 23-18 lead to end the first eight minutes.

Near the end of the opening quarter and through the early part of the second, South looked to gain momentum. The Blue Devils were able to march back into the lead 32-31 at the midway mark of the second quarter. After that, much of the rest of the night was

a back and forth effort. The Phoenix of Renaissance kept battling and took the lead back before halftime, but it was a slim 40-38 advantage heading into the locker room.

The second half started just as fast and close as the first. Renaissance remained in front, but South began closing in as the third quarter came to a close. The Blue Devils took back the lead in the closing seconds of the quarter to take a three-point, 56-53 lead into the last eight minutes.

South began the fourth quarter with the lead and remained in front of the Phoenix the rest of the way, building its advantage as the final minutes ticked away. The Blue Devils kept up the high pace on offense as Renaissance faded, ending with a 76-65 victory for South.

Seventy-six points marks the most the Blue Devils have scored in a game this season. The high tally comes thanks to solid all-around performance by the entire team, with a trio of play-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Alex English tallied 14 points for South in the win over Detroit Renaissance on Thursday.

ers in particular having standout games. Junior Alex English notched one of his best games of the year with 14 points on the stat sheet. Karter Richards and Anthony Benard both reached the 20-point mark, with 20 for Richards and 22 for

Benard. A 60-52 win for South the next night against Utica made it four victories in a row. The Blue Devils close out the regular season at home Thursday night when taking on Michigan Collegiate.

Knights advance in district playoffs



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Avery Slanec, right, and the University Liggett girls basketball team defeated Madison Heights Madison 51-14 in the district semifinals on Monday night. The Knights advanced to the district finals for a matchup with Detroit Central.

VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The Assessments for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores in Wayne and Macomb County has been completed for 2022. The Board of Review will hear petitions on the following dates:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 14TH
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
795 LAKE SHORE RD.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022
1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments must make an appointment or file a write in appeal. Either appeal method must be accompanied by the petition form (L-4035) provided by the state of Michigan (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/l4035f_2658_7.pdf). Appointments may be made by calling 881-6565. Petitions by mail must be received by the Board PRIOR to the last session (3/21/22) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner. You may call 881-6565 for an appointment.

If there are any questions please contact the Assessor's Office at 313.881.6565 or email pbierzynski@gpshoresmi.gov.

GPN: February 17, February 24 & March 3, 2022



COURTESY PHOTO

Taking the ice for a cause

Chris Thomas, right, from Iris Mortgage in Grosse Pointe Park lines up for a ceremonial faceoff to begin the inaugural Champagne Showcase hockey tournament. The event was created to benefit Detroit's Clark Park Coalition.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK 2022 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2022 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting
March 15, 2022 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings
March 15, 2022 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 29, 2022 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. COMPLETED 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor's office end of day Tuesday, March 29, 2022 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 822-6200.

GPN: 2/24/22, 3/3/22, 3/10/22

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406 ESTATE SALES
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Saturday, March 5
9am- 3pm
Lower flat, limited parking use Balfour and Nottingham at Vernor. Cash only! Bring bags. Dining room set, bookcases, books, vinyl records, 32" TV, file cabinet, microwave, air conditioner, kitchen ware, cedar trunk, monitor and keyboard, men's wardrobe.

671 Vernier Road
Saturday, Sunday.
March 5th & 6th.
10am- 5pm.
Solid wood furniture, art pieces, name brand knick knacks, carpet, jewelry, etc.

409 GARAGE / YARD / RUMMAGE SALE
CALLAWAY Epic Max driver (right hand) 2021 model regular graphite shaft with head cover and wrench, \$150. Ping G410 driver (right hand) senior regular shaft 2021 model with head cover and wrench, \$150. Ping G425 3 wood senior regular shaft with head cover \$75. Ping G425 Hybrid senior shaft regular with head cover \$75. Ping Carry bag, \$50. Call Rick (313)682-0147 St. Clair Shores

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Grosse Pointe News
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MARCH 4TH AND 5TH
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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Everything From A To Z Can Be Found In The Classifieds.
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