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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 83, NO. 12, 30 PAGES  
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## Newspaper of the Year

### GP News earns 36 Michigan Press awards

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — It was a good year for the Grosse Pointe News.

On the heels of winning a Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Resilience in Business Award, the 82-year-old newspaper last week claimed the title of Newspaper of the Year for 2021, by the Michigan Press Association.

The honor was in addition to 35 other awards, ranging from editorial content to advertising to design.

“To be named Newspaper of the Year is the highest honor a member publication can achieve, and Terry and I are thrilled that honor came as we end our tenure with the Grosse Pointe News,” said Publisher John Minnis upon the awards announcement last week. “This is only the second time in its 82 years the weekly Grosse Pointe News has been named Newspaper of the Year. The first time was under the ownership of the late Robert G. Liggett Jr. This year’s honors go to owner Sean Cotton and wife, Nancy, who bought the newspaper in December 2020. They are off to a stupendous start. Who knows what their team will accomplish in the years to come. It will be exciting

to witness.” Added Cotton, “This award is a testament to the hard work that our staff brings to the paper, working tirelessly with integrity to bring you our community newspaper. It also shows that we are living up to the pledge that I made on Dec. 9, 2020, to bring to our community a high-quality, unbiased product. I am very proud of this award and our many accomplishments.”

The Grosse Pointe News competed against other weekly Michigan newspapers in the Class C division, with circulation between 3,001 and 7,000.

In addition to Newspaper of the Year, the Grosse Pointe News placed second for Excellence in Advertising, as well as earned an MPA Public Service Award for its series on the 2010 disappearance of JoAnn Matouk Romain.

MPA awards also were plentiful among staff members. On the editorial side, former staffer Barb Arrigo placed first and third in the Editorial Writing category for the columns, “Redo superintendent search” and

See AWARDS, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The 2022 Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Resilience in Business award winners are, front row, from left, Renae Aldridge of Crosspointe Christian Church and Traci Foster of MiDigitEL; middle row, from left, Linda Zublick of Grosse Pointe Theatre, Stu Alderman of The Neighborhood Club, Betty Hodges of Full Lotus Yoga, Marion Fikany of St. Clare of Montefalco School, Brian Thomas of Paul Davis Restoration of East Michigan, Olga Tecos of Aree Day Spa and Lori Stefek of Stefek’s Auctioneers & Appraisers; and back row, from left, Dr. John Putnam of Back to You Osteopractic, Jessica Keyser of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Mary Fodel of Full Circle, Joe Herd of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, Mark Heppner of Ford House, Anne Gryzenia of Grosse Pointe News and Dan Curis of Champs Rotisserie & Seafood.

## Chamber champions resilient businesses

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce put a spin on its annual dinner this year, forging its Pointer of Distinction Awards to honor local businesses who persevered during the pandemic.

The annual membership dinner and Resilience in Business Awards took place March 10, at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods. Sixteen organizations were singled out for not only surviving the pandemic and its related challenges, but thriving.

Master of Ceremonies Ted Everingham

remarked about the start of the pandemic, which shut down much of the world almost exactly two years to the day.

“We were looking forward to another bright and busy year,” he said. “... Little did any of us know we were on the brink of a global pandemic.”

Families and busi-

nesses alike faced challenges, from long lines and empty shelves at the grocery store, to transitioning to virtual meetings, reduced hours of operation and staff shortages.

“During this whole time, businesses were struggling to fight this

See CHAMBER, page 10A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Sandbars in Lake St. Clair become increasingly visible as February saw water levels decrease by nearly a foot in a single month.

## Lake levels see continued decrease

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Just two years ago, Grosse Pointe marinas, cul-de-sacs and lakefront prop-

erties were scrambling to combat flooding brought on by record-breaking lake levels.

Four of the Pointes were forced to construct marina risers in 2019, to

keep the docks above water, while the City, Park and Woods sent letters to marina regulars in 2020, preemptively

See LEVELS, page 8A

## Employee retention may prove difficult with city income

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — As city administration and council sat down for initial budget talks in the City of Grosse Pointe this year, the rate of inflation as it relates to employee retention had a head seat at the table.

While the anticipation of a 3.3 percent increase in property taxes in fiscal year 2022-23 — the highest cap the state has set

on taxable value of property since 1994 — may sound like good news for a city budget, it is significantly lacking in comparison to the 7 percent real-world rate of inflation city employees saw impacting their bank accounts last year.

With property taxes filling the role as the primary source of revenue for the City, the math does not add up.

“When you try and pay

See INCOME, page 3A

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



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# Pitters sale Q's? Just ask Pitters

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — No one on the current Park council held office nearly 5½ years ago in June 2016, when city officials approved the purchase of Phil Pitters Landscaping commercial property, encompassing one acre at 2226 Alter Road at Vernor in Detroit, abutting a Park residential neighborhood.

Also, the current Park city manager was one month shy of being hired as an entry-level administrator.

Consequently, at the Monday, March 7, council meeting, when someone whose identity city officials couldn't verify submitted a letter seeking details of the Pitters transaction, the answers were thin.

The writer and at least one concurring council member were especially concerned why the city's \$393,200 payment for the property was split into a four-year \$285,000 land contract and \$107,000 consulting agreement for the same period.

"I wasn't available at that time," said Nick Sizeland, current city manager. "It was a prior council and city attorney. We were trying to find the who, what, where, when and why of that."

"We'll never understand why it was a land contract," said Councilman

Vikas Relan, agreeing with the writer. "It doesn't make sense. Why would you buy property in Detroit with a land contract? That's ridiculous. So, we don't have the answer on what we actually paid \$107,000 for?"

"It's kind of hard for us to reconstruct what happened when we weren't there," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "I trust our leaders that preceded us did have the best interests of the city in mind."

"That's a matter of opinion," Relan said twice.

Asked by email this week to explain his opposition to land contracts specifically in Detroit and to substantiate his matter of opinion, Relan didn't respond.

Neither did he answer interview requests last year regarding the Pitters purchase.

"Multiple attempts to reach Relan on the issue went unanswered," reported Kate Vanderstelt in the Sept. 9, 2021, Grosse Pointe News.

Relan wasn't asked to comment on the topic for an op-ed by former Park mayor Greg Theokas published in the Sept. 2, 2021, Grosse Pointe News.

Reacting to scant answers during the council meeting, Park resident Ron Porter posted on the city's Facebook site, "So, the answers are 1) The City received no services for its \$107,000 and 2) No rent was paid to the City

for Pitters to use it for the last 5 years."

## Voila

While the transaction's terms and purpose are beyond firsthand experience of many interested parties, they're within earshot of two local telephone calls to the property's former owner, Phil Pitters, and Sizeland's predecessor, retired manager Dale Krajniak.

So, the short answers are:

The land contract gave the city multiple budget cycles to pay for a toehold on the property while edging out other buyers and preserving its relatively benign special land use designation for landscaping services approved years ago by Detroit officials.

The consulting agreement provided for Pitters to maintain an office at the Alter location to reinforce the property's use as a landscape operation.

"Pitters allowed us to spread payments over multiple years with a down payment that gave us a continued presence on the site to maintain the special land use," Krajniak said. "That's why his sign was always up, saying 'Phil Pitters.' He did some office work there because the special land use approval was done in concert with his landscape services company. It was

See PITTERS, page 8A



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**Former congresswoman and now Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller, left, and Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., announce \$4.5 million in federal funding to jumpstart a \$17 million infrastructure project in St. Clair Shores intended to reduce combined sewage overflows into Lake St. Clair and, thereby, along the Grosse Pointe shoreline.**

## Federal funding announced

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Smokey Yunick, the mad genius of American auto racing, pulled a stunt during the 1968 NASCAR season that parallels mainstream efforts by municipalities to increase storm water sewer capacity and reduce backup flooding during flash rains.

Always trying to outmaneuver regulators — you don't race cars; you race the rule book, Yunick said — he complied with limitations on fuel tank capacity.

At the same time, he capitalized on the rule book's lack of specifica-

tions for the length and diameter of the fuel line.

Yunick thereby rolled out a race car with a regulation tank fitted to an 11-foot-long, two-inch diameter fuel hose that held five more gallons than otherwise.

The theory: more gasoline, fewer pit stops, finish first.

The same kind of thinking is behind work in Grosse Pointe Park to increase storm sewer capacity by cleaning pipes of debris and obstructions. The cleaner the pipes, the more runoff they hold before the system is filled or things go wrong at pump stations in Detroit, causing water

to back into basements, as happened last summer to thousands of residents.

Similar thinking convinced federal officials to partially fund a \$17 million Macomb County project to maximize sewer capacity and control flow in a 12-foot diameter pipe feeding a crucial pump station one mile north of the Grosse Pointes.

"An enormous pipe goes down from Eastpointe to Nine Mile into this facility," said Candice Miller, Macomb's public works commissioner and former congresswoman, standing among three,

See FUNDING, page 4A

## AWARDS:

Continued from page 1A

"Votes, naysayers certifiable," respectively.

Staff Writer Kate Vanderstelt placed third for Best Columnist with her I Say, "Michigan Summers: A perspective from an outsider." She also earned an honor-

able mention in the Spot News category for her coverage of last summer's flooding.

Second-place honors went to Meg Blondin Leonard in the Feature Story category for "Run, Walk and Roll 5K helps those living with complex issues."

Reporter Brad Lindberg earned third

place in the Government/Education News category for "Pushback on advancing drop box deadlines," while fellow staffer Laurel Kraus earned an honorable mention in the same category for "A virtual future for GP courts?"

Kraus also received third place for Enterprise News Reporting for her series on the City of Grosse Pointe's attempt to create a historic district, which residents opposed and ultimately shut down.

Photographer Renee Landuyt placed third in the Photo Story category for her coverage of the Detroit Zoo's new lion cub, the first one born there in 40 years.

The Grosse Pointe



News also garnered several design awards, including a sweep of the Best Page Design category. First place was awarded to its fishing content pages; second place to its skiing pages; and third place to its Valentine's Day pages. Staff members Anne Gryzenia and Donna Zetterlund, as well as Landuyt and guest contributor Kelley Muzingo, were singled out for the awards.

For the Special Section category, the same team members earned honorable mention for the Father's Day section and the entire Grosse Pointe News staff was awarded second place for its Wedding Guide.

On the advertising side, an assortment of honors were awarded:

**Best Digital Ad** — First place, Instagram — We want you back! (Gryzenia and Marketing Specialist Olivia Monette)

**Best Health/Fitness Ad** — Third place, Skye Salon Bridal Services (Monette); honorable mention, Beauty Culture — Bridal Beauty Countdown (Monette)

**Best In-House Content Promotion** — First place, Wedding Guide Promo on Instagram and Facebook (Monette and Gryzenia); third place, Artichoke Recipe Comes to Life (Monette); honorable mention, contest (Monette)

**Best use of color** — First place, Marker 88 — The Keys are Open! (Gryzenia)

**Community Business Promotions** — Third place, Community Restaurants Come Together (Gryzenia, Zetterlund and Advertising Manager Shelley Owens)

**Entertaining Services** — First place, Detroit Academy of Etiquette (Monette); second place, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

(Production Manager Ken Schop and Account Executive Julie Sutton); third place, Kuhl and the Gang (Monette)

**General Retail** — Honorable mention, JHouse Juice (Monette and Sutton)

**Home Furnishings** — Third place, Sargent Appliance — King of the Grill (Gryzenia and Account Executive Paul Biondi); honorable mention, Sargent Appliance—Feeding an Army? (Gryzenia and Biondi)

**Home Service** — Third place, Viktor & Sons — Brick Envy (Monette)

**Real Estate** — First place, Finer Pointes — House & Home — Lewiston (Zetterlund, Staff Writer Alexis Bohlinger, Gryzenia and Sutton)

**Restaurants** — First place, The Bricks Restaurant (Gryzenia)

**Small Ads Work** — Honorable mention, Atelier, small ad integrated with weekly recipe (Gryzenia, Sutton and Monette)

"The Grosse Pointe News sales staff was thrilled to receive multiple advertising awards across a wide spectrum of categories and certainly honored to be named runner-up in the Excellence in Advertising category," said Shelley Owens, who manages the advertising department. "The sales team's first and foremost priority is establishing and maintaining strong relationships with our advertising partners whose success is critical and entwined with ours. We are grateful for their partnership each and every week."

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# Woods forgoing colonial standard

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — An ordinance around since 1952, Grosse Pointe Woods is on its way to forgoing a standard of colonial facades in its business district with an updated ordinance.

Currently, buildings are to use “architectural design elements generally described as ‘colonial,’ ‘Williamsburg colonial,’ ‘Georgian colonial,’ ‘early American,’ ‘classic’ or ‘traditional,’” per the city’s code of ordinances, sec. 50-373. The problem, city officials say, is there has been large discrepancy in defining “colonial” architectural elements.

“It didn’t give you much guidance,” Building Official Gene Tutag said. “What is it? What are you looking for? Throughout the years we’ve tried to make it more visual — what we’re looking for, what materials we’re looking for.”

The department struggled with defining what made a building colonial in design for years, making it a difficult ordinance to enforce. With recent developments featuring more modern designs, Tutag and the planning commission have decided the use of quality materials holds more weight than the colonial design aspect of the building.

“After numerous discussions with the planning commission and the former mayor,” Tutag said at a committee of the whole meeting Monday, Feb. 28, “... rather lengthy, lively talks, it was decided with the planning commission that we don’t want to do away with the colonial

theme. We’re still going to have it in the ordinance that you have before you, but it’s not going to be a requirement.

“What we’re looking for is quality materials in this ordinance change,” he added. “Colonial or early American design will be the suggested architectural theme, but not required as it is in the ordinance now.”

As Tutag said, the city’s ordinance change will include taking out language to require colonial elements, though colonial elements still will be encouraged in new construction. Tutag added he also has provided the planning commission with a list of materials that shouldn’t be used on Mack’s building facades.

Tutag hopes the change allows the city to continue to develop Mack’s business district without turning away more progressive developers.

“I think easing of the colonial restriction will make the city more friendly for development,” he said.

At the committee of the whole meeting, Councilman Todd McConaghy added, “I think you’re going to satisfy both groups of people — the people who really want the colonial (and) the people who want to expand a little bit. And, Mr. Tutag, I think you hit it right on the head. It’s not necessarily (about) it being colonial or not, it’s the quality of materials.”

The ordinance change went before council Monday, March 21, was certified and will be sent to the planning commission for a public hearing tentatively scheduled for the April planning commission meeting.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Woods is pursuing ridding its ordinance of required colonial elements in building facades, encouraging more modern developments on Mack Avenue.

## City braces for funding challenges

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Along with employee retention and rising retiree healthcare costs, the City of Grosse Pointe is facing a significant challenge with its capital project fund as initial budget talks for fiscal year 2022-23 begin.

Having tackled large-scale projects — the new public safety and public works buildings and adaptive reuse for the court and council chamber, replacing a 28-year-old fire truck, purchasing garbage trucks and cushions and repairing park and city hall facilities — the City’s capital project fund has seen average expenditures over the last five years of \$1.4 million.

As it stands, revenue left at the end of each fiscal year — above the 25 percent needed to keep the general fund balance at a level to retain the City’s AAA bond rating — acts as the singular source of input into the capital project fund.

This means the average revenue deposited into the fund over the last five years has been \$734,996, which is approximately half of the expenditure amount.

At this rate, city administration reported, the capital project fund will be depleted by 2024 without additional funding.

As such, looking for additional sources of revenue for the fund will be

a main focus for city administration.

“Some of the underground water and sewer infrastructure can be paid for through user fees, but you also have to be careful about not raising your water and sewer fees too much, so it has to be a balance,” City Manager Pete Dame told council. “There are additional sources of grants that are coming down the pipe from state and federal, so we’re hoping to be well-positioned to take advantage of those and there are ways that you can raise additional sources of revenue.”

Playing into this challenge is the fact that the operational costs of the City’s refuse program currently exceed the funds available through the solid waste levy, meaning the program cannot sustain itself, let alone provide extra funds to purchase garbage trucks, which then must come from the capital project fund.

Part of the monetary challenge is the loss of the Detroit transfer station, which now requires an employee to drive to a landfill past 26 Mile Road each day. However, use of an alternative landfill as negotiated by the Grosse Pointe Solid Waste Authority would cost an

estimated \$40,000 per year.

“There’s a wide range of things that you could do,” Dame told council. “You could choose to reduce the level of services or you could choose to pay for them in different ways. You can choose to make the case that if you want to keep the services the way they are, that the solid waste levy should be increased, but that’s a big, hard discussion.”

Tightening the requirements and enforcement of payment collection for large refuse items such as furniture and appliances may be one avenue the city could explore.

“Our level of service is exemplary and certainly we don’t want to trim that back unless we have to,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said, “but if we can just enforce some of the procedures that are already in place and start to bill people for abusing it, I think that would get people to understand that it’s not just you put it out there and there’s no cost to it.”

A rewards program for residents for recycling through GFL Environmental, which subsequently could ease the load on refuse collection, also currently is in the works.

## INCOME:

Continued from page 1A

employees just to keep up with what the Consumer Price Index says is inflation, which is 7-plus percent last year, and our taxes only go up 3.5 percent,” City Manager Pete Dame explained, “it exacerbates an already tight situation where the employees are not likely to feel like they’re even being made whole, but you can’t make money that isn’t there.”

While private companies may be able to raise their prices to cover employee wage increases and head off what is being labeled, “the great resignation,” Michigan cities are capped by the state’s rate of inflation, which determines property tax increases.

Reporting a “severe challenge in hiring part-time workers and specialized workers like a mechanic or for jobs requiring a commercial driver’s license,” many part-time positions in the City went unfilled last year, despite the end of extended unemployment. Including yard waste workers, lifeguards and parking agents, the City has found itself unable to fill positions at pre-pandemic pay scales.

“To help people keep up with inflation would be my goal as a manager,” Dame said, “and try to create other incentives to maintain our good employees. You want to do these things, but then you’re held back by what’s possible financially.”

Included within the City’s five-year forecast, presented during the council meeting Feb. 28, is a roughly 15 percent pay increase, equivalent to approximately \$1.50 or \$2 more per hour than what employees currently are earning.

This reportedly puts the 2022-23 fiscal year budget at a deficit before city administration has even begun working on

it.

A plan also is being explored to partner with an adjacent community to essentially borrow a licensed mechanic one or two days a week, at an annual cost of \$15,000 to \$25,000, and who would in turn begin training the city’s in-house staff to circumvent the need for a mechanic in the future.

Additionally, within city council’s set goals for the year, and going forward, are focuses on establishing employee retention and recognition strategies, as well as conducting a compensation review using Michigan Municipal League data.

After council receives the draft budget at its April meeting, the annual budget hearing is planned for May 9. City council then will adopt the new budget during the council meeting May 16.

### Retiree healthcare also a budgetary concern

Noted within a pre-budget report by city administration, “the largest unknown affecting the City’s financial future is the future cost of providing retiree healthcare to the City’s existing retirees.”

With the cost increasing an average of 10 percent annually, the report said, it is expected to cost the general fund \$500,000 next year.

While the contract of a defined benefit health insurance plan for retirees has not been offered to new employees since 2008 and 2009, roughly 50 employees currently still are receiving the benefit.

The City’s other post-employment benefits, or retiree healthcare, system is only 7.73 percent funded largely because sufficient funds were not set aside decades ago when the benefits were promised, paired with the increases to healthcare cost growing much higher than the rate of inflation.

As such, the City handles its annual retiree

healthcare costs on a “pay as it goes” basis. Budgeting for the annual expected costs each year, it currently has just more than one year of funding set aside.

“The unknown future costs of this legacy benefit poses a significant financial challenge for the foreseeable future,” Dame noted in the report, “increasingly encroaching on other potential City priorities.”

Following a council vote during the February meeting, current non-union city employees hired before 1997, who previously were required to pay \$1,400 annually into the retiree medical fund until the date of their retirement, now will be required to pay \$2,500 annually under the new budget beginning July 1. Union contributions already automatically increase as a percentage of pay.

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# The only constant is change

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

Never let failure be anything other than an opportunity.

That is a mantra Clark Durant adopted early on and has shared with countless others as an attorney, educator and elected official.

Durant, 72, learned that lesson growing up on Lincoln Road in the City of Grosse Pointe while attending Grosse Pointe University School.

After reading a book titled "The Mind of the South" by William Cash in high school, Durant knew he wanted to attend college in the South.

"I was very intrigued with its culture and history," he said.

He only applied to one college — Duke University — with the hopes of playing golf there, having been a two-time junior club champion at the Country Club of Detroit.

"I went down and was hitting golf balls for the coach, but I knew I hadn't reached the standards he was looking for," Durant said. "I was sitting in the high school library on April 1 of my senior year, I'll never forget the date, and the headmaster came in to tell me I had been turned down by Duke. I didn't even make the wait list!"

That headmaster, Gilder Jackson, told Durant he could set an appointment for him with the director of admissions at Tulane University, but couldn't guarantee he would get in.

"We had an old Nash Rambler, so my dad and I jumped in the car and off we went to New Orleans," Durant recalled. "The interview went well and I was accepted to Tulane. So much of the work I've done over my life grew out of that Duke/Tulane experience."

At Tulane, after many leadership experiences,



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Clark Durant and his wife, Susan, of Grosse Pointe Farms; Ambassador Andrew Young; son-in-law, Jeff Sturges, and daughter, Maggie Sturges, of Grosse Pointe Farms, after Young presented Clark Durant with the Millennium Candler Justice Prize in Atlanta earlier this month.

Durant was one of four seniors invited to attend a dinner in 1971, at the president's house that doubled as a board dinner for the Carnegie Foundation. He ended up seated next to the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, the long-time president of the University of Notre Dame.

"He suggested that I should consider Notre Dame for law school," Durant said. "I was a good Presbyterian boy. Notre Dame wasn't even on my radar, but that conversation changed the trajectory of my life."

During law school, he taught undergraduate courses on the great books and encountered a "eucharistic community of people" and began to see a different purpose in life.

Durant was sitting next to Hesburgh again in September 2000, but under different circumstances. He had been invited by M. Peter McPherson, then the president of Michigan State University, to join he and Hesburgh in the president's box at Spartan Stadium as MSU hosted Notre Dame in their annual football game.

State won 27-21 on a fourth down touchdown pass with less than two minutes left in the game.

"Everyone was going crazy and Fr. Ted and I could only look at each other and pray for the

next game," Durant laughed.

Before law school, Durant had to satisfy a brief military obligation as an ROTC graduate, then worked briefly at Hillsdale College. As an economics major, he was hired for the summer of 1971, to be an assistant to the director of seminars at the Foundation for Economic Education in upstate New York where he met Susan, his wife of nearly 49 years.

"She came into the lunchroom and the only available seat was next to me," he recalled. "She had on this lovely green dress and I instantly fell in love with her mind. She's far better than I deserve."

Durant said he called his mother a few days later and told her he had met the woman he was going to marry. The couple, who live in Grosse Pointe Farms, have four children and six grandchildren.

After finishing law school in 1976, Durant wasn't sure if he was going to return to Michigan. Another talk on the phone with his mother changed that.

"She told me that even though he wouldn't say it, my father wanted me to come back and join his law practice," he said. "How can you say no to your mother?"

His father finished law school two years before Durant entered Notre

Dame.

"He never even finished high school," Durant said. "He volunteered for World War II after Pearl Harbor and worked his way up to the rank of captain."

During his first years in practice, Durant represented low-income clients pro bono. That led to his confirmation by the U.S. Senate after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan to the board of the Legal Services Corp., an agency that provides legal services to the poor.

"Sometimes people make bad choices and I wanted to be part of creating new alternatives," he said. "I've tried to be a voice for the voiceless all my life."

Another push for an alternative came in 1990, after Cardinal Adam Maida gave a speech to the Detroit Economic Club about a new approach to education in Detroit. In 1991, he asked Durant to try to create a new kind of school. Durant co-founded the private Cornerstone School that year with 167 students. It grew to more than 2,000 students at four locations.

Cornerstone converted to public charter schools in 2009, and now serves 3,000 K-12 students across five campuses.

Durant and Hesburgh kept in touch and in 2005, despite his age and

being nearly blind, Hesburgh came to Michigan to celebrate Mass with Maida when the Durants joined the Catholic Church. He also visited a Cornerstone school during his visit.

Having lost the 1990 Republican primary for the U.S. Senate, Gov. John Engler urged Durant to run for the State Board of Education in 1994. He served as president before stepping down in 1999.

"I wanted to get back to a focus on Detroit," he said. "Real change comes from being on the ground."

Durant continues to serve as chairman and CEO of Cornerstone Education Group and is co-founder of the Andrew J. Young Cornerstone Center for the Complete Life. The school is named for the former ambassador to the United Nations and Atlanta mayor, and teaches the three dimensions of a complete life — length, breadth and height — that were espoused in an early sermon by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The center adds the virtues of humility, joy, patience, courage and forgiveness.

Young attended the center's dedication, along with Ed Bastian,

CEO of Atlanta-based Delta Airlines.

Durant is a Winston Churchill Fellow and first met Young, then the honorary chairman of a Churchill painting exhibition, at the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta.

"The Cornerstone schools are named after an American founder and a civil rights leader to tell the unfolding story of the American promise," Durant said. "Our newest school is named after John Adams and Andrew Young."

The museum now exhibits a banner that tells the story of the complete life and the unfolding story.

For his decades of work, Durant was honored earlier this month with the Millennium Candler Justice Prize, which was established by the descendants of Coca-Cola founder Asa Candler.

The award ceremony was held in Atlanta in conjunction with Young's 90th birthday, who also is a previous recipient.

"I was deeply honored to be presented this award by the ambassador," Durant said. "He is the last living adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and our relationship is a very special thing to me."



Clockwise from bottom left, Ambassador Andrew Young, Clark Durant, Delta CEO Ed Bastian and a Cornerstone student at last year's dedication of the Andrew J. Young Cornerstone Center for the Complete Life.

## FUNDING:

Continued from page 2A

2,750-horsepower storm pumps capable of pumping nearly 250,000 gallons per minute at the Chapaton station on Nine Mile below Jefferson. "It's servicing all of Eastpointe and most of St. Clair Shores."

Contractors already have been invited to bid on rigging the Nine Mile pipe to increase its holding capacity and manage flow.

"It assists in (water) storage," Miller said during a news conference Friday, March 18.

"We're going to be installing weirs, rubberized bladders if you will. During a heavy rain when you have all this flow, we'll be able to put those bladders up, hold the flow back and gently release it so we are able to send the flow down to Detroit for proper treatment."

The new system is intended to reduce combined sewer overflows into Lake St. Clair. Overflows contaminate the Grosse Pointe shoreline manifested by beach closings at Farms Pier Park.

"This will not eliminate overflows," said Miller, commissioner

since 2017. "In the time I've been here, we have done a number of changes to our operational processes which we think have reduced the overflows by about 30 percent. This project, we think, will reduce overflows by another 30 percent."

Step-by-step improvements to the sewer network are the most affordable and practical method of reducing discharges, she said.

"The optimal way to change these things is to separate sewers, but to separate sewers in this particular area you're probably looking at well over \$400 million," Miller said. "That's not going to happen, probably. My

approach to this is how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."

Although work takes place underground and could start within two months, construction won't require digging up Nine Mile and disrupting traffic.

"You're never going to see it," Miller said. "We're using existing infrastructure. We tried to think about value engineering and the way we can design something using existing infrastructure to its capacity."

About one-third of the project is being paid with federal funds obtained by Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., with whom Miller served in Washington.

"We started talking about this four years ago — how could we work to stop this sewage from ending up in Lake St. Clair and keeping the beaches open," Stabenow said. "Today, in addition to passing the infrastructure bill, which is going to help Michigan broadly, we have specific help for this project. This one will receive \$4.5 million to jump-start what needs to happen."

The source of money to pay the balance hasn't been found, although the state could be tapped.

"Because the federal government passed the American Rescue Plan, the states have some money," Miller said.

"We don't plan on bonding. We think we're going to be in good shape here, hopefully."

Another facility in St. Clair Shores, the Martin Drain Pump Station on Jefferson at Bon Brae Street, also is due for upgrades.

"There's \$1 million earmarked for about a \$5 million project," Miller said.

"My experience in solving problems is you step forward, you make progress, you keep it going," Stabenow said. "The commitment has been made — \$4.5 million plus the other \$1 million is not a small amount of money. Other opportunities are there to add to it. We're going to get it done."

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## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Suspended and expired

A 32-year-old Center Line resident was pulled over at Vernier and Helen for expired plates on his 2009 Pontiac at 1:12 p.m. Tuesday, March 15.

He was able to produce a Michigan driver's license but no vehicular insurance. A LEIN check showed his license was suspended.

The man was issued citations for driving while license suspended and expired plates.

## Damaged steering column

A resident's vehicle, parked in the driveway of a home in the 1800 block of Bournemouthe from the morning of Sunday, March 13, to Tuesday, March 15, was broken into via the front driver's side window.

Damage to the steering column was the only damage reported. No items were reported missing from the car.

## Sprayed words

A resident in the 1000 block of North Oxford awoke Sunday morning to foul words spray painted in red at the bottom of their driveway.

The incident occurred sometime between the evening of Saturday, March 19, and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20. The suspect is unknown.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Mixed up

Police converging on the 1100 block of Devonshire shortly before 10:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13, found a 44-year-old Detroit man drunk.

He'd mistakenly entered someone else's home without permission in search of his girlfriend, according to police.

"(He was) very intoxicated, cited for disorderly conduct and released to his sister's custody," reported an officer.

## Car stolen

A 2020 Dodge Charger was reported stolen at 3:47 a.m. Thursday, March 17, while parked

in the driveway of a house in the 800 block of Trombley.

## Stolen bike

In the springtime, a criminal's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of stealing bicycles.

A blue and green Gary Fisher mountain bike was stolen overnight Thursday, March 17, while stored in the basement of a multifamily dwelling in the 1100 block of Beaconsfield.

The incident reportedly happened between 10 p.m. and noon the next day.

Fisher originated the term "mountain bike" in the late 1970s and is considered one of its inventors.

## Lights out

A woman driving a car without headlights at 3:11 a.m. Saturday, March 19, attracted a patrolman's attention as though she'd turned on the high beams.

During a roadside investigation at the intersection of Vernor and Harvard, the officer arrested the driver, a 40-year-old Eastpointe resident, for drunken driving.

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Suspended license

After being pulled over for speeding 40 mph at Kercheval Avenue and Rivard Boulevard at 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 14, a 24-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving while license suspended.

## Keyed car

An unknown suspect keyed a 2021 Mercedes while it was parked in a city lot Tuesday, March 15.

## Repeat drunken driver

A 61-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at East Jefferson and Lakeland Street at 4:22

a.m. Thursday, March 17, for speeding 51 mph.

After failing sobriety tests and giving a preliminary breath test reading of 0.23 percent, he was arrested for a third offense of operating while intoxicated.

## Speeding while intoxicated

A 37-year-old St. Clair Shores man was pulled over for speeding 47 mph on East Jefferson and Lakeland Street at 3:28 a.m. Friday, March 18, and arrested for operating while intoxicated. A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.18 percent.

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

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Down for the count

A decorative joint street sign and stop sign at Champine Place and Roland Road was found sheared off at the base, with the metal post broken in half Monday, March 14. There weren't any tire tracks leading up to the sign and the pieces appeared to have been moved onto the easement after being struck by an unknown source.

## Running a red

After running a red light at Mack Avenue and Moross Road at 4:25 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, a 21-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and cited for driving while license suspended and an improper plate.

## Underage smoking

A 16-year-old Farms boy was found smoking a tobacco vaporizer inside an area school at 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, March 16.

He was suspended for five days and received a citation for underage smoking.

## Working together

A 47-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated on Mack Avenue at 10:58 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, after an off-duty Detroit officer alerted a stationary patrol vehicle of her erratic driving.

## Helping hand

After his vehicle was seen nearly causing an accident and unable to maintain its lane on Lakeshore Road at 7:42 p.m. Friday, March 18, a 92-year-old Farms man was pulled over and found to be suspended due to medical reasons, for which he received a warning.

Because the man was on his way to pick up a carryout order, the officers drove him home, picked up the food and returned his vehicle as a courtesy.

The next day, the man was noticed driving down Lakeshore again and was cited for driving while license suspended.

## Grab and run

After asking the clerk for two bottles of tequila each worth \$69.99 at a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue, a man grabbed them off the counter and ran while

the clerk had her back turned and was reaching for a third bottle at 12:07 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

The suspect is a black male, approximately 30 to 35 years old, and was wearing a gray hooded shirt, black skull cap, dark pants and a light gray shirt. He had arrived in a Black Audi Q7 SUV.

## Operating while intoxicated

After a vehicle was pulled over at 1:37 a.m. Sunday, March 20, on Mack Avenue for straying from its lane and an expired plate, the 23-year-old Farms driver smelled of intoxicants and had glassy eyes.

The woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated, as well as cited for preliminary breath test refusal and an expired plate.

## Driving on drugs

A 36-year-old Washington woman was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs at 5:50 p.m. Sunday, March 20, after being pulled over for speeding 40 mph on Moran Road and following reports of a possible intoxicated driver.

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

(313) 885-2100.

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Defective equipment

A 47-year-old Detroit man was arrested at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 14, after a patrol officer noticed the driver's side turn signal and brake light on the man's vehicle were not working.

During the incident at the intersection of Lakeshore and Vernier roads, it was discovered the man also was driving on a suspended license. He was booked and then released on a \$100 bond.

## No insurance

A 43-year-old Detroit woman was stopped by a patrol officer at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, on Lakeshore Road near Clairview Road.

The officer noticed that the woman's vehicle had an expired license plate. The vehicle also was unregistered and had no insurance. The woman was arrested and booked before being released on a personal recognizance bond.

— Ted O'Neil  
Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department, (313) 881-5500.



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## Public safety gearing up

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — A rifle lease-to-buy program for Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officers will go forward after further discussion at the March 7 council meeting.

The program, discussed at a committee of the whole meeting Monday, Jan. 10, will allow the purchase of updated rifles assigned to each officer in the city, who will pay the city back over time via paycheck deductions until he owns the

weapon. The rifles will be individually sighted to each officer.

"Because of how the rifles are sighted and used for each individual officer, it really ... gives them that optimal advantage if they had to take a hard shot," Public Safety Director John Kosanke said.

He added the old rifles, not sighted to the officers, lack accuracy in emergent situations.

"When you shoot from 100 yards, you don't want your aim to be off," Kosanke said. "You want

See SAFETY, page 8A

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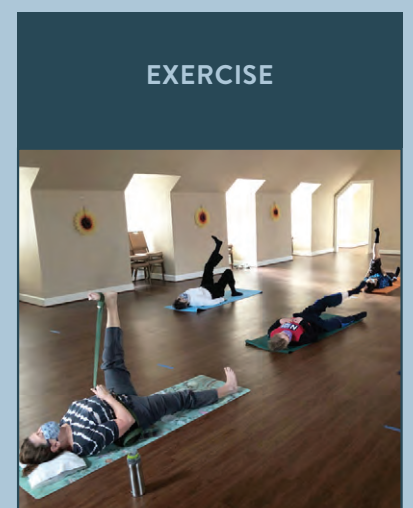
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# Grosse Pointe News

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## OUR VIEW

# Simply the best

The Grosse Pointe News is having a moment.

In February, we became a “Best Local Newspaper” finalist in HOUR Magazine’s annual contest, up against the likes of the Detroit News, Free Press and Macomb Daily.

Earlier this month, we earned a Resilience in Business award from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

But being named Newspaper of the Year on March 17, by the Michigan Press Association? At our ripe ol’ age of 82? Well, that just put the cherry on top of our sundae.

To say we are proud of the work we produced during an intense, news-filled and invigorating year hardly captures it.

We are sort of still catching our breath from this win. But the truth is, after a small celebration (after all, it was St. Patrick’s Day), we went right back to work, doubling down on our commitment to become even better.

So what does the honor of Newspaper of the Year mean to you, our readers?

First, we are confident in our ability to provide you with hard-hitting news. From flood coverage by Kate Vanderstelt, to Laurel Kraus’ series on the failed attempt to establish a historical district in the City of Grosse Pointe, to author Scott Burnstein’s series, under the editing of publisher John Minnis, on the disappearance of JoAnn Matouk Romain, we are recognized as one of the state’s best in keeping you informed.

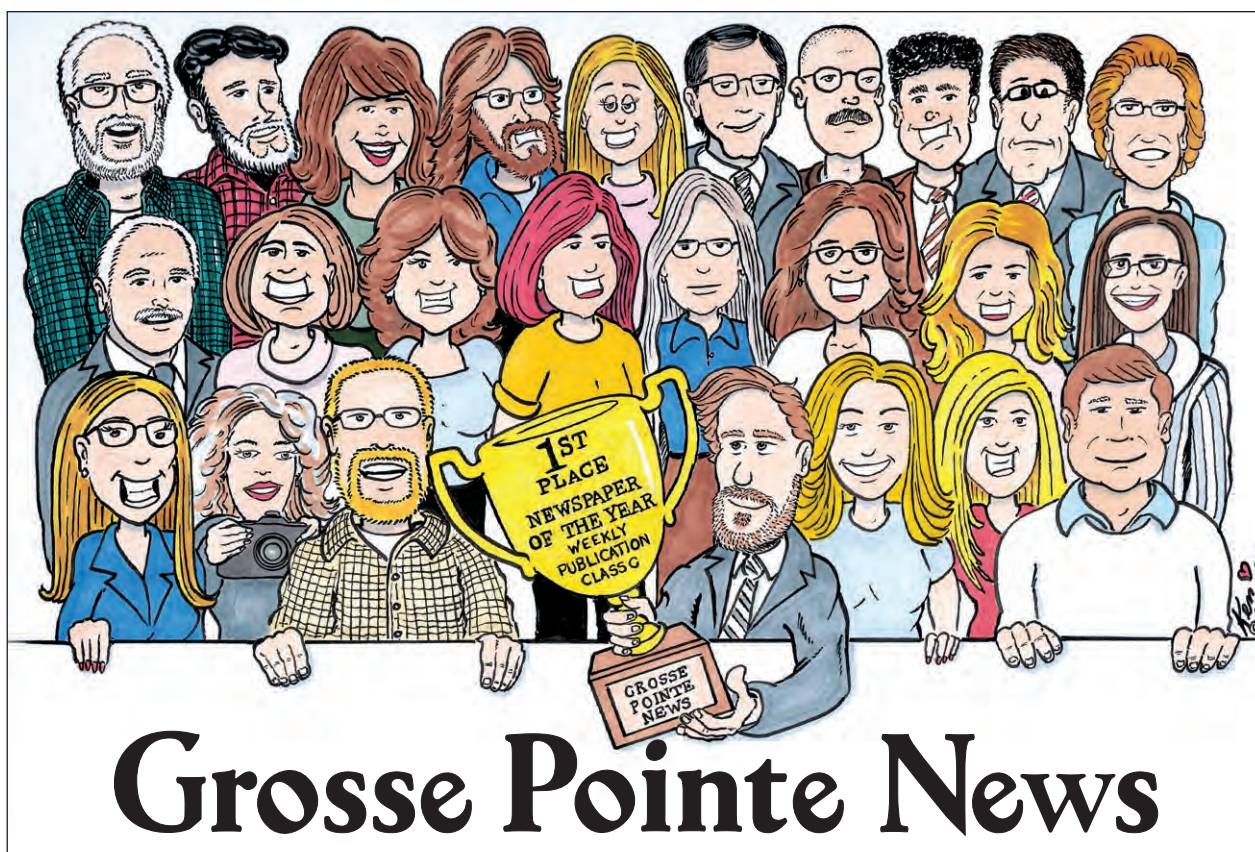
Ms. Kraus and Brad Lindberg keenly break down complex city government issues with stories on topics like drop box deadlines and the future of Grosse Pointe courtrooms following the pandemic. Again, recognized among the state’s best.

Feature stories? Yes, the MPA says we have some of the best writers in the state. Award-winning photo stories from Renee Landuyt, thought-provoking editorials and sublime columnists? Yep, the MPA says we have that too.

It inspires us to know that not only what we report has been recognized as among the state’s best, but also how we visually present it to you in our special sections and advertising too. Story packages on skiing, Valentine’s Day, Father’s Day and our stunning Wedding Guide come to you courtesy of our top-notch team of writers and graphic designers.

You may not instantly recognize all of our names. But a huge team works to bring you the best paper, week in and week out, including Mike Adzima, Alexis Bohlinger, Paul Biondi, Kristin Martin Duus, Anne Gryzenia, Michael Hartt, Dave Hughes, Meg Leonard, Melanie Mahoney, Terry Minnis, Olivia Monette, Ted O’Neil, Shelley Owens, John Pigott, Mary Schlager, Ken Schop, Julie Sutton and Donna Zetterlund.

But the heart and soul of our daily operations comes in the form of our fearless editor-in-chief, Jody McVeigh. She is the McCartney to our Beatles, the yin to our yang. From writing to editing to layout,



# Grosse Pointe News

ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

## Salute to super heroes among us

With the endless stream of Marvel movies at our Disney+ disposal, one might think we are hitting a collective superhero overload. But Brad Lindberg’s March 17 article, “Mail carrier saves house,” shook off any evil-fighting fatigue we may have had by illustrating an extra special hallmark of the Pointes — we happen to have a town full of super people.

The story reads like the latest episode in the Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D series:

*The quick, superhero-like actions of postal carrier Sherri Wright saves Grosse Pointe Park council member Brian Brenner’s family’s home from fire. She deftly alerts public safety officers, who patiently and deliberately pinpoint the cause. They save the home from any further damage, in yet another case of teamwork to keep residents safe and protected.*

It’s a story that restores your faith in humanity. It’s also a tale that makes us proud of where we live.

Brenner praised public safety’s quick and measured response to save his home. Postal carrier Wright, understated about the importance of her quick action, described the Brenners as “always nice” in her years of delivering the family’s mail.

Despite the hits the Brenner home has taken lately — his home experienced major flood damage as well last summer — he is not wallowing. He is choosing gratitude about where he lives and those who helped him.

Brenner told the Grosse Pointe News, “Hopefully this will serve as a reminder to all how simple things can have profoundly positive impact.”

It is a wonderful example to witness from one of our city leaders. We hope his display of graciousness and the superhero spirit of those around him is contagious.

No matter what city you hail from, many of us could nominate a hero at our city hall, parks and recreation, department of public works or public safety who has gone the extra mile for us or our neighborhood.

Just ask Farms resident Beth Kinkade. Kinkade was so grateful to the folks in the Farms Public Works Department after last year’s floods that she put a shout out on Facebook asking for donations to thank the employees.

She hoped she would get enough to buy them lunch. Instead, she received \$3,120. Red Crown in Grosse Pointe Park jumped in to supply the food. As public works employees feasted on delicious food, complete with decorated tables and desserts, Kinkade gave each worker an envelope containing \$130 as a neighborhood thank-you.

We are hard-pressed to find another community like ours with this same dynamic.

Pointers, let’s be grateful for where we live and appreciative of who we live around. Look out for each other more often. Make gratitude our neighborly calling card. The world has now become too harsh a place, too unsteady and unrelenting for anyone’s liking. The instinct to help in crisis, to lighten each other’s loads and to be grateful, especially within our own community, should be front and center.

While more sagas are sure to come in the Pointes, we take comfort in this basic truth: not all heroes wear capes.

To all of you super people, we are super grateful.

this powerhouse does it all well and does her best to keep our band in tune.

And we would be remiss if we didn’t remind you how fortunate we are as a paper to have the leadership of our owner, Sean Cotton. Before he purchased the Grosse Pointe News in 2020, this paper was on pandemic-induced life support, financially speaking. While we have a supportive base of News enthusiasts — 7,000 subscribers strong and counting — there are some very vocal and passionate haters of us around town.

Believe us when we say how significant it is that we are still standing. Better yet, we are clearly thriving in spite of every obstacle newspapers face today.

Famed Alabama football coach Nick Saban once wryly said, “If you want to make everyone happy, don’t be a leader. Sell ice cream.” We are pleased to say we are willing to do both for our community, even if that leadership loses a few readers along the way, or lest we are too “sweet” for some people’s tastes. We aim for our paper to inform you, challenge your thinking on occasion and bring smiles to your faces.

We will keep working hard to be the best local paper in the state, representing what this community is all about.

Literally and figuratively speaking, you have our word on it.

## Wayne County vaccinations\*

As of 3/22	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	748,197	682,660
% of residents 5+	74.0	67.6
% 5-11 years old	29.2	25.8
% 12-15 years old	56.5	52.3
% 16-64	76.5	69.5
% 65+	93.1	86.0

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

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# 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.

## Preserve, strengthen our democracy

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the guest view, “Actions vital during Ukraine crisis” by Dr. Zenon John Kossak in the March 10 issue. Dr. Kossak, a Ukrainian

immigrant, fled his home country at the end of WWII in 1945, eventually arrived in the United States and achieved the American dream. His sentiment about feeling “fortunate to be in this wonderful country” is shared by countless immigrants who value freedom and democracy, perhaps even more than

some Americans who were born in the U.S.

Dr. Kossak posits that more could have been done to help prepare Ukraine ahead of a looming invasion. And he seems to suggest that Russian President Vladimir Putin was deterred from invading Ukraine while Donald Trump was in office because the former president would have responded with military force. Indeed, in a recent interview with the New York Times, Alexander Vindman, former Ukraine expert for the National Security Council, agrees that Trump would have prevented the war, because, according to Vindman, “he would have attempted to give away Ukraine. He would have ended NATO, and Russia

would have unleashed a long-term hybrid warfare that would have probably, ultimately culminated in a military confrontation anyway.”

And while Vindman admits that President Joe Biden initially may have been short sighted in his efforts to defend U.S. interests with regard to Ukraine, he gives Biden “a lot of credit within the bounds of U.S. foreign policy of 20 years for holding the line and for now stepping up and doing the right things.”

As the latest horror show plays out in Ukraine and a new Iron Curtain descends upon Russia, let us take pause, give thanks for a free press and remember that words matter.

Twentieth-century dic-  
See LETTERS, page 7A

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



I SAY By Sean Cotton

# Many thanks for the support



I would like to thank the staff at the Grosse Pointe News for what was one fine St. Patrick's Day. At around 2:25 p.m. that day, we heard that we had won Newspaper of

the Year in our class in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. To say that I was proud would be an understatement. I was and am extremely proud of not only the win we had in the top overall category, but in the many awards for individual articles and media sections. We had an amazing showing and it was our staff who brought us those wins.

Additionally, these wins come on the heels

of great accolades from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce as recipient of their Resiliency Award and as a finalist for best newspaper in HOUR Detroit Magazine's Best of Detroit contest. The readers of HOUR Detroit choose the finalists during an open nomination phase during which thousands of votes are cast for the top categories. Reaching the finalist stage is a huge win for the staff and me. It is a

recognition that the readers here are proud of their paper and impressed with the content.

The chamber and HOUR Detroit Magazine hearten us as we endeavor to satisfy readers' interests and serve our business community. The Newspaper of the Year award provides the icing on the cake as recognition from professionals in our industry, that the content we're providing is of the high-

est quality.

We owe deep gratitude to the community that provides the inspiration for our work. We also thank our growing list of subscribers and advertisers that have shown how much they believe in us over the last year.

Last, thank you John and Terry Minnis. Working with you has shown me that publishing is a rewarding adventure. You've reaffirmed for us all the importance of local

print journalism. I wish you the best in the next chapter of your lives and know that we are always here with an open invitation to contribute your thoughts and opinions to the publication and community — the best community where I have ever lived. And starting April 1, I won't just be the owner of a paper recognized for its award-winning journalism, but also its publisher. I say that feels pretty good.

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1947

75 years ago this week

**WOODS PARK OFFICIALLY OPENED:** Pursuant to the authorization given by the citizens in the referendum vote on March 10, the Grosse Pointe Woods authorities closed the deal for the purchase under land contract of the 43.7 acres of the Edsel Ford estate on the lake last Friday, March 14. The

deal was consummated by the paying to the Ford estate of \$2,000 additional on the purchase price, plus \$1,500 as the village's prorated share of the taxes.

**CITY, PARK STUDYING NEED TO ADOPT LONG-RANGE PLAN:** Whether it be the spirit of spring when the birds start building their nests and the farmers planting seeds, or from some other unexplained impulse, it is noticeable that at least

two of the Grosse Pointe municipalities have been giving thought recently to the greater beautification and orderly development of their communities. At the last meeting of the Grosse Pointe City Council, a start was made toward hiring a trained city planner to come here and collaborate with the local officials in developing a master plan for the future growth and progressive development of the City.

### 1972

50 years ago this week

**JACOBSON'S SITE PLAN GETS OKAY:** One more hurdle has been overcome in the construction of the proposed Jacobson's expansion in the Village. City of Grosse Pointe Council approved the site plan for the proposed store expansion and related parking structure.

**Obituaries:** Alma Fauser Caulkins, Edward N. Bossner, Charles O. Thompson, Joseph A. Malcoun, Jean Winter

**WEB SITE ON INTERNET:** Joining the ever-growing presence on the Internet, the Grosse Pointe News has created its own web site, [grossepointenews.com](http://grossepointenews.com). "It was inevitable that print and electronic media would merge," said John Minnis, editor and general manager of the 56-year-old Grosse Pointe News. The web site has been designed and programmed by Valerie Encheff, the Grosse Pointe News' technical operations manager. The site consists of a front, or "home" page, a link to news stories and a staff page, listing Grosse Pointe News employees and phone numbers for readers' convenience and advertisers' convenience.

**Obituaries:** H. Sanborn Brown, Robert E. Fox, Calvin E. Schorer M.D., Ula C. Perry, Grant Carpenter Manson

### 2012

10 years ago this week

**FIRE WAS INTENTIONAL:** The unfinished investigation of the Coins & Stamps fire is far enough along for Chief Stephen Poloni to reach a verdict. "There's no question the fire was intentionally set, without doubt," he said. The three-alarm fire before sunup March 7, gutted the one-story business on Mack between Lakeland and University in the City of Grosse Pointe.

**Obituaries:** William S. Cox, Scott Charles Crader M.D., Janet Dillon McPhail Danaher, George E. Daudlin Sr., Horst Egon Englert, Robert Hicks, Leatrice Valade McKinley, Garnet Mae Nelson, Robert G. Rein, Herbert Ewart Smith, Carroll B. Treder, Thomas J. Verbiest Jr., Astrid Irene Elkins

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

tators, including Stalin, Hitler and Mao, denounced critics and members of the press as "enemies of the people." Unfortunately, so did our former president. He also described information he perceived to be critical against him as "fake news," a term Putin recently codified into law that strictly prohibits factual reporting on his unprovoked war of choice. Russian journalists who dare to stray from the state narrative of a "special military operation" face up to 15 years in prison.

These words — "enemies of the people," "fake news," "special military operation" — are the language of authoritarians who wish to crush dissent.

In his book, "On Tyranny," Yale historian Timothy Snyder acknowledges that while "Americans today are no wiser than the Europeans who saw democracy yield to fascism, Nazism, or communism in the twentieth century," we need not follow the same path. "Our one advantage," notes Snyder, "is that we might learn from their experience. Now is a good time to do so."

We can opine about who's to blame for the war in Ukraine and speculate about potential outcomes, but it's also

worth considering how we, as U.S. citizens, as members of the Grosse Pointe community, can work to preserve and strengthen our democracy — by making eye contact, by choosing our words carefully, by offering gestures of good will. These small, everyday acts provide resistance against illiberal forces that seek to undermine democracy and threaten the sovereignty of individuals and nations. When we live up to American ideals through our words and actions, as well as domestic and foreign policy, we demonstrate true solidarity in standing with Ukraine.

MARIA WILLIAMS  
Grosse Pointe Park

### Pointes tapped for HP water bill

To the Editor:

The DIA, Detroit Zoo, SMART (and more millage votes come November) and now the Pointes appear to be on the hook for Highland Park's bad water and sewer debt. Who's next?

Is there any business or cultural institution in this area that can pay its own bills?

City administrators are right to push back on the Great Lakes Water Authority attempting to pawn this off on the Pointes. The Farms alone appears to be on the hook for close to \$500K

most certainly a budget line item which was not anticipated and will, ulti-

mately, be passed along in the form of increased water and sewage rates to its citizens.

JEFF HENEL  
Grosse Pointe Farms

### Laundry lesson

To the Editor:

I just read "Mail carrier saves house" (March 17, Grosse Pointe News). I was surprised with the line, "Nobody knows how a basket of laundry sitting inside my doorway could self-ignite," said Brenner."

Actually, this is well known and you might want to write a short follow-up story on it to save other homes from such fires.

When cloths used with kitchen baking oils, or linseed oil, or auto oil are thrown under other cloths, such as in a laundry basket, it's not uncommon for the oil in those cloths to ignite within just a few hours time.

For the same reason, they should not be thrown in the trash can, only to erupt into flames in the trash can.

Oily cloths should always be washed separately, never left to sit on top of one another. Personally, I put any oily cloth outside for a day or two after washing it in the basement sink. (Find more information here: [bit.ly/3tqISs4](http://bit.ly/3tqISs4)).

You've got a good paper.

PHIL MATOUS  
Grosse Pointe Park

### 1997

25 years ago this week

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**Richard Wilson**  
*The Finer Pointes Art Contest Judge*

Born and raised in London, Wilson's interest in art began with a passion for graffiti art in the 1980s. Since 2010, he has developed his skills as a portrait painter on walls using spray paint. In the last few years, he has been doing more studio-based work using oils on stretched canvas or panel.

Wilson splits his studio time between commissioned works or on his own personal projects. His work mostly is led by his interest in portraiture and figurative work, while practicing with still-life pieces.

Learn more at [richardwilsonartwork.com](http://richardwilsonartwork.com)

Grosse Pointe News and Paragon Art Collective



8A | NEWS

**SAFETY:**

*Continued from page 5A*

it to be as precise as possible. So with this program — and more departments are starting to do it — it gives that officer the confidence (needed). The accuracy is going to be at its best from a long shot.”

As part of the approval, department policy ensures all officers are qualified through certification to possess and use the rifle. Officers also will require written permission in order to take the gun home after shift hours for external shooting training.

“They have to have a written permission through my office in order to do that,” Kosanke said, “so these rifles will not be going home unless there’s cases where they can show me that they are using it for extra training. ... The policy’s very strict and very comprehensive with how these guns are used, how they’re handled, how they’re stored and going through the qualifications and certification in order to use this rifle.”

Currently, the department partakes in two shooting training sessions a year. With the new rifles there will be additional department training upfront.

Inquired by Councilman Thomas Vaughn, the city’s insurance will cover any claims related to law enforcement activity, while misuse or policy violations will be the responsibility of the employee.

The purchase of two rifles to cushion the department in case of rifles needing repair was approved at the meeting, with Councilman Michael Koester being the sole descender. A perk to the employee, Koester suggested the program be introduced through subsequent contract negotiations.

“This isn’t so much a perk (to the officer) as

it’s an advantage also to the city,” Mayor Arthur Bryant said.

Added Kosanke, “Yes, it is an advantage to the city that we ... (are) not spending the (bulk) of the money here. It’s the employee that’s spending the (bulk) of the money to have a rifle that’s adjusted and fitted and sighted specifi-

cally for that person. If (the city) were to (pay for) this for everybody ... it would cost us a very large amount, as you can see.”

Councilwoman Vicki Granger asked how frequently the rifles are used in the department, to which Kosanke said they have been raised a few times in his 32

years, but use “is limited and we hope to keep it that way.”

Along with the rifles, 17 new bulletproof vests were approved for purchase for the department at the council meeting, to replace a batch expiring in the next few months. The vests expire every five years.

**LEVELS:**

*Continued from page 1A*

informing them on the potential of marina closures.

Basing data off a period of record going back to 1918, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported months in 2019 and 2020 saw the highest Lake St. Clair levels since 1986.

Now, thanks to drier conditions across the entire Great Lakes basin, levels in June — the projected high for the year — are forecasted to be nearly two feet below those in 2020, continuing a steady decline that began last year.

“A lot of the water in Lake St. Clair comes in from the St. Clair River, which is fed by Lake Huron, which is also lower than it has been in recent years,” said Keith

Kompoltowicz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District Watershed Hydrology section chief. “So just overall, there’s less water in the entire Great Lakes system.”

Already, February saw what Kompoltowicz called “an interesting phenomenon on Lake St. Clair,” as the water level dropped just shy of a foot in a single month.

“What happens in the winter oftentimes is we get a big ice buildup in the St. Clair River and that ice buildup essentially acts like a dam and it holds water back,” he explained. “So the water that’s flowing into Lake St. Clair is greatly reduced. From January to February, there was a significant water level decline mostly because of that phenomenon.”

The Army Corps’ six-month forecast shows

levels remaining below what the Pointes have seen in recent years.

“Historically, the lake peaks in July,” Shores Director of Public Works Michael Way said. “Army Corps of Engineers projected it to peak in June this year. This should mean a continuation of a fall in the lake level.”

This is positive news for the city’s stormwater system, park and drainage, he added.

That said, although levels heading into the summer are forecasted to be 6 inches to a foot below last year, the lake still is 9 to 12 inches above average.

“We’re certainly not looking at those destructive highs that we’ve seen a couple years ago,” Kompoltowicz said. “We’re still above average, but we don’t expect the return to those record levels.”

**PITTERS:**

*Continued from page 2A*

important for us to maintain that zoning. We didn’t want to discontinue the use of it.”

**Strategy & tactics**

Krajniak and Pitters didn’t hesitate to explain the transaction. Their accounts differ regarding the length of the payment period. Krajniak said five years. Pitters said four years and admits he’s thinking of other things these days. Theokas, in his op-ed, said four years.

Either way, the Park presently owns the property free and clear.

“It’s in our name now,” Sizeland said.

The property fronts about 300 feet of Alter, starting at Vernor and extending more than halfway down the block to the Kercheval alley. The rear of the property borders 10 residential lots on neighboring Wayburn in the Park.

“The Park and I had been discussing the purchase of this property for years,” Pitters said.

“I was hoping to have dirt and gravel that is stored in the Windmill Pointe Park overflow parking lot moved to Pitters’ site,” Krajniak said. “We could clean up the overflow lot, next to houses on Barrington.”

“Several businesses approached us to buy our property,” Pitters said. “You can imagine how many people would want that block, anywhere from an alarm company, car dealer, car wash, outdoor beer and wine restaurant.”

“Someone mentioned a car dealer was interested in the site,” Krajniak said. “Our concern was the well-being of residents whose houses back up to that location.”

Pitters’ once-thriving garden center on Alter succumbed to everything from big-box gardening stores to gas stations hawking discounted mulch. It was time to sell and consolidate operations on 4½ acres and a 50,000-square-foot warehouse he still owns one

mile away on Algonquin in Detroit.

“The Park didn’t have the money to pay for it right off, so I sold it (the Alter property) on a five-year land contract,” Pitters said.

That’s the \$285,000.

A service agreement, termed a consulting fee, allowed the Park to use both the Alter and Algonquin lots to store municipal equipment and material, such as snowplow blades, gravel and dirt excavated during public works projects and water main repairs.

“The balance was paid by a service agreement for the time the Park used my yard for storage or if a DPW crew needed help with something,” Pitters said. “When they dredged

because we were using their property to store water and sewer equipment and supplies; piping, sand and gravel. We charged the consulting to the water and sewer fund. We charged the land contract to the capital improvement fund.”

The multi-year payment plan also was crucial to maintaining the property as zoned, rather than risk it being sold to someone else and possibly rezoned for something considered intrusive to residents on Wayburn and nearby.

“That property is in a residential district that was granted special land use approval for landscape material storage,” Krajniak said. “We wanted to assure ourselves that the use of that site for such

*‘There is effort in good faith by the city as well as Detroit that maybe this can be an opportunity for either our public works department or a private developer that wants to see this area thrive.’*

NICK SIZELAND  
Grosse Pointe Park City Manager

the marina, they stored spoilage at our Algonquin facility for a year because it had to dry before it could be hauled off site. I asked if we could show the service agreement part of the sale as a consulting agreement that I would record as personal income versus the sale of the property.”

“Consulting services is in effect reported as ordinary income as opposed to the sale of property which is recorded as a capital gain,” said Krajniak, a former certified public accountant.

Thereby the \$107,000. Beyond providing a storage service, Pitters did some consulting, advising and evaluating.

“And anytime I needed assistance on something, such as the workmanship of an outside contractor, Phil responded,” Krajniak said.

“That was the consulting agreement,” said Jane Blahut, city finance director. “It made sense

material storage would continue and not abandon that use.”

The ‘Pitters’ sign is down now.

“Pitters needed to get some stuff out of the property: computers, old documents, chairs and stuff,” Sizeland said at the council meeting. “They should be out by the end of the (last) week.”

Next up is the future.

“We’re working closely with our neighbors in Detroit, seeing what we can do with the property,” Sizeland said. “There is effort in good faith by the city as well as Detroit that maybe this can be an opportunity for either our public works department or a private developer that wants to see this area thrive.”

If Sizeland is ever asked the city’s intentions for the property and has no idea, he can quote Vice President Kamala Harris: “It is time for us to do what we have been doing, and that time is every day.”

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# Know Your Classroom hosts panel

By Michael Hartt  
Schools Reporter

On March 16, Know Your Classroom, a Grosse Pointe-based organization attempting to enlighten the community on what and how education is being taught in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, hosted its first event at the Country Club of Detroit.

Know Your Classroom leader Sandy Hudson said the goals of the event were twofold: to raise funds for the organization's initiatives and further educate attend-

ees.

"(We gathered) people who in some ways may know a lot about Know Your Classroom or may know very little," Hudson said. "We hope that people leave with a more sound understanding of the priorities of our organization and what is happening in GPPSS. The money we fundraise (also) will help support our efforts to inform the community across various channels."

The event included a presentation by Hudson and a panel moderated by community member

Monica Palmer. The panel speakers were Michigan State Board of Education member Nikki Snyder and Jackson County Patriots member Amy Hawkins.

In both the presentation and panel, topics such as enrollment decline, financial deficits and a lowering of academic standards were discussed.

Snyder, as a Michigan State Board of Education member, was able to compare some of the trends discussed in GPPSS to those she works on statewide.

"So when we talk

about what our kids have been through in the last two years, when we consider what they need moving forward, we are still working with leadership that is not even again addressing how many students have left public schools and addressing the fact that learning loss is at the forefront of one of their experiences in the last two years," Snyder said.

Hawkins noted she has experienced similar phenomena through the work she does in Jackson County.

While she noted the importance of discuss-

ing the issues, she also detailed steps for community members to take to get more involved in concerns they may have about their school system.

"My first assignment (would be to) go to a school board meeting. (If you) don't know what to say, just go to sit and watch," Hawkins said. "Or, ask questions. You as a taxpayer and as an investor in the community have a right to ask questions."

Palmer and Hudson wrapped up the event by asking the panel members questions from the audience and discussing upcoming school board meeting dates they said the audience should

attend to stay informed about GPPSS.

With Hudson detailing that there were 125 attendees who listened to the panel responses and questions, he considered the inaugural event a success.

"The feedback from those who attended last Wednesday was that it was very informative, with facts of which many said they were unaware," Hudson said. "More importantly, (the attendees) felt motivated by the energy of the panelists and many have made sizable donations and are asking, 'What else can I do to get involved?' Eyes are being opened and this event was just the start."

## Analysis: GPPSS enrollment projections and the state of the school system

By Michael Hartt  
Schools Reporter

*Schools Reporter Michael Hartt is supplementing his regular coverage of Grosse Pointe's private and public schools with analysis of commonly asked questions regarding schools in the community. Email mhartt@grossepointenews.org with questions you would like covered.*

### What do the most recent GPPSS enrollment projections say about the state of the school system?

When the student enrollment was presented to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education at its March 14 meeting, reactions from board members were mixed.

However, one thing everyone could agree on was the data definitively showed continued enrollment losses. By 2026, the district is set to lose more than 500 additional students, with its total student headcount decreasing from 6,610 to 6,098.

Board President Joseph Herd, while disappointed by the continued enrollment losses, saw the data as clarifying. He said he thinks it offers context to the situation and is glad it shows an eventual end to the district's enrollment losses.

"There were some factors that no one had any control over, like people leaving the state of Michigan and that there have been enrollment losses all around," Herd said. "There seems to be some stabilizing that is taking place. I mean, we're not going to have as many differences (in

enrollment) this year as we did last year. And it seems like the numbers of the kids that are coming in are evening out, (which will balance out total enrollment)."

In connection to Herd's comment, the data shows that while there will be a loss of nearly 600 high school students between now and 2026, 200 additional students will enroll in grades one through six during the same time period.

Herd said this is one of the reasons why further school closures currently are not being considered by district administration.

Several board members brought up concerns regarding the possibility of school closures because of how different the enrollment numbers are projected to be than what they were when many of the district's schools were built decades ago. The total enrollment of both North and South individually, for example, was previously higher than the projected combined total enrollment at both schools by 2026 — 1,769 students.

Board member Ahmed Ismail was, similar to Herd, disappointed by the enrollment projections, but cautioned the board to not fully attribute the enrollment losses to factors like a decreasing birth rate and people leaving the state.

Ismail also contended Plante Moran's decision to compare the enrollment losses in GPPSS to enrollment losses in other school districts in Wayne County. He said a more accurate comparison was between GPPSS and its peer school districts in ranking.

In numbers he calculated and discussed at the meeting, he found that

when compared to districts like Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Northville, Novi, Rochester and Troy, Grosse Pointe was the only school district to have enrollment losses totaling more than 10 percent since 2018. Among those districts, Novi had the lowest enrollment loss, losing only 1 percent of its student population.

While Trustee David Brumbaugh thought the figures provided by Ismail were interesting, he contended that it is difficult to compare school districts that are made up of different communities.

"Troy is a bigger school district than us," Brumbaugh said. "If you compare a bigger school district to a smaller school district, enrollment loss might look different. Some of that stuff might be driven by exogenous factors, like housing units coming on and offline (or) new schools. I think it's one of those things where it's definitely worth looking at the data and understanding it, but you also have to take a nuanced view as to how those districts might be different in kind or in scale than ours."

Overall, Brumbaugh thought the most compelling takeaway from the data presented is the need for GPPSS to expand further into early childhood care.

He referenced figures that show of the enrolled pre-K children living in the district, only 27.82 percent attend a public pre-K program, whereas 72.18 percent attend a private pre-K program. This is in comparison to the 85.51 percent of K-12 children attending a public school.

"It was nice to see in the

## GPPSS briefs

### Change in graduation dates

The Partners in Learning district newsletter went to the printer last month to be included in the March 17 edition of the Grosse Pointe News. Since then, graduation dates have changed. They are now:

- ◆ Monday, June 6 — North graduation;
- ◆ Tuesday, June 7 — North graduation rain date;
- ◆ Wednesday, June 8 — South graduation;
- ◆ Thursday, June 9 — South graduation rain date;
- ◆ Friday, June 10 — Alternate rain day for North and South, if needed.

### Input needed

The Grosse Pointe Public School System has posted the position for its next director of secondary curriculum, instruction and assessment. An important part of that process is input from stakeholders. Those interested in sharing their opinions are invited to fill out this profile survey — [bit.ly/3N8TR15](https://bit.ly/3N8TR15) — about the next instructional leader. Those interested in assisting with the interview process should contact Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop at [bishopr@gpschools.org](mailto:bishopr@gpschools.org).

### 'Great Works' concert

Grosse Pointe North High School's choirs present a "Great Works" concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores. The concert features AcaFella, Choraliers, CounterPointe, Norsemen, Pointe Chorale, Treble Choir and student soloists. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. Children younger than 5 are admitted free.

## Regina hosts annual Easter Egg Hunt

Regina High School Alumnae and Friends host the annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, at the school, 13900 Masonic, Warren. This year's "egg-citing" event includes a bunny petting zoo, the egg hunt and snacks. Guests are encouraged to bring their cameras for photos with the Easter Bunny. Tickets are \$15 for children, free for adults. The public is wel-



come. Registration is required by Saturday, April 2, online at [reginahs.com/egghunt/](https://reginahs.com/egghunt/).

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# A shop for all sizes

By Kate Vanderstelt  
Staff Writer

An idea Marilyn Smith always had in the back of her mind, she used retirement and the pandemic to bring her dream to fruition by opening a boutique shop that caters to women of all sizes.

“There were six girls in my family and I had one sister who was plus-sized,” Smith said. “The rest of us, we could exchange clothes and everything, but I had one sister who was plus-sized. And I thoroughly enjoyed going with her to Lane Bryant and Avenue, and she loved dressing, but there was something for her — very nice clothes and not just a big square kind of thing.

“I knew that if I ever did this, (opened a clothing store), I would have something for everyone,”

she said. “It may not be your style, but I have the size.”

Smith began her brand — Pursenality Plus Handbags and More — with an emphasis on handbags.

“This is something that I’ve wanted, always,” she said. “But life, children, husband and a whole other career is what I did first.”

Smith worked 32 years for the city of Detroit before she began her boutique out of a converted bus. She operated the mobile boutique three years, attending events like After 6 on Kercheval to gain momentum for her business. In 2020, her storefront at 18416 Mack in Grosse Pointe Farms fell into her hands.

The brick-and-mortar store has grown a sense of community in Smith,

one the mobile boutique lacked.

“On the mobile boutique, you know, you see someone at this location, but you don’t see them again,” she said. “But here I have met a lot of people just walking down to the market and they stop in ... to say hello, to see what’s going on.”

She has added two chairs to her decor since opening so visitors can sit and share their stories.

“Sometimes I think they just needed someone to talk to,” Smith said. “And we sit and talk.”

She added, “It has really been nice having the store and just building relationships with people.”

Though Smith’s brand initially started in handbags, it’s expanded to include clothing, jewelry



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Marilyn Smith started Pursenality Plus Handbags and More with an emphasis on handbags, but has grown her business to include clothes, jewelry and shoes.

and even shoes, on occasion. Her clothing line features unique finds, from designed jean jackets to dresses to funky pants and skirts.

As pandemic restrictions lighten, Smith hopes to expand her business to include events that encourage

the community to get out and mingle. She hopes to launch a “Mommy & Me” program, where mother-daughter duos could visit the boutique and decorate their own matching jean jackets. Other programming may include “Girls’ Night Out” and “Sip & Shop” events.

“There are a lot of things coming spring, summer to involve the community,” she said.

The Chamber of Commerce’s March Member of the Month, Pursenality on Mack is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

## Burns joins Downtown Detroit Partnership

The Downtown Detroit Partnership recently announced Grosse Pointe Woods resident Soula Burns as director of corporate partnerships.

Burns brings more than 25 years of sales and events experience and has represented some of Detroit’s premiere professional sports brands throughout her career.

Burns will be responsible for aligning businesses and corporations with the Downtown Detroit Parks initiatives, supporting Detroit’s transformation as a destination for corporate



Soula Burns

events and family-friendly activities. One of her goals is to expand and manage partnership

opportunities at a variety of involvement levels, including brand activations, rentals and naming rights for the parks.

“The rapid growth of DDP’s programming and initiatives requires new ways of thinking around corporate partnerships and sponsorships,” said DDP CEO Eric B. Larson. “Soula brings a strong commitment to creating meaningful relationships with partners that will ensure each experience delivers results and drives engagement. We are thrilled she’s joining our team.”

## Kapnick president receives benefits award

Kapnick Insurance recently announced Grosse Pointe Park resident Steve Peck, partner and president of employee benefits, received Assurex Global’s second annual Dan Duhamel Award.

“I was truly humbled and honored to be recognized with the Duhamel award,” Peck said. “Working with my Assurex peers over the past 19 years has helped me and my Kapnick team to become better benefits advisors to our clients.”

“The camaraderie and learning that occurred made the world a whole lot smaller and a lot more interesting,” he added about his regular attendance at Assurex events.

Since joining Kapnick nearly two decades ago, Peck has attended all of the annual benefits conferences and

many of the larger partners’ conferences, sometimes going as far as Paris, Dublin, Budapest and Hong Kong to connect with insurance peers from around the globe.

In addition to his committed conference attendance, Peck chaired or co-chaired the benefits conference four times and was a founding member of Assurex’s first benefits study group. He also was part of the private exchange task force responsible for providing advice and guidance after the passing of the Affordable Care Act.

“Steve has been a tremendous leader and builder of our benefits business,” said Jim Kapnick, CEO of Kapnick. “Under his leadership, our benefits division has grown over 700 percent and is recognized nationally as an elite practice.”

## CHAMBER:

Continued from page 1A

pandemic as best they could,” Everingham said. “Unfortunately, a few couldn’t make it, but many of them did. And they didn’t just survive, they thrived.”

Looking back over a time of uncertainty and fear, he continued, the chamber saw determina-

tion and grit. It created the Resilience in Business Awards to recognize organizations that have “done so much for the community for so long.”

Sixteen member businesses — “each with a story that’s unique, engaging and in many cases downright inspirational,” Everingham said — were selected for their innovation, resilience and ability to adapt and main-

tain their commitment to employees, customers and the community.

They are:  
**Aretee Day Spa** — Owner Olga Tecos was determined to keep her doors open out of an obligation to her employees and clients.

**Back to You Osteopractic** — The owners postponed their honeymoon to keep the new business running.

**Champs Rotisserie & Seafood** — Along with protocols to protect staff and customers, owner Dan Curis provided free and discounted meals to first responders.

**Crosspointe Christian Church’s Children’s Ministry** — Children’s programs were recreated in digital and printed formats that were either electronically or hand-delivered to homes, so its

programs never stopped.

**Ford House** — Even while shut down, Ford House maintained its staff and raised minimum wages. After a cautious reopening, it also opened its first major expansion in more than 90 years, with the addition of a new visitors center and administration building.

**Full Circle Foundation** — With a population that was difficult to serve during a pandemic, the foundation was able to provide virtual services, restructure its resale operation and provided outdoor programs for participants with special needs.

**Full Lotus Yoga** — During lockdown, the business offered outdoor events and virtual yoga classes, as well as raised money to provide free virtual yoga classes to hospital workers.

**Grosse Pointe News** — While working remotely, staff was able to expand and diversify the content of the newspaper, subscriptions for which have risen 15 percent.

**Grosse Pointe Public Library** — After all three branches closed, the library moved programs online, created a Google call connection so librarians could answer reference calls, offered curbside services and hosted food banks at each branch.

**Grosse Pointe Public School System** — Throughout the pandemic, whether virtual or socially distanced, teachers continued to teach and all 7,000 students continued to learn.

**Grosse Pointe Theatre** — The organization went dark for the first time in its 72-year history and

was forced to reinvent itself, including offering an entirely virtual 73rd season.

**MidigiTEL** — The cellular company, which opened in 2018, pivoted to meet demand by adding to its repertoire ultraviolet technology that mitigates viruses, bacteria and germs to help healthcare workers battle COVID-19.

**The Neighborhood Club** — The center closed for six months, offering as many virtual and outdoor programs as it could; waived membership fees and refunded money for canceled classes; and maintained its staff for the duration.

**Paul Davis Restoration of East Michigan** — Not only did the business open amid the pandemic, but it met a tremendous need following summer storms that caused basement backups and flooding.

**St. Clare of Montefalco School** — During the first days of the pandemic, students shared devices to meet with their teachers, until the parish rallied to raise funds to purchase devices so each child had their own.

**Stefeks Auctioneers & Appraisers** — Auctions transitioned to an online-only format and low-contact protocols were put in place to protect people who purchased auction items.

The chamber’s annual dinner was sponsored by SGRXSaves, Ascension St. John Hospital, Laser Giftware, Beaumont, Everingham & Associates, Wayne County Community College District, Tutor Doctor, MidigiTEL and Ford House.

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## Love/hate relationship?

### Grosse Pointe Theatre presents 'I Hate Hamlet'

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

It's no joke. Grosse Pointe Theatre is going for big laughs with the April 1 premier of its latest production, "I Hate Hamlet."

"I think it's going to be fantastic," director Michael Trudel said. "I'm excited about it. I've got six outstanding actors who are Grosse Pointe Theatre veterans, which you'll be able to tell when you see what these kids can do onstage. And the set is really well done, thanks to (set designer) Jackie DiSante. ... The finish line is in sight."

Trudel and his cast — Alan Canning of Bloomfield Hills, Jenni Clark of Royal Oak, Kevin Fitzhenry of Grosse Pointe Woods,

Elizabeth McQuillen of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mike Parker of Grosse Pointe Farms and Laura VerBeek of Grosse Pointe Park — have been hard at work for weeks, following writer Paul Rudnick's notes to a T.

"The cast is working hard to meet Rudnick's demands," Trudel said.

The comedy tells the story of Andrew Rally, a young, successful television actor who relocates to New York and rents a marvelous gothic apartment. With his television career in limbo, Rally is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet, but there's one problem: He HATES Hamlet. His dilemma gets even more bizarre with the arrival of the ghost of John Barrymore, who played the greatest Hamlet of



his time and previously lived in the apartment. A wild comedic duel over art, women, success and more ensues.

"It's not Hamlet. It's not Shakespeare," said Linda Zublick, Grosse Pointe Theatre executive director. "But it's just enough of a taste of it to have some fun with it."

"It can be called a ghost story," Trudel added. "John Barrymore's ghost can be seen by a few people and can't be seen by several people."

"It's a well-written script ... that opened on Broadway 31 years ago," he added. "Five years later, Grosse Pointe Theatre did 'I Hate Hamlet' and some of those people involved 25 years ago are helping me on this show."

The show has a number of twists and turns, which provide fodder for laughs. The hijinks are sure to delight audiences, Trudel said, which is among the reasons he chose to direct.

"I like to do comedy," he said. "Grosse Pointe Theatre over the last few years has been leaning toward musicals, which is OK, but I really enjoy comedies. The last three I directed — 'The Producers,' 'Moonlight and Magnolias' and 'The Fox on the Fairway' — are all comedies. I'm looking forward to the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DALE PEGG

Above, Alan Canning as John Barrymore. Left, Jenni Clark as Deirdre McDavey and Kevin Fitzhenry as Andrew Rally.

#### The details

**What:** "I Hate Hamlet"

**When:**  
8 p.m. Friday, April 1  
8 p.m. Saturday, April 2  
2 p.m. Sunday, April 3  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7  
8 p.m. Friday, April 8

2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9  
2 p.m. Sunday, April 10

**Where:** Parcels Middle School Auditorium, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

**How:** Visit [gpt.org/hamlet](http://gpt.org/hamlet) or call (313) 881-4004

tions in the schools," she added. "Since face masks are now optional in the schools, they will now be optional for our patrons, although recommended for anyone who might be at risk."

Staggered seating also remains in effect, with tickets sold in every other row of the newly remodeled auditorium at Parcels Middle School.

"We are grateful to the Grosse Pointe Public

See *HAMLET*, page 4B



Kevin Fitzhenry as Andrew Rally and Alan Canning as John Barrymore rehearse a scene.

## The Villagers offer fun, friendship through dancing

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The 2004 Richard Gere movie "Shall We Dance?" was a game-changer for Grosse Pointe Park resident Jim Creighton.

After watching the film, he pushed aside past hesitancy and decided to give ballroom dancing a try.

"I turned to my wife and said, 'OK, fine,'" he recalled. "The first few times it was three left feet, but it improves over time."

Creighton and his wife, Diana Zhou, have been ballroom dancing ever since. So much so that she became a ballroom dance teacher and the two of them are membership co-chairs of The Villagers, a local ballroom dancing club.

"We've been dancing with The Villagers as

guests, then as members, since around 2008," Creighton said.

They follow in the footsteps of a long line of dancers. The Villagers began in 1947, when four Grosse Pointe High School graduates whose husbands had just returned from the service decided to form a dance club. They arranged to have five dances each year at Lochmoor Club, who agreed to host the group. The four women invited friends to join them, resulting in 65 member couples who comprised the original group.

"Years ago, dancing was big," Creighton said. "There were lots of clubs, lots of bands."

Times certainly have changed, he added, noting a trend among many such clubs, including the local Merry-Go-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM CREIGHTON

The Villagers enjoy the ambiance of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club during an October 2021 dance.

Rounders, which disbanded in 2008.

"There's been an overall decline in membership among traditional ballroom dance clubs," he said.

The older demographic of most members is one reason; the pandemic is another.

Dances were put on

hold in February 2020, and though The Villagers have taken to the dance floor again, attendance is way down.

A third challenge with retaining members, Creighton noted, is rising costs. No longer exclusively meeting at Lochmoor Club, the group rotates its dance

locations.

"A challenge pre-pandemic, and one that's accelerated now, is country clubs and yacht clubs in the area are now changing their business models and expense structures," Creighton said. "We used to do five dances a year — October, December, February,

April and May/June. Now we're down to two."

Creighton recalled a time when The Villagers included 45 couples, or 90 members. Currently, the group consists of 24 member couples.

Membership, however, is about so much more than dancing.

"It's about being with each other, being with friends at dances," Creighton said. "It's an activity my wife and I can do together."

Creighton and Zhou go all out for the dances, donning a tuxedo and gown. Other members sport a jacket and tie. Cocktail hour kicks off each night, before a plated dinner is served. Once the live band strikes up, attendees are treated to three hours of nonstop ballroom dancing.

See *VILLAGERS*, page 4B

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# OBITUARIES

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

## Laurence McConway Scoville Jr.

Laurence “Larry” McConway Scoville Jr., 85, passed away peacefully after a battle with cancer Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at Bishop Gadsden in Charleston, S.C. He was born Sept. 24, 1936, in Brunswick, Ga., to Laurence McConway Scoville and Mary Williams Scoville, and moved to Grosse Pointe when he was a child. He was a 1958 graduate of Dartmouth College where he rowed crew and a 1961 graduate of University of Michigan Law School. On Aug. 20, 1960, he married his true love, Lynn Johnston, in Grosse Pointe. He served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves out of Selfridge Air Force Base from 1961-67.

He was an attorney at Clark Klein and Beaumont (now Clark Hill) his entire career, eventually becoming the managing partner of the firm. Larry was a contributor to his communities, serving as director of the Detroit Bar Association, president of The Detroit Club, director of the Detroit Economic Club and director of The Detroit Legal News. He and Lynn loved going to the theater together. Larry served on the Stratford Festival of America board from 1998 to 2006, and helped create the Michigan Members Association.

Larry enjoyed being active. Every fall he spent time bird hunting with his family and friends in the northern woods of Michigan and the quail fields of South Carolina. He enjoyed tennis, golf and croquet. One of his favorite places was the family cottage in Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada.

Larry was dedicated to his family and beamed when he could be together with Lynn and their children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lynn Johnston Scoville; their children, Evelyn Mary Scoville of Boston, Mass., Laurence McConway Scoville III and his wife, Lynne Connor Scoville, of Ann Arbor, and Robert Johnston Scoville and his wife, Sarah Allen Scoville, of Bedford, Mass.; and their six beloved grandchildren, Louise Evelyn Scoville, Katherine Davis Scoville, Laura Grace Scoville, Andrew Johnston Scoville, Lucy Allen Scoville and Evelyn Amabel Scoville. He was predeceased by his brother, Michael Williams Scoville.

A memorial service took place March 5, at the Chapel at Bishop Gadsden in Charleston.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of Larry, memorial donations may be made to the Stratford Festival,

bit.ly/3NeFDfx or by calling (519) 271-4040, Ext. 2275; or James Island Outreach, 1860 Camp Road, Charleston, SC 29412, or bit.ly/3wnPN7k.

The family is especially grateful to the staff at the Read Cloister Skilled Nursing facility of Bishop Gadsden, along with Lutheran Hospice who helped make Larry’s final months and weeks as comfortable as possible.

## Ryan Daniel Fitzgerald

Ryan Daniel Fitzgerald, 38, died Wednesday, March 16, 2022. He was born March 24, 1983, in Detroit. He is survived by his parents, Frank and Donna Fitzgerald; brother, Patrick Fitzgerald; sister, Margaret Mary Fitzgerald; and many loving cousins, aunts and uncles.

Ryan pursued his many interests with passionate enthusiasm. He was well read and enjoyed spirited discussions on current events, music, movies and travel.

A great sense of humor, quick wit and terrific laugh added to his magnetic personality.

Most importantly, Ryan loved his family and many friends, each of whom returned that love.

Near the top of his list was love for animals and outdoor activities. He excelled at kayaking, hiking and bicycling, thoroughly enjoying summers at Walloon Lake.

During college, Ryan led numerous weeks-long Wilderness Venture back country trips in Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest. Wherever he went he made lifetime friends.

Ryan loved a challenge. An avid bicyclist and long distance runner, he constantly trained to stay in top shape by doing laps at Belle Isle, rain or shine.

Ryan attended The Grosse Pointe Academy and graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School in 2001. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from John Carroll University in 2006, then completed graduate studies at PortfolioCenter and earned certificates in art direction and copywriting in 2012.

After college graduation, Ryan worked as a senior creative director and senior creative copywriter for advertising agencies throughout the country.

In 2019, Ryan began working for Silicon Valley-based technology company, Synopsys, where he advanced to senior sales development representative and was a team leader assigned to its Cambridge, Mass., office.

Visitation for Ryan takes place from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 25, with Rosary at 7 p.m., at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state Saturday, March 26, from 11:30 a.m. until the time of his funeral Mass at noon at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore,

Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are requested to Kevin’s Song, 21 Kercheval, Ste. 345, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. The mission of Kevin’s Song is to empower communities to prevent suicide and offer hope and healing to survivors.

Cremation arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

## Nancy Louise Duffy

Nancy Louise Duffy (née Newman) passed away peacefully Sunday, March 13, 2022, with her family by her side. She was 89.

During her time in hospice, her family shared favorite songs, poems and memories with her, and there was much laughter. The beloved wife of the late Donald T. Duffy, proud mother of seven, grandmother of six and great-grandmother of five, she was an inspiration to her family.

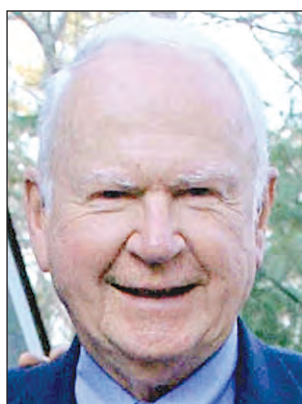
Nancy’s beloved husband of 50 years, Don, and two oldest daughters, Eileen Duffy and Donna Duffy (Tim Hecei), predeceased her.

She is the beloved mother of her five surviving children, Karen Broucker (Kyle), Maureen Duffy, John Duffy (Trish), Trish Kramer (Jim) and Doreen Duffy; and proud grandmother to Regina Hollibush (Shawn), Brenda Sullins (Sean), Caitlin Duffy (Brandon Gadde), Michelle Duffy, Nathan Kramer and Adam Duffy. Michelle’s boyfriend, Dan Kosowicz, also was dear to her heart.

With love and great pride, she was the great-grandmother of Jackson, Sienna and Quinn Hollibush, and Sophia and Landon Sullins.

Nancy is survived by her dear sister and brother, Nora van Doren and Raymond Newman. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Jeannette Newman; brothers, Jim and John Newman; and sister, Sarah “Sally” Collins. She also is survived by her dear sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Most and Carol and Pat Duffy. She was predeceased by her beloved father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Margaret Duffy, and brother-in-law, John Duffy.

Nancy was born Jan. 26, 1933, in Chicago, during the Great Depression. She grew up in an inner-city tenement apartment, surrounded by a loving, extended family from Ireland and neighbors who had immigrated to the area from all over the world. Throughout her life she availed herself of the cultural life around her, including listening to, studying and performing classical music, attending opera, performing in plays and visiting fine art museums around the United States. Her love of beauty and curiosity about the world is a continuing inspiration to her family.



Laurence Scoville Jr.



Ryan Daniel Fitzgerald



Nancy Louise Duffy

## George J. Francis

George J. Francis, 90, of Grosse Pointe Farms, died peacefully Saturday, March 19, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1932, George moved with his proud, Lebanese immigrant parents and siblings to the east side of Detroit in the mid-1930s. Growing up one of six children, George learned early the importance of hard work and a good education, including taking two buses to attend Detroit Catholic Central High School on the west side of Detroit, graduating in 1949.

Shortly after, George enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1950, where he spent the next four years stationed in Europe and California, working his way up to staff sergeant. He earned an honorable discharge in 1954, after obtaining a National Defense Service Medal and a Medal for Good Conduct. After a brief stint working in Cincinnati, George found his way back to Detroit. In 1959, he got an entry-level job in the mailroom at Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. Being naturally analytical, along with his hard work and determination to provide a better life for his family, he quickly moved to data management where he contributed to the company’s technological transformation from paper to mainframe, to personal computers and servers. He was the manager of information systems when he retired in 1994, after 35 years of service.

In one chance moment, a humble George met his one and only, Ellen MacDonald, a student-nurse at Providence Hospital School of Nursing, while standing up in his brother’s wedding in 1960. George and Ellen married in 1961, and with a mutual belief in the beauty of a large family, were blessed with 10 children over the next 14 years. George’s unyielding dedication to family, fatherhood, faith and friends helped him develop a true commitment to his community in East Detroit, serving as a youth sports coach, member of the St. Veronica School Board and St. Veronica Men’s Club, and active parishioner at St. Veronica Catholic Church, where his children attended school. His lifelong passion for sports included years bowling in the Knights of Columbus Leo the XIII bowling league with friends, as well as an almost perfect attendance record at his many children’s sporting events throughout their years at Notre Dame and Regina high schools. George also had a deep affection for the sports teams at the University of Michigan and spent numerous weekends cheering on the Wolverines.

George was meticulous in how he cared for the



George J. Francis

landscaping around his house, refusing to let anyone else cut his lawn until his later years. One of his other joys was getting up early Saturday mornings in the summer, scrambling a few dozen eggs, sizzling a couple pounds of crispy bacon and preparing French toast before cleaning and vacuuming his swimming pool so his children could enjoy it for the weekend. In his later years, George found vast enjoyment watching his children and 31 grandchildren find their own pathways in life. Fueled by his tremendous work ethic and desire to give back, George spent 20 years in retirement volunteering at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe (formerly Bon Secours Hospital). He also loved expressing his passions through social media posts about great music and decadent chocolate desserts. George was a humble, gentle, selfless, loving man who will be dearly missed by all who had the fortune of knowing him.

George is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Ellen; sons, Dr. Peter (Dawn), Dan (Jessica), John (Kim) and Joseph (Kelly); daughters, Debra Francis, Lisa Ayrault (Terry), Mary Kay Francis (John Jones), Ann Louise “Snip” Francis (Melanie Gilbert), Kristen Taylor (Bob) and Maureen “Mo” Krieter (Chad); 31 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. George also is survived by his brother, John (Nora); sisters-in-law, Rose Fischer and Sue Francis; brother-in-law, Bernard MacDonald (Carol); and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Rahmy, as well as his siblings, Joseph, Mary (Kouri), Louise (Brady) and Richard.

In keeping with the lifelong efforts of George to help those in need, memorial contributions in his honor may be made to The Capuchins, thecapuchins.org/.

Visitation takes place from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 27, and Monday, March 28, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state Tuesday, March 29, from 11:30 a.m. until the time of his funeral Mass at noon at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



## OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

**Richard C. Krausmann**

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident and business owner, Richard C. "Dick" Krausmann passed away Monday, Feb. 14, 2022. He was born July 3, 1928, to Edwin and Loyola Krausmann. Dick lived in the Detroit area his entire life and moved to Grosse Pointe in 1962.

The youngest boy in a family of nine, he served his country as a private first class in the U.S. Army. He worked with his brothers at their Hayes and Kelly Gulf service station before opening his own station at the corner of Cadieux and Kercheval in 1954, where he worked until his death.

Community involvement was important to Dick and he was known to strike up a conversation and make connections with everyone he met. For 50 years he was known to Maire Elementary School students as "Mr. Cross-man," the crossing guard who helped them get to school safely in sunshine, rain, snow, sleet or hail. In addition to crossing the kids and running a business during the week, Dick volunteered as an usher at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe. He and his wife, Celia, served there more than 30 years. He also was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a longtime parishioner of St. Philomena Catholic Church, where his children went to school.

Dick often could be found tinkering in his yard, mowing his lawn — which he did well into his 90s — or relaxing with his little dog, Wendie, in his garage, where he invited family and friends to sit down, relax and talk about the good old days. Dick loved to shop and his family and friends will always remember his colorful outfits, collection of hats and special Christmas pants. His family will dearly miss his boisterous laugh, exuberant smile and charm, but are comforted to know he joined the love of his life, Celia, in heaven on Valentine's Day.

Dick was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Celia; brothers, Jack, Edwin, George and Ray; and sisters, Yvonne Manchester, Loyola Andrews and Beverly Van de Velde. He is survived by his children, Richard Krausmann (Colleen), Patricia Krausmann-Vaughn (Thomas), Nancy Holden (the late Keith), Russell Krausmann (Laura), Julie Tripp (William), Jeffrey Krausmann (Karen) and Kenneth Krausmann (Kari); 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He also is survived by his sister, Marilyn Berry.

Visitation begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores, followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. The funeral will be streamed live at [sjasc.org/st-joan-live](https://www.sjasc.org/st-joan-live). Family and friends are encouraged to wear colorful clothing in memory of Dick. He will be laid to rest with Celia at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Beaumont Grosse Pointe



Richard C. Krausmann



Dr. Rudolph Armbruster

Chapel Fund, 468 Cadieux Road, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

**Rudolph "Rudy" Armbruster, Ed.D.**

Rudolph "Rudy" Armbruster, Ed.D., 89, died Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Rudy, the son of Rudolph and Theresa (nee Bohm) Armbruster, was born and raised in Detroit. After graduating from Detroit Northeastern High School, he briefly attended Wayne State University prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

After two years of service, Rudy moved back to Detroit, where he enjoyed working for Wrigley Super Market. One day at the local horse track, he placed a couple small wagers and won both races, including a daily double. He knew these winnings were enough to return to college, so he re-enrolled at Wayne State University the next semester.

Rudy earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and began his career as an educator with the Lakeview School District in St. Clair Shores. His second year of teaching, Rudy fell in love with Joan Bayne, a fellow teacher at Greenwood Elementary School. They were married Aug. 12, 1961, and were together 59 wonderful years until Joan's death in 2020.

Four years into his first teaching position, Rudy was promoted to principal of Maple Park Elementary School in St. Clair Shores. Rudy and Joan quickly started their family, raising four children on the east side of Detroit and later Grosse Pointe Park. He enjoyed coaching his sons' baseball teams, taking the family on camping trips across the United States every summer and bowling. Later in life, he developed a passion for the game of golf and reading.

While raising a family, Rudy went back to school to obtain his master's degree and a doctorate in education. He later took an administrative position as principal of Pine Lake Elementary School in the Bloomfield Hills School District, finishing his long career as a principal and counselor. Rudy also taught a few night classes at local community colleges and was an adjunct professor at Wayne State University.

Upon retiring, Rudy and Joan traveled the world together and also followed his love of golf, moving to Pinehurst, N.C., where they lived 20 years before returning to Michigan in 2014. Rudy was a kind, caring and compassionate man. When Joan became ill, he cared for her with the utmost devotion, even as his own health was declining. With love, help and support from his children and other caregivers,

Rudy was able to fulfill his wishes to remain at home.

Rudy was predeceased by his wife, Joan; brother, Ken; sister, Rose; brother-in-law, Vince; and his parents. He is survived and will be dearly missed by his children, Brad (Paula), Steve (Judy), Lynn Baggot (Joe) and Eric (Sara). He also will be affectionately remembered by his grandchildren, Emily, Anne, Grace, Ryan, Erin, Kyle, Allison, Gabriel, Anden, Leah and Shane, as well as by his dear brother, Rich (Cathy) and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass took place March 23, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Woods. Rudy will join Joan at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

The family sends a special thank you to Rudy's oncologist, Dr. Kafri and his team, as well as the wonderful caregivers who blessed him and allowed him to stay in his home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rudy's name may be made to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, [ccaalliance.org](https://www.ccaalliance.org); or the Alzheimer's Association, [alz.org](https://www.alz.org).

**Terrence Patrick Griffin**

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Terrence Patrick Griffin, 69, passed away Friday, March 11, 2022, in Naples, Fla.

He was born Feb. 1, 1953, in Grosse Pointe, to Joseph and Barbara Miesch Griffin, both now deceased. He graduated from St. Ambrose Grade School, then from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1973. He also attended the University of Alabama.

Terry previously owned Gray's Sports Shop in Grosse Pointe Farms and served on the Farms city council from 1993-97. He also was a former member of the Country Club of Detroit. After moving to Florida, he owned Callatran Car Service in Naples.

Golf was among Terry's favorite pastimes; he equally enjoyed watching and playing. He also loved college football — especially University of Alabama football — and politics.

Terrence is survived by his daughters, Erin Griffin (Jean Baptiste) and Emily Griffin; sister, Elizabeth Griffin; and brothers, Timothy Griffin, Joseph Griffin, Brian Griffin and Jeffrey Griffin. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Patricia Griffin Egan.

A memorial service takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 26, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Terry's memory may be made to St. Ambrose Catholic Church, [stambrosechurch.net](https://www.stambrosechurch.net); or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, or [cskdetroit.org](https://www.csdkdetroit.org).



Terrence P. Griffin

**Laurence Philip Keelan**

Laurence Philip Keelan, 85, passed away Thursday, March 17, 2022. Larry is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Sharon Marie; sister, Kathleen (Steve); and brother, Richard. He is predeceased by his beloved parents, Philip and Eugenia; and brother, Tom.

Larry was born and raised in Kalamazoo. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1958, with a degree in economics. He was a proud member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, where he met many lifelong friends.

Larry was the finest example of a family man. He married the love of his life, Sharon, in 1958, after meeting at MSU. Together, they raised six children, Daniel (Cindy), Colleen, Timothy (Corey), Maureen (John), Molly (Terry) and Kathleen (John). They will always remember him as a kind and gentle man.

Larry cherished his grandchildren, Cristin, John Philip, Noah, Lauren, Molly, Erin, Ryan, Adam, Emily, Michael Terry, Mary, Nathan, Carrie, Brendan, Meghan, Mary-Kate, Brian, Bridget, Michael Timothy, Hannah, John, Shannon, Jack Daniel, Laurence and Jack Thomas. His great-grandchildren include Erin, Deaglan, Oliver, Charlie, Finnick and Maeve. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews who hold him fondly in their memories.

His 25 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren knew to always expect his attendance at their sporting events, dance recitals, musical performances and important milestones. They could always count on him to be in the crowd with his classic grin and one of his MSU hoodies, shirts or jackets. His presence and constant encouragement will be forever missed.

Larry worked as a volunteer for St. Clare of Montefalco, devoting



Laurence Philip Keelan

much of his time heading the parish finance committee, as well as participating in numerous community organizations. He made a positive impact on his family and community. He was truly a man of honor.

A funeral liturgy takes place at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 24, at St. Clare of Montefalco Church, 1401 Whittier in Grosse Pointe Park. Private family burial will be held at a future date.

Donations can be sent to St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit, [stleossoupkitchendetroit.org](https://www.stleossoupkitchendetroit.org), where Larry often volunteered.

**Joanne M. Courtney**

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Joanne M. Courtney, 87, passed away peacefully Friday, March 11, 2022. A native Detroit, she was born Feb. 5, 1935, to Edward E. and Amelia Pauschert (nee Munro). Joanne graduated from Highland Park High School in 1953. She attended the University of Michigan, where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in education in 1957.

Growing up, Joanne had many fond memories of spending summers with her family at their cottage on Lake Erie in Essex, Ontario, Canada. She worked summers through college for the Georgian Bay Line in Detroit.

She married her high school sweetheart, Richard M. "Dick" Courtney, D.D.S., on Aug. 9, 1957. Early in their marriage, Dick's service in the Navy took them to San Diego, Calif. Joanne was an elementary school teacher in La Jolla, Calif., until their first child was born. Upon completion of his service, the couple returned to the Detroit area to be near family and friends.

For most of their married life Joanne and Dick lived in Ann Arbor, where he was on the faculty of



Joanne M. Courtney

the University of Michigan Dental School, raising their two daughters there. Once their children were grown, they spent many great years traveling with friends and enjoying summers at their condominium on Lake Charlevoix.

The couple moved to Grosse Pointe Farms in 1994, where they enjoyed spending time with family, attending Grosse Pointe Theatre performances and their Friday night dinner group. They often could be found watching their grandchildren's sporting events and school performances. A loving grandmother, "Grammy" spent many happy hours with her grandchildren and was immensely proud of their accomplishments.

Joanne always took a lively interest in others and was a great listener. She was passionate about recycling and supported many environmental causes. Joanne was an avid sports fan. She and Dick were longtime Michigan Wolverines football and basketball season ticket holders. In later years she could often be found watching the Detroit Lions, Tigers, tennis or her beloved Wolverines on TV.

Joanne is survived by her daughter, Pamela Montgomery (Robert) of Grosse Pointe Farms; grandchildren, Rob Montgomery (Tim Hanson) of San Francisco, Calif.; Austin Montgomery of New York City; and Mitchell and Paige Evers of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Joanne was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Richard; sister, Jeanne Pauschert; and daughter, Kristen Courtney Evers.

The family plans to have a private celebration of Joanne's life later this spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grosse Pointe Theatre at [gpt.org](https://www.gpt.org) or to the donor's charity of choice. Condolences and memories may be shared at cremation [michigan.com](https://www.michigan.com).

## Moross Greenway Project Spring Clean-Up is April 9

The Moross Greenway Project is looking for volunteers for its annual Spring Clean-Up, which takes place rain or shine from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9.

Interested volunteers are asked to gather in the Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church parking lot, 21150 Moross, at Edgfield, between Chester and I-94.

Volunteers should bring their own gardening gloves and dress for the weather. Boots are recommended, as the islands often are wet. Water, trash bags and traffic vests will be provided.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ann Nicholson, left, and Mary Wilson participated in last fall's cleanup event.**

Volunteers will be focused on two main tasks:

- ◆ Trash collection on the islands and the entrance and exit ramps of I-94.

- ◆ Garden bed cleanup using a method of cutting plant material into small pieces and leaving it in the beds to nourish the soil. Volunteers should bring hedge trimmers if they are interested in garden cleanup.

Board members will be available to guide

volunteers and answer questions. If interested in participating, RSVP at [morossgreenwayproject@gmail.com](mailto:morossgreenwayproject@gmail.com).



**4B | CHURCHES**

# Memorial Church hosts Easter Egg Hunt, Story Walk

With Easter just a hop around the corner, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church recently announced its annual Easter Egg Hunt and Story Walk is back this

year. The outdoor family-friendly event — featuring crafts, the story walk and egg hunt — takes place at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 10.

“As families follow a path outside, they can read together the beautiful children’s book, ‘This is the Mystery of Easter,’ by Amelia Richardson Dress,” said Lisa Turner,

director of children’s ministries. “At the end of the story walk, a special Easter surprise waits for the children.” The Easter Egg Hunt is open to youngsters,

from toddlers to fourth graders. The event takes place on Palm Sunday with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church’s Parish Life

offering light refreshments. If weather is inclement, the event will move inside the church. Reservations are requested using the link available on the church’s website, [gpmchurch.org](http://gpmchurch.org).

# THE Villagers

**VILLAGERS:**  
*Continued from page 1B*

“It’s like going to a wedding five times a year where you are the bride and groom,” Creighton said. “Typically we have a valet. It’s white-glove treatment all the way through. We strive for that experience. “It’s a nice time out with friends, with live dance music, good food and dancing,” he added. “What’s the value proposition? ... People drop a lot of money going out to dinner. Here, you have a band, dancing, friends.” Creighton noted these days people may take ballroom lessons to prepare for a special date night or an upcoming wedding, “but we’re not seeing those who want to stick with it.” The Helm at the Boll Life Center offers ballroom dance lessons; however, the season is coming to a close next

month. Classes also took place at The War Memorial for a time — Zhou taught there from 2016 until the start of the pandemic — but currently are not offered. Quickstep aficionado or not, all are welcome to experience a night of dancing with The Villagers. “It’s an investment in yourself and in your relationship,” Creighton stressed. “It’s a chance to do something different you didn’t think you could do. It’s not ‘Dancing with the Stars,’ but it’s dancing with your partner.” Those who stick with it gain confidence on the dance floor; additionally, he assured, “no one cares if you can dance or not. “Dance socially,” he continued. “Bring friends. Bring friends who don’t dance to just enjoy the evening. Maybe they’ll decide, ‘We can do that.’ Come just to listen to the music, eat and be

with friends. Inexperienced people can try a few foxtrot steps if they want. Put yourself out there.” Ballroom dancing is something to invest in, Creighton added. It’s a chance for the younger demographic to step away from home and family and immerse themselves in something fun. “That’s where we came from,” he said. “It’s a good community of people here.” Cost per couple falls around \$140 to \$150 per dance. Those interested in attending The Villagers’ next dinner dance — Saturday, April 2, at the Country Club of Detroit — should email [thevillagersgp@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagersgp@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail at (313) 492-8327 for further information. For general information about The Villagers, call Creighton at (313) 331-1629.

# 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.
- ◆ Talk: “Last Ice” with Amy Sacka, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. The Detroit-based photographer will discuss her journeys on the ice.
- ◆ Coffee with Collections, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, March 31 and April 28. These members-only tours include coffee and tours with the Ford House Collections team.
- ◆ Eleanor’s “Greenhouse” tour, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31.
- ◆ Bunny Trail scavenger hunt, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays throughout April.
- ◆ Stargazing, 8 to 10 p.m. Fridays, April 1 and 29.
- ◆ Family Workshop: Painting, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 2. Cost is \$12 for adult members, \$15 for adult nonmem-

bers; \$6 for children members, \$7 for children nonmembers. For tickets and information, visit [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

## Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org).

- ◆ ArtLab—Journal Wreckoration, for ages 11 to 13, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Thoughts to Action Discussion Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24, via Zoom.
- ◆ Kelly Fordon’s Let’s Deconstruct a Story Podcast, noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 1. Fordon interviews author Lily King about her book, “Five Tuesdays in Winter.”

full cash bar is available. ◆ Spring Break Cocktails with Tammy’s Tastings, 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Learn about the art of mixology, technique instruction and more. Cost is \$50. ◆ Author Talk: S. Kirk Walsh, “The Elephant of Belfast,” 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7. Admission is free. A paperback book bundle costs \$18; a hardcover book bundle is \$24. Register online at [warmemorial.org](http://warmemorial.org).

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, St. Basil Catholic Church, 22860 Schroeder, Eastpointe.
- ◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, March 28, Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, 22360 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 4, Ardmore Elementary School, 27001 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores. Register online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## The War Memorial

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

- ◆ “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

# HAMLET:

*Continued from page 1B*

Schools for their continued partnership with us,” Zublick said. Additionally, digital ticketing and ticketless check-in allow for easy seating with minimal contact. “I’m really excited for what we’ve got coming up,” said Trudel, who is in his 46th year with Grosse Pointe Theatre. “We have eight rehearsals left before April Fools. ... More and more, we’re working on things that make a great show. We have a great set, a great

crew, a great cast. I can’t wait for the curtain to open.” Crew members include co-producers, Gayle Arnold and Carolyn Darby; stage manager, Arlene Schoenherr; technical director, Gordon Richardson; set designer, Jacqueline DiSante; co-props and set dressers, Lyndsey Briggs and Stella Woitulewicz; costumer, Theresa Vogler; co-lighting designers, Jef Fisk and Bob Montgomery; co-sound designers, Jeff VerBeek and Dan Woitulewicz; and stage combat, Alan Canning. “The behind-the-

scenes crew is doing a fantastic job that will not be missed by our audiences,” Trudel noted. “Our lighting and sound teams will deliver a stunning production that will add to the laughs onstage. Our props and set dressing teams have scavenged perfect pieces that will add to the spectacular New York City set that was built from scratch for this show. Everyone has worked well together.” “I Hate Hamlet” is appropriate for ages 13 and older. For tickets visit [gpt.org/hamlet](http://gpt.org/hamlet) or call (313) 881-4004.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DALE PEGG  
Elizabeth McQuillen and Kevin Fitzhenry rehearse a scene.

# Worship Service

<p><b>Saint Ambrose Catholic Church</b> 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302</p> <p><b>Masses</b> Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. Sunday — 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. Thursday — 7:00 p.m. Friday — Noon</p> <p>(313) 822-2814 • <a href="mailto:stambrose@comcast.net">stambrose@comcast.net</a> • <a href="http://stambrosechurch.net">stambrosechurch.net</a> • <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish">facebook.com/stambroseparish</a></p>	<p><b>ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI</p> <p><i>Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.</i></p> <p>20475 Sunningdale Park (313) 884-4820    <a href="http://www.stmichaelsgpw.org">www.stmichaelsgpw.org</a></p>	<p><b>FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 800 Vernier Road (Corner of Wedgewood) (313) 884-5040</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship Service 9:45 am - Spark Church 11:00 am - Worship Service</p> <p>Everyone is Welcome! <a href="mailto:Amanda.Onoro@feelc.org">Amanda Onoro, director preschool@feelc.org</a></p> <p>Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor ~ “Go Make Disciples” ~  <a href="http://www.feelc.org">www.feelc.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool</b> Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090 <a href="http://www.christthekinggp.org">www.christthekinggp.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY</b> 8:15 &amp; 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY</b> 7 p.m. - Worship Service 2nd &amp; 4th Monday of the Month</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY</b> 10 a.m. - Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making S. Boelter, Pastor</b> <i>Randy New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones</i></p>		



# LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 7C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 8C DEAR ABBY | 9 & 10C COMICS & PUZZLES

## Grosse Pointe is cheering for Ada LeAnn

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

On Monday, NBC debuted its new reality competition show, "American Song Contest," featuring 56 contestants representing each of the 50 states, five U.S. territories and Washington, D.C., who are competing for the honor of Best Original Song.

While Michigan viewers likely will rally for singer/songwriter Ada LeAnn, a Battle Creek native representing the Great Lakes State, a number of Grosse Pointe residents in particular are cheering for the young star. Among them are Park residents Sandy and Don Garver, LeAnn's grandparents.

"We have four grandchildren and they're all awesome in their own ways," Sandy Garver said. "We're so proud of Ada. She's so talented, on top of being an awesome, great young woman."

It's no surprise to Garver the stage on which LeAnn now finds herself. It's been evident most of her life.

"Ada has been singing literally since she has been able to speak," Garver said, recalling driving her granddaugh-

ter to and from Battle Creek. "She'd sing and clap her little hands and knew every word to every song since she was 2 years old. ... It doesn't surprise me her heart led her this way. God's given her this talent, not only singing, but with songwriting too."

LeAnn said she's been writing poetry since elementary school, "but I didn't start putting it to music until sixth grade," she added. "I've been writing like crazy ever since."

At 16, she is the youngest contestant on the show, which also features Grammy Award-winning artists like Jewel, Macy Gray and Michael Bolton, among others. She hopes her age will give her an advantage on the show, though she admitted it's a bit humbling to compete against a field of established, accomplished songwriters.

"I'm excited to be put side by side with them, to be on the same playing field," LeAnn said. "It's intimidating and humbling, but I'm going to give it everything that I have."

Each contestant — either a solo artist, duo, DJ or band — will perform a single, original song for the show. For



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ada LeAnn is the youngest contestant on the new reality competition show, "American Song Contest."**

LeAnn, that song is "Natalie," though she declined to reveal its origins.

Her songwriting, in general, she said, is inspired by her favorite artists, other people's experiences and her own personal experiences, as limited as they are.

"I'm 16," she said. "I haven't been through much so far."

Among her experiences are regular trips to Grosse Pointe, where she and Garver love to shop. One of her favorite places to visit is Dawood Boutique in The Village. Owners Toni Dasaro and Marie

we're there two times a day. I love their Caesar salad."

"She's been here so much, she knows people," Garver added. "She's been coming here since she was born pretty much. I can't tell you how supportive people are with this. It's amazing to me the kindness and support we've gotten."

Garver and LeAnn hope for strong support throughout The Mitten. Though LeAnn couldn't reveal the date of her first live performance, "American Song Contest," hosted by Snoop Dogg and Kelly Clarkson, premiered at 8 p.m. Monday, March 21, and runs for eight weeks. Five qualifying rounds are followed by two semi-final rounds and a final competition.

"Obviously it would be really cool to go far in the show," said LeAnn, who plays piano and guitar. "My main goal is getting

more people to hear my music.

"I also want to establish a fan base, so people are looking out for my music when it drops," she added. "I'm very passionate about songwriting. I'm going to do a project right after the show. I want people to look forward to it."

Follow the artist on Instagram @ada.leann or Facebook at Ada LeAnn's Music. She also can be found on Spotify and Apple Music.

"There will be teasers posted soon about the song ("Natalie") and when I'm going on," she said.

Added Garver, "It sinks in as time goes by: She's representing the entire state. She does not take that lightly. ... She takes it very seriously. She's representing the state of Michigan and wants to do it with honor and class."

"We're thrilled and excited," she added. "We'll see what happens."

### ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

## Unexpected happiness

"I was convinced I'd never be happy again," he said. "I figured I might be able to quit drinking, but I knew I was going to be miserable." He said this with a twinkle in his eye.

Then he laughed and said, "My life has never been better. It's amazing."

We hear this all the time from people in recovery. This fellow lives in Texas and he continued his story.

"I hated the idea of going to treatment," he said, "but I really needed to completely detox. In fact, I needed it even more than I thought. It took a good two weeks for my head to clear and my body to come back to normal. Funny thing was, I'd been going to work every day before that — never missed a day. I had no idea how screwed up I was."

Most people suffering from addiction and mental health problems aren't able to judge their own situation clearly. They can't see things clearly because they're in the grip of an illness. As a defense, they rationalize and blame everyone else for their problems.

"I was ready to divorce my wife and I know she was fed up with me. I hate to think what I put our kids through. They could see what I was doing. My 12-year-old was so mad at me, it kills me to think about it."

"But everything is good now. We aren't fighting, the kids are doing fine and I'm back to being my old self again. I don't have to make up stories about where I've been or what I was doing. I don't have to lie anymore."

When we spoke, this man had been sober 10 months and already his life was better. But he had done a lot more than just quit drinking. He had started actively working a program of recovery in AA. There were lots of meetings in his area of

Texas and people at the meetings were friendly. After treatment, he had gotten a lot of support, just like doctors and airline pilots get, in similar circumstances. Their jobs have zero tolerance for failure.

He had gotten a sponsor and a home group, and he came early and stayed late. What most people learn when they sober up is they have more free time. Drinking and drugging is expensive, painful and time consuming. Once a person is free of the addiction, spending an hour or so every day on recovery is nothing. The return on investment is priceless.

"I really didn't think I'd ever be happy again," he said. "But when I saw my whole extended family in the living room to talk to me, well, I knew the jig was up. I was a little ornery at the time, but I knew I had to go. I still can't believe how much it helped me."

The other big change was his appearance. Instead of looking sickly, he actually glowed. His eyes were smiling and his skin was clear. Everything about him radiated happiness and that happiness was contagious. There's no doubt his wife and kids have caught the bug, too.

Yes, there are problems in life and no shortage of pain. But when we face those problems squarely, instead of trying to avoid them, we discover an unexpected happiness. It takes work, but soon the work becomes joy. Millions of men and women have found the same solution.

If you'd like to listen to a podcast on "Twelve Steps — Back to Basics," visit [lovefirst.net/12-steps-back-to-basics/](http://lovefirst.net/12-steps-back-to-basics/).

Grosse Pointe Farms residents Jeff and Debra Jay have been helping families overcome addiction more than 30 years. Their best-selling books are now available in new editions from Hazelden. Visit [lovefirst.net](http://lovefirst.net).

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# The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

## Muzzle-bound

My wife and I got married eight months ago. Whatever I suggest for the apartment -- a paint color, a bathroom fixture -- my wife immediately dismisses. For example, the living room couch she wanted was too huge for the space: a really awkward, uncomfortable fit. She kept ignoring objective facts about spatial relations -- even after I pulled out a measuring tape and drew a schematic of the room. It occurred to me that her wanting it her way and ignoring my ideas are patterns in our relationship. This feels pretty bad.

— The Husband

There are those of us with special abilities in certain areas. Personally, I have a multi-decade track record in two areas: as a writer and as an automotive moron. (Lift your hood and I'll identify all the parts: "There's that round thingie and a bunch of intestine-esque tube-y things...")

Hiring me to write something (ideally for dump trucks of money) suggests you have fabulous taste and superior intelligence.

Hiring me to fix your car suggests you lack the mental firepower to pick your nose without assistance.

Men and women, in general, have different spatial abilities -- in line with the sexual divisions of labor in the ancestral hunter-gatherer world: male hunters tracking and killing animals and female gatherers doing the "grocery shopping" 2 million-ish years before grocery stores.

Psychologists Irwin Silverman and Marion Eals find that women, across cultures, are vastly better than men -- even 60 or 70% better -- at "object location." This is the ability to remember an array of objects in a setting, as well as their placement (relative to the other objects) -- basically by pulling up a mental snapshot: "Those nice berries by the cliff, poison ivy near the river -- by the dead tree where I found those yummo beetle appetizers."

Men, on the other hand, are significantly better at "mental rotation": turning a 3-D object around in their mind and predicting how the object would fit in a certain space -- or hurtle through it.

This skill allows the out-

fielder to catch the pop fly, being ace at aiming his spear meant his family might dine on wildebeest mignon instead of mealy-mouthed excuses.

Granted, your wife -- like most people -- is probably not clued in to the wonders of evolved sex differences in spatial ability. However, you mention that her unwillingness to listen to you is a pattern in various areas of your relationship. And that's a major problem.

Being ignored -- especially by those who matter most to us -- takes a bite out of our dignity. Contrast that with somebody giving us their attention -- their *full attention* (meaning listening like we're about to tip them off on tomorrow's winning lotto numbers). They're telling us they respect us. Whatever we have to say is important for them to hear.

That kind of listening doesn't just come from the ears. Psychologist Carl Rogers, who used it with his therapy clients, described it as "active listening" and explained: "I hear the words, the thoughts, the feeling



tones, the personal meaning, even the meaning that is below the conscious intent of the speaker."

Listening deeply like this starts with setting aside the impulse to "win" -- to hammer another person with what you believe. Admittedly, that can be a highly successful tactic -- if you're looking to persuade someone to bolt themselves even more tightly to their position.

Listening is a vital element of a healthy relationship -- one in which spouses accept each other's "influence," explains marriage researcher John Gottman.

This means each spouse makes the other a "partner" in their decision-making: respecting and honoring them and their opinions and feelings. For

a marriage to thrive, spouses have to "share the driver's seat."

For your marriage to have a chance at thriving, your wife needs to see the benefit in acting as a "we" instead of pressing forward as a "me" (with a large piece of husband-shaped luggage). The direct approach -- telling her she needs to change -- is likely to be a fail, coming off as a threat to her getting her way and thus triggering not change but rebellion.

Instead, tell her how you feel. (For example: hurt, disrespected, and embarrassed that your opinions seem of no interest to her.)

This should evoke her empathy -- meaning make her feel bad that you feel bad -- which could motivate her to take steps to

change (which, by the way, would involve time, practice, and setbacks).

Ultimately, she knows being a marital bully is way out of line -- assuming her wedding vows didn't include: "I promise to love, honor, support, blah, blah, blah -- uh, providing my husband shuts his complainy yap about having to scale the Couch Alps whenever he wants to grab a beer out of the fridge."

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

## Quitting may mean surviving

As she walked out of his office, a stapler flew by her, missing her shoulder but smashing into the filing cabinet. She had escaped his office safely but wondered when his anger would flare again.

Her assistant quickly left to get a sandwich for her boss, thinking the food would calm her down. She returned and handed her a familiar meal with a drink. The boss accepted the bag and hurled it across the

was on the phone discussing the case, the attorney rushed into the paralegal's office shouting profanities loudly enough to drown out the phone conversation. The paralegal explained to the person

occur again or if it will possibly cause physical injury.

They didn't know how to explain leaving a job without having another one, so they stayed, continuing to accept the unprofessional and unacceptable behavior.

Reporting episodes of physical outbursts and verbal rage within a small office could mean their word against their abuser's, and they weren't sure they would come out on top. What they didn't consider was that they had already been harmed by the emotional abuse they suffered regularly.

Assault is a criminal act and should be immediately reported to the police by calling 911.

According to Karen R. Koenig, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist who works with abuse victims and survivors, these people minimize or rationalize their abusive experiences by saying, "He didn't mean it," or "She can be so sweet and has helped me when I needed a favor."

Abusive personalities strike out in cycles, and their inconsistency keeps those in their circle "walk-

## At Work

by Lindsey Novak



ing on eggshells." Abusers have internal triggers, such as an inability to tolerate frustration and anger, and external triggers, which can happen when an employee makes a mistake (as all humans do sometimes). Some abusers feel remorse (see the abuse cycle wheel), while some always blame the victim.

People traumatized in childhood will often not recognize abuse; they rationalize it because that helped them live with it, or they blame themselves.

For the sake of their mental and physical health, they must get out of those situations to avoid experiencing the body's stress response, in which the nervous system "dis-regulates" (releases a cascade of chemicals that causes an imbalance).

When something bad happens, the body goes into fight or flight. Childhood abuse causes a person to be on "hyper-alert" all the time, and people take their upbringings into every workplace.

Dr. Valeria J. Stokes, the CEO of Stokes Consulting Group, the HR division of the Affluence Group LLC, says, "The presence of hostile work environments and retaliation are generally supported by leadership. It can be found in a company culture that has no accountability for performance and without a professional performance evaluation process.

"Individuals must have their own professional philosophy and requirements for the work environment they want. An employee growth culture would include: 1) Special project assignments to

expand skill sets, 2) Professional growth and leadership development, 3) Professional performance and management evaluation and 4) A company approach to performance and values, and how those values are demonstrated.

"Candidates should also find out why the position is open, how long it has been open and how many other jobs are open and identify tenure of management compared with employee attrition. This shows something is amiss. Employees leave managers, not organizations."

Interviewees can say they left because there were no opportunities beyond their current role and wanted to conduct a full-time job search. Never share any negative experience in a job interview, even when an interviewer shares negative information they have heard about a certain boss.

People often accept jobs because they need to pay the bills, which is why they tolerate unprofessional behaviors from bosses. If one experiences abusive behavior or "terroristic threats," he/she should call 911 and report the incident. It's a talent-driven market now, so candidates should confidently start job searches to leave hostile environments, and show professionally led companies what they could contribute to the job and to the company.

Email life and career coach [LindseyNovak@yahoo.com](mailto:LindseyNovak@yahoo.com) with all your workplace questions and experiences. For more information, visit [www.lindseyparkernovak.com](http://www.lindseyparkernovak.com). COPYRIGHT 2022 CREATORS.COM.



A high-strung president and small-business owner vacillated between bouts of crying, complaining and screaming at the few employees she had. They uncomfortably accepted her mood swings and attributed her erratic behavior to her fear of losing clients and income.

One day, she ranted and screamed she was starving and hadn't eaten in two

room within inches of the assistant's head and screamed, "I don't want this; I want help!"

A two-employee law department made up of an attorney and her paralegal in a real estate firm handled all the negotiations by phone. The attorney routinely flipped moods: from chatty and social to uncontrollable anger. While the paralegal

on the phone that someone had entered the office and she would return the call as soon as she could. The attorney continued her rage as this assistant sat quietly at the desk, waiting for her boss' angry episode to stop.

None of these employees have been physically hurt yet, but they live with the abuse hanging over them, not knowing when it will



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# Lenten family Dinner

## Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

My grandmother and mom are very particular about their fish cakes. There is a special and meaningful way to make them.

First, they have to rest in the fridge for 30 minutes before frying. Second, they have to have a flour coating.

Both steps ensure they do not fall apart. Third, the onion has to be grated. Of course I had to change everything up for this recipe and put my own spin on it.

During our lockdown, salmon cakes were a staple in our house. I would make them with canned salmon. I'll never forget the dinner when my son's best friend, a picky eater, ate everything on his plate. These are a hit.

However today, I chose to make them with cod, beautiful, fresh cod. Fresh Farms Market gets fish deliveries daily, except Sunday. So I always shop there.

Potato is the common denominator in all of these Irish recipes. Seafood has always

been a staple in the Irish diet. Combine any leftover mashed potato, with any white flaky fish, dip in bread-crumbs and you have a fantastic dinner. I've added dill.

In lieu of a sauce, I've created a cucumber and radish salad with sour cream. It's crunchy and creamy and nobody missed the sauce.

This is a great Friday Lenten meal for your family.

Cheers, Mombeau

### Irish Cod Cakes (Yields 8 cakes)

- 1lb fresh wild cod
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp paprika
- 2-3 large Yukon Gold potatoes
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- ½ onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp dried dill or 1

- tbsp fresh dill
- 1 tbsp dijon mustard
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups panko bread crumbs
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper

Peel your potatoes and cut into 1 inch chunks. Add to a pot filled with cold water. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer for 10 minutes or until they are fork tender.

Meanwhile, preheat your oven to 375. Prepare the cod by placing it on a foiled lined sheet pan. Drizzle with olive oil and then add the garlic powder, onion powder and paprika. Add a pinch of salt and a few grinds of pepper. Bake for 12 minutes and remove from the oven to cool.

While the fish cooks, in a saute pan, add 3 tablespoons of olive oil and then the onions, dill and celery. Cook until soft or about 5 minutes. Put the cooked vegetable mix-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

ture and potatoes into a large bowl and mash to a somewhat chunky mixture. Flake the fish into hearty chunks and add to the potatoes and vegetables.

Once it's cooled a bit, add the eggs, cod and mustard. Fold everything together so as not to break up the fish. Form into golfball size patties and put in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Once you are ready to fry, put the panko on a plate and dredge the

cakes on each side. Wet hands help to ensure the cakes don't stick to your hands.

Fry in 4 tablespoons of oil, 4 cakes at a time. I like to keep the batches in a 175 degree oven to keep warm and crisp.

### Cucumber and Radish Salad

- ½ English cucumber
- 4 radishes
- ½ cup sour cream

- 2 tbsp fresh dill
- 4 tbsp vinegar (your favorite)

Pinch of salt and pepper

Slice the cucumber and radishes and add to a salad bowl. Chop the dill and add the rest of the ingredients. Stir to combine. It can sit for an hour and marinate or be eaten right after making.



## Place names

When you buy a French Chablis, it will be made only from Chardonnay grapes grown in a small district in France, because that is required under French law.

place names still riles many Europeans, such as the many producers of cheddar cheese in the English village of Cheddar in Somerset where the cheese originated, using a proprie-



Likewise, when you buy a Sancerre, it can only be a sauvignon blanc from the eastern Loire Valley; a Beaujolais can only be made from the Gamay Noir a Jus Blanc grape grown in a district of Burgundy, and a port only from Portuguese grape varieties and made in Portugal.

It has been about 15 years since the United States belatedly agreed to recognize such wine terms as protected place names because they are actual regions in Europe. It's kind of like "Parmigiano Reggiano," which can only be made in certain Italian districts, though "parmesan" is an Americanized version that's widely used -- and one that gourmets usually hate.

tary process. Today the word cheddar is used around the world indiscriminately, much to the anger of Somersetians.

One of the most interesting place name arguments involves Champagne, which can only come from that district in France. As such, it must be capitalized and cannot be used by wineries for new U.S. wines.

Yet it is still used on wine labels of several U.S. wineries because of a curious series of historic events.

The French long have claimed that several French place names had been unfairly usurped by U.S. wineries in the years before Prohibition and after, including Chablis and Burgundy. All of the American wineries

using that term used it for blended red wines.

The French claimed (rightly) that not one American Chablis or Burgundy was anything remotely close to their French antecedents. Champagne also was widely used on U.S. wine labels for anything that had bubbles, further angering the French.

France tried to outlaw these practices by international treaty in 1891 and later with a special clause in the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which dealt with the end of the First World War.

However, President Woodrow Wilson's controversial efforts to set up the League of Nations ended with the United States never signing that treaty, although other nations did. Besides, by that time, the United States was just entering a zero-alcohol period (Prohibition), so the matter became moot.

When Prohibition was lifted on Dec. 5, 1933, the French again toyed with the idea of trying to get Champagne stricken from use in the States, but by then the entire California wine business was in shambles, with only poor-quality grapes left in vineyards that had largely been left untended for 16 years.

Moreover, only one "Champagne" was being made in California in the 1930s -- by winery owner Paul Masson, a French expatriate, who started making it in 1892. It wouldn't be until the

1960s that sparkling wine making resumed in California.

And the French had other things on their mind, like the rebuilding of Europe after WWII, communism, NATO, nuclear power... By contrast, California "Champagne" was too tiny a subject to worry about.

It wasn't until 2006 that the French (and other European nations) resumed campaigns against misuse of their place names.

That led to a pact. The United States agreed to ban most French place names like Champagne, Chablis and Burgundy for all new wines -- but it grandfathered in the use of those names for wineries that had long-established brands using the terms.

Among them was Sonoma County sparkling wine producer Korbel, which still can call its bubbly "California Champagne."

Wine of the Week:

2020 Laetitia Chardonnay, Arroyo Grande Valley, Estate Bottled -- The aroma here is marked by citrus and delicate pear notes, a trace of oak aging, and an excellent mid-palate richness combined with good acidity for pairing with light fish dishes. Good value.

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](http://www.creators.com).  
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# Spring break

## INTO FASHION

After a long winter, for some, spring break is the first taste of summer for the year, as families pack up and head for sunny locales. Half the fun of a warm-weather vacation is shopping for new sun-friendly outfits and accessories. We've gathered some of the latest trends from Grosse Pointe retailers to get you started.

At right, **Ridge Crest Outfitters** has a lightweight navy sundress by Carve that is so comfortable, it's a vacation in itself! Its carefree fabric and boho detail will make it one of your favorite summer pieces. Below, from **Glitter & Scotch**, is a Bishop + Young gauzy romper in a beautiful blush neutral that easily goes from day to night and packs into almost nothing. The floral beaded clutch takes this outfit from beach to dinner. Luvaj flower earrings are fun and face-flattering as they complete this cute ensemble.



### SEE THE SIGHTS

At left, hit the town in a pretty lemon yellow shirred blouse to pair with skirts, pants or shorts. The citrus clutch makes a tangy vacation statement. Both available at **Glitter & Scotch**.



At left, these LucyParis pull-on lavender pants are so comfy, yet so put together. White fluter sleeve tee by Bishop + Young is versatile pairing, while the floral beaded clutch bag ties it all together. Get them at **Glitter & Scotch**.

At right, from **Ridge Crest Outfitters**, a white Faherty gauze shirt with delicate pintucks, paired with striped shorts by Carve.



### BEACHSIDE BONFIRE

At right, **Glitter & Scotch** has plenty of stylish men's pastel and Hawaiian shirts by Bad Birdie for the guys. From spring break to Easter and all summer long, these comfy shirts are a great addition that will surely fun-up every man's wardrobe.

Far right, this earthy, romantic and lightweight Carve combo in terra cotta and ecru is available at **Ridge Crest Outfitters**.





## DINE AND DANCE

At right, stroll an art fair, lunch on the deck and then go dancing on your dream vacation in this Drew knit dress and matching cardigan. A great set for a southern spring break as well as for back in Michigan where weather is fickle. The cardigan is also a great piece to pair with jeans or shorts. From **Capricious**.



## ZOO TOGS



Above, whether visiting the zebras, feeding the dolphins or spending some quality time with Mickey Mouse, this cute Fifteen Twenty zebra striped mixed media top (like a tee shirt, only fancier) and matching pull on shorts are super versatile and will carry you through your vacation in easy style. From **Capricious**.

## PRETTY IN PINK

At left, a Z Supply pink flowy maxi dress. This is the wardrobe staple you'll turn to again and again. Wear alone or throw a jacket or cardigan over it to change the look. From **Savvy Chic**.



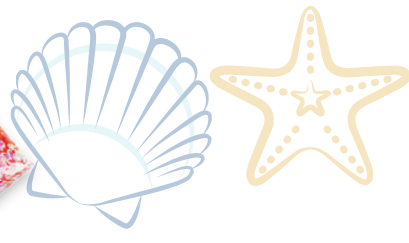
Below, a THML feminine, flowy flo al top that works great with any shorts or jeans. Available from **Savvy Chic**



## BEACHSIDE BEAUTIFUL

Below left, this adorable Z Supply white ribbed upscale tank from **Savvy Chic** is a great piece to take, because it goes with just about everything else in your suitcase! Pair with this adorable coral flo al ruffled skirt by anco. Also at **Savvy Chic**.

Below right, I Love Tyler Madison structured, scalloped shorts in navy, from **Savvy Chic**. With a few versatile tops and bottoms, you're in the easy mix-and-match zone all through your vacation!



At right, Love Tree romper that works with anything from flip flops to wedges to sky high heels. Throw on a jean jacket for a cool and casual summer look. From **Savvy Chic**.



## SHOP:

**Capricious**  
74 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
(313) 458-8719  
IG: @capricious\_gp

**Glitter & Scotch**  
16906 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe  
(313) 571-3607  
IG: @shopglitterandscotch

**Ridge Crest Outfitters**  
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(313) 458-7850  
IG: @ridgecrestoutfitters

**Savvy Chic**  
16822 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe  
(313) 466-3388  
IG: @savvychicgp



6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

# Paddy's in the Park

The second annual Paddy's in the Park took place March 19, in the Grosse Pointe Park Social District on Kercheval. Event-goers weren't deterred by a little rain. People continued the St. Patrick's Day party, but mostly stayed indoors. Among other bands, Weekend Comeback performed on the patio at The Bricks, Motor City Pipes & Drums played under the tent at Red Crown and Ben Luttermoser also played at Red Crown. The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Works crew kept the fires burning on Kercheval throughout the event.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Weekend Comeback performed on the patio at The Bricks.



Laura and Katie DeDene dressed to express their St. Patrick's Day cheer in shamrock and bow headbands.



Jodi Izykowski and her daughter, Kaylie, got together for a glass of green beer at Atwater in the Park.



Sarah Swanson, Mackenzie Johnson and Lisa Chamberlain enjoyed Chilly Chai's and a Lakepointe Mule at Atwater.



Motor City Pipes & Drums entertained the crowd in the Red Crown tent.



Ben Luttermoser played in the Red Crown tent.



Hanging out in the tent at Red Crown wearing St. Patrick's Day necklaces are Matthew Rossner, Michael Rivard, Howie Crane, Markus Minanov, Graeme Carlyle, Angelo Pendolino and Jack Roma.



The Grosse Pointe Park DPW crew, James Pachla, Brian Gipprich, Aaron Innes, Travis Riddle and Craig Balow, kept the fires burning on Kercheval.

## EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

- THURSDAY, MARCH 24**
- » **Aguanko**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30 p.m.  
97 Kercheval.
  - » **ArtLab - Journal Wreckoration**  
Central Library, 4-5 p.m.  
grossepointelibrary.org
  - » **Cocktails by Candlelight**  
The War Memorial, 3 p.m.  
32 Lake Shore Drive.
  - » **Eagles**  
Little Caesars Arena, 8 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **First Annual Storyteller's Tea**  
8-10 a.m.  
2900 E Grand Blvd.
  - » **Talk: 'Last Ice' with Amy Sacka**  
Ford House, 7 p.m.  
1100 Lake Shore Road.
  - » **Thoughts to Action Discussion Group**  
Offsite, 7-8:30 p.m.  
grossepointelibrary.org
  - » **Thrilling Thursday: OAC Spring Open House**  
Outdoor Adventure Center, 6 p.m.  
1801 Atwater Street.
  - » **The Vincent Chandler Experience**  
Cliff Bell's, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.  
2030 Park Ave.

- FRIDAY, MARCH 25**
- » **Aguanko**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.  
97 Kercheval.
  - » **BLKBOK**  
Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 8-10 p.m.  
3711 Woodward Ave.
  - » **Darius Rucker**  
Fox Theatre, 8 p.m.  
2211 Woodward Ave.
  - » **Detroit Pistons vs. Washington Wizards**  
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **Jazmine Sullivan: The Heaux Tales Tour**  
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.  
2115 Woodward Ave.
  - » **Pistons v Wizards**  
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **Rodgers & Hammerstein**  
Orchestra Hall, 10:45 a.m.  
3711 Woodward Avenue.
  - » **The Vincent Chandler Experience**  
Cliff Bell's, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.  
2030 Park Ave.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 26**
- » **Aguanko**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.  
97 Kercheval.

- » **American Ballet Theatre Studio Company**  
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.  
350 Madison St.
- » **Ari Shaffir, Big Jay Oakerson, and Robert Kelly**  
The Fillmore Detroit, 8 p.m.  
2115 Woodward Ave.
- » **Detroit City FC vs. Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC**  
Keyworth Stadium, 4 p.m.  
3201 Roosevelt St.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Tampa Bay Lightning**  
Little Caesars Arena, 12:30 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
- » **Donnell Rawlings**  
The Garden Theatre, 7 p.m.  
3929 Woodward Ave.
- » **Music Hall Presents American Ballet Theater "Studio Company"**  
Music Hall Center, 8 p.m.  
350 Madison.
- » **Om @ The Max: Dance & Spirit Flow**  
Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.  
3711 Woodward Ave.
- » **Poetry & Music: HERstories**  
Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8-9:30 p.m.  
3711 Woodward Ave.

- » **Rodgers & Hammerstein**  
Orchestra Hall, 8 p.m.  
3711 Woodward Avenue.
- SUNDAY, MARCH 27**
- » **American Ballet Theatre Studio Company**  
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 3 p.m.  
350 Madison St.
  - » **Detroit Pistons vs. New York Knicks**  
Little Caesars Arena, 3:30 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **Last Ice: Amy Sacka and Scott Hocking with Michael McGillis**  
Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road.
  - » **Music Hall Presents American Ballet Theater "Studio Company"**  
Music Hall Center, 3 p.m.  
350 Madison.
  - » **Rodgers & Hammerstein**  
Orchestra Hall, 3 p.m.  
3711 Woodward Avenue.
  - » **Sky Covington**  
Woodbridge Pub, 5169 Trumbull, 7:30-11 p.m.
  - » **The Tribute to Abbey Lincoln**  
Tangent Gallery, 3-4:30 p.m.  
715 E. Milwaukee.
  - » **Your Old Mansion Lecture Series**  
Christ Church GP, 6 p.m.  
61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

- MONDAY, MARCH 28**
- » **2CELLOS - The Dedicated Tour**  
Little Caesars Arena, 8 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **4th Monday Book Discussion**  
Offsite, 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
grossepointelibrary.org
- TUESDAY, MARCH 29**
- » **GP Badminton Association**  
Parcells Middle School, 6:30-8 p.m.  
20600 Mack Ave.
  - » **Storytime: 'Lulu & Rocky in Detroit'**  
Ford House, 10:30 a.m.  
1100 Lake Shore Road.
  - » **Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom**  
Offsite, 10:30-11 a.m.  
grossepointelibrary.org
  - » **Ron English**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:00 p.m.  
97 Kercheval.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. New York Rangers**  
Little Caesars Arena, 7:30 p.m.  
2645 Woodward.
  - » **Noah Jackson & Full Circle: Residency & Session**  
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.  
2030 Park Ave.
  - » **Zen Zdravec**  
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 6:30 p.m.  
97 Kercheval.

**Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links**



# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



The art of tanning has always been an issue for me. To give you some reference, I wear two layers of sunscreen on my face every single day and I still get burned. Even in the winter.

On vacation, you can catch me sitting poolside sporting my UPF 50 swim shirt, sunglasses and baseball hat just to be safe. Don't I sound cool? Anyway, I've accepted that these are the cards I've been dealt, but I still want that sun-kissed glow for my upcoming spring break travels.

Over the years, I've

tried many at-home self tanners. Most of them turn my skin orange and leave streaky marks on my arms and legs. It could be user error, but it's been difficult to find a self-tanner that actually works for me.

Thanks to Amazon Prime and Instagram's influencer marketing tactics, I kept seeing ads for Loving Tan's 2-Hour Express self-tanning mousse. After a friend recommended the product as well, I decided I had to try it.

To start, the instructions recommend applying moisturizer to hands,

feet, ankles and wrists.

The tanning lotion can settle into dry skin in these areas, so it's a good idea to create a barrier with lotion to prevent an uneven look. After doing this, I began to apply the tanning mousse.

Loving Tan sells an applicator mitt, which I purchased as well. The mitt is super helpful and protects your hands and fingers from getting



tanning lotion all over them.

I pumped the tanning mousse onto the mitt and spread the mousse on my skin in circular motions.

Immediately, I noticed a subtle tan color start to develop. I waited one minute before getting dressed and then showered after two hours.

Overall, the process was simple and easy. My tan looks super

natural, like I had actually laid in the sun or just returned from a week's vacation, and the color isn't orange at all.

While the color is beautiful and the lotion smells great, I think the mitt is the key for a great at-home self tan. It allowed me to buff out the lotion into areas where the tanning lotion typically would look streaky to create a more seamless application.

I'm rating this product at four out of five alligators because it is a little pricey. For the tanning product and mitt, it costs about \$60 on

Amazon. While it's much cheaper than getting a spray tan at an actual tanning business, I'll have to see how much and how often I use this product to see if it's worth the price.

As for now, the color is beautiful, my tan lasted an impressive five days and it helps make the Michigan winter a little more bearable. To me, that's a win.

4 Out Of 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 21 LAPS ENTERTAINMENT

From left, Zoe Saldana as Laura and Ryan Reynolds as Adam in the 2022 film "The Adam Project" directed by Shawn Levy and currently airing on Netflix.

## Movie Junkie Mark by Mark Domin



unless I missed something.

Adam's goal is twofold. He wants to find out what happened to Laura (Zoe Saldana), and to prevent his dad from revealing the formula for time travel.

The evil Sorien is hot on his tail aiming to destroy him before he can accomplish this.

The two Adams embark on their adventure together. It's amusing to see them interact. Young Adam is a geeky shrimp who's game for just about anything. He's in total awe of the fact that he grows up to be a

soundtrack. Normally I object to the use of pop tunes in a movie—I think it's a cheap alternative to commissioning an original score. But this film is laced with catchy rock tunes from the late 60's and early 70's. They contribute to the overall fun spirit of "The Adam Project."

Time travel is one of my favorite genres. I read the amazing book "Time and Again" by Jack Finney in my teens and from then on I've been hooked. I enjoy the romantic ones like "Somewhere in Time," "The Lake House" and "The Time Traveller's Wife." A ton of comical ones have been made including "Groundhog Day," "Hot Tub Time Machine" and "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure." Then there are the serious ones like "The Terminator" and "Source Code," and the hard-to-find "11 Minutes Ago." One of my favorite ones is the thought provoking "Memento." It's so complicated there are several web sites devoted to explaining it. Just Google it and you'll see what I mean. See you in the future!

Currently streaming on Netflix and in theatres.

★★★★☆

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!

**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](https://www.youtube.com). If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com). Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).

(Mark Ruffalo) is a professor who invented time travel. He died about a year before and young Adam is having a hard time dealing with this loss. As a result of Louis's



discovery, a former student of his Maya Sorien (Catherine Keener) has used time travel to enrich herself and built an empire to the detriment of the entire planet. This isn't clearly explained,

muscle-bound hunk.

And older Adam is constantly teasing him with smart-ass comments and asides. They make a fun couple as they carry out their mission.

The special effects are also quite entertaining. They owe quite a bit to George Lucas and the "Star Wars" franchise.

Another factor I particularly enjoyed is the

### MOVIE REVIEW "The Adam Project" 2022 - PG-13 1 hr 46min

If you're looking for a fun movie the whole family will enjoy, don't miss this new release from Netflix. The film features a great cast that includes Ryan Reynolds, Mark Ruffalo, Jennifer Garner, Catherine Keener, and the young and talented Walker Scobell.

It's a time-travel, adventure movie with almost non-stop action, great special effects, and a steady volley of funny one-liners.

I especially enjoyed Reynolds performance. He seems to be on a roll these days, as his recent film "Red Notice" will attest to. Reynolds knows he's Mr. Studley, but he has no problem engaging in self-deprecating humor. His irreverent

style of comedy makes his films a joy to watch. The year is 2050 and a fighter pilot Adam (Reynolds), is being chased through Earth's upper stratosphere.

He creates a wormhole, which he enters and is transported back to 2022, where he crashes. It's revealed that he was actually aiming for 2018, the destination his true love was heading to but never returned from. His miscalculation lands him in his childhood backyard, and he takes refuge in his dad's shed. There his 12-year old self discovers him.

The young Adam (Walker Scobell) is a smart, nerdy kid who's constantly being bullied at school. He's at home because he was suspended from school for fighting.

It's revealed that Adam's father Louis



From left, Ryan Reynolds as adult Adam Reed, Mark Ruffalo as Louis Reed and Walker Scobell as young Adam Reed.



Ryan Reynolds getting in to combat position to battle his pursuers that have followed him from the future.



8C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT



# Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

**DEAR ABBY:** I am blessed to have a wonderfully supportive family, which includes my and my husband's siblings. I was recently scheduled for major abdominal surgery. For the weeks leading up to it, I quietly went about preparing the house and putting systems in place so I could be absent.

Most of my support people checked in occasionally to see how I was doing or if I needed anything. One sister-in-law, however, has been over-the-top. She sends cards, texts, flowers and calls. I appreciate her support, but it's too much. In the weeks leading up to surgery and afterward, I have received nearly a dozen cards, plus her texts, etc.

Is there a nice way to let her know it is too much and I'm tired? Please let me know if there's a polite, graceful way to make it STOP! --

PROGRESSING IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR PROGRESSING:** A "nice" way to phrase it might be to say, "Honey, I am grateful for all the support you've been giving me, but the surgery is behind me now, and I am slowly regaining my strength. Please don't send me any more get-well cards -- the dozen you have sent have already worked their magic."

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing because I'm concerned about my husband's drinking. We have been married 35 years and we love each other very much. We are both retired. He drinks at least a six-pack a day.

Although he doesn't appear to be intoxicated, I know this has to mean he is an alcoholic. Because he doesn't drink and drive, he

thinks this is fine. Besides being unhealthy and giving him a huge beer gut, it's expensive. Your thoughts, please. -- CONCERNED WIFE IN GEORGIA

**DEAR WIFE:** Schedule your and your husband's "annual medical checkups," regardless of how long they may have been delayed. Before you go in, the doctor should be informed that your beloved hubby imbibes a six-pack per day -- at the very least.

You could benefit from attending some Al-Anon meetings. Al-Anon is an offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous that helps the families and friends of individuals who have an alcohol problem. Go to [al-anon.org/info](http://al-anon.org/info) for more information.

*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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. COPYRIGHT 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION.*



**MOON ALERT:** Avoid shopping or important decisions from 8:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT today (5:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Sagittarius into Capricorn.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 24, 2022:

You are a natural leader who is well-liked and generous to others. You are perceptive, even psychic. People respect you because you speak the truth. Focus on your personal responsibilities and personal relationships this year. Invest in yourself. Take a course. Learn something new or explore a makeover.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Be careful today. This is a powerful day for you, because the Sun is in your sign while the Moon is in your fellow Fire sign as well. This influence is supportive and invigorating. Nevertheless, most of this day is a Moon Alert. Be aware of this. Tonight: Show respect.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Two strong influences are at play for you right now. On one hand, you want to be low-key and work alone or behind the scenes because you feel comfortable being low-profile. However, with Mars at the top of your chart, your ambition is aroused! Be careful. Check the Moon Alert today. Tonight: Explore!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

Tread carefully today, because the Moon is opposite from your sign, which means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. In addition to this, most of this day is a Moon Alert. Postpone important decisions. Restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Check your finances.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

You are high-viz now, and people admire you. Nevertheless, today at work or with health-related matters, or even when dealing with a pet, you might face shortages, delays and glitches. Things will improve after the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Cooperate.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a strong day because both the Sun and the Moon are in your fellow Fire signs, which supports and empowers you. However, be mindful of the restrictions of the Moon Alert. Nevertheless, this is a creative, playful day! Enjoy! Tonight: Work.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a good day to relax at home among familiar surroundings if you can swing it, even though you might encounter shortages and mixed-up communications. Avoid domestic decisions until the Moon Alert is over. Nevertheless, this can be an easygoing day. Tonight: Relax.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Be careful when talking to others, because most of today is a Moon Alert, which happens to be taking place in your House of Communications. Make no promises to anyone. Don't volunteer for anything. Just tread water. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

It's important for you to know that today the Moon Alert is taking place in your Money House, which means to restrict your spending -- for sure -- to food and gas. Avoid other purchases or financial decisions until the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Study.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a creative day for you, which means you are full of imaginative ideas because you're thinking outside the box. Write down these ideas and keep them in mind, but don't implement them or act upon them until the Moon Alert is over, especially because the Moon is in your sign. Tonight: Work.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You will feel good if you can cocoon at home and keep a low profile. Some of you will be more involved than usual with a parent. Don't make important decisions today until the Moon Alert is over. Ditto for spending money. Tonight: Be strong.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You value your friendships, and today is a wonderful day to hang out with friends or groups. There's a fuzzy quality to the day because of the Moon Alert. Wait until it's over to agree to anything important. You'll be glad you did. Get some physical exercise. Tonight: Solitude.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

Do not volunteer for anything today, and be mindful of discussions with bosses and parents, because the Moon Alert is taking place at the top of your chart. Wait until this is over before you make decisions. Until then, just coast. Tonight: Listen to advice.

**BORN TODAY**

Actress Jessica Chastain (1977), actress, screenwriter, director Lake Bell (1979), academic, activist David Suzuki (1936).

# Classic Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** I just turned 25, and my mother is trying to marry me off to the son of one of her friends. I have an excellent job and am not worried about being unattached. I don't date much, which is OK for now. My mother told her friend which days

I had off so her son could see me. He called my mother, and she set up a lunch date for next week. Of course, I have to go.

My mother has talked about my dating situation with my aunt and my sister, and now, I am beginning to feel pressured on

all sides. I tried to explain to Mom how demeaning this is, but she became hostile and said she is only trying to help me. Even if the guy turns out to be great, I still resent my mother's maneuvering. What can I do about this galling situation? -- Oahu Mess

**Dear Oahu:** You can tell your mother you do not want her to arrange any more dates and that if she tries, you will refuse to go.

ANN LANDERS  
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# Contract Bridge

A GIGANTIC CATASTROPHE

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
East South West North  
4♥ 4 NT Dble Pass  
Pass Redble All Pass!  
Opening lead — two of hearts.

Today's hand deals with a matter that should be discussed by any regular partnership, namely, how to proceed after an opponent opens the bidding with four of a major and you have the values to compete but don't know which suit to bid. Some partnerships play that a double in this situation is for penalties, while others treat the double as takeout. Some even play that a double of four hearts is for takeout (leaving space for partner to bid

four spades), while a double of four spades is for penalties.

When the double would be for penalties, four notrump is used as a takeout, asking partner to bid his best suit. Naturally, the four-notrump bidder should have substantial high-card values for this bid, since he is forcing his partner to respond on the five-level.

Once upon a time, many years ago, the legendary Harry Fishbein was playing in a high-stakes rubber-bridge game opposite a similarly illustrious partner and held the South hand. His four-notrump bid was well below par; he should have had at least three or four more high-card points.

His famous partner had never heard of four notrump being used as a takeout bid in this situation, and so failed to bid five spades over West's double of four notrump. Fishbein's redouble was intended to emphasize that he still wanted his partner to choose a suit. But again North failed to bid five spades (which was ice-cold). So Fishbein played the hand at four notrump redoubled, and lost seven hearts and three clubs to go down seven — 4,000 points!

The next day, North was overheard telling a friend about the gigantic catastrophe. "Imagine that Fishbein," he said. "I didn't even open my mouth, and he goes down 4,000!"

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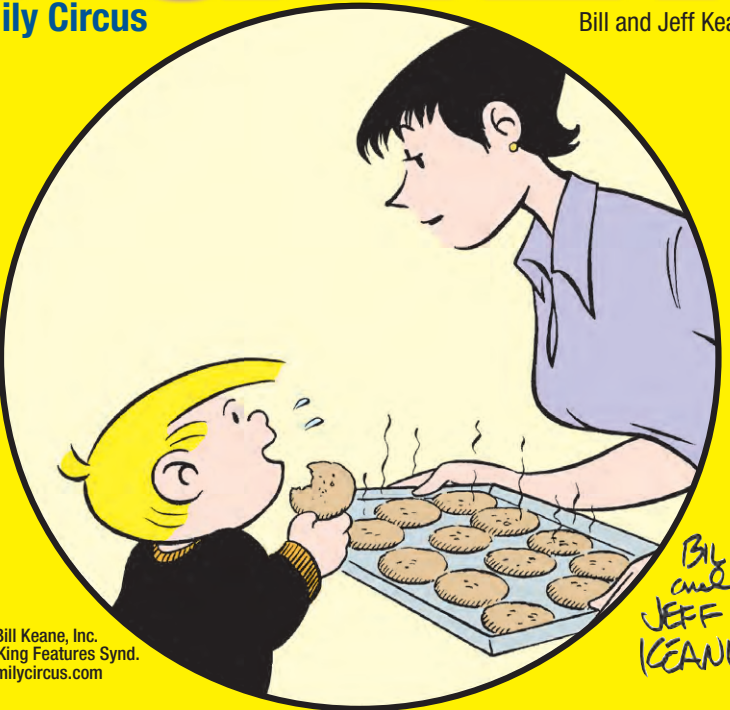
by Steve Becker



# Puzzles and

## Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



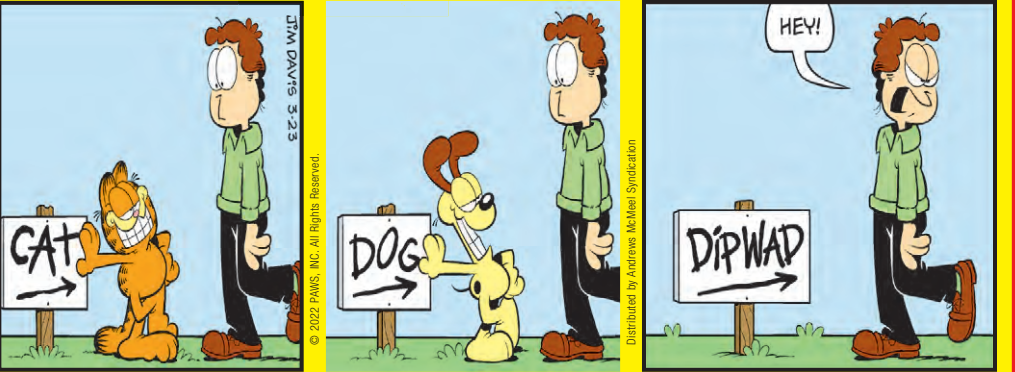
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Bill and Jeff Keane

**“MMM! When I get to be president I’m gonna put you in charge of cookies for the whole country!”**

## Garfield

Jim Davis



## Dilbert

Scott Adams



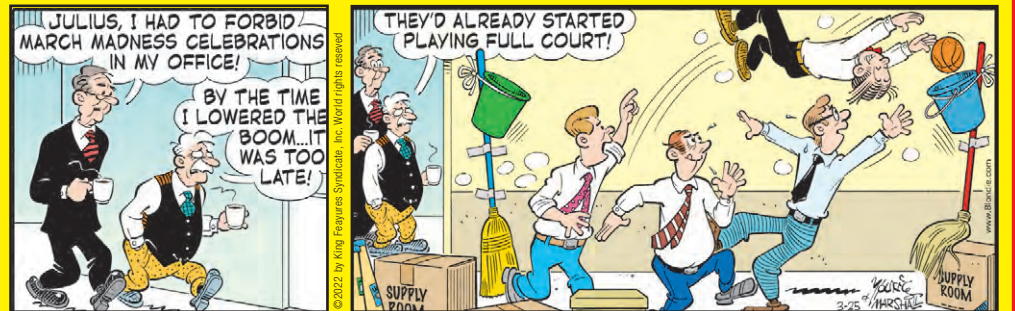
## Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



## Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



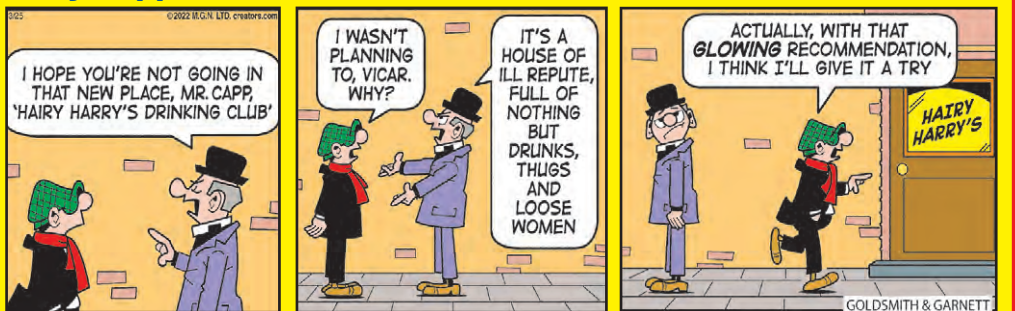
## Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



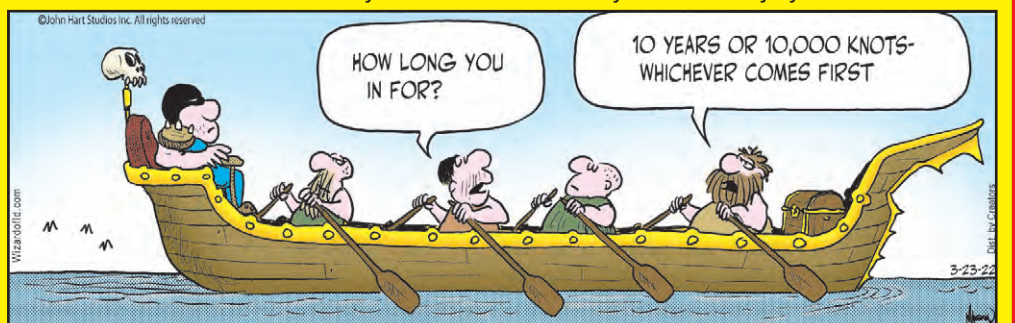
## Andy Capp

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

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

3/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆  
© 2022 by Andrews McMeel Syndication 3/17 Solution

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 24, 2022

### ACROSS

- 1 Little sweater?
- 5 Drink like a cat
- 10 Junk email
- 14 Bad to the bone
- 15 Playground retort
- 16 Rose brought on a date, say?
- 17 Coats can be hung on them
- 18 Painter's support
- 19 Musicals often have two
- 20 Old-timey way to say "Let go!"
- 22 Pancakes that might be served with applesauce
- 24 S.F. winter hours
- 25 "Oh, absolutely!"
- 26 No longer in fashion
- 27 Social sensitivity
- 29 Is super into "i" lid?
- 30 Pro's opposite
- 34 \_\_\_ out a living
- 36 Ziti shape
- 37 It's smaller than a city
- 38 Nightclub charge
- 39 Like an unenclosed floor plan
- 40 Soothing balm
- 41 Barter

- 42 Hog's home
- 43 Golfers want to be under it
- 44 Weed-whacking tools
- 45 Deep cut
- 47 Knightly of "Love, Actually"
- 49 Back muscle, for short
- 50 Flow back
- 53 "Well, finally!"
- 55 Venomous snake
- 57 Blacken
- 58 \_\_\_ Lodge (motel chain)
- 60 Aromatic seasoning
- 61 Southward
- 62 A1
- 63 Final Four letters?
- 64 Use some &\$^#ing bad language
- 65 Many "Euphoria" characters, agewise
- 66 Look after

- 6 Amy of "Sharp Objects"
- 7 Downward dog, e.g.
- 8 Deploy
- 9 Sites that pool and analyze election prediction data (...)
- 10 Attacks, like a fly
- 11 Went faster, and hint to this puzzle's theme
- 12 Put some chips on the table?
- 13 More than just clutter
- 21 MoMA city
- 23 Total jerk
- 26 Yearned (for)
- 28 Rice on a shelf?
- 29 Opera stars
- 31 Fall in line

- 32 Lowest card in a royal flush
- 33 Fizzy brown drink
- 35 Asian region where Seollal is celebrated
- 36 Throw out
- 37 Bug on a wire?
- 44 He/him/\_\_\_
- 46 Off-road four-wheeler, for short
- 48 Brings home
- 49 Bedsheet fabric
- 51 Started
- 52 Naan or ciabatta, e.g.
- 53 Band with the aptly titled album "Power Up"
- 54 Shakespearian "you"
- 55 Vatican City
- 56 Ain't another way?
- 59 Actor's prompt

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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## Race to the Top by Paul Coulter

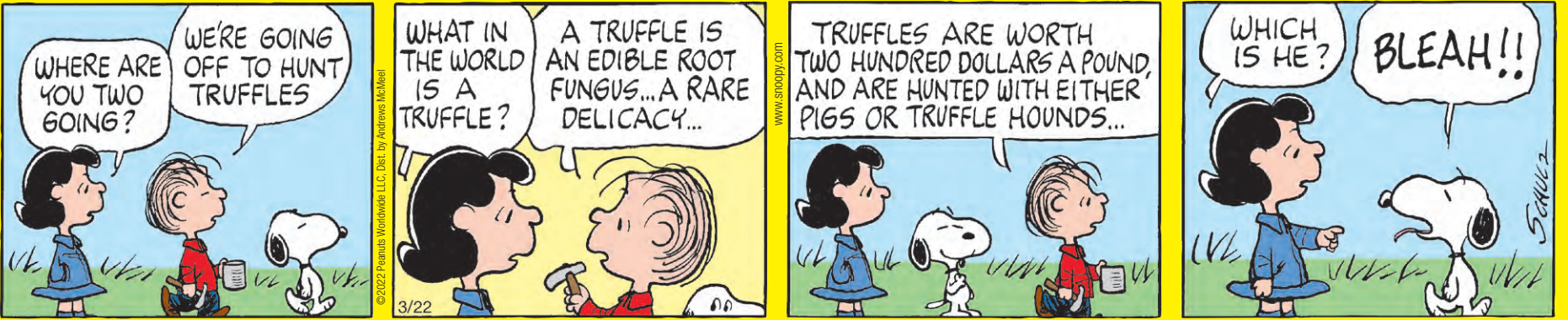
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21				22	23				
24				25				26					
	27	28				29			30	31	32		
		33				34	35				36		
37						38					39		
40						41					42		
43						44					45	46	
		47	48								50	51	52
53	54							55			56		
57						58	59				60		
61						62					63		
64						65					66		



# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

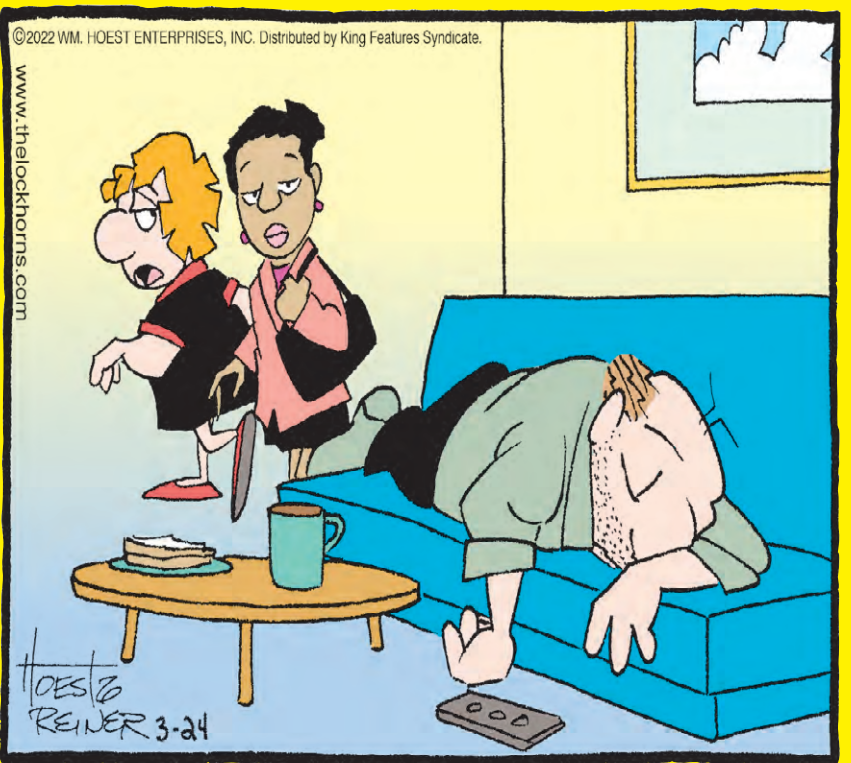


## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

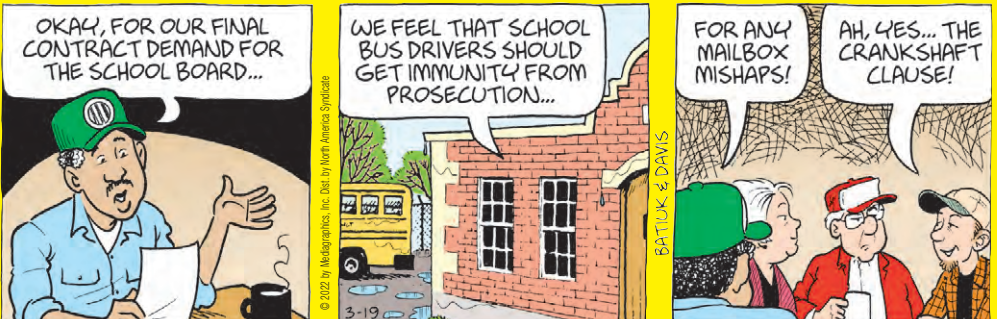
## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



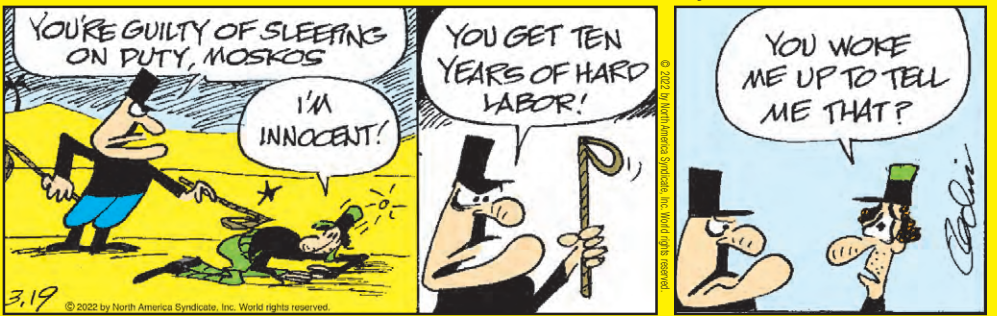
## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



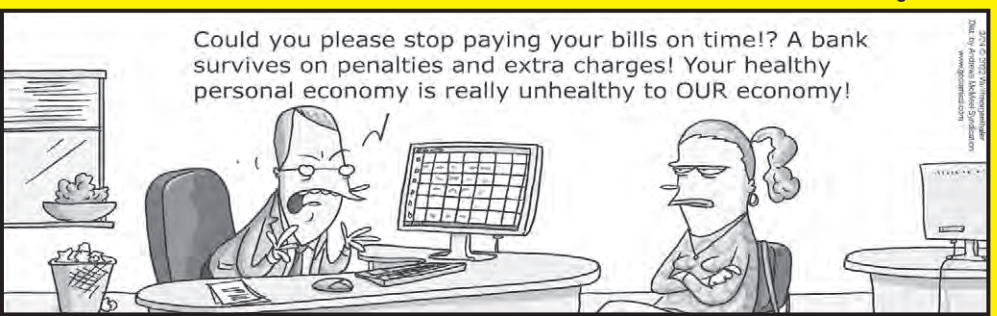
## F Minus

Tony Carrilo



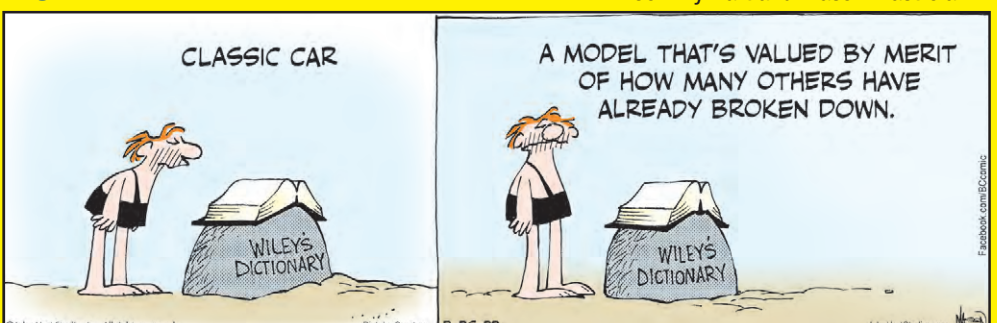
## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

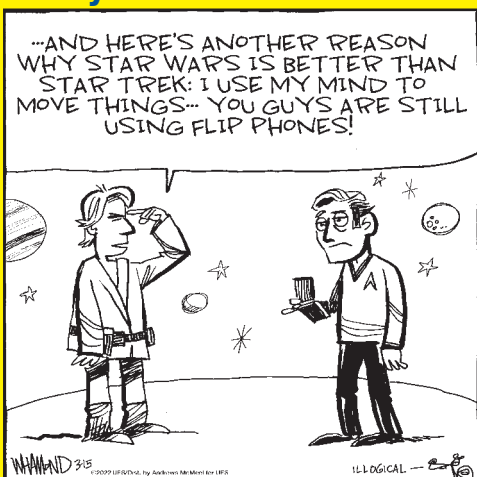


## Reality Check

Dave Whamond

## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



## Close To Home

John McPherson



## The Cologne Ranger.

## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"False alarm. These are beans for dinner."



# SPORTS

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## Blue Devils reflect on hoops season

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

After a loss earlier in March during the district championship game, the 2021-22 season officially came to an end for the Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team. This year's young Blue Devils team experienced its fair share of growing pains over the course of the season. However, South ultimately ended the season by showing that a bright future for the program could be ahead.

It may have been easy to write off the Blue Devils this year after

seeing how the team performed the first month or so. South lost its first four games in a row and dropped seven of its first 10 contests of the season. Some of those games were against talented teams like Detroit Loyola and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, which meant the Blue Devils were forced to handle some tough tests early on. After a strong offseason, South and head coach Steve Benard felt like they may have been ready for those challenges, but the adversity that came with them was not all bad.

"We played in some

really good and tough events to try and get ready for the season," Benard said. "I felt like we were prepared and I had us pegged as a 10-, 11- or 12-win team, but didn't think we would get to 11 wins the way we did. ... We had five really competitive games coming out, but I didn't think we would start 0-4, so we had some adversity right out of the gate."

The difficulties South faced to start the year did not last forever. The Blue Devils ended the year with an even 11-11 record while winning six of their final seven games of the season.

What the turnaround in South's season may have come down to is identity. With a roster that included just one senior, the Blue Devils were a mostly young team filled with players adjusting to new roles. It may have taken some time, but the players and coaching staff at South finally were able to get their feet under them and turn things into a promising season.

"We were struggling as a group and coaching staff to find our identity," Benard said. "As the season went on, the biggest thing was the experience. At the beginning of the year, I thought we had some experience from the summer, but it didn't really carry over in the beginning. As the season went on, we found our identity and had some players step up and had some good practices and were able to improve."

The group gaining experience as the season went along also helped South see just how dynamic the team can be going forward. Benard was able to experiment with different starting lineups and watch each player go through peaks and valleys while they learned throughout the season. Ultimately, it helped the team to learn

what it might take to be competitive in the years to come.

"There were 10 or 11 games where we had different starting lineups," Benard said. "Any time you have that much movement in your lineup, the practices are going to get competitive. ... Overall, every kid on the team improved in some aspect."

Even South's single senior on the roster, Nicholas Borrego, showed improvements over the course of the season and made Benard proud of the leadership he was able to show both on and off the court. Borrego's veteran presence is sure to be remembered by the other players on South who took big leaps this winter and who are set to return for another season.

One of those players who saw an increased role this season was sophomore Karter Richards. Richards was on last year's varsity team as a freshman, but was not featured in the starting lineup as prominently as he was this time around. He evolved into one of South's top scorers this season, but it was his efforts on the defensive side of the ball that really seemed to stand out.

"He had a great year defensively," Benard said. "I was always confident in his defense but didn't think he would be able to guard the best player on every team on a nightly basis. He took those matchups and did really well and was really under control on the floor."

Richards was the lone sophomore on this year's South squad. A majority of the team was comprised of juniors who will return as experienced seniors next winter. One of those juniors was Alex English, whose physical presence in the paint gives Benard faith he can be South's go-to big man going forward.

"He started the season out strong, then had to stop for a bit because of COVID," he said. "He struggled a bit coming back, but really found his niche toward the end of the year and was a real presence inside."

Another junior likely poised for a huge season next winter is Anthony Benard. Sharing captain duties with Borrego this season, Benard stepped up as a leader South can look to for next season and faced the pressure of being the team's main scorer on almost a nightly basis.

See SOUTH, page 4D



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team finished this season with an 11-11 record and advanced as far as the district championship game.

## Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

As a junior in high school, Keiran Rahmaan already has put together a decorated swimming career. Dream Team member, state champion and All-American are just some of the accolades the swimmer from Grosse Pointe South High School has collected during his time swimming for the Blue Devils. Rahmaan is coming off the heels of another successful season in the pool with South and has the confidence to do it again one last time when next winter comes.

The biggest highlights of this season for Rahmaan and his South teammates came earlier this month at the MHSAA Division 2 swimming and diving state finals. Rahmaan was part of the 200 yard medley relay team that won this year's state

championship in the event and set a state record. A championship in that event made it the second year in a row he was a part of a state championship relay team. Ultimately, that experience gave him the confidence to realize that major accomplishments like state titles are something he can achieve over and over

again. "Going into prelims, I was excited and a little bit nervous," he said. "We swam really well at prelims and the night of

finals I realized we could do something and got nervous. Once the morning came around I calmed down and realized that I've been doing this so long there was no need to be nervous about it."

Being part of the relay teams in the 200 yard medley and 200 freestyle play into Rahmaan's biggest strengths as a swimmer. The junior is at his best in the pool when he is able to be a sprinter. When it comes to individual events, the 100 yard fly and backstroke have become his specialties. Now with multiple state championships to his name and more All-American honors surely to come this offseason, Rahmaan's journey in the pool began like many young swimmers in the Pointes.

From lessons to local club programs, the skills he has learned from family and coaches along the way laid the foundation for his already successful high school career.

"When we moved over to Grosse Pointe from Detroit, my brother decided to do some lessons and I got into it because he did it," Rahmaan said. "I really enjoyed it and got involved with Lakefront Swimming and the Grosse Pointe Gators, which led me to high school."

Rahmaan still swims for the Gators during the high school offseason and is traveling to Florida in the coming weeks with the club for another meet. His high school, club and training schedules keep Rahmaan in swimming shape throughout the year, and the success he has enjoyed the last couple of seasons is what is driving him to accomplish even more in his upcoming senior year.

"It motivated me as a junior to think I can



COURTESY PHOTO

South swimmer Keiran Rahmaan has reached great heights in his swimming career, including state champion and All-American honors, through just his junior year.

really impact our team next year as a senior," he said. "With it being my final year, I think we'll be back and up there again."

Winning state championships in the relay and being named an All-American for his relay efforts are great team accomplishments for Rahmaan. His personal achievements do not take a backseat either.

An ultimate goal for Rahmaan over the next year is to find a place where he can continue swimming in college. Tearing through the competition this winter and setting some career-best times in his signature events could end up being keys that get Rahmaan even more notice on the recruiting

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Keiran Rahmaan**

School: Grosse Pointe South  
Sport: Swimming

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2D | SPORTS

# North ends season with pride, lessons learned

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Looking back on the 2021-22 season, there is plenty for the Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team to be proud of. The Norsemen repeated as MAC Red Division champions, won a district title and advanced as far as the regional championship game. North stood up to every test it faced this season and was able to achieve one of its ultimate goals of playing its best basketball when it mattered the most.

“Right at the end of the year we started taking care of the basketball a lot better and got the

competitive juices flowing,” said North head coach Gary Bennett. “We were probably playing our best basketball at the end of the year and our game against Hamtramck, even without Natalie (Babcock), was outstanding in terms of our defense and taking care of the ball.”

The Norsemen defeated Hamtramck in the district championship game to advance to the regional playoffs. They blew past Berkley in the regional semifinals before falling to West Bloomfield in the regional title game, who went on to win the Division 1 state championship.

Even with a tough test against one of the best teams in the state, North didn’t back down. The Norsemen defense held West Bloomfield to just two points the entire second quarter of the regional final. That kind of effort stood out to Bennett as a sign that his players are capable of going toe to toe with any competition.

“That maybe opened their eyes as to how good they actually could be if they could get a full game like that,” Bennett said. “It was against a very, very talented team and even helped me realize that we can play at that level and keep ourselves in the game. We can’t let



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

The girls basketball team at North achieved success this season with its second consecutive MAC Red Division championship and a district title.

them get runs on us and in terms of players coming back, the biggest takeaway from the season is that you can play a potential state champion and play them on their court and play against them pretty well.”

North’s team proved it can be extremely competitive throughout the season. A district championship and a run to the regional final provides a strong foundation for the Norsemen to build on, as the team will look largely the same when next season comes around.

This year’s Norsemen team included just one senior, Elizabeth Siciliano, on the roster. Siciliano’s veteran presence in the locker room and on the court will be missed, but the majority of North’s core that led the team to success this winter will be back to do it again next season.

With nearly the entire roster set to return in 2022-23, Bennett is optimistic that each and every player can continue to grow after the individual improvements made during this season.

“Everybody raised their level of play and there’s not anybody I think backpedaled or anything,” he said. “If you look at it from last year to this year, they all improved. If you look at it from the start of the season to the end, they all improved.”

Possibly the biggest improvement Bennett saw throughout the season was his team’s attention to detail and smart play. If the Norsemen can continue to play smart basketball on a regular basis, then the ceiling for next year’s team could be even higher.

“We can become more consistent taking care of the ball, because we saw some stretches where we did a great job of it,” Bennett said. “I want to get more consistent at taking care of the ball and cutting down on turnovers to give us more opportunities to score.”

The winter season is over and now the Norsemen look to the off-season, where the team has an opportunity to get better both as a whole and individually. Staying

tough on defense, taking care of the basketball and each player growing their individual skill sets are sure to be focuses for North during the build up to next winter.

For Bennett, some of the biggest lessons of the season come back to that regional title game. There were things the Norsemen did extremely well and parts of the game where it became clear there are areas that must be improved. Making those improvements and adjustments ahead of next season might be the key to even more success for North.

“(West Bloomfield) weren’t scoring against our defense, they were scoring against our offense,” Bennett said. “They were ripping the ball away or intercepting passes and it gave them scoring opportunities because we couldn’t get back. Those things have to get better because our defense and effort were outstanding. I couldn’t have asked for any more effort than they gave, especially in that second quarter.”



Several key starters from this year’s team, including Annabel Ayrault, above, are set to return for the Norsemen next season.



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## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

“I broke 50-point in the 100 fly and I think that will help me out a lot in being recruited,” he said. “I was stuck at almost breaking it for a long time, so getting there means a lot. And on the medley relay, I swam backstroke and broke 23, so I think that will also help to show

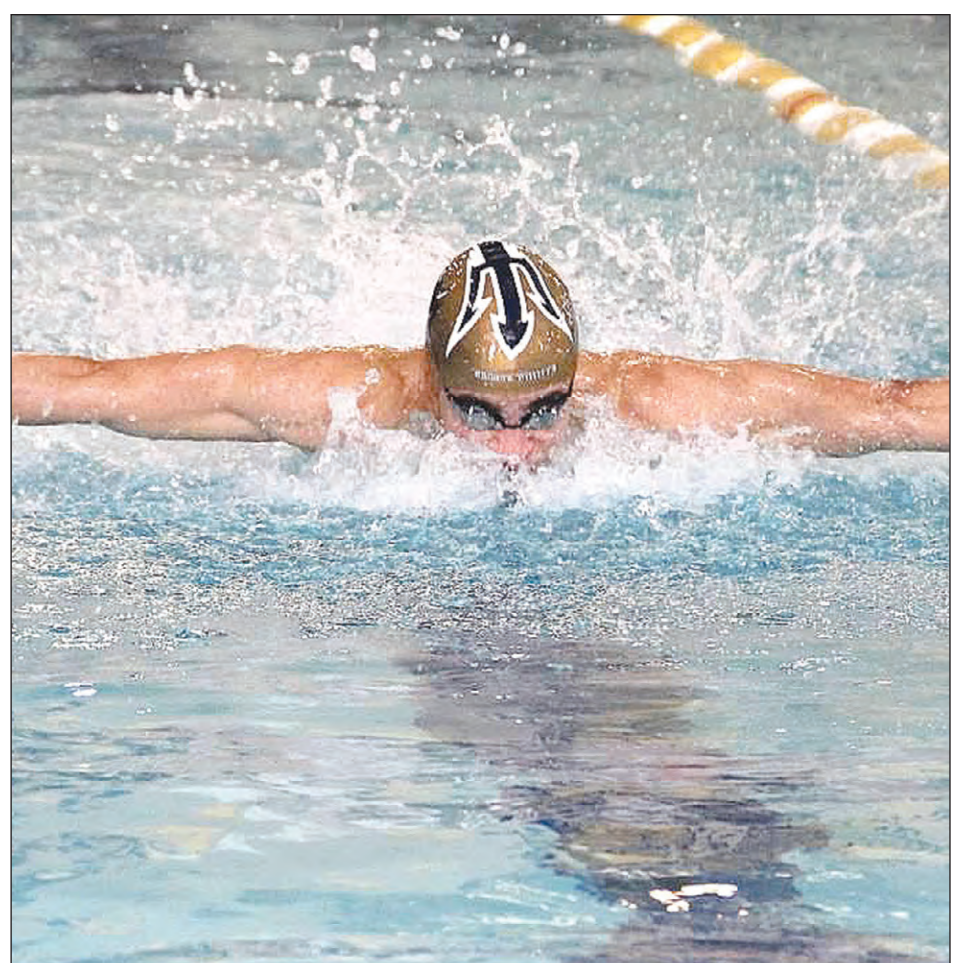
I’m good in short distance.”

Next year’s senior season could be a monumental one for Rahmaan. Not only can he end up being recruited by college programs, but it also will provide the opportunity for him to collect more hardware at the state finals. The Blue Devil knows that, like any good swimmer, hard work in the off-season and paying attention to every small detail is

the key to getting better and better every time he gets in the pool.

“My turns can get a little faster, especially my open turns on the 100 fly,” Rahmaan said. “I think my underwater turns on the backstroke can get better, which will help for the relay, so hopefully we can place high again.”

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit [grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week).



COURTESY PHOTO

Keiran Rahmaan swims events such as the 100 yard butterfly and backstroke. He was also part of South’s 200 yard medley relay team that won the state championship this year and won a state title in 2021 with the 200 yard freestyle relay team.



# Knights eager to defend state title

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

One of the toughest tasks in all of high school sports is successfully defending a state championship. After an incredible 2021 season that ended in a Division 3 state championship, reaching that mountain-top once again this spring is the ultimate goal of the University Liggett Knights baseball team.

The Knights return almost all of their key pieces from last year's state title team, along with a couple of new faces who could have big impacts right away. A tough regular season schedule has upped the competition for Liggett and repeating as state champs is not going to be an easy feat. As the top-ranked team in

Division 3 in the pre-season Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll, the Knights have a target on their backs right out of the gate, but would not want it any other way.

"It's a position that we've been in for some time now and we really relish that position," Liggett head coach Dan Cimini said. "We like to be the hunted and be the team that everybody wants to knock off."

Liggett certainly is going to be the hunted team in Division 3 throughout the 2022 season. Contributing to that is the fact the Knights' roster looks virtually identical to last year's team.

Having so many returning starters adds experience as a strength to a Liggett team that won a state title last year

with a mostly young core. With so many familiar names back on the diamond for the Knights, it means the team's main philosophy is unchanged.

"We bring back the entire starting lineup from last year's team," Cimini said. "It always starts with pitching and defense. Kurt Barr, Jack Jones, Preston Barr and Blake Ilitch are the guys we're going to look to on the mound. Then Jarren Purify and Reggie Sharpe up the middle and Oliver Service gives us a really strong defense up the middle."

A more experienced Liggett lineup this spring is going to be put to the test early and often. While the Knights currently are spending spring break training at IMG Academy in Florida, one of the most grueling schedules of any team in the state awaits once they return to Michigan.

The Knights are making the jump this season to the CHSL Central Division. Moving up a division for the regular season means a major jump in competition. Liggett now is faced with a regular season schedule that includes teams like Brother Rice, Detroit Catholic Central and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the No. 1 high school baseball team in the country according to Max Preps.

"We have 20 games against Division 1 Catholic League teams, so we're going to be battle tested for sure,"

Cimini said. "We also play Grand Blanc, defending D1 state champions, Grosse Pointe South, Northville. The schedule is very tough."

Cimini and the Knights see their rigorous regular season schedule as a benefit. Taking on some of the best teams in the state on a regular basis could pay dividends come playoff time. If the team can stay healthy throughout all of the tests it is set to face this spring, then Cimini believes Liggett will be ready for anything when it's crunch time.

"We won't see anything in the playoffs that we haven't seen in the regular season," he said. "The goal is to keep our guys healthy and compete in the Central and give it everything we've got."

Pitching and defense likely will be the biggest strengths for Liggett, just as they were in 2021. Top arms such as Jones and Barr return as some of the go-to guys in the Knights' pitching rotation. There also is one new addition to the squad at Liggett this year expected to have a major impact.

Referred to by Cimini as a key player on the mound, freshman pitcher Blake Ilitch joins an already stacked staff for the defending state champs. Adding one of the top freshmen players in the state, the Knights see plenty of potential in Ilitch to contribute in many ways.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

The University Liggett baseball team celebrating last year's Division 3 state championship win, an achievement it hopes to repeat in 2022.

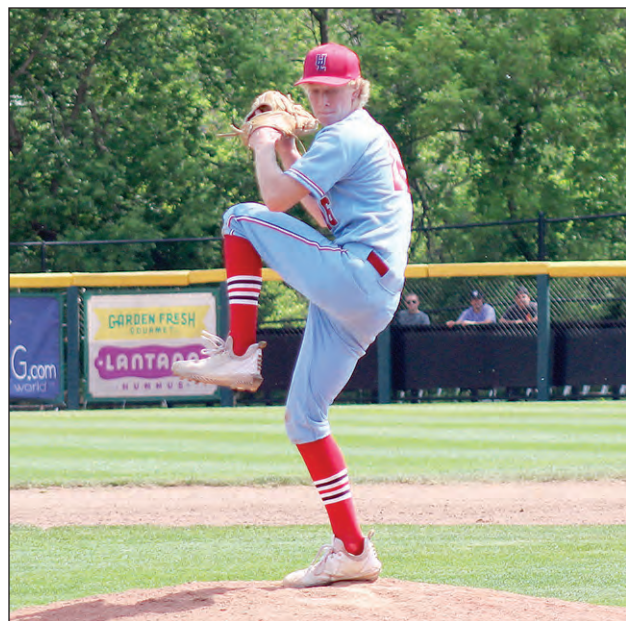
"He's a top notch pitcher and consistently throws in the high 80s and low 90s," Cimini praised the freshman. "He's a competitor and we want competitors in our programs. He's going to give us a big lift on the mound when our other guys aren't throwing and he's got a really good bat as well."

It would be hard to argue that the Knights do not have the talent to handle every test on their way to another potential state championship. Returning starters who gained experience playing in the biggest games last year are entering this spring with confidence. The youthful roster from last year has only gotten stronger through hard work and dedication

during the offseason, all with the goal of it paying off in June.

"Each one of the guys has gotten stronger since last year," Cimini said. "We were very young last year and I think we lacked a bit of physical size and strength. The guys have put the work in and this year are going to be pretty strong, which is a key with the grueling schedule that we have. We've got to be healthy and the guys have put in a lot of work weightlifting and running and keeping their bodies in shape."

The Knights begin their title defense Saturday, April 2, when they open the season at Brother Rice. Liggett's home opener is scheduled Wednesday, April 6, against De La Salle.



The Knights return several key starters from last year's championship squad, including Kurt Barr, above.

## New coach, veteran players ready to lead North baseball

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

A mix of new and familiar faces make up this year's Grosse Pointe North High School baseball team. The familiar faces of several returning players bring a veteran presence hungry to repeat and build upon the success of 2021. New faces, including a change at head coach, join the effort for the Norsemen in what should be another exciting season on the dia-

mond.

Kevin Shubnell was named interim head coach of the Norsemen following the resignation of former head coach David Martin in February. Shubnell and his new coaching staff have faced a quick turnaround in getting prepared for this season, but all of the offseason changes at North have not brought down the team's energy heading into spring.

"There's not going to be any excuses for not

being organized because of when we took over or when the transition from Coach Martin to myself happened," Shubnell said. "It's an adjustment, but they're making the best of it and the energy has been really good and we're looking to build on that going forward."

As interim coach, Shubnell inherits a Norsemen squad that won district and regional championships last season and advanced as far as the state quarterfinals. Plenty of key con-

tributors from last year's team are back and have the ability to make the coaching transition feel seamless.

One of those returning starters is senior catcher Luke Babcock. With a strong presence both behind the plate defensively and with a bat in his hand on offense, Babcock's experience makes him one of several key pieces on this North team. To his new coach, it is the senior's leadership and baseball IQ that have stood out the most.

"He's a natural leader and a legacy of this program going back to his dad," Shubnell said

about his catcher. "The positive but direct way in which he gets guys to do things and him not being afraid to say things. ... What Luke does for us is outstanding with his leadership and I've been blessed to be on a team where I can coach him and that doesn't even speak to his ability as a catcher and what he can do for us at the plate."

Also leading the way in terms of experience this spring are seniors Jake Tedesco and James MacAuley. Tedesco, a pitcher, and MacAuley, an infielder, bring veteran varsity experience to the diamond for the Norsemen and know what it takes to be successful after last season's accomplishments.

"We expect a lot of leadership from them," Shubnell said. "They can demonstrate the norm

and standard of our program. Even though they've been up there really just one year since the 2020 season didn't happen, we still are looking for a lot out of them."

While North may be led by some strong seniors this year, there are other non-senior returning players from last season poised for big roles this spring. A prime example could be juniors Cameron Schafer and Jordan Arseneau.

Both should make their presence known at the plate, while Schafer brings energy to the infield and Arseneau a big arm to the pitching staff. After having their first seasons on varsity last year, Shubnell and the Norsemen expect this pair of juniors to be

See NORTH, page 4D

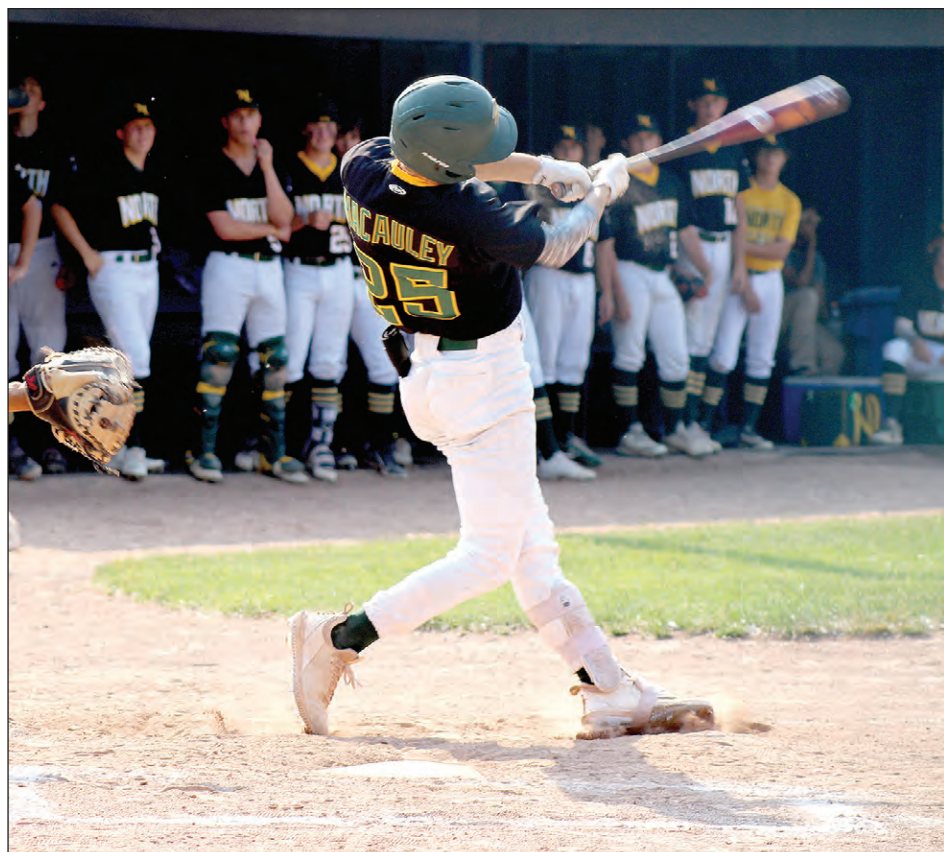


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Infielder James MacAuley returns to North's lineup this season after being part of last year's team, which won district and regional championships.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 7, 2022

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

**ROLL CALL:** All Councilpersons were present.

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held February 23, 2022 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on December 15, 2022 and March 2, 2022 and the Library Board meeting held on January 20, 2022.
- 2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 124069 through 124149 in the amount of \$442,177.16 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing.
- 2) approve payment to Dominion Voting Systems in the amount of \$5,085.00 for the annual maintenance of the voting equipment and software license renewal.
- 3) to approve the payment to the Michigan Department of Transportation in the amount of \$19,169.83 for the city's proportionate share of the Beaconsfield Resurfacing Project.
- 4) to approve payment in the amount of \$1,015,628.12 to Wayne County for the Milk River Drain principal and interest payments on the SRF Program.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, March 24, 2022

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk



## 4D | SPORTS



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

**Pitcher Brennan Hill will be back in North's rotation this season looking to build off of an impressive freshman year on the mound last spring.**

## NORTH:

*Continued from page 3D*

among the younger group that can make a major impact this spring.

"They have positive energy and set the course for us," he said. "We expect them to do big things for us and make a leap. They're the ones to really watch in that junior class."

With a strong group of seniors and juniors coming back for another run at postseason success, expectations once again are high for the Norsemen. Playing in the biggest games late in the season always is a goal for a historic program like North.

Shubnell sees that drive for success in his players and knows their expectations after talking to the team in the buildup to the season. Replicating and building on the success of last season is the expecta-

tion North seems to have for itself this year. To do that, working together and buying into the system of a new coaching staff is the key.

"I don't think any of them didn't mention winning a state championship or going farther than last year," Shubnell said. "There's championship expectations for their performance on the field. ... As a coach and a teacher and seeing the big picture, I want us to be a team. If we can come together as a group and work together in the same direction, we can get the most out of our talent and get the most out of each game and each practice, then the wins and losses will take care of themselves."

Those wins and losses will have to be fought for day in and day out for the Norsemen. With tough competition in the MAC White Division and a strong non-league

schedule ahead, North is going to be put to the test early and often. Games against teams like Detroit Edison, Brother Rice and crosstown rivals Grosse Pointe South are just some of the biggest tests that will show what this year's North team is capable of.

"We have some quality opponents and everyone is gunning for us," Shubnell said. "That's just the way it goes when you're Grosse Pointe North in the MAC White. I didn't get to make the non-league schedule, but every team we get to play we're going to get their best. There's some benchmarks in there with tough teams."

North opens the season Saturday, April 9, with a road matchup against Birmingham Groves. The Norsemen wait until Monday, April 18, for their home opener when they host L'Anse Creuse North.

## SOUTH:

*Continued from page 1D*

To his dad and coach, Anthony Benard made his biggest leaps this year when it came to leadership both on and off the court. It may have taken some time for the junior captain to really rally the Blue Devils behind him, but it shows that he is ready to step up and lead a more experienced South team in the future.

"What he faced this year was totally different than the past," Coach

Benard said. "We had to work with him on leadership because he was accustomed to playing with more experienced players. He had to learn how to navigate the group and they had to learn to trust him."

South's attention now turns to the offseason. Many of the athletes on the Blue Devils basketball team participate in spring or fall sports when they are not on the court, which Benard does not see as a bad thing. He wants to see his players doing everything they can to become

more athletic in the buildup to next winter.

"The weight room is one thing because our kids need to keep getting stronger and stay in the gym in some capacity," he said. "We're big supporters of kids playing multiple sports, but basketball is like no other. It's a skill sport, so you need the athleticism, mental toughness and skill, so we want to carve out time in the spring and summer where even if guys are playing other sports they can still get shots up and develop their skills."

# Experienced pitching is biggest key to success for South

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Spring means the return of baseball season and another year of the Grosse Pointe South High School baseball team being led by hall of fame coach Dan Griesbaum. This year's Blue Devils team may look slightly different after losing some key seniors from last season, but a crop of new players and returning faces ready to step into bigger roles have high hopes for another competitive spring.

Among the familiar names stepping into major spots in this year's roster are Wells Graham, Quentin Dennis, Chase Mazey, Alex Tigges and Michael Tengler. Graham, Dennis and Mazey are part of a pitching staff that could be this team's biggest strength this season. In Griesbaum's eyes, that core rotation could be the key to success through a highly competitive MAC Red Division.

"We think our strength is our top four starting pitchers in Graham, Dennis, Mazey and Robbie Leonard," he said. "That's our strength coming back and they're going to get most of the innings in the league."

While that core of experienced players, especially in the pitching rotation, are going to be leaned on heavily, younger players are ready to make the leap into prominence within South's lineup this year. Key pieces moving up from JV include Joey Michelotti, as well as infielders Connor Stafford and Hunter Belanger.

The success of the Blue Devils' JV program in 2021 means some of those newer varsity faces have plenty of promise. Such additions could help in one very important area — depth.

"Our JV won the MAC Red and we came in second last year in the MAC Red, so we feel like we have nice depth on the team and have several

players who can challenge for some of the starting positions," Griesbaum said.

Having a strong pitching rotation and defensive depth certainly are helpful. However, one concern Griesbaum has going into this season is getting the same kind of consistent offensive production South had in recent years due to players who have now graduated and gone from the program.

Key pieces from last year's squad, namely Ryker Mazey and Jacob Harris, will be missing from the Blue Devils lineup this season after graduating, which has Griesbaum and the rest of South's staff wondering who can step up in the batter's box to fill those holes.

"What we need to do is replace the offensive numbers that we lost in guys like Mazey and Harris, who both hit over .400," Griesbaum said. "We're going to need other players to fill in and pick up some of the power numbers where those guys left."

Still less than five years removed from winning a Division 1 state championship in 2018, the Blue Devils always are a threat to make noise in the postseason. Success in the MAC Red is a main focus this year too. In a competitive division, South is confident it can contend for a MAC Red title at the end of the regular season, with more success hopefully following after that.

"Last year we really felt like we should have won the MAC Red and were very close," Griesbaum said. "We lost one close game in the last inning where we were up 6-0 and lost 7-6. We could have won a share of the title last year, so we're looking to get back and challenge for the MAC Red."

Big contributions from everyone are going to be key if the Blue Devils want to achieve that goal of winning the MAC Red. With the lineup looking a bit different this spring,

adjustments will have to be made.

Griesbaum is no stranger to making adjustments throughout the season. He knows the strengths and weaknesses of this year's Blue Devils team and knows that anything can happen in any given game, especially in the MAC Red. With the strengths of this year's squad lying mainly with the experienced pitching staff, Griesbaum sees those veterans as the focal point that could decide how far South can go this year.

"The guys coming back who have a year under their belt are going to be so much better this year, because they have a year under their belt of playing that really tough competition," he said. "The key will be pitching, because if you can hold people down then you're going to be in any game. All of those players, because of their experience and going through it all last year, are going to be the key to the team's success."

While the experienced varsity players bring plenty to the table, the newer faces also must be ready to step up right away. How some of South's younger players handle the transition to bigger roles on a varsity team also can play a huge part in the Blue Devils' success.

"We're really going to need those guys who started some of the time last year and some of the players from JV to make the transition from JV ball to varsity ball and they played competitive summer ball, which can help," Griesbaum said. "How much those experienced guys can carry us and how much the newer guys improve and make the adjustment is key."

The Blue Devils host Roseville for an exhibition doubleheader Saturday before heading to Ohio for a series of games during next week's spring break. South returns home for its regular season home opener Thursday, April 7, against De La Salle.

## GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Grosse Pointe Public School System will receive sealed bid proposals for: **Construction Final Cleaning.**

Until **11:00 a.m. local time on April 12, 2022**, for the 2018 Bond Program. Grosse Pointe Public School System will not consider or accept a Proposal received after the date and time specified for the Proposal submission.

The bidding documents consists of the RFP and its attachments prepared by Plante Moran Cresa and may be obtained through the e-Builder site by selecting the link below.

Proposals must be electronically delivered no later than 11:00 a.m. local time, April 12, 2022, to [GPPSSCleaningProposals@docs.e-builder.net](mailto:GPPSSCleaningProposals@docs.e-builder.net) Attn: Amanda Matheson, Deputy Superintendent for Business Operations. Each Proposal must be submitted on the forms included in the RFP and must be completed in full. Each Proposal shall be sealed and the subject line to read "GPPSS - Proposal for Construction Final Cleaning" along with the name of the bidding Firm. Grosse Pointe Public School System is not liable for any delivery delays. No bids will be received at any other location; all bids must be received by Grosse Pointe Public School System at the email address identified above.

All Proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days. Oral, telephone or fax bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All Proposals must be accompanied by: 1) A completed and detailed Proposal Form. 2) A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidding Firm and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school. 3) A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure. 4) A sworn and notarized Criminal Background Affidavit; and 5) A sworn and notarized Non-Collusive Affidavit.

**Request for Proposal documents may be viewed and downloaded at:**

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=dbabb17296184a1b8f2d674177032216>

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 21, 2022**. Any questions contact Robert Stempien at Plante Moran Cresa at [Robert.Stempien@plantemoran.com](mailto:Robert.Stempien@plantemoran.com).

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low proposing Firm; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the Owner.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

**Chase Mazey will be part of a veteran pitching rotation on this season's South baseball team.**





PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior Griffin Adams scored 24 goals and tallied 25 assists for South lacrosse last spring.

## South lacrosse enters season with fresh roster

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

Last year was an exceptional season for the Grosse Pointe South High School boys lacrosse team. The Blue Devils were MAC Red Division champions with a perfect 6-0 league record and a 13-2 record overall. In 2022, that same level of success could end up being hard to match, especially with the program looking quite different from how it did last spring.

The Blue Devils still are led by reigning MAC coach of the year, Justin Macksoud. The large crop of talented seniors who led Macksoud's group to success last season have graduated, which leaves South entering this year with plenty of unknowns. With a mix of returning players from last year's team ready to step up and new varsity players getting their first taste of the action, the Blue Devils still have high hopes that they can exceed expectations in 2022.

"Everybody kind of wants to pay us back for last year, especially in our conference," Macksoud said. "They see that we lost 19 guys, but we're also returning a lot of guys including both of our goalies and two of our leading scorers. ... I'm cautiously and quietly optimistic about how this season can go."

Notable returners from last year's team include juniors Griffin Adams, who scored 24 goals last season, and Jack Hanigan. A couple of the players from last year's varsity squad are poised to make even bigger leaps this season. South also brings up a large crop of players from JV to varsity and is taking a chance on some athletes who are new to the sport of lacrosse.

There may be a lot of questions when it comes to how the new faces on

varsity will perform this spring. Macksoud is confident from what he has seen that everybody is ready to prove they belong.

"The returning guys are a year into the varsity program and some are going to get a lot more playing time than they did last year," he said. "The rest are guys coming up from JV to varsity and they have that energy and those jitters. We've also done a good job, because we thought numbers might be low this year, of recruiting inside the school and recruiting a bunch of athletes. We have about four kids who are new to lacrosse, but are great athletes and have caught on quickly."

This year's relatively young team is going to be put to the test early and often. The Blue Devils have a challenging schedule ahead of them that includes non-league games against teams such as Cranbrook, Detroit Country Day and Orchard Lake St. Mary's. "We don't play any jokes," Macksoud said. "All these teams reached out to me. I didn't have to chase down any of them, so it's going to be a learning year."

What could end up being a major help for South this season is the team's athletes gaining experience in other sports. It may be the first time some of them are seeing varsity lacrosse action, but not their first time competing at the high school varsity sports level.

Players getting experience in sports like football, hockey and basketball have given them a sense of competition that can carry over onto the lacrosse field. South has the athleticism and energy to compete with anyone this year, while also believing in the philosophy of building for the future.

"Harry Wright, Will

Henry, Billy Rauh, those are all kids who have been major players on the varsity hockey team," Macksoud said. "They're already used to playing at a high level with guys at their age and above their age. ... There's no jitters. It's nothing but excitement and they do understand what we're really going for and it's that we want 2022 to be the best year possible, but what we're really building for is for them to go out with a major bang in their senior year."

Last year's South team had strengths on both sides of the ball. The Blue Devils scored more than 20 goals in nine games last season while also maintaining a strong defense. Both goalies, Patrick Koeppen and Gavin Ulp, are back this season and Macksoud believes strong defense has to be more of a focus.

While the Blue Devils would enjoy capturing a third straight MAC Red Division crown this year, laying the foundation for future success is key. The young players are going to be learning and growing throughout the course of the season. Even if they do not reach the same heights as the previous couple of seasons, this year's Blue Devils team is ready to give their all no matter what.

"They understand that they're going to make mistakes," Macksoud said. "Please don't let these mistakes happen at anything less than 100 percent effort. I don't believe effort is going to be an issue this year. ... There's an accountability factor among all of them."

South opened the season Wednesday night with a road game against Haslett. The Blue Devils then take spring break and return to action Friday, April 8, when they visit Country Day. The team's home opener is Tuesday, April 12, against Rochester Adams.

## Mite-y Muskies are state champs

In an exciting weekend of hockey, the 8U Eastside Muskies brought home the coveted Mite State Championship in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association March 12-13 in Grand Rapids. Finishing the tournament undefeated and first among 40 teams, the Muskies went 8-0 in pool play and single elimination games, including a convincing 6-1 win over the Livonia

Red Lancers in the semi-final, and a resounding 4-0 win over the Battle Creek Bruins to capture the championship. The team added additional hardware to their impressive trophy case on March 19 by taking the 7U AAU Superior Division League Championship against the Bloomfield Blades by a score of 8-0. Earlier this year, the Muskies also reached the championship game in the

Green Division in the competitive 8U International Silver Sticks Tournament in Port Huron, finishing the weekend as runner-up.

The Muskies are made up of players born in 2014 and are part of the Eastside Bulldogs Hockey Program, which skates out of ESH arena. Every player on the Muskies is a Grosse Pointe resident.

— Meg Leonard



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREW RICCI

Front row, from left, Ben Faust, J.P. Farago, Connor Steiner, Evan Benner, Jack Wilson and Kyle DiLodovico. Middle Row: Sam Pierce, Ethan Arnold, Jake Reizen, Tommy DeGemmis, Nicholas Amori and Max Ricci. Back row, from left, Assistant Coach John Wilson, Head Coach Andrew Ricci, Assistant Coach Phil Pierce and Assistant Coach Jeff Ryan.



PHOTO BY ERIN DILODICO

Members of the 8U Eastside Muskies make the ultimate team dogpile in celebration of their Mite State Championship in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association March 12-13 in Grand Rapids.

### GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Grosse Pointe Public School System will receive sealed bid proposals for: **Material Testing Services.**

Until **2:00 p.m. local time on April 1, 2022**, for the 2021 Sinking Fund Program. Grosse Pointe Public School System will not consider or accept a Proposal received after the date and time specified for the Proposal submission.

The bidding documents consists of the RFP and its attachments prepared by Plante Moran Cresa and may be obtained through the e-Builder site by selecting the link below.

Proposals must be electronically delivered no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, April 1, 2022, to [GPPSSMaterialTestingProposal@docs.e-builder.net](mailto:GPPSSMaterialTestingProposal@docs.e-builder.net) Attn: Amanda Matheson, Deputy Superintendent for Business Operations. Each Proposal must be submitted on the forms included in the RFP and must be completed in full. Each Proposal shall be sealed and the subject line to read "GPPSS - Proposal for Material Testing Services" along with the name of the bidding Firm. Grosse Pointe Public School System is not liable for any delivery delays. No bids will be received at any other location; all bids must be received by Grosse Pointe Public School System at the email address identified above.

All Proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days. Oral, telephone or fax bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All Proposals must be accompanied by: 1) A completed and detailed Proposal Form. 2) A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidding Firm and any member of the board, board of directors, or the superintendent of the school. 3) A sworn and notarized Iran Disclosure. 4) A sworn and notarized Criminal Background Affidavit; and 5) A sworn and notarized Non-Collusive Affidavit.

**Request for Proposal documents may be viewed and downloaded at:**

<https://app.e-builder.net/public/publicLanding.aspx?QS=5b86858b13154076b535824222df7590>

Documents will be available for viewing on **March 21, 2022**. Any questions contact Jim Steiner at Plante Moran Cresa at [Jim.Steiner@plantemoran.com](mailto:Jim.Steiner@plantemoran.com).

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low proposing Firm; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the Owner.



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