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Grosse Pointe News

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MARCH 16, 2023
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Enrollment falls again

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Continuing a trend more than a decade long, enrollment figures for the Grosse Pointe Public School System are down this year, but not by as much as originally projected.

Superintendent Jon Dean gave a preliminary report to the Board of Education at its meeting Monday, March 13, and said the district had 6,485 full-time equivalent, or FTE students, during the first count day of the 2022-23 school year.

"There are two count days each year, one in October and one in

February, and we just got the audited numbers back from Wayne RESA," he said. "It usually takes them five or six months to complete that process."

Projections had estimated 6,475 students, which is what this year's budget is based on.

"That is consistent with what we predicted back in October," Dean said. "We kind of gave a range and said we'd land somewhere in this space. We landed in that space."

State funding is based on what is called a blended count. The fall count is worth 90 percent of per-pupil funding and

See ENROLL, page 14A



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SCHAAP CENTER

Groundbreaking of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts is getting close, according to Jamie Rae Turnbull, interim director.

Excitement builds for groundbreaking

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Paul Schaap has an approachable manner and an easy smile that hint at underlying impishness.

He's a former college chemistry professor who invented some kind of gizmo that does some-

thing people value which earned him a lot of money, a significant portion of which he and his wife are giving in kind to the Park, the Grosse Pointes as a whole and the regional performing arts community at large.

Why do they do it? "My wife and I love the theater," Paul Schaap

said.

Reports of the Schaap Center's forthcoming groundbreaking this month in Grosse Pointe Park deserve regional datelines due to the facility's projected benefit to the metropolitan Detroit performing arts community.

"The Schaap Center will be a world-class regional art center," said Jamie Rae Turnbull, interim director. "The Schaap Center is going to be a remarkable center dedicated to stimulating high-quality performing and visual arts experi-

See SCHAAP, page 4A

CAMPS FOR KIDS

NOW is the time to plan this summer's camp experience!

Section C

Mayor: Remove 'physical border barriers'

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The mayor denied criticism that meetings she's hosting with people she won't name about removing road barriers at the Detroit border are clandestine, secret, even crazy.

"I don't want to be misunderstood," said Mayor Michele Hodges after the Monday, March 13, council meeting. "I heed my community members who are concerned if we tear down a boundary we're going to have crime. I get that. That is a firm no. We will not expose our community to public safety issues."

See REMOVE, page 2A



Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Officer Jesse Lafriniere, called to work early from the day shift to support firefighters, adjusts a hose at Heritage Roofing. A four-alarm fire starting around 1:45 a.m. March 8, destroyed the building.

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

The Helm proposes 0.5 millage for senior services

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES & HARPER WOODS — Approximately 18 percent of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods is age 65 and older, with that number anticipated to rise to nearly 26 percent by 2035, according to Prudence Cole, president of the board of directors for The Helm at the Boll Life Center.

Armed with this statistic and a comparison to thriving senior services in Rochester, The Helm would like to see a 0.5 millage proposal for senior services added to

See HELM, page 12A

Fire destroys business; pub saved

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — It's 1:45 in the morning and Edward Brown is working late, a trait of creative types who tend to do their best work in the solitary, sleepy silence of half-darkness backlit by the amber glow of streetlights.

"I'm writing a movie

script," he said.

A romantic comedy. "It's a tricky plot, so I'm plotting it out on foam boards," Brown said.

He's working at the site of his day job as owner of Heritage Roofing, in the 15100 block of Charlevoix between Maryland and Lakepointe.

A fire breaks out behind a bookcase. Not in the script. In the business.

The building is half warehouse, packed with construction supplies, including tanks of propane. When too hot, propane swells by a sudden release of excess energy called a boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion.

"Some papers caught fire," Brown said.

See FIRE, page 2A

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Pointer of INTEREST

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David Calcaterra
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GROSSE POINTE'S HIGH SCHOOL FEEDER PROGRAM SINCE 2005

Little Free Library finds home at Neff Park

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — With March as National Reading Month and signs of spring right around the corner, the timing couldn't be more appropriate for a Little Free Library to be installed at Neff Park.

Provided by the Grosse Pointe Optimist Club, the wooden two-shelf library now rests just past the gatehouse on the right-hand side.

"We were trying to find ways to expand programming and options for people to utilize the park," Parks and Recreation Coordinator Becca Jenzen said, "and ... I felt it would be incredibly beneficial to have down here at the park, especially going into the summer where we're trying to encourage kids to read."

While Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library plans to partner with the City to provide books for the latest addition to Neff — as it does for a number of Little Free Libraries in the community — Jenzen noticed residents already have come and supplied their own books without any prompting.

The offerings are planned to include reading material for all ages.

"That's the great thing," Jenzen said, "is it's a really cross-generational opportunity."

The City also operates a Little Free Library at Elworthy Field.

— Laurel Kraus

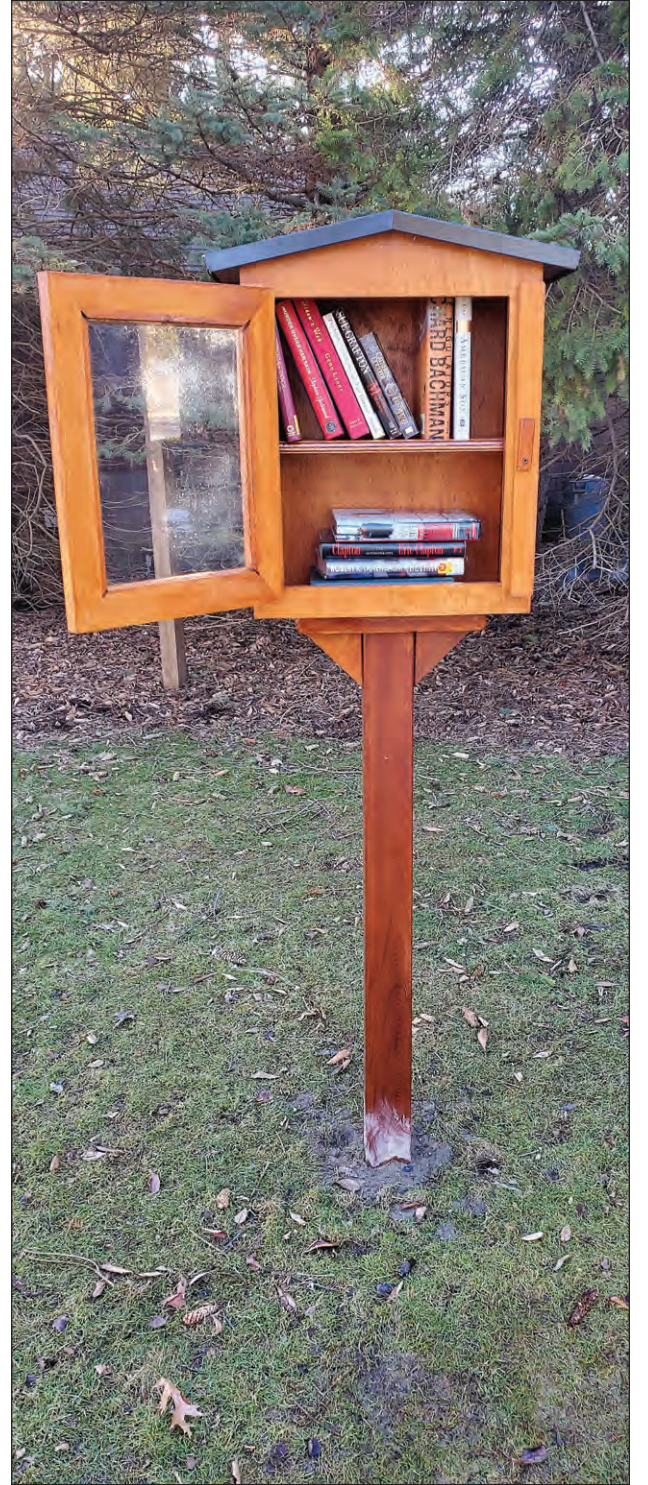


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Little Free Library is just past the Neff Park gatehouse on the right-hand side.

REMOVE:

Continued from page 1A

Criticism nevertheless had a silver lining.

"They enabled me to capture your attention," Hodges said during a nearly 10-minute speech at the end of the livestreamed council meeting. "These words have been used to describe an effort to address our borders that is beginning to take shape."

Among emails the Grosse Pointe News obtained on the matter, one by Hodges dated Jan. 3 invited 20 recipients to a meeting Jan. 11, at a Park restaurant where hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks would be served:

"We write to invite you to join a working group to plan a process to make the Grosse Pointe Park border with Detroit more welcoming. The goal is to unite the community around bringing down the many physical border barriers in a way that enables us to heal and move forward."

On Jan. 25, she pitched a follow-up meeting Feb. 11, at the Eastside Community Network's

Stoudamire Center, 4100 Conner, Detroit:

"We write to update you on the process seeking to make the Grosse Pointe Park border with Detroit more welcoming, and to ensure vibrant corridors by working together."

Her message included a warning:

"It has come to our attention that the Grosse Pointe News is aware of our effort. It would be helpful if any of you who are contacted would let any one of us know. Likewise for any other media interest of which you become aware."

"A third (meeting) is scheduled for later this month," Hodges said during the council meeting.

The next day, Hodges indicated a distinction between secret meetings and low-key ones held at the start of what likely is to be a complicated and controversial process.

"With something as significant as this, you have to start somewhere so you can learn to crawl and get to running and up to speed very quickly," she said. "It is a sensitive issue, but I want the community to know that I understand that concern, as is any concern related to the border."

This is what leadership is — taking on the tough issues and doing it in a way that moves us forward."

Hodges said during the presentation that her colleagues already knew of the border meetings — she thanked councilmen Tom Caulfield and Brian Brenner, plus City Manager Nick Sizeland and Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell — but wouldn't name the balance of attendees.

"I will leave it up to the others who are part of this group to choose to disclose their participation or not," Hodges said. "I don't believe it's my place to do that."

Tax Increment Finance Authority board members Arthur Mullen and former councilman Jim Robson acknowledged participating in Hodges' meetings, but wouldn't comment substantially prior to the TIFA meeting March 9.

Mullen said the group isn't focused on removing road barriers, but is dealing with the overarching goal of equity.

Hodges said, "Apt words to describe this effort would be transformational, aspirational, prosperity, healthy, vibrancy, vitality, smart, impactful, unity, peace, love and potentially, historic, if we get it right."

"What if those barriers are transformed to vibrant gathering places that unite us beautifully and tell the story of how we got here? If we can show the world how to do this right, we will succeed exponentially."

FIRE:

Continued from page 1A

He stomped on them.

"I ran and got some water and almost got it out," Brown said. "Then, the damn fire got under the foam boards. They just exploded. I couldn't get it out, so I got the hell out."

In the final reel five hours later, the sun is minutes from rising and the building's a total loss. The roof is caved in. Everything inside not consumed by flames is charred or sodden with fire-fighting foam and water.

"I'm cold and wet, but I'm alive and didn't get burnt," Brown said.

Umpteen firefighters in five fire trucks from four Grosse Pointe departments responded to Brown's 911 call early Wednesday, March 8.

Park Officer Ron Loosvelt, a 20-year veteran of the department, had been patrolling the south end of the city.

"The call came out that flames were showing," Loosvelt said. "By the time

we were putting water on it, flames were already coming out the roof."

Loosvelt took a couple of steps inside the front door, stopped and backed out.

"I saw propane tanks," he said. "There's propane and we don't know what else is in the building."

Park Sgt. Kevin Remus had just finished eating a chicken taco dinner when the alarm sounded.

"We immediately called for additional units and set up our fire suppression," Remus said.

Pumper crews responded from the City of Grosse Pointe and Farms. Woods officers arrived in a tower truck.

"We went into a defensive mode because of the large amount of debris inside the building," Remus said.

Thirty-degree temperatures crystalized overspray on trucks, the roadway, building facades, officers' helmets and heavy protective clothing.

Firewall construction and water from at least five hoses kept flames from spreading next door to O'Flaherty's Pub, where the bartender was sounding last call near the time Brown sounded the alarm.

"It looked like there's a little bit of water inside (O'Flaherty's) from our fire suppression, but that was all," Remus said.

At 6:40 a.m., Farms officers lowered the arm of their tower truck and began packing up.

Incident Commander Park Sgt. Stephen Thiel said the fire presented difficult challenges.

"The roof caving in, this weather, everything freezing over," Thiel said. "Our guys stayed out here and worked very hard."

Julie Baumer
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Election season about to start ... again

By GPN Staff

THE GROSSE POINTES — With last November's election still visible in the rearview mirror, it's time to start the process all over again, this time for non-partisan city council and municipal judgeships.

In the City, Shores and Woods, all open seats go directly to the Nov. 7 general election, regardless of how many people file to run. In the Farms and Park, open seats will be on the Aug. 8 primary ballot, but only if enough people file to warrant such.

The Woods

Three council seats are open, all of which are four-year terms. Incumbents are Kenn Gafa, Michael Koester and Angela Colleti Brown. Gafa and Koester were elected in 2019. Brown, who was appointed to the council in March 2021, was elected that November to fill the final two years of an unexpired term. That came about after then-Mayor Robert Novitke passed away and Arthur Bryant moved from mayor pro-tem to mayor. Bryant was elected mayor in November 2021.

All three said they plan to run again.

The mayor is paid \$6,000 a year, while council members receive



\$3,750. Nominating petitions are due by 4 p.m. July 25, and must have a minimum of 200 signatures and a maximum of 250. To be eligible, candidates must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a Woods resident for at least two years and cannot owe back taxes.

The municipal judgeship, a four-year term with a yearly salary of \$30,000, also is up for election. Judge Theodore Metry is the incumbent and said he will run for re-election.

The Shores

The mayor and three council seats are up for election. Incumbents are Mayor Ted Kedzierski and council members Danielle Gehlert, Donn Schroder and John Seago. The Grosse Pointe News

had not received responses about their plans by press time. Kedzierski was first elected to the council in 2009, and has been mayor since 2011. Gehlert and Seago were elected in 2019, while Schroder was appointed to the council in June 2021, after a resignation and was elected that November to finish the last two years of that term.

There is no salary for the mayor or council, and those wishing to run must gather 15 signatures and have been a resident of the city at least 30 days.

The Farms

Anyone interested in running for one of the three council seats, four-year terms, or mayoral seat, a two-year term, in Grosse Pointe Farms has

until 4 p.m. April 25, to file to take part in the November election.

Along with Mayor Louis Theros, incumbents are council members Joe Ricci, Neil Sroka and Lev Wood.

Unopposed the last two elections, Theros has announced intent to run again for re-election later this year.

Ricci, during his first election campaign a decade ago, cited a commitment to 10 years on council; however, in reporting his intention to run again, he now hopes to make 2024 his 11th year in the seat. In turn, shooting for his 13th year on council, Wood also will run for re-election, as will Sroka, who is aiming for his second term.

Council members in the Farms earn \$600

annually, with the mayor earning \$900 a year.

To be eligible for candidacy in the Farms election, a person must be a resident of the city for two years; cannot be financially indebted to the city; and must collect a minimum of 50 and not more than 75 petition signatures.

At least three candidates for mayor and seven for council would need to run to warrant an August primary election for either race.

The City

Aside from the mayoral seat, a two-year term, and three council seats, four-year terms, up for election in the City of Grosse Pointe this year, the municipal judge seat also will be on the ballot.

Aging out of his position, Judge Russell Ethridge is ineligible for another four-year term and will leave the seat open for a newcomer this race.

Incumbents are Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak and council members Dr. Seth Krupp, Donald Parthum Jr. and Terence Thomas.

Currently in her second term as mayor, after serving as a council member from 2016 to 2019, Tomkowiak plans to run for re-election this year.

Thomas will run for a

second term on council and Parthum, at this time, plans to vie for a fifth term.

The Grosse Pointe News did not hear back by press time from Krupp, who was appointed in August 2022 to fill a vacancy.

The baseline requirements to run for an elected position in the City are to have been a registered voter in the City for three years and gather a minimum of 20 and not more than 40 petition signatures.

The Park

The Park always has a municipal election during odd years. This year is no odder than normal. The two-year mayor and three four-year council seats are up for grabs in November. Candidates seeking office will face an incumbent mayor and at least two of three sitting council members.

Nominating petitions must be filed by April 25, and contain at least 25 and not more than 50 signatures.

Mayor Michele Hodges said she's running for a second, two-year term. She's already accumulating signatures for her petition.

Incumbent Councilman Martin McMillan said

See VOTE, page 5A

City needs access to resident water lines

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — In its time crunch to test for lead water service lines at 327 randomly selected residences, the City has not seen the partnership from residents it was hoping to find.

Since the program started last fall, "and out of those 327," Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said, "we got less than a third of people that signed off and returned back those permission slips (to go on their part of the property to access the water stop box)."

The results of the random sampling are needed by spring so city administration can apply for State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund financial assistance to replace the total number of lead lines generated by the results of the investigation.

Although the inspection

time at each home takes approximately an hour, Randazzo reported, city staff now has put hundreds of hours toward follow-up calls to unresponsive residents.

As such, city council approved a regulation in late February, drafted by the city attorney, to allow city staff and/or the city's contractor access to the areas needed to conduct the inspection program required by the state.

"We developed these regulations to allow us to go on the private property and the city property," Randazzo said. "We'll give them another notice. We'll knock on the door. But then we have to get this stuff done, so we can get everything done in a timely fashion."

The specific language in the regulation allows for entrance to city properties served by the water system to conduct excavations and inspect water shutoff valves, as well as

for entrance to premises served by the city, at reasonable hours, to inspect water meters and adjacent connections.

"We still have to go in the house," Randazzo said. "So we can have them take a picture of the water meter, it's just we have the right by ordinance to access our utility, so now to force the hand of getting stuff done, we have to have some type of regulation in place."

The four-point inspection process entails checking the line at the meter inside the home; at the

water stop box 18 inches toward the house; 18 inches toward the water main; and at the water main itself.

"Of the third (of the 327) that we've inspected, we've noticed that we have about 32 percent of homes that have lead service lines," Randazzo noted.

On a deadline to have each residence inspected by 2025, the City also is required to replace 5 percent of lead service lines a year and to have all replaced by the end of 2041.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Construction Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens' Commission meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe Parks and Harbor Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.



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Pointer turns golf into new family business

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

Just as he has always called Grosse Pointe home, golf always has played a big part in David Calcaterra's life. Calcaterra and his brother, Peter, have been enthusiasts of the game since they were young, and now are turning it into a lifestyle by launching their own brand, 2Putt Golf Apparel.

"(Peter and I) would go to the pro shops and he would complain, 'I'm in the printing business. I know how much these things cost. They're charging too much,'" Calcaterra said. "This idea started when we thought, 'Why can't we just do this on our own?'"

From that, 2Putt was born. Calcaterra handles the sales and marketing side of the business while his brother specializes in graphic design and actual



COURTESY PHOTO

2Putt Golf Apparel models show off some of the company's gear in front of the Lochmoor clubhouse.

printing. The two brothers have become a dynamic duo with a growing team around them helping bring 2Putt off the ground.

Calcaterra and his brother make a great team in business and have found a new way to share a love

for golf with their friends. After all, it was his brother and his friends who helped Calcaterra find his passion for the game in the first place.

"I grew up playing golf with all my buddies at Chandler Park," he said.

"As we got older, I started to take it a bit more seriously and now I'm a member at Lochmoor. My brother started to get into it I think because of myself, because he always wanted to try and beat the older brother. ... Most of the

summers were spent just playing golf as much as we could."

Calcaterra has moved most of his playing from Chandler Park to Lochmoor, where he and his brother are members. Being part of his hometown club gives Calcaterra the opportunity to have a place where 2Putt's apparel can be tested on the course.

Golfers at Lochmoor and other courses near the Pointes may start to see players wearing 2Putt gear. However, it may take a little time before the brand starts having an even bigger presence at courses not only around Michigan, but around the country. Calcaterra knows it is OK to take things slow when it comes to rolling out a brand, but so far that slow and steady emergence into the market has been welcomed with open arms.

"A lot of things are still in motion," Calcaterra said. "... Everyone that's tried the samples thinks the quality is great. We've had a lot of people buy hats and T-shirts. ... Everything that people have bought and done so far, we haven't had one negative complaint. As it grows, it'll be interesting to see more feedback from more groups."

The biggest advantage 2Putt has at a time like this, Calcaterra believes, is that golf is becoming more popular than ever. With more influencers on social media talking about the game and seemingly more new golfers getting onto the course each year, there may not be a better time for a company like 2Putt to be getting started.

"As an athlete, you still crave that competition, but where do you go to get it?" Calcaterra said. "Golf is that one sport where you can still be competitive and have that drive and you can play it your whole life."

SCHAAP:

Continued from page 1A

ences."

Blue construction fencing on Jefferson at the Park border of Detroit marks 2.4 acres of land on which the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery are scheduled to open under one roof in 2025.

"We're trying to have a holiday program, so we'd like to open by the end of 2024," Turnbull said. "It's really going to enhance that area. We're looking forward to all the economic improvements that this is going to drive, not just along the Jefferson corridor, but along Alter Road, Kercheval and throughout the Pointes."

"We couldn't be more excited about the blue construction fencing," said Danielle Caralis, president of Grosse Pointe Theatre.

The theater, in its

75th season with about 400 volunteers and 15,000 patrons, was forced to operate more like a wandering minstrel the last few years since its prior base of nearly six decades, The War Memorial, shifted away from the performing arts.

"We were left with a conundrum," Caralis said.

Soon, however, the theater and at least a dozen other performing arts organizations will put on shows or presentations in the Schaap Center's two-tiered, 424-seat theater with star ceiling lighting.

"The Schaap Center will allow us to spread our wings creatively — the fly space, the ring space, the hydraulic orchestra pit, the acoustics and state-of-the-art lighting — all of which allow us to design our productions in a way we really only dreamed about," Caralis said. "Paul and Carol Schaap saw in us a group with longevity, upward trajectory for another 75 years and a passion for professional-

level performances."

"We have all the bells and whistles for the performers," Turnbull said.

"Don't forget the trap door," Paul Schaap said.

"That required a basement," Turnbull said. "If anybody knows construction and what it costs to put in a basement for a trap door, you know that was a big commitment. But, Paul, Carol and the design team knew that was going to make this center really special."

She continued, "The Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery will allow our patrons to have access to world-famous art that they might not otherwise experience."

"I definitely see a place (at the center) for the DIA," said Julie McFarland, executive director of public affairs and community engagement for the Detroit Institute of Arts. "We have a mission to get out into the community and do DIA programming. This

will obviously be a wonderful place for us to advance that effort."

In addition to the Manoogian gallery's DIA-quality permanent collection, space is planned for rotating exhibitions.

"We have the yet-to-be-named — and hopefully named in the near future — community gallery, which hosts exhibits from throughout the community," Turnbull said.

Representatives of many of the center's partners met for lunch at the Ford House Feb. 28, to celebrate the project and double down on pledges to complete work yet unfinished.

"The commitment from the Schaaps and Manoogians has been remarkable and many others that made this possible," Turnbull said. "We're very, very grateful."

None of it would happen without collaboration.

"We have raised more than \$39 million toward our \$45 million goal, which is incredible," Turnbull said. "We've also raised over \$6 million toward our endowment, which is going to ensure the Schaap Center is going to be around for a very, very long time. We appreciate those who see the need for sustainability."

"Art truly does transform," Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We have a great opportunity to transform our community and strengthen the whole corridor. For this project to be that catalyst, you can't put a measure on that. We look forward to ensuring every benefit of this project is realized

Schaap Center partners so far

Performance home for: the Detroit Concert Choir, Grosse Pointe Community Chorus, Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra and Grosse Pointe Theatre.

◆ Proposed community-based partners: Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Medical Orchestra, Detroit Public Television, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Opera Theatre, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, The Carr Center and The Sphinx Corporation.

"There are many more we hope to add to this list following the excitement of seeing construction starting in every near future," said Jamie Rae Turnbull, interim director of the A. Paul and Carol L. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

and manifested. I look forward to many great successes."

Partner organizations are integral to the center's design.

"I can't tell you the amount of work that has gone on with our design and construction teams to meet with program partners to make sure every detail is done at a remarkable level for this state-of-the-art performing arts center," Turnbull said.

"They've all been totally gracious, wonderful to work with," said Stan Harr, board president of the Detroit Concert Choir, in its 36th concert season with members from more than 35 communities in metro Detroit.

"Our mission statement — and see how well this fits with the goal of the Schaap Center — is to promote musical excellence by uniting people

through inspiring concert performances, education and community engagement," Harr said.

"This hall is like a dream come true for us," said Bill Hulsker, president of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra. "To borrow a word from our (Grosse Pointe) theater partners, we've been like a gypsy orchestra. We had to play in churches, at schools, The War Memorial. We don't have to worry about that anymore."

The center bookends the Pointes, with the Ford House in the Shores at the other end and, in the middle, The War Memorial and Grosse Pointe Historical Society in the Farms.

"I can't wait to see it," Mark Heppner, president and CEO of the Ford House, said about the center. "I want to be at the first performance."

"I'm excited to hear everything going on at the center," said Maria Miller, War Memorial interim executive director. "I also extend the proverbial olive branch for whatever happened in the past with The War Memorial. It's time for healing and new beginnings. I look forward to partnering in any way we can with the Schaap Center."

"The Schaap Center is going to be a game-changer in Grosse Pointe for businesses," Jennifer Boettcher, president and executive director of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, told center supporters and partners. "They're the backbone of our community and I thank you very much for making Grosse Pointe that much more of a destination."

Joe Ricci Farms Councilman aka fmr. Mayor Pro-Tem
Topics:

- 2023 Projects
- Lakeshore Island Redevelopment
- Home Beautification Awards

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Chairperson Farms Beautification Committee

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Grosse Pointe Park

Scam, I.D. theft

Fraudsters tapped a Park resident last week for \$55,000 worth of Bitcoins during a telephone scam.

“(The 60-year-old male victim) received a phone call from an unknown person who stated he worked for Verizon in order to gain access to (his) email account,” according to police.

Jeep stolen

A gray 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen while parked curbside in the 1000 block of Wayburn between 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, and 7:45 a.m. the next day.

Catch thief

The morning of Tuesday, March 7, Park police traced a 60-year-old man accused of larceny to a residence in the 4600 block of Anderdon, a few blocks south of Chandler Park Golf Course, and made the arrest.

The residence is one among few still standing in the neighborhood.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Insult to injury

An unknown person stole \$100 from a woman's purse while she was in a local hospital with pneumonia between Saturday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 7. During that same time period, unauthorized charges were discovered on her Comerica Bank account.

Déjà vu continues

If two closed cases in a row are any indication, detectives in the City aren't going to let anyone get away with stealing phones from an establishment in the 17000 block of Waterloo while their owners play basketball.

As was the case in early February with a different suspect, officers identified and arrested a 21-year-old Farms man for the crime committed March 1. The man has been charged through the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Check fraud

An unknown person attempted to cash a

VOTE:

Continued from page 3A

he's “definitely” going to campaign for a second term. Likewise Councilman Brian Brenner, soon to complete his first term as an appointee. Councilman Vikas Relan was unavailable for comment.

To office hopefuls seeking to feed at the public trough, sorry. There's no salary for elected officials in the Park.

Voters don't need to register ahead of time. “You can register to vote on Election Day,” City Clerk Jane Blahut said.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

fraudulent check for \$1,928 from a Fisher Road business at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Turned on red

After ignoring a “No Turn on Red” sign at Mack and Moross at 1:26 p.m. Thursday, March 9, in a vehicle with illegally tinted windows, a 22-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and cited for driving while license suspended, not having insurance and disobeying a traffic control device.

Bad examples

Pulled over for speeding 51 mph on Lakeshore in a vehicle without a license plate at 9:38 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, a 31-year-old Detroit woman then was cited for driving while license suspended, driving an unregistered vehicle, open intoxicants and speeding.

A 35-year-old Detroit woman, who was in the passenger seat, also was cited for the open intoxicants. Two children were in the backseat.

Missing No. 20

A 24-year-old Center Line man told officers no number exists between 21 and 19 during a field sobriety test after being pulled over for speeding 52 mph on Moross at 2:04 a.m. Friday, March 10.

After a preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.18 percent, the man was arrested for his third offense of operating while intoxicated, open intoxicants and driving while license suspended.

Tall tails

A brown and white American pitbull mix was safely returned to its owner after a 35-year-old Eastpointe man stole the dog out of its Detroit yard and attempted to ransom it back to the owner at 4:28 p.m. Saturday, March 11.

While officers were confirming the dog's ownership, the man stated he started the war between Russia and Ukraine; he was going to kill all police officers; and he intended to send China to wage war on the United States since he is a prince from Dubai.

It then was determined transporting the man to a local hospital was the best course of action.

—Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other

crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Wrong way

Two drunken drivers were arrested Sunday, March 12, for driving north in the southbound lanes of Lakeshore.

The first occurred at 5:30 a.m. when a patrol officer saw a vehicle go through the red light at Vernier and turn left into the southbound lanes. The 53-year-old Detroit man had a 0.22 percent blood alcohol content after a preliminary Breathalyzer test. He was arrested and cited for third offense operating while intoxicated, driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance.

The second instance occurred around 11 p.m. when an officer spotted a vehicle headed north in the southbound lanes near city hall. The 46-year-old Mount Pleasant woman was arrested after registering 0.34 percent blood alcohol content.

Flashing a weapon

A 33-year-old Rochester Hills man told officers a man who started arguing with him lifted his shirt and

flashed a pistol in his waistband before driving away.

The incident occurred around 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, on Woodland Shore Drive. The victim, a painter, said he was trying to locate an address on the street to provide the homeowner an estimate, but was having trouble finding the house. He pulled over to call the homeowner when the suspect drove up, got out of his vehicle and yelled that the man wasn't allowed to park there.

The victim gave officers the man's license plate number.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Spare parts

A woman told officers around 10 p.m. Monday,

March 6, she parked her 2016 Chrysler 300 in the rear of her business in the 20900 block of Mack around 8 p.m. and when she returned at 10 p.m. it was missing.

There was broken glass on the ground. Officers were notified Thursday, March 9, by Detroit police the vehicle had been recovered. It sustained damage to all four tires and the bumper and two doors were missing from it.

Making an impact

A homeowner in the 2100 block of Beaufait told officers someone threw a Dewalt Impact Driver and battery through the front window of his house sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursday, March 9.

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS / GROSSE POINTE FIELDS

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

GP must set aside ugly politics of distrust

In what's only been four months and some change since the Nov. 4 Board of Education election for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, front page news is churning out with great regularity.

Shortly after Election Day, former BoE candidate Timothy Klepp, who lost the election by a slim margin, filed for a recount. From Dec. 14 to 19, each vote was meticulously counted again, by hand. It did not overturn the original outcome. It also did not give many who were denying the original election results reassurance or peace of mind like they claimed a recount would, if we deduce that conclusion from the ongoing, vigorous public kvetching online or at BoE meetings.

Throughout the weeks of unrest and uncertainty leading up to the reconfirmation of the election results, community members continued to debate who would pay for it. Ultimately, the cost of the recount falls on the district, as the Grosse Pointe News accurately reported Dec. 6, 2022 ("Taxpayers on hook for GPPSS recount"). We confirmed with the Wayne County Clerk's Office that the district is in fact the "local unit" responsible for the recount's cost, according to state law.

But this same faction refused to believe it and stubbornly doubled down. They vocally insisted the district wouldn't have to pay a dime for it, which of course helped buoy their false narrative that this recount was all about altruism. (Make no mistake, it was about overturning results.) As we reported last week, the district will pay \$7,940.69.

Last week, former BoE candidate Je Donna Dinges — who also lost her election bid — filed a recall petition against Trustee Lisa Papas over a BoE vote that took place June 27, 2022, more than eight months ago.

If this recall gains any steam, it sets an uneasy precedent that a trustee's vote places them at risk for a recall at any time, even months down the road. Isn't that why we have elections? Intrinsic to voting candidates into office is that we empower them to vote on various proposals, projects and resolutions. If your candidate doesn't win office, chances are you are not going to like how their opponent, who is now the elected official, votes. We know this. That's among the consequences of an election. All voters have been on both sides of that fence.

But this latest effort smacks of, "I don't like who was elected, let's recall them."

Unfortunately Ms. Dinges's petition is a thinly veiled excuse of simply wanting Trustee Papas, who was elected in 2020, off the board. The petition wrecks of a planned effort to break up the four trustees — Sean Cotton, Ginny Jeup, Ahmed Ismail and Papas, whom many refer to as the "majority" on the BoE.

State law says officials in a four-year term can't face a recall in the first or last six months of their term. So of those four, new trustees Cotton and Jeup currently are protected from recall. Those behind the petition may believe Board President Ismail has too much support, so that leaves Trustee Papas as the target. And yet, the only thing the petitioners could come up with was a flimsy "no" vote eight months ago, which still resulted in a 6-1 passing of the resolution in question.

If successful, it gives the recall enthusiasts an election do-over to get someone voted in who they align with and like better. Pardon us, but it sure feels like a good case of sour grapes. It also contradicts Ms. Dinges's insistence during her campaign that she could get along and work with anybody, if she were to be elected. As a whole, this calculated maneuver suggests that elections are merely suggestions.

You don't like election results? Let's recount and



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Wes Smith, Marty Fischhoff and Sam Klemet

Let's clear out the clouds in Michigan

Once again, Michiganders wait for the sun to shine in Michigan. At the same time, we wait for the sun to shine on our local and state government.

Overall, the Great Lakes State has consistently maintained a failing score for integrity from the Center for Public Integrity. This is based largely on our lack of transparency in government, especially at the state level.

Last year, the residents of Michigan voted overwhelmingly to require that elected state legislative and state executive officials must file annual financial disclosure reports on their income, assets, liabilities, gifts from lobbyists, positions held in certain organizations and agreements on future employment. Michiganders are obviously ready for a change.

Taxpayers deserve to know what the people who work for them are doing. We are currently the only state in the country that does not subject their legislators and governor to the Freedom of Information Act. That needs to be fixed.

At the same time, some local government officials, law enforcement agencies and schools (kindergarden through university) cry foul and call FOIA a burden. ... We think it's an essential service.

The preamble to the Freedom of Information Act in Michigan reads: it is the public policy of this state that all persons, except those persons incarcerated in state or local correctional facilities, are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and public employees, consistent with this act. The people shall be informed so that they may fully participate in the democratic process.

The key part of the language above is "the people shall be informed so that they may fully participate in the democratic process." Yet government officials at all levels stone-wall, over charge and generally make asking

for this information an onerous process.

The members of the Michigan Press Association, and our partners at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, invite you to join us in fighting for more sunshine this year. Contact your state legislators and let them know you would like to see more transparency and accountability at every level of government, and that you don't think it should be up to the residents of our state to bear the burden of exorbitant costs, stall tactics and lengthy court appeals to find out where their tax dollars are being spent and how decisions that impact their day to day lives are being made.

As Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said over a century ago: "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

Wes Smith is publisher of View Newspaper Group and president of the Michigan Press Association. Marty Fischhoff is director of community engagement at Detroit Public TV and president of Society of Professional Journalists Detroit Chapter. Sam Klemet is CEO of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.



Smith



Fischhoff



Klemet

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.

American dreaming

To the Editor:

The new committees of the Board of Education are already proving their worth. Last week was the first meeting of the Curriculum Committee. At this meeting there was a presentation by the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), the powerful committee that guides decisions for the entire district on what will be taught in our schools. Near the end of the meeting it was disclosed that the EPLC is reviewing the book "Grading for Equity," by Joe Feldman. If we implement the policies in this book, we are turning our backs on meritocracy. Our nation was founded on the principals of meritocracy and excellence. Hard work does lead to success. This has been proven time and again in our country. Nowhere else can you achieve success the way you can in the United States. Despite the best protestations by progressive and communist groups, our system of public education and merit has achieved the impossible through a classless system. Our middle class is 50 percent of the population. This is unheard of throughout history.

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

March 16 - 22



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
50° 43°	52° 29°	36° 25°	37° 27°	45° 24°	47° 34°	50° 36°
Evening Rain	Rain	Sct'd Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
50%	80%	30%	40%	0%	10%	0%
SUNRISE 7:42 am SUNSET 7:39 pm	SUNRISE 7:41 am SUNSET 7:41 pm	SUNRISE 7:39 am SUNSET 7:42 pm	SUNRISE 7:37 am SUNSET 7:43 pm	SUNRISE 7:36 am SUNSET 7:44 pm	SUNRISE 7:34 am SUNSET 7:45 pm	SUNRISE 7:32 am SUNSET 7:46 pm

Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

Life hacks that should be common knowledge



As a writer with a (mostly) healthy love for coffee, I've long been aware of the need to pay attention to caffeine consumption in regard to heart health, the risk of addiction-related withdrawal symptoms and an inability to sleep if consumed too late in the day. But it wasn't until late last year I learned it's not

the greatest idea to have it too early in the day either.

Apparently — and there's actual science behind this — by waiting 90 to 120 minutes after waking up before consuming caffeine, the afternoon crash may at least in part be avoided.

A lot of the reasoning comes down to adenosine, which builds up in the bloodstream the longer a person is awake and is one of the factors responsible for inducing a sense of sleepiness.

"If you drink caffeine right away, what happens is caffeine essentially binds to the receptor that adenosine would normally," explains Andrew Huberman, a neuroscien-

tist and associate professor in the departments of neurobiology, and psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine. "So that's great because you start to wake up, but then around 2 or 3 p.m., as that caffeine wears off, the adenosine that's still around binds to those receptors and you get the afternoon crash. "Adenosine will continue to be cleared from your system in the early part of the day," so by waiting, "the adenosine and adenosine receptor interactions can all take place and dissipate."

Caffeine also clashes with cortisol, which the body releases first thing in

the morning and is a hormone that gives energy and alertness. Simply put, you get the biggest bang for your buck in terms of caffeine consumption by waiting until cortisol levels start to drop.

I was genuinely shocked this isn't common knowledge, at least in my circle, when I first heard of it in podcast clips by Huberman.

He has a lot of fascinating knowledge to share on a wide variety of topics having to do with naturally bettering quality of life, but — aside from my morning caffeine habits rabbit hole — I've found his advice on how to maximize quality of sleep to be particularly beneficial.

I've often heard of the different stages of sleep, such as REM when most dreaming occurs, but wasn't aware these stages reoccur in multiple cycles throughout the night.

Huberman explains each cycle runs approximately 90 minutes and by waking up at the end of a sleep cycle, when your body is closest to naturally waking up, you'll feel most refreshed.

In fact, he says, choosing to sleep six hours rather than seven to match the end of a sleep cycle can actually set you up better for the day than getting the extra hour of sleep. Better yet, however, just sleep seven and a half.

The neuroscientist also

highly recommends consistent bedtimes.

When should that bedtime be?

Huberman suggests, based on circadian rhythm, the ideal bedtime is six to seven hours after whatever time it is that a person normally experiences the afternoon dip in energy.

Of course this is all easier said than done, but even just building up one of these habits at a time could have a decent impact.

Huberman credits sleep as the best memory enhancer, stress reliever, trauma releaser, immune booster, hormone augmentor and emotional stabilizer.

Good deeds in GP

In light of the recent tragedy at Michigan State University that struck Grosse Pointe and the outpouring of care and generosity that followed, the Grosse Pointe News is starting this feature to recognize people, groups and businesses that go out of their way to help serve the community. If you have a suggestion, let us know at media@grossepointenews.com.

Fresh Farms Market: With an especially active snow pattern throughout February and March, you probably recall most of the water cooler and kitchen table talk Tuesday, Feb. 21, was about the impending ice and snow storm predicted for the next day. (Many of you also experienced extended power outages afterwards, unfortunately.) Is it safe to travel the roads? Can I work from home? And of course, what last-minute things are need-

ed from the grocery store?

But some people who were unable to leave the house had a different concern. Do I have enough food to get through the storm?

Fresh Farms Market to the rescue. A name familiar to Pointers for decades, the specialty grocery store shifted gears to prioritize its daily deliveries to focus on senior citizens, especially shut-ins.

"We know we have some older customers who don't

drive, so we try to take good care of them," office manager Susie Kelly said. "We also shifted our deliveries from the afternoon to the morning so our customers would have what they needed for the day and also for the safety of our drivers."

Kelly said the store usually sees an increase in delivery orders when bad weather is expected.

"We have our standing customers who might get the same thing every week and then add on some stuff like our hot bar, but we also get one-time orders," she said. "We're just glad people know they can count on us."

Norsemen and Blue Devils: The first two weeks of March, students at each high school aimed to help two organizations and

managed to raise tens of thousands of dollars for their efforts.

On March 3, Grosse Pointe South High School held a Polar Plunge where nearly 200 students, staff and administrators voluntarily jumped into an icy cold pool.

The event raised more

than \$20,000 for Special Olympics, more than twice the goal students had set for themselves.

Shelby Salajka, a special education teacher at South, said the initial \$10,001 goal came about because no Polar Plunge had ever raised more than \$10,000.

Then it was Grosse

Pointe North students' turn. The student association hosted Restaurant Week and other events, with proceeds going to Kids on the Go, a local nonprofit that provides additional therapies and activities for kids with special needs.

Students raised \$7,456 in one week's time. Well done!

8A | OPINION

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

There are over 22 million millionaires in the U.S., that is over 8 percent of the population. Then last there are over 70,000 Americans that are in the ultra-high net worth category — that is more than the rest of the world combined — with more than 65 percent of those people self-made. The canard that wealth is only held through inheritance was destroyed by the American dream, which is as real as it has ever been.

Now it makes sense why the head of WE GP and her lawyer constantly come and scream at the board. They know what it will uncover. The deconstruction of our education system.

CHERYL A. DENMAN
Grosse Pointe Park

Real intentions?

To the Editor:

I am replying to a March 9, 2023, front page article that implies there was impropriety with my efforts over one year ago, (February 2022) to resolve a resident's long-standing problem. The damages incurred because of the city's failure (in resident's opinion) to properly enforce its construction rules for an adjacent house construction. This resident did suffer damages which

included his front lawn, curbs, driveway and sprinkler system.

A construction bond (protecting our residents from these types of occurrences) was put in place because of the numerous complaints by nearby homeowners during construction. Unfortunately, the bond was released prior to a resolution and the contractors/builders were let off without responsibility for the damages done.

After many months of no response by the city manager (per the resident), the resident expressed frustration to me and Councilmember McMillian (immediately following our election) at being ignored and asked us for help to get the manager to at least respond. After being made aware of the issue, I informed the Personnel Committee and asked the city manager to respond. At that same time, Councilmember Brenner asked City Manager Sizeland to respond. Even Mayor Hodges intervened, emailing the resident that she somehow wished he could be made whole. After another four months of silence, I offered suggestions to the Mayor and City Manager on how to approach a potential solution IF the city had responsibility since the construction bond was already released.

Now, over one year later, Councilmember

Caufield, Mayor Hodges and this reporter are claiming my suggestions were "improper." If there are any questions of impropriety, one should ask why, one year later, would Caufield, Hodges and this reporter take such an effort to discredit me? Without a phone call or request for comment?

No one likes intimidation tactics; I am no exception. I volunteered to run for council to represent our residents and to do what I think is their best interest. And I will continue to do so. I will not be silenced by bullies and biased reporters.

COUNCILWOMAN
CHRISTINE
GALLAGHER
Grosse Pointe Park

Editor's Note: Grosse Pointe News reporter Brad Lindberg maintains that Councilwoman Gallagher was interviewed for the March 9 stories, "Legal opinion sought or improper" proposal," in which it is reported twice she was interviewed and pressed for comment following a council meeting.

Shameful

To the Editor:

I am dismayed by a recent news article that was a clear effort to discredit one of our GPP council members, Councilwoman Christine Gallagher. I found, after reading it, the article's blatant purpose was an attempt to discredit her

and to elevate those behind it: Mayor Hodges and Councilman Caufield. Using a Park resident's minor dispute of over one year ago as a front-page story speaks for itself. I must question not only the story, but the integrity of those behind it and the writer. The purposeful display of a reporter putting this much effort into story about Gallagher without even a comment from Gallagher demonstrates spitefulness and a lack of professionalism and objectivity.

JOHN REEBER
Grosse Pointe Park

Leadership?

To the Editor:

Two years ago, in the last Park election, I voted for a new mayor and new members of city council who I thought would provide effective and harmonious leadership. However, in short order, I was reminded of my father's favorite quote, "Be careful what you ask for, you may not like what you get."

I supported Michele Hodges and several of the candidates running for city council. Now Mayor Hodges has appointed a subcommittee, headed by a non-elected council member (who had approximately 500 votes in the primary) for the purpose of "bringing down the many physical border barriers in a way that enables us to heal and move forward." I wasn't sure what she was saying, but it sounded to me like she wanted to open all streets and our parks.

I thought the last election convinced everyone that the majority of Grosse Pointe Park residents did not wish to open streets or parks and share the amenities that Grosse Pointe Park residents enjoy through our tax dollars.

I called the mayor to discuss her agenda. She

assured me it was not her intent to open any streets or open parks to non-residents. I asked then, "Why create the committee in the first place?" She told me that to be a good mayor, you had to have "wisdom" and "leadership" skills. She implied that she had both. I told her that if I had known what I know now, I would not have voted for her, nor for several of the new council members. She told me I should trust her. I left the meeting agreeing that we disagree on these matters.

It is my opinion this mayor is mostly interested in self-promotion, coupled with an inexperienced city council that is afraid of public debate and blind to fiscal responsibility. Hurried decisions are made by select committee members in advance of council meetings and any questions are quickly dismissed and countered with aggressive behavior. It seems that you have to agree with the mayor or you are attacked with a smear campaign. This isn't the leadership I voted for.

PAUL LAVINS
Grosse Pointe Park

Shout out to student theater

To the Editor:

My husband and I had a delightful weekend seeing two matinees of high school performances. The first, Saturday at Grosse Pointe North, was a hilarious farce "Lend Me a Tenor" by Ken Ludwig, directed by Michael Gravame. Ryan Lutes, Gavin DeFillippo and Marisa Licavoli were outstanding, as well as the entire cast. North is certainly fortunate to have Michael as their theater director.

On Sunday we saw Elton John and Tim Rice's "Aida" at University Liggett. The

singing and acting were outstanding with exceptional performances by Dahlia Medvinsky, Olivia Johnson, Giovanni Thams and Madi Reeves, as well as a wonderful chorus. Such a result is not unusual for Dr. Phillip Moss, who has been the school's theater director since 1984. A quote from him is, "We may never reach perfection, but in the attempt we often get excellence." This could be said for both performances, and my husband and I could not have enjoyed the weekend more.

CAROLYN DARBY
Grosse Pointe Theatre member
City of Grosse Pointe

No hate crime

To the Editor:

The mayor of Grosse Pointe, Sheila Tomkowiak, and her staff sent four of our children into the Wayne County judicial system with little to no evidence when a paper towel was knotted and hung in a bathroom in a modern day case of boys smoking in the bathroom. They were using the paper towel knot to take pictures of their vape pen. I hope the families of these children bring a lawsuit against the city and everyone that rushed to judgment without due process and declared their actions to be a hate crime. The Chief of Police, John Alcorn, actually stated that this was a "teachable moment" and it appears from the news that he was upset that the family hired lawyers and would not talk to them. The mayor stated that the act "was a hate crime" from the outset. Based upon what? A paper towel. The city also asked the NAACP to help them determine how to act. What is wrong with our city? I want to know why Mayor Tomkowiak thinks it is OK to send our children into the justice system based upon no evidence outside of a paper towel knot. At least the Wayne County Prosecutor realized that there was no evidence. Can you imagine what would have happened to these four boys if she had agreed with Mayor Tomkowiak that the mere presence of a knotted paper towel constituted a hate crime? Talk about thought crimes. Our mayor and our city should protect our children, not harm them. As opposed to what Ms. Tomkowiak and her cohorts believe, it should not come as a shock to anyone that children of this great community did not commit a hate crime.

JOHN GELLE
City of Grosse Pointe

Upcoming Nov. 7, 2023 Election

<p>Grosse Pointe Woods (313) 343-2440 www.gpwwmi.us</p> <p>Salary: Mayor, \$6,000; Council Members, \$3,750</p> <p>4-year terms</p> <p>Filing deadline: July 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Terms expiring Council Members Kenn Gafa Michael Koester Angela Coletti Brown</p> <p>Municipal Judge, 4-year term — salary \$30,000 Theodore Metry</p>	<p>Grosse Pointe Shores (313) 881-6565 www.gpshoresmi.gov</p> <p>No salary for Mayor or Council Members</p> <p>4-year terms for Council Members and Mayor</p> <p>Filing deadline: July 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Terms expiring Mayor Ted Kedzierski</p> <p>Council Members Donn Schroder Danielle Gehlert John Seago</p>	<p>Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 885-6600 www.grossepointefarms.org</p> <p>Salary: Mayor, \$900; Council Members \$600</p> <p>4-year terms for Council Members; 2-year term for Mayor</p> <p>Filing deadline: April 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Terms expiring Mayor Louis Theros</p> <p>Council Members Joe Ricci Neil Sroka Lev Wood</p>
<p>Harper Woods (313) 343-2500 www.harperwoodscity.org</p> <p>Salary: Mayor, \$2,700; Council Members \$2,400</p> <p>4-year terms for Council Members; 2-year term for Mayor</p> <p>Filing deadline: April 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Terms expiring Mayor Valerie Kinde</p> <p>Council Members Cheryl Costantino Geri LaPratt Regina Williams</p>	<p>City of Grosse Pointe (313) 885-5800 www.grossepointecity.org</p> <p>No salary for Mayor or Council Members</p> <p>4-year terms for Council Members; 2-year term for Mayor</p> <p>Filing deadline: July 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Terms expiring Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak</p> <p>Council Members Donald Parthum Jr. Terence Thomas Dr. Seth Krupp — appointed to fill vacancy</p> <p>Municipal Judge, 4-year term Russell F. Ethridge</p>	<p>Grosse Pointe Park (313) 822-2812 www.grossepointepark.org</p> <p>No salary for Mayor or Council Members</p> <p>4-year terms for Council Members; 2-year term for Mayor</p> <p>Filing deadline: April 25, 4 p.m.</p> <p>Mayor Michele Hodges</p> <p>Council Members Martin McMillan Brian Brenner Vikas Relan</p>

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Flood victims high and dry

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — Left-winger Mike Eruzione of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team skated onto the ice to face the Russians in a Cold War showdown of good versus evil.

Few not on the American team of college-age amateurs thought they had a chance against the veteran Red professionals, winners of five Olympic and 16 world championships since the mid-1950s.

Astoundingly, halfway through the third period, Eruzione shot, he scored. USA triumphant. “Do you believe in mira—”

It never happened.

The referee canceled the game before it started. The Yanks had no chance, so why bother?

A Wayne County judge is being criticized for using the same lack of faith to dismiss all lawsuits by victims of storm and sewer water flooding during unprecedented thunderstorms of June 2021.

“We never got to court,” said attorney Paul Doherty, representing 600 flood victims in one of 10 class actions Wayne

County Circuit Judge Annette Berry dismissed Feb. 27. “She basically accepted the proposition that it was a historic-proportion storm and no sewer could have dealt with it any better.”

Berry’s right about the storm. Like Nora Charles’ evening gown in “The Thin Man,” it was a lulu.

“Southeast Michigan experienced a torrential rainstorm on June 25-26, 2021,” Berry wrote in her decision. “In some locations, the amount of rain exceeded 7.5 inches within a 24-hour period.”

The intensity rated being labeled a 1,000-year storm because, statistically, it’s likely to happen only once per millennium.

Everyone agrees, including Tom McGraw, an attorney defending Grosse Pointe Park, City and Woods from the suits.

“When you have an eight-inch, 1,000-year rain, it’s not even on the same planet,” McGraw said. “That’s why before you look at anything in this case, you’re obviously going to say that even if we had the greatest (sewer) system ever built on earth, would it have mattered? In this case, it wouldn’t have.”

Berry based her dismissal on government immunity.

“A governmental agency is generally immune from tort liability when it engages in a governmental function,” according to her ruling. “While the court recognizes the magnitude of the damage that arose from the storm and ... the likelihood of it recurring, the court cannot ... find liability where immunity is set.”

Within hours of floodwaters starting to recede, representatives of the Great Lakes Water Authority, which is contracted to provide wastewater services for Grosse Pointe and 74 other communities spread over nearly 950 square miles of southeast Michigan, announced that equipment plus internal and external electrical problems during the storm compromised operations at its two eastside pumping stations, Connor Creek and Freud.

One year later, in June 2022, GLWA declared itself immune from legal liability. A 200-page analysis commissioned by the authority determined the thunderstorms dumped more rain in less time than the network was built to

handle.

Still, operating failures contributed to sewer water backing into thousands of basements and over roadways and lawns.

Although the Pointes tried to fight the backups, the best defense seemed to be proximity: the farther from where backups began at the Detroit pumping stations, the better.

“We were permitted to discharge 4 to 7 million gallons of (sewer) water into Lake St. Clair,” said Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski. “That saved many basements.”

“Plaintiffs assert many different causes led to the surcharge events and the resulting basement flooding,” Berry wrote. “Undoubtedly, these factors contributed to the surcharge, backflow and flooding. However, plaintiffs did not and cannot establish that one or a combination of multiple factors was the substantive proximate cause as required (by the Michigan Governmental Immunity Act).”

“We never had a chance to pursue that,” said Doherty, a Park resident and flood victim. “We weren’t able to talk to one person. We didn’t take

depositions of the guys on duty at Freud and Connor Creek when all hell broke loose.”

He said he tried.

“One of the very basic arguments I made to her is (the defendants’) claim that no sewer system is designed to handle this much water,” Doherty said. “OK, then why were the only areas to flood the ones where the sewer system is handled by Connor Creek and Freud? Berkeley, Royal Oak, Livonia, Troy, St. Clair Shores — none of them had this kind of flooding, except from Grosse Pointe down to Detroit. That’s where it all backed up.”

“To put that into perspective,” countered McGraw, “the Yellowstone (River) flood last year, which was a disaster, was only a 500-year storm. This is a 1,000-year storm. The size of this was ridiculous. There’s not a system known to man, other than the Great Lakes themselves, that could handle that.”

Plaintiffs have 21 days to appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Doherty intends to do so.

“Definitely,” he said.

“It’s not over yet, necessarily,” Farms City Manager Shane Reeside

said.

“To proceed with this suit, plaintiffs must establish an exception to government immunity,” Berry ruled. “To do so, plaintiffs must establish a known defect with Detroit’s system.”

“It’s frustrating,” Doherty said. “It is one thing to do the discovery and say, you’re right, it wouldn’t have made a difference. But to be denied basic discovery in order to build a case is inherently unfair.”

According to GLWA’s June 2022 denial of liability, had equipment and power not failed, the storm was so big that mathematical modeling nevertheless showed there would have been at most a 26 percent improvement in sewer water handling, but no holding back floods.

“Pick any sewer system other than Grosse Pointe, Detroit and Dearborn and they all handled the water,” Doherty said. “Was it perfect? No. Did they get some water? Yes, but they didn’t have this widespread, catastrophic flooding as we did in areas that Freud and Connor Creek services.

“That was part of the argument to her, but, eh, it doesn’t matter.”

Hop Along the Avenue starts soon

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — An effort to promote businesses along Mack in the city starts Monday.

Hop Along the Avenue begins Monday, March 20, and runs through

Friday, April 7. The event is hosted by Avenue in the Woods, a business organization that highlights stores on Mack.

“This was the first event we did when we

formed back in 2019,” said Colleen Dyer, a Farm Bureau insurance agent and the group’s president. “We couldn’t do it in 2020 because of the pandemic, but we’ve held it the last two

years.”

Participating businesses will raffle gift baskets featuring their specific products afterward. Winners will be drawn and contacted shortly after Easter, which is Sunday, April 9.


See HOP, page 12A

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Assumption Nursery School and Toddler Center presents, Camp Exploration!
The camp runs from June 12 through August 18, 2023 for ages 1-10. Two separate sessions are offered and half-day and full-day options are available.
Kids will enjoy weekly themed explorations and highlighted special guests. Registration begins on March 13. Call (586) 772-4477 or visit assumptionnursery.org for more information.

KIDS ON THE GO

Hearts are always big and open at Kids On The Go — and that's no different during the summer. Kids On The Go is a pediatric nonprofit program designed to provide children with special needs (ages 3-17) with physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies over the summer months and more. There's so much to do and so much fun to have while kids learn and grow skills for a bright future. For more information, go to kidsonthegocamp.com.

EASTSIDE FOOTBALL CLUB

Get a real kick out of camp this year. Train the Everton way with the Eastside Football Club summer camp for kids. Soccer is never more fun and educational than at this acclaimed sports camp. Inspire your young soccer player to be the best they can be while learning to appreciate the game even more.
Camp takes place July 17-21 at Barnes Field in Grosse Pointe Woods. There are spots open for all ages from 5-18, but they won't last — so sign up now. For more information, visit online at evertoninternationalacademy.com.

MATHNASIUM

For kids seeking a camp opportunity to exercise their minds this summer, there is Mathnasium. Their motto: "Teach children math so they understand it, master it, and love it. Math can change their lives, and they can change the world."
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Visit online for more information at mathnasium.com/grossepointe.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With so many great activities taking place this year, it's shaping up to be a summer to remember for the 2023 GPPSS calendar of summer programs.
Kids can get active and creative with a range of offerings, from STEM to performing arts choices like Camp O'Fun, Camp Invention, Summer Theatre Camp, Summer Music Festival and more.
Visit the GPPSS website at gpschools.org for various camp descriptions, dates and costs.
To register, click on "Programs" and secure your spot at one of the most exciting camp programs Grosse Pointe schools have to offer.

YMCA CAMP OHIYESA

Beautiful Camp Ohiyesa offers spectacular views of Fish Lake. Day or overnight camps are available, offering horseback riding, climbing towers, boating, zipline, fishing, sportsmanship and so much more.
Their caring, responsible staff is trained in child development, activity leadership, behavior management, sports and swim instruction. The fun, interactive age-specific activities change daily.
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Summer camp by the numbers

Summer camp is a youthful rite of passage for many children. Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks for a week or more of indescribable summer fun and activity. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps:

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. (Statista)

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. (American Camp Association)

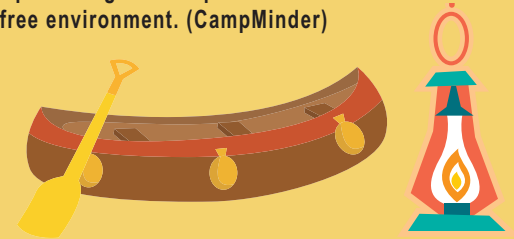
1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four, six and eight week long sessions. (American Camp Association)

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. (CampMinder)

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. (YMCA)

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. (CampMinder)

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. (CampMinder)



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Park in process of testing Charlevoix sightlines

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A few miles west of Gen. Washington's Revolutionary War encampment at Morristown, N.J., is the former AT&T Bell Labs telephone pole farm in Chester Township. Established in 1925 and eventually encompassing 100 acres, the

farm is the remnants of a long-term outdoor field laboratory testing which types of wooden telephone poles and their chemical treatments literally stand up best to the elements. The laboratory is closed, but approximately 700 poles remain rising from a grass field in what is now a municipal park, a quirky homage to the scientific method of

testing and analyzing prior to concluding. Replace the poles with four-way stop signs, plant them at every intersection in Grosse Pointe Park and idiosyncrasy turns to nuisance, something municipal officials are determined to avoid while seeking better ways to make driving safer in the Charlevoix commercial district. "Restricted views exist at intersections of Charlevoix at Wayburn, Maryland and Lakepointe," said Bryan Jarrell, director of public safety. "The way people park there (on Charlevoix), the sightlines are horrible."

and tired of stopping are just going to keep rolling through and somebody's going to get hurt," Jarrell told fellow members of the public safety committee Feb. 15. "Too much redundancy counteracts the goal," Councilman Max Wiener agreed. "The paperwork states we don't need (additional stop signs)," said Committee Chairman Councilman Martin McMillan, citing state standards for stop sign installation. "But we need to discuss the want (by some residents)."

improve." A majority of committee members agreed to the test, as did the city council March 13. Council members approved the temporary expansion of 'No parking here to corner' on both sides of Charlevoix at intersections where current sightlines from side streets are considered limited. Changes are expected to eliminate four parking spots at each intersection.

"I'd rather try the parking spots first," Jarrell said. "Because it's still a problem, give them their parking spots back and put in a stop sign." "If it doesn't work, we can always add a stop sign," City Manager Nick Sizeland agreed. "Give that a shot and evaluate. If we're not seeing any improvement, that means we put in some four-way stops." Jarrell will format the idea into a temporary traffic control order presented to the city council for subsequent endorsement. The order becomes permanent if the council doesn't reject or alter it within 90 days. Also being installed is a stop sign on Essex at Pemberton. "Because of the way Essex winds around, it makes sense to put that there," Jarrell said.

HOP:

Continued from page 9A

"It's a chance for people out shopping or just going for a walk to stop in and register," Dyer said. "There's no purchase necessary."

Aside from Dyer's office, others that have signed up are Wild Birds Unlimited, Fairway Packing Co., PetPeople

by Hollywood Feed, Edwin Paul Salon, Closet Connections, Merit Woods Pharmacy, Moehring Woods Flowers and Salon Tresor.

Dyer said she's hoping a few more decide to join. Those participating will have either a blue or pink bunny head and a flier posted in their window.

— Ted O'Neil

HELM:

Continued from page 1A

the November ballot in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

As tax money cannot be given to a nonprofit, the cities would need to form an interlocal agreement and commission — similar to the library board which includes a representative for each city — to determine the disbursement of the monies.

Of the 83 counties in Michigan, 72 already have a senior services

millage under Michigan Act 39 of 1976, which provides for up to 1 mill for senior services levied by local communities and/or counties and which does not impact their cap.

"Today, older adults in our community must navigate a network of services provided by multiple organizations," Cole said. "... With a growing population of older adults, the need is too great for our community to continue to operate in this fashion. We think it is time for a more comprehensive approach

to serve older adults and provide additional services, which we cannot fund at this time."

If passed by all five Pointes and Harper Woods, Cole anticipates the millage would generate around \$1.2 million — equal to the majority of the Helm's current budget.

"Which I think is light by the way," Farms Mayor Louis Therot noted after the proposal was presented to Farms council Monday night. "I think half a mill here is almost \$400,000 alone."

The Helm currently

operates under a structure of charging for membership and classes, but if the millage were enacted, such fees no longer would exist.

In the case of one city voting down the millage proposal, however, its residents then would pay membership and class fees.

"It's not to replace our budget," said Cole, noting The Helm intends to continue fundraising and bringing in donors, "but it's to assist in our budget, because we're right at the max of that. Our projection is that within two years, we will have to start cutting back on services, as we look at the increase in the number of seniors and we look at the projection for fundraising."

As for what the monies would go toward?

The Helm currently is actively investigating an adult day program for seniors who need support while their caregivers are at work. It also would like to extend its hours, including more programming in the evening and on weekends.

While there's no space for a pool in its building, it could foresee creating an agreement with another organization for seniors to have access to a pool for healing after surgery, as well as enacting a team of licensed practitioners for home visits.

"We get calls from children in California that say, can you check on my mom?" Cole supplied as an example.

While the board also would like to consider adding a satellite center in Harper Woods — "But we would look at making sure the monies are relevant to what Harper Woods is donating," Cole added — rumors that The Helm would seek alternative space in other areas if the millage were to pass are unfounded.

The nonprofit is nine years into a 30-year lease with Henry Ford Health for its building.

"It's a dollar a month," Cole said, "so it's one of the things that makes it feasible for us to operate at the level we operate with the money we raise."

No action was taken by

the Farms council during Monday's meeting.

"As much as I am a fan of The Helm, I also believe that homework and due diligence needs to be done by all the cities of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods," Farms Councilman John Gillooly said. "I'm a little concerned that the amount of the millage is almost equal to the current annual budget of The Helm. I think that may have a tendency to dissuade people from giving endowments, if they know that it's going to be some type of permanent millage."

Cole will present the proposal before the other Grosse Pointe councils in April and is hopeful votes will take place in May.

"Through collaboration by leaders from the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, it is possible to create a better future for older adults in all six communities," Cole said. "If we decide to move forward quickly, we can ask voters to consider a senior millage as soon as November of this year."



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BoE Curriculum Committee holds first meeting

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE

— One of two new committees formed by the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education held its first meeting Monday, March 6, to learn about the in-depth process the district uses in determining what to teach and how subjects are taught.

The Curriculum Committee was formed in January as one of four at the request of Board President Ahmed Ismail.

New this year is the appointment of community volunteers to each committee.

Board Vice President Lisa Papas, who chairs the committee, started the meeting calling it a “big picture” approach and said she found several other districts in the state with similar committees.

“We’re not going to be running into classrooms and telling teachers to teach this or don’t teach that,” she said.

Her comments echoed those of Ismail when the

committee was proposed.

“This is just an extra step to give the board more input on the information we receive from the EPLC (Education Programs Leadership Council),” he said. “It’s a chance to review that information before it comes to the full board. Curriculum is our business and I think it deserves the same attention as facilities or policies.”

During that board meeting, Taryn Loughlin, co-president of the

Grosse Pointe Education Association, said she’d heard concerns from teachers about the committee.

“Listening to this conversation I feel less anxious, but the EPLC gets a lot of input and asks tough questions,” she said. “When its recommendations come before the board, they’ve been fully vetted. We don’t want to end up in a situation where peoples’ expertise is being undervalued.”

During the committee meeting, administrators

walked through the role of the EPLC, which was established in 1986, and how it operates. First and foremost, they explained, curriculum standards are set by the state, then it is up to districts to determine best practices.

The EPLC does this by looking at professional development opportunities for teachers, peer district reviews and assessment data. Changes to the curriculum go through a three-year process that involves review, develop-

ment and implementation. The process also includes four phases — study, construct, implement and maintain — and two versions of any change go through a pilot phase to determine the best approach.

Aside from Papas and Ismail, Trustee Valarie St. John is the third board member on the committee. Community volunteers are Marcus Ambrozy, Sara Belvedere, Christine Harris, Glen Hipple, Marianne Modlin and Jeanne Poleski.

History coming alive through new collaborative effort

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — What do we know and how can we share it?

That’s the goal behind a new consortium that wants to spread the word about the region’s history and heritage.

Partners in the newly formed Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative include University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House,

Grosse Pointe Public School System, The War Memorial and Grosse Pointe Public Library.

“The germ of this idea actually came about a decade ago when we decided to change our approach to teaching U.S. history,” Bart Bronk, head of school at ULS, said during a recent kickoff meeting the school hosted. “It used to be a survey course, but memorizing facts and figures is not the most engaging way

to learn.”

That transformed into what Bronk called “place-based learning,” using local case studies.

“In education, you want your history students to be historians, just like you want your math students to be mathematicians,” he said. “It’s better to create your own narrative than to memorize someone else’s.”

Now, the collaborative wants to expand that experience to the

wider community.

“We thought for a long time there are lots of organizations that do this,” he added. “In the spirit of collaboration, what we can do together is greater than what we can do individually.”

Representatives of other organizations also attended the meeting, including the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Grosse Pointe Artists

Association, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and Wayne RESA.

Moving forward, the group plans to hold quarterly meetings to create what it calls a “card catalog” of resources, basically a list of each organization’s tools and knowledge. A shared calendar of events will be created and professional development and enhanced programming — such as speakers, field trips and

exhibits — will be pursued through grants.

Bronk thinks the community will embrace the effort.

“After we piloted our new model for a year, we asked the students what they thought,” he said. “They said they felt it was much more engaging and enlightening.”

To learn more about the effort, contact Annemarie Harris of ULS at aharris@uls.org.

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ENROLL:

Continued from page 1A

the other 10 percent is based on the February count from the previous year. The February count usually is lower due to seniors who are able to graduate after the first semester.

Dean also explained that when enrollment is discussed, it is usually thought of in terms of a pure headcount, but that is not the case.

“It’s actually based on the FTE count,” he said. “You can only count a student for the amount of time they are in our buildings.”

Dean used an example of a student who is in another district half the day for a Career and Technical Education course.

“They would only be in our district for half the day, so they would count for 0.5 FTE,” he said.

One factor that helped the district is that 125 students previously enrolled in GPPSS who left during the pandemic returned this year across all grade levels.

Declining enrollment is not a new issue for the district. There were 8,390 students in 2010. That fell to 8,005 in 2015, and was down to 6,600 last year. Plante Moran CRESA, the district’s consultants, said enrollment is expected to decrease by another 600 students by 2026.

PMC said last spring part of the reason for the drop is because the Pointes had 590 fewer housing units in 2021, compared to three years earlier. The same report said area private schools also were seeing a decline in students. A months-long analysis by the

Grosse Pointe News found no evidence to support the claims. That included interviews with city managers and a review of new construction permits and demolition permits. Private schools in the area reported increases in enrollment during the pandemic.

As has been the case for a number of years, the district is graduating more seniors than it has kindergarteners enrolling the following year. The newly formed Community Engagement Committee is expected to address this issue to try and attract more early childhood students. Its first meeting is 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at Barnes Early Childhood Center, 20090 Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Have a school-related story to share? Contact schools reporter Ted O’Neil by emailing toneil@grossepointe-news.com or calling (313) 343-5569



Advice for what matters most, when you need it most

Congratulations to **Nicole S. Norris** for being named to the *Forbes* “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors” 2023 list, published on February 2, 2023. Rankings based on data as of September 30, 2022.



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Source: The *Forbes* “America’s Top Women Wealth Advisors” list, published on February 2, 2023. Rankings based on data as of September 30, 2022.

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American deli with Asian twist opens on Fisher

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Bringing Asian fusion cuisine to the Pointes, American Asian Deli fully opened at 375 Fisher Monday, Feb. 27, with a largely carryout concept.

Chef Justin Villareal's vision — following training at the Culinary Institute of America, he also worked for a famous Korean chef in Chicago — was to take food one typically finds in an American deli, but give it an Asian twist.

"It's not your father's chinese restaurant," said owner Randall Villareal, Justin Villareal's father, who also owns Hydrangea Kitchen next door. "We really look for very, very dynamic flavor profiles. ... Chinese cooking's very sophisticated in many ways and they have the nice balance of sweet and sour and so forth. They put a lot of effort to make sure that happens. We do the same (but) ours tends to be a little spicier, a little more enhanced on the Korean side and we feel that's what people want. They want bold flavors."

With plans for the menu to continue to evolve, it currently is split between three categories: bowls, sand-

wiches and soups.

A taste of the options includes:

- ◆ Braised pork belly bowl with apple and a Thai chili glaze

- ◆ Teriyaki chicken bowl with pineapple

- ◆ Stir-fried noodles and vegetables bowl

- ◆ Bulgogi cheesesteak sandwich with house-pickled peppers

- ◆ Bahn Mi sandwich with crispy tofu, pickled vegetables and Thai chili aioli

- ◆ Miso udon noodle soup

- ◆ Chicken ramen noodle soup

Drinks offered at the deli also take an Asian fusion twist with Jarritos Tamarind or Mandarin Orange soda, Topo Chico Sparkling Mineral Water and Sac Sac, but cover American bases as well with Coca-Cola, Diet Coca-Cola, Sprite and Pennsylvania Dutch Birch Beer.

In addition, Asian-style salads are set to be incorporated within the next two months.

"One of the items we want to introduce in the summer will be our Korean street tacos," Villareal said, noting

Pointers will want to keep an eye on their website for new menu items each month, as well as an upcoming catering menu.

Hours at American Asian Deli are 3 to 9

p.m. Monday through Saturday, as to not compete with the hours of operation at Hydrangea Kitchen.

"We may eventually open for luncheon deliveries only and open for dinner at 3 p.m. for walk-ins and

deliveries," Villareal noted.

Carryout from The eatery also offers delivery through DoorDash.

icanasiandeli.com or by calling (313) 469-7413. The eatery also offers delivery through DoorDash.

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REAL ESTATE IN THE POINTES



22A HEALTHY INSPIRATION

Reassurance calls combat loneliness, social isolation

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

What began as an informal gesture during the pandemic has shifted into a formal process that shows a little extra love to those who need it.

The Helm at the Boll Life Center began formalizing its Friendly Reassurance Program late last year and has seen some success with the outreach. Through the program, seniors who may be homebound or who haven't made their way to The Helm in a while are given a friendly phone call. It's a way to make a cordial connection, as well as assess any needs they may have.

"We reach out to individuals in the program once a month by phone," said Allie Short, case coordinator at The Helm. "It's a check-in call.

"We picked participants from our existing programs, like Meals on Wheels," she added. "Now we want to connect with more people in the community who would benefit from this program."

Though still in its formative stages, the program — which serves

less than 20 individuals — is looking to expand.

"We would love it if community members, churches, other organizations, family members would reach out to us and say maybe this person could benefit," Short said.

Criteria to receive reassurance calls from The Helm include being age 55 or older and living in one of the five Grosse Pointes or Harper Woods.

The benefits are great, according to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Social isolation presents a major risk to premature mortality — nearly the same as other risk factors such as high blood pressure, smoking and obesity. Social isolation is associated with around a 50 percent increased risk of dementia, and poor social relationships are associated with a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease and a 32 percent increased risk of stroke.

"As you get older, you start to lose people around you," Short said, "but we're not going anywhere. Hopefully anyone who is feeling lonely, isolated or dis-

connected might consider giving us a call to be in this program."

Short also hopes to expand the number of volunteers making those calls.

"We definitely could use more volunteers," she said. "If this is something that tugs at your heartstrings, if you want to be part of it, I'd love to have a conversation about it."

Volunteers are trained to ask questions that gauge a person's physical, mental and emotional well-being.

"Volunteers have a loose script to follow, but we want it to be a comfortable conversation," she said. "We're looking for if they are in need of support. We'll ask how it's been going. What have you been up to since the last time we talked? Is there anything you're lacking? Is support needed? Volunteers will then follow up with me once a month after the calls, unless it's something urgent."

While no urgent matters have happened to date, Short said she has received positive testimonials from the calls she's placed.

"One woman had just had a rough day," she

recalled. "By the end of our conversation, she said, 'I feel so much better after talking to you.' Sometimes we all need to vent, to get stuff out."

Depending on the call and the recipient's needs, volunteers can connect them with specific resources offered through The Helm.

"That's my favorite part," Short noted, "the direct connection with The Helm and our resources."

"... We're aware that some of the public safety departments have a check-in call program," she added. "With Friendly Reassurance, our hope is we can compliment what they're already doing by connecting them directly with The Helm and our resources. But we also want to be a resource to the police. If someone in their program needs a little extra support than they can provide, we can be a resource for them."

To volunteer to make Friendly Reassurance calls, call Heidi Uhlig-Johnstone at (313) 649-2107.

Those of need of supportive phone calls for themselves or a loved one should call Short at (313) 649-2106.



Technology to the rescue

While there are expensive technological tools to combat loneliness — virtual reality headsets or Robo puppies, anyone? — a smartphone, tablet or computer can do the trick just as well. Here are a few ways to better connect.

- ◆ Reach out to the younger people in your life with a phone call. Sometimes older adults think their children and grandchildren are too busy and they don't want to bother them, but it's more about timing. Call after work or school hours or on the weekends.
- ◆ Ask your child or grandchild to call you occasionally. Let them know a good time to do so.
- ◆ Turn that phone call into a FaceTime call — the next best thing to being in person.
- ◆ Text "How are you? Text back when you have time." Those simple words let someone know you're thinking about them and encourage a response. Sending a photo via text also is a great way to keep in touch.
- ◆ Learn to use social media. It's easy to learn the basics of Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or SnapChat.

If you need to learn how to text, FaceTime or use social media, volunteers are available every other Friday at The Helm. Free one-on-one technology instruction next takes place from noon to 3 p.m. Friday, March 17. For more information, visit helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.

"We want these connections to grow in the community," Short said. "We want the community to know we are here

for them and we care about them. ... It's another conversation — there can never be too many of those."

Mobile mammography screenings free at The Helm in Farms April 5

Ascension St. John provides important detection service

Ascension's Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography Screening Center will offer free mammogram screenings from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. The screenings are for women ages 40 and older without any prior breast issues.

Early detection of breast cancer with screening mammography means treatment can start earlier in the course of the disease. The center uses 3D mammography, one of the most powerful

diagnostic tools for early detection of breast cancer. Women and their doctors will receive a report of the findings.

The screen is covered by all insurance companies. Women are eligible for the mammography screen if their last screening was at least one year and one day prior to April 5, 2023. Physician orders are required and an Ascension staff physician will provide one if needed. Financial counseling and assistance is available for uninsured or underinsured.

Registration is required with The Helm by calling (313) 882-9600 to establish a screening time and receive complete instructions about the mammogram.

March for Meals is to benefit Meals on Wheels

Virtual event helps provide meals for homebound seniors in Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes

The Helm's fifth annual March for Meals for Meals on Wheels is underway. The virtual event, which raises money for the Meals on Wheels program at The Helm, runs through Friday, March 31.

The Helm March for Meals is a virtual event. The website, helmlife.org/march-for-meals, provides information on how to support this event and lists several three-mile routes around the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities for motivation.

In 2022, The Helm served more than 20,000 nutritious meals to homebound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves. Every \$5 donated provides fund-

ing for one meal. Most importantly, funds raised through this March for Meals guarantee no one in the community who needs Meals on Wheels is waitlisted.

Participants may complete their exercise anytime between now and March 31. All monies must be submitted to The Helm by Friday, March 31, to count



toward this event. Donations may be made

through the website, helmlife.org/march-for-meals, or sent to The Helm, 158 Ridge Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, 48236.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church continues as lead partner on March for Meals and is instrumental in spreading the word and providing financial support of this event.

More at The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center continuously offers programming for older adult residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Discover some of its offerings in the Area Activities calendar, found in section B. For a complete list of its activities, visit helmlife.org



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Ferrara Dermatology offers neuromodulator specializing in longevity

Since 1960, The Skin & Laser Center at Ferrara Dermatology has offered comprehensive dermatologic care covering both medical and aesthetic needs.

With an eye always on the latest clinical trials and approved products, the practices' two board-certified dermatologists, Dr. Richard Ferrara and Dr. Katie Caretti, now are offering a new neuromodulator that can last up to twice as long as traditional neuromodulators such as Botox and Dysport.

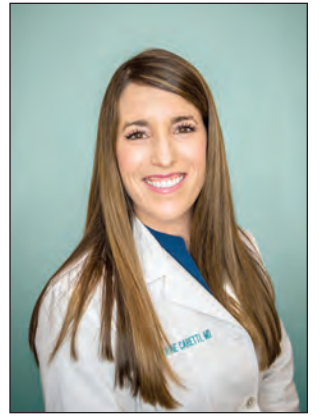
FDA-approved to treat moderate to severe wrinkles in the glabella area, Daxxify by Revance is a peptide-stabilized molecule. It is thought that its longevity is because of this unique quality.

"It's the same kind of base neuromodulator that's been out there — similar to Botox and Dysport — but that peptide stabilizer allows an enhanced attachment to the nerve endplate enabling better absorption, better utilization, more efficiency of uptake and that probably translates into why this has better duration than the others," Ferrara explained.

For older patients who have never had experience with neuro-



Dr. Richard Ferrara



Dr. Katie Caretti

modulator treatments, the doctors wouldn't necessarily start with Daxxify, they noted, because the shorter duration of the traditional options offer a better opportunity to adjust the number of units and its placement. "For someone that maybe is looking to have less injections throughout the year or to get that longevity — someone that's already had experience with the other neuromodulators on the market — this may be a good fit for them," Caretti noted, "so instead of having to come in for three to four injections throughout the year to maintain their results, maybe they would only have to come in twice a year with this product."

Although newly FDA-approved in September 2022, Daxxify underwent years of clinical

trials on thousands of patients to confirm its safety and efficacy.

"Being a newer product, people will ask about safety and, in the clinical trials and with our current experience, this is a very safe product," Caretti said.

"There is no animal or human serum albumin in this product," she added, "so it's actually considered a vegan product."

By no means is Daxxify a better product than Botox or Dysport — both of which the center also offers — Ferrara said, but it can translate into fewer annual injections for patients who are the right fit.

Ferrara Dermatology Clinic is located at 20043 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. For more information, call (313) 884-5100 or visit ferraraderm.com.



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COURTESY PHOTO

IEP Urgent Care has opened at 19815 Mack Ave. in Grosse Pointe Woods and welcomes walk-ins.

IEP proudly serving Grosse Pointe

Independent Emergency Physicians (IEP) is proud to now serve the Grosse Pointe community with the opening of IEP Urgent Care, 19815 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.

A love of emergency medicine and a passion for taking care of people brought IEP together in 1997, to form Independent Emergency Physicians and in 2019, it opened the first IEP Urgent Care, dedicated to service excellence, integrity, clinical excellence, compassion and professionalism.

Drs. Dan LaLonde and Steve McGraw are IEP partner/owners of IEP and IEP Urgent Care Grosse Pointe. Both of them are longtime Grosse Pointe residents.

"Our goal is to take care of every patient as if they were a member of our own families," Dr. McGraw said. "As physician owners, we are invested in our patients and our communities. That's the IEP difference."

IEP Urgent Care provides a higher standard of urgent care from ER-trained providers. The staff all work together with one mission: pro-

fessional and compassionate medical care in an extremely clean environment.

Walk-ins are always welcome. Many patients enjoy using the easy online appointment feature and IEP offers telemedicine services. IEP provides excellent care and saves you and your family the time and extra cost of visiting a hospital emergency department.

IEP treats a variety of illnesses and injuries, including cold, flu, sore throat, allergies, sprains, fractures and splinting, wound care, scrapes and rashes, minor burns, cuts, and stitches, and urinary tract infections.

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IEP also can help with DOT physicals, occupational health services and sports physicals. For more information, visit iepurgentcare.com/grossepointe.



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Active senior on the mend after rotator cuff repair

Quicker recovery with less pain thanks to minimally invasive surgery

Winters in Michigan regularly feature dense slush and snow, but it was a razor-thin layer of black ice that took down Ron Koback in December 2021.

Ron, 79, of Marine City, has stayed active post-retirement with hobbies. But on one frosty day, it was a routine errand that got him into trouble. He slipped on an invisible patch of ice and slammed shoulder-first onto the sidewalk.

"It happened so fast," he said. "I knew I did something, but I thought, 'Well, I'm going to be healed in no time.' I never thought I'd have to have an operation."

Ron didn't know it then, but the fall had torn a tendon in his left rotator cuff.

"I couldn't even scratch my ear," he said of his injury.

Ron visited the emergency room at Ascension St. John in Detroit, where the care team quickly assessed him and connected him with a physical therapist. A follow-up MRI revealed a tear that had been undetectable in the initial X-ray, and Ron was fast-tracked to Chad Lasceski, MD, orthopedic surgeon with Ascension St. John.

"I believe the best approach is a treatment plan that is progressive from least to most invasive as needed to help patients achieve their desired outcome," said Dr. Lasceski, who diagnosed the tear and repaired it with minimally invasive arthroscopic surgery.

"If he didn't get this fixed, he wouldn't be able to improve his strength, maybe not have as much range of motion, and how much pain he'd have is debatable,"

Dr. Lasceski said.

A few weeks after surgery, Ron returned to physical therapy, and Dr. Lasceski expects him to regain most of his strength and range of motion within six to 12 months. He is able to manage occasional pain with just aspirin.

"I'm thankful they have the technology to do this," said Ron. "It gave me a sense of calmness – what if this would have happened 30 or 40 years ago? It would be a different story."

Dr. Lasceski credits Ascension Michigan for connecting patients with all the relevant care they need.

"One of the best aspects of my career is being able to help my patients improve their pain and return to the activities they enjoy doing," he said.

"Ascension offers a complementary and team-based approach to orthopedic care," added Dr. Lasceski. "We offer patients the ability to receive all aspects of their care through Ascension Michigan... This comprehensive approach allows for full-service orthopedic care."

"The orthopedic specialists at Ascension Michigan deliver a wide range of care for joint pain and bone and muscle injuries caused by age, arthritis, work and sports injuries," said William Higginbotham, MD, chair of the Ascension Michigan Orthopedic Service Line. "Treatment includes the use of robotic surgical technology and minimally invasive procedures that typically take less time than open surgeries and may result in faster recovery."



Start a conversation with an orthopedic doctor who listens at ascension.org/MichiganOrtho.

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 **Ascension
St. John**

Lumen Pediatric Therapy combines autism care in one location

With a vision to elevate the standard of care in autism services, Lumen Pediatric Therapy started providing services in January, operating six days a week out of a 10,000-square-foot facility at 26210 Harper in St. Clair Shores.

The pediatric services provider for children who have autism uniquely offers ABA services, speech and language, and occupational therapy all under one roof. With a family-centric approach and the understanding that each child is different, the Lumen team also incorporates parent training, individualized instruction and a peers program.

“The benefit for our families is that it can all be in one place,” Vice President of Clinical Services Brian Kaminski said, noting the team works with ages 2 to 18. “I’ve been in the field for close to a decade now and having all of those services in one place is unique. It’s very challenging to be able to coordinate care with outside agencies and outside providers. And now we get to bring all that amazing knowledge together to benefit the child and the family — and the practitioners for that matter.”

The name Lumen represents the brightness of light as, “we believe therapy should be beautiful,” Chief Operating Officer Nicholle Mehr said, noting the team wants to help children with autism shine their brightest. “It should start from a place



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUMEN PEDIATRIC THERAPY

From left are Vice President of Clinical Services Brian Kaminski, Chief Operating Officer Nicholle Mehr and Chief Executive Officer Sean Fossee at Lumen Pediatric Therapy’s grand opening earlier this year.

of joy.” Kaminski expanded. “Motivation drives learning. Our goal is that this is their second favorite place. Home is No. 1, but we’re trying to be second.”

When it comes to language and communication, one of Lumen’s promises is that the team will teach the child to be able to express their needs. This may take the form of verbal behavior, a communication device or sign language, but will

address the fundamental human need of expression and participation in the community.

“We embrace neurodiversity,” Kaminski noted. “Every child is unique. Our goal is to magnify the gifts that each of our kids are born with, and their interests, and then just to provide the tools necessary to help them live a full and joyful life.”

Lumen also is committed to at least doubling the ABA

therapist training industry standard of 40 hours. Its first cohort of therapists has close to 350 hours of fully paid training.

“We’re really excited for our future,” Mehr said, noting a plan to continue expanding operations in Macomb and Oakland counties. “We really want to set the bar for autism. We don’t feel that there’s competition in this field, we just feel like it’s all of us working together

to serve our kids and families, and it should be the highest-level quality of care.”

Lumen is eager to serve Grosse Pointe residents and surrounding communities and is currently accepting new patients.

To learn more about Lumen or your coverage — the multi-disciplinary provider accepts most major insurances — call their Family Concierge team at (888) 48-LUMEN or go to lumenkids.com.



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Family caring for family

At Hackett Homecare, clients can expect top-of-the-line service, as Hackett has core values of trust, honesty, integrity, experience and compassion. Their slogan, "Our family, caring for yours," demonstrates the personal touch clients receive.

Founder and owner John Hackett is a Grosse Pointe Farms native with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. After playing professional baseball, he worked in the medical field and also sold pharmaceuticals. The business began as he took care of his own parents, who struggled with issues related to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. He decided to create a home-care business for other elderly people.

"It just kind of hit home," Hackett said.

Hackett Homecare specializes in companion care; personal care; Alzheimer's/dementia and Parkinson's care; and traumatic brain injury, ALS and catastrophic injury care.

Hackett only has praise and appreciation when he speaks about his team, many of whom have been working with him more



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Hackett Homecare slogan is "Our family, caring for yours."

than 10 years.

"I am really blessed to have such a loving, caring, trustworthy and loyal team," Hackett said. "They provide superior care for their clients. Our caregivers are the heartbeat of the company and embody the company's core values. They are the reason Hackett Homecare has such a strong reputation and continues to grow."

With Hackett Homecare, it's a family atmosphere and frequently the caregivers are treated like family with their clients.

"I wouldn't place a caregiver in a home unless I feel comfortable enough

to have them in my own parents' home," Hackett said.

His staff consists of registered nurses, certified nursing assistants and companion aids who provide care from a few hours at a time to 24/7 care.

There are many leaders on the Hackett Homecare team.

"Robyn is a supervisor and is truly one of a kind and one of the most compassionate individuals I know," Hackett said. "Megan stands alone with her RN expertise, kindness and loyalty. Several of the MVCs (Most Valuable Caregivers) are Shelley, Roberta, Crystal, Jeff, Natalie, Kathy, Renee, Ashley, Danny, Tracy, Emily and Juanita. They are the best and the leaders of the team."

Hackett Homecare is always searching for special caregivers who will be a great fit with its family values.

To learn more about available services, visit hacketthomecare.com. To schedule a free consultation for service, call John Hackett at (313) 319-8050.



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SPONSORED CONTENT

Are you at risk for stroke?

Get the facts from **Alex Chebl, M.D.**, stroke and interventional neurologist at Henry Ford Health

1. Certain lifestyle factors can increase your risk of stroke

These include obesity, a sedentary lifestyle, smoking cigarettes, hard drug or marijuana use, alcohol consumption and regularly consuming highly processed, fatty or fried foods and artificial sweeteners.

2. Age can also increase your risk for stroke

Stroke and cardiovascular disease are related to age. As you get older, your risk for these conditions increases, often due to age-related health conditions. These include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, atrial fibrillation, post-menopause and heart disease.

3. You can reduce your risk of stroke

If you have pre-existing health conditions or family history that could increase your risk of stroke, make sure you are actively taking steps to reduce your chances of a stroke:

- **Make lifestyle changes:** Get moving, avoid tobacco and alcohol, and make healthy food choices.
- **Get vaccinated for COVID:** COVID-19 can cause a significant inflammatory response in the body—putting you at a greater risk for heart attack or stroke. Combined with other risk factors, getting COVID could significantly increase your risk of stroke.
- **Talk to your doctor:** Your doctor can help evaluate your stroke risk and monitor it over time. They can work with you to make necessary lifestyle changes.



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Learn more about recognizing the signs of stroke and reducing your risk at henryford.com/stroke

Inspiration under the ice

By Brian Owen
Guest Writer

It's been a tougher winter than most to find ice, let alone inspiration. Fortunately, I've had this topic in the back of my mind since last summer and it allows me to write about ice fishing a bit, in spite of virtually no ice fishing this winter.

While I have seen framed gyotaku pieces here and there, I never fully appreciated their beauty until I saw an impressive piece hanging in Montauk, N.Y. I was enjoying lunch with my wife and our friends and I noticed a beautifully stamped striped bass over the fireplace. I had to get a picture of it. Maybe it was the allure of the setting we were in, or the oysters we were eating or the view of Lake Montauk. That piece made me want to learn more or, better yet, try Gyotaku.

The simplest way to explain gyotaku is the pressing or printing of a fish onto paper or fabric. It was invented by Japanese fishermen to record their catches. It even became a way of determining the winner of a contest for competitive Samurai fish-

ermen. Since the mid-1800s it has evolved into a form of art. You'll often see a red stamp under the fish, which typically is the artist's unique seal or signature.

Soon after that trip to Montauk I ordered some ink and paper and my son and I were ready to give it a try. After a few quick tutorial videos on YouTube, we pressed our first fish, a beautiful walleye I had just caught on Lake St. Clair. We learned a lot from this walleye. For starters, walleye are big and slimy. You have to pat them down with towels over and over again to get rid of the slime as it wets the paper and kind of stinks. While walleye are quite delicious and plentiful in the local waters, they are a lot of work to catch and usually require a boat. We needed an accessible and easier way to be able to practice, which in my book would be ice fishing.

Our next chance to practice gyotaku came later that winter and helped me decide that perch are not only the most delicious fish out of Lake St. Clair, they also are an incredible specimen for practicing gyotaku. We typically keep any



Owen's first framed fish.

perch over 8 inches and 10- to 12-inch perch are much easier to frame than a 20-inch walleye. Frame? Why would I frame a perch? Well, because this was the biggest one I have caught to date and it's a trophy, I suppose. I used some antique rubber stamps I picked up at a local thrift store to create my unique red stamp and found a frame from around the house.

Our practice of gyotaku has added another layer of ice fishing and gives me and my kids a fun activity to do once we get out of the cold. My son, Benjamin, absolutely loves ice fishing and he loves to paint the fish with the ink. We use cuttlefish ink, which is edible, as we typically eat what we print. There have been a couple exceptions to this.

January 2022, Ben and I were ice fishing at Neff Park and got skunked. Ben found a couple of frozen perch that had been left on the ice. He was not happy that a fisherman would do that and at 3 years of age understood it wasn't cool. To cheer him up, I told him

we would honor those fish and print them when we got home. Those are hanging in my office with a little note to remind me of that day. We also have gone so far as to turn our pet fish into gyotaku after their demise. There was a series of 'Goldie the goldfish' and 'Al the algae-eater' pressings in our basement next to the fish tank.

To take our practice further, Ben and I started to do pressings on canvas and organic cotton tote bags. We have done dozens of perch, some blue gill, crappie and even figured out a way to catch, print and release the fish alive. Live prints are a rush to do and create a one-of-a-kind piece.

I'm no expert at gyotaku, yet it has quickly become a consistent activity in our household. The true artistic element (or relaxation for that matter) isn't necessarily in the pressing of the fish. It's in the eye. Once you press a fish, there is a glaring hole of unfinished business. You must paint the eye of the fish by hand. This is my favorite part of the whole process. So



Ben Owen was not impressed with frozen fish left on the ice.

much so that I keep many of my pressings unfinished so I can fill in the eyes when I am looking for something relaxing to do.

If you want to see some impressive examples of gyotaku or even take a class, check out @fishprinter on Instagram or fishedimpressions.com. Artist Joe Higgins of Salem, Mass., prints everything from albacore to octopus. He adds color and sometimes scenery and uses unique fabrics. He can print on fishing charts and maps of the waters from

where the fish were caught. My personal favorites are Joe's prints of bluefin tails. They are as original as fingerprints and they each tell a unique story to honor these incredible fish.

I hope to take a class from Joe someday and learn from a master. Until then, I will practice every chance I get. It is a relaxing art form and creates another level of connection, respect and appreciation for the beautiful and delicious perch meals we prepare alongside our gyotaku sessions.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN OWEN

The photo that inspired Owen to explore Gyotaku.



Gyotaku has become a regular activity in the Owen household.

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pointe Vision Care, owned by Dr. Lisa LaGassa, moved to 20525 Mack in mid-January. The business has been on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods more than 20 years.

Pointe Vision Care on the move

After more than 20 years on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods, Dr. Lisa LaGassa said she's glad she decided to move her business a bit farther north and thinks her patients appreciate it.

Pointe Vision Care moved to 20525 Mack in mid-January.

"We've got free parking in the back, which is much more convenient for patients," LaGassa said. "The old office was right by Little Caesars and people were flying in and out all the time. It was hard to find an open meter."

LaGassa, who graduated from Fraser High School, received her degree in optometry from Ferris State University.

"I met my eventual business partner at my first job after college and we knew we both wanted our own practice," LaGassa said. "She was familiar with the Pointes, so we started looking in this area."

The pair eventually bought the practice of Dr. Robert Nesom when

he retired in 2002. They also bought the practice of Dr. Jack Moran, although LaGassa said he had mostly stopped seeing patients by then.

"We started in 2002 and changed the name in 2004," she added. "A bit after that we moved to the corner of Mack and Littlestone and then in January, I moved to Mack and Beaufait."

LaGassa's practice offers eye care and exams, as well as diabetic eye exams and cataract care.

"I'm seeing more patients with diabetes and cataracts than in previous years," she said. "I guess that's a sign of an aging population. I still see patients who were with Dr. Nesom more than 20 years ago."

LaGassa and her husband, David, have three sons and live in Clinton Township. She said in their free time they enjoy spending time on their boat on Lake St. Clair.

Visit pointevisioncare.com or call (313) 881-6622 for more information.



From left, Dr. Piernick, Dr. Manz-Dulac and Dr. Filipof welcome new patients to Eastside Dermatology.

Skin care tips if you are in your 40s or 50s

As we age, we start to notice our complexion changes. There are many products on the market that can help diminish signs of aging. To create an effective anti-aging skin plan, board certified dermatologist Dr. Lisa Manz-Dulac M.D., at Eastside Dermatology recommends you start with healthy skin habits.

There are many benefits to a healthy skin plan that include:

- Retaining your skin's youthful firmness longer.
- Reducing your skin cancer risks.
- Reducing your fine lines and wrinkles.
- Aiding your complexion to look brighter and more youthful.

Dr. Lisa Manz-Dulac, Dr. Natalia Filipof, Dr. Mike Piernick and Eastside Dermatology's highly skilled providers and clinical staff can help create your own anti-aging skin care plan. To get you started, follow the tips below:

- Protect your skin from sun damage. Sun exposure is a major reason premature skin aging occurs. There are several ways to protect your skin all year round: wear sun-protection clothing, use water-resistant broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF of 30 or higher and stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Moisturize your skin every day.

Moisturizer traps water in the skin, giving it a more youthful appearance. Apply moisturizer immediately after a shower to damp skin.

- Avoid tanning beds. Tanning beds emit harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV) the same way the sun does. These harmful rays can lead to skin cancer and premature aging, including wrinkles and age spots.

• Maintain a healthy lifestyle. It is important to eat healthy and consume plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables to help prevent damage that leads to premature skin aging. Avoid smoking, and consume alcohol in moderation, as these can change the skin's appearance.

• Be kind to your skin. Avoid applying heavy pressure to your face when washing to help prevent skin irritation. Wash your face twice a day and after sweating. Read the labels on the products you are applying to your skin. If you have sensitive skin, look for products labelled hypoallergenic, fragrance free or non-comedogenic.

If you are concerned with aging skin, call Eastside Dermatology at (313) 884-3380 and make an appointment with Dr. Manz-Dulac, Dr. Filipof or Dr. Piernick to discuss treatments available, including products that help smooth wrinkles, tighten skin and improve complexion.

FITNESS FASHION

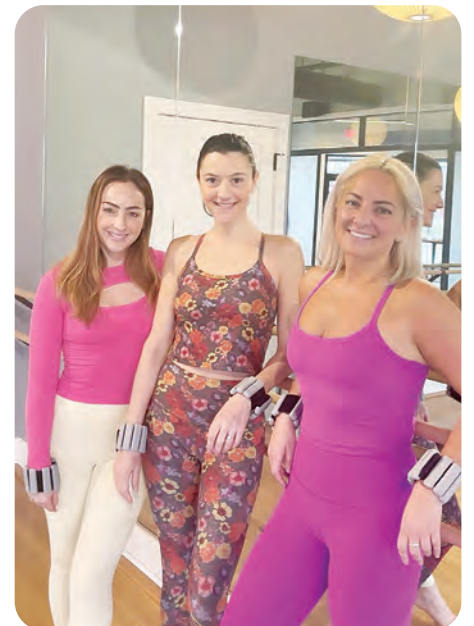


Meghan O'Neill, above, is ready to attend a workout class at the The Corner Studio.

The Corner Studio helps fitness look great, both inside and out

Fitness buffs work out to feel better and to look good. But one shop in the Pointes understands that looking great doesn't have to wait until after you've put in hours of exercise. The Corner Studio has attractive exercise gear that has clients smiling in the mirror even before they start stretching.

With quality activewear brands like Alala and Beyond Yoga in bright colors and patterns, getting fit has never been prettier.



Jess Pack, above left, fitness and Lagree instructor at The Corner Studio, looks great in her fuchsia top and cream pants outfit by Alala. Ana LoVasco, center, shines in a floral Beyond Yoga cami and leggings set, while Meghan O'Neill, above right, brings style into the workout room with her hot violet set by Beyond Yoga. All three are wearing Bala bangles (stylish ankle and arm weights that add a little extra oomph to your workout.)



Ana LoVasco, above left, wears a pastel-toned Faherty sweatshirt, paired with Beyond Yoga leggings. Meghan O'Neill, above right, checks out the weighted Bala Power Ring, the perfect prop for strength training classes.


The Corner Studio prides itself on being a haven for those looking to stay healthy, even with a busy lifestyle. They have three locations to serve the Pointes and provide a variety of fitness options and gear.

Find a wide variety of athletic and athleisure wear at Corner Active & Leisure at 15124 Kercheval Ave., in Grosse Pointe Park. The main studio is located at 19565 Mack Ave., in Grosse Pointe Woods and offers high-energy group classes as well as an infrared sauna. The Corner Studio Pilates & Lagree studio is at 17200 Mack Ave., in the city of Grosse Pointe.

Visit online at thecornerstudiogp.com or on Instagram @thecornerstudiogp for more information on hours, merchandise, and classes.

Check out the fun line of zip and strap carryalls to keep gear handy through your busy day. They're as stylish as they are practical.





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Calm during the storm Park woman's invention a perk for pet parents

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Around this time last year, Grosse Pointe Park resident Kirsten Brand appeared on season 13, episode 17 of “Shark Tank.”

She made her pitch to the Sharks for PAWNIX, the noise-canceling headsets for dogs she invented as a last-ditch effort to calm her own precious pup, Emma. While Emma sat quietly in the studio, undisturbed by the lights and commotion — all the while modeling the headset as proof of its effectiveness — the science behind the invention was too much for the Sharks. “I did not get a deal,” Brand said. “It was too science based for them. But it was a great experience. It was fun and I was grateful for the opportunity, but it was over their heads.”

Even though she didn't get that deal, every time the episode re-airs on CNBC, Brand gets an increase in emails from supportive pet parents — “They say the Sharks are out of touch” — as well as orders.

PAWNIX was created out of necessity, Brand said, after Emma was frightened during Fourth of July fireworks and ran away.

“She spent her life afraid of loud noise,” Brand said, noting she later found the dog huddled at a neighbor's house. “I started searching the internet to see what was out there to help. I had tried compression vests. I tried CBD, but I didn't want to drug her the rest of her life. One day I put my own noise-canceling headphones on her to see if it worked.”

Though bulky and awkward, the human headset worked. Emma stopped skittering and settled down.



Fireworks aren't a bother to Teddy when he is wearing his PAWNIX headset.

“I thought I should see if there's a better way to do this,” Brand said.

At the time she was doing research and development for Mars Petcare, so she was familiar with the industry. When the company began reorganizing, she saw it as her chance to pursue her new venture.

An electronic device in the headset captures surrounding noise and converts it to a wavelength, which is duplicated and flipped 180 degrees, so when the wavelengths meet in the ear, they are canceled out in real time. Brand first used audio testing technology to prove the electronics were in fact canceling problematic frequencies. Once satisfied with the calculations, she placed the headset on Emma for trial runs in different loud situations.

“We could visibly see a difference in Emma's behavior,” Brand explains on the PAWNIX website. “The highlight was taking her with us to the New Year's Eve concert with midnight fireworks celebrations. Emma was not bothered by the fireworks being set off less than a block away.”

extra large. They include a battery and circuitry, as well as noise-reduction foam, which allows dogs to lay down comfortably while wearing them.

Fireworks aren't the only cause to wear PAWNIX, which reduces loud noises up to 30 decibels. Pet parents who struggle to soothe their dogs during thunderstorms or keep them calm at summer concerts also benefit from PAWNIX. Dogs wearing the headsets are at peace around loud children, on flights, at the vet and other places or moments that can lead to anxiety.

“Customers and pet parents are amazing at giving feedback,” Brand said. “It's evolved over three years. It's nice to be in a business where the customers are people



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRSTEN BRAND

Kirsten Brand and her muse, 17-year-old Emma. who love dogs.”

Brand pointed out that Emma, now 17, comes to her when a storm is brewing and “asks” to

wear the headset.

“I have a second dog who, when he sees her who, when he sees her when a storm is brewing and “asks” to

See PAWNIX, page 2B

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Emma demonstrates the effectiveness of PAWNIX while Brand pitches the invention to the panel on “Shark Tank.”



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2B | FEATURES

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods presents "Mindful Movement & Meditation," part of its Community Wellness Series, from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, through April 25, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. All levels are welcome. To register, email info@family-centerweb.org.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of programs and classes. Register for the following at warmemorial.org.

◆ Beginner Ballroom Basics: Waltz and Rumba, 7 to 7:50 p.m. Thursdays, through March 30. Cost is \$110 per couple for six weeks or \$60 per person for six weeks.

◆ Tammy's Tastings: Drink Me, I'm Irish, 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 16. Tickets are \$59.

◆ Jazz Brunch, featuring jazz pianist Cliff Monear, Sunday, March 19. Brunch begins at 11 a.m., the concert at 12:15 p.m. Tickets are \$65 for both, \$40 for the concert only. VIP tickets also are available.

◆ Cocktails by

Candlelight, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22. Tickets are \$20.

◆ Candlelight Concert, "Fever: A Tribute to Queen and More," 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23. Tickets start at \$40.

◆ Michigan Flute Orchestra: "A Walk Through the Seasons," 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students, \$10 for ages 6 and older.

◆ Bunny Bruch, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 2. Tickets, for adults and children, are \$29 each.

Ford House

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

◆ Nooks & Crannies guided tours are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Sundays until May 28. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$9 for children; admission for members is reduced.

◆ Storytime: "Curious Garden," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, through March 28.

◆ Maker Studio: Floral Watercolors, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 18. Cost is \$70 for members,

\$80 for nonmembers.

◆ Bird Walk, 8 a.m. Sunday, March 19, with Rosann Kovalcik of Wild Birds Unlimited and Bill Rapai, president of Grosse Pointe Audubon. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Spring Tea and Tour, noon Sunday, March 19, and Thursday, March 23. Admission costs vary.

◆ Reading event: "Hadha Baladuna: Arab American Narratives of Boundary and Belonging," 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23. Admission is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ House tours and grounds passes are offered noon to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Nov. 30. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$7.50 for ages 6 to 12. Members are admitted free of charge.

◆ Grounds passes are available daily, 8 a.m. through sunset, now through Dec. 31. Passes cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for ages 6 to 12. Members are admitted free of charge.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Library

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

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16, via Zoom.

◆ Read Local Authors Series, with Ebony Evans, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Origins of Food Series, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Calligraphy Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Saturday Storytime,

10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Bad Guys Trivia, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog Drop In, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Flapping Butterfly To-Go Craft, all day Monday, March 20, at all three branches.

◆ 1,000 Hours Outside Signs of Spring Walk, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 20, at Patterson Park, 16006 Essex, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Cellar 313, 15112 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Youth Coding Class, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Read Local Author Series, featuring Joe Grimm's "The Faygo Book," 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Thoughts to Action "Disability Visibility" Recording, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the DREAM Lab at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Calligraphy Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Mario Madness, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ On Writing Well: Creative Non-Fiction, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16, Roseville Public

See **EVENTS**, page 8B

Republicans to hear Right-to-Work update

Steve A. Delie, Mackinac Center for Public Policy director of labor policy, speaks to the Eastside Republican Club Forum on Tuesday, March 21.



Steve A. Delie

p.m. for coffee and networking.

Delie also leads the center's government transparency efforts as its director of transparency and open government, using his expertise in deal-

The 7:30 p.m. forum is open to the public and takes place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. There is no charge to attend.

At the Michigan think tank, Delie heads research, development and promotion of labor reforms through studies, media relations and legislative testimony. He also serves as a policy advisor for Workers for Opportunity and the My Pay My Say initiative.

"As an attorney and labor policy director, we look forward to hearing from Mr. Delie in light of recent Michigan legislative action and Gov. Whitmer's campaign promise to roll back Michigan's competitive status as a Right-to-Work state," said Eastside Republican Club Chairman Mike Vethacke in advance of the meeting. "We invite anyone interested in the current battle to retain Michigan's edge as a freedom-to-work state to attend."

Forum doors open at 7

ing with Freedom of Information Act matters.

A Hillsdale College graduate, Delie was a member of Hillsdale's George Washington Fellowship program, a competitive fellowship awarded for outstanding academic achievement, leadership and interest in public service.

Following college, Delie earned a degree from Michigan State University College of Law, where he graduated summa cum laude. At MSU, Delie served as associate editor of the MSU Law Review. As a student, he worked for former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young, as well as for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Va.

After admission to the bar in 2015, Delie entered private practice, specializing in employment, labor, municipal and contract law.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at The War Memorial.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRSTEN BRAND

The noise-reducing foam in the headsets make them comfortable to sleep in.

PAWNIX:

Continued from page 1B

get hers on, he asks for his too," she added. "He's not as sound scared, but like a pack animal, he wants his too."

The patent is still pending on PAWNIX, but Brand is finding her invention in high demand.

"It's definitely a seasonal thing," she said. "November, December, January sales are from elsewhere in the world where they have fireworks events. ... It's picking up now here with Cinco de Mayo and Fourth of July coming up. With fireworks, it's perfect for pet parents with sound-adverse dogs. They're selling all around the world and helping dogs around the world."

Brand, who grew up in Grosse Pointe, but lived for a time in Nashville, is happy to be back home in the Park. The Richard Elementary School and Grosse Pointe South High School graduate is returning to her roots to build connections in the community.

"I'm always looking to stay connected and use our resources in the best way," she said.

"... What inspires me is it's removing stress from dogs and from dog parents. I was getting to my wits end, wondering what I could do, how I could make it better. It's very rewarding to know it's helping not only dogs, but removing that stress and anxiety from pet parents too."

There is a wealth of information about PAWNIX at pawnix.com, as well as on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

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Purple in the Pointes

Campaign celebrates those with physical, emotional, cognitive challenges

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A campaign to honor, acknowledge and celebrate individuals with cognitive, physical and emotional challenges is asking the community to color itself purple.

During the entire month of April, the Full Circle Foundation is promoting Purple in the Pointes, during which citizens, businesses, schools and churches are encouraged to shine purple lights, wear purple clothing or come up with other colorfully creative ideas to promote their support.

"Whatever people want to do to support this initiative, that's what we're asking them to do," said Patty Sunisloe, who is spearheading the campaign. "We want to light our community purple. Purple is the color that represents disability. Municipalities, businesses, private citizens — everyone is invited to participate. I just want them to have fun with it."

Full Circle is reaching out to nonprofits, specifically those that serve people with special needs, to get involved. Several businesses and the Grosse Pointe Public School System already have agreed to partici-

pate as well, she said. Cabbage Patch Saloon, for example, will serve purple beer. Atwater in the Park and Ford House will display purple lights and Main Street Grosse Pointe likely will, too.

"We're identifying the entire month of April as Purple in the Pointes," Sunisloe said. "Whether people intend to do something the entire month is up to them. They can change out their porch light — believe it or not, there are a lot of lighted purple products on the market — or they can put a purple ribbon on their tree or wear purple clothes. It's whatever they want to do."

Participating businesses will be given posters for storefront display.

"When you scan the QR code on the promotional material, it will take you to the Purple in the Pointes page where all of our events, activities and participants will be listed," Sunisloe said. "All the nonprofits who work with people with special needs will also be listed."

A kickoff event is planned at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Sharon Emery, author of "It's Hard Being You: A

Primer on Being Happy Anyway," will speak and sign copies of her book, which is a 2023 Michigan Notable Book.

"She had her own challenges as a lifelong stutterer," Sunisloe said. "... She and her husband also had challenges in having a child who was born with developmental disabilities, who they lost."

Emery will share her story of living with loss and limits, including disability and grief, as well as the resilience of human beings.

Another event, "A Taste of Soup and Art," also falls under the Purple in the Pointes umbrella, said Stephanie DiVirgil, Full Circle program/operations coordinator.

"We're recognizing and celebrating people the community with disabilities," she said. "Our goal is to bring awareness and acceptance and to get these young adults out there to be part of the community and feel that they are celebrated."

Added Sunisloe, "This is not a fundraiser; it's a friend-raiser. Obviously it brings attention to Full Circle and all the good work the people at Full Circle do to help people with various challenges. We hope this will be an annual event. I'm pragmatic in that I under-

stand this is not as grandiose as Light it Up Blue was set to be in 2019, but I hope to get it there."

Light it Up Blue, an event planned in recognition of Autism Awareness Month, was shut down when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Several organizations and individuals were lined up to participate, which is the same enthusiasm organizers this year hope to see with Purple in the Pointes.

"Grosse Pointe is a special community," DiVirgil said. "Everything we're doing to celebrate in April has been well-received. Come April 1, I hope to see all the businesses in the Pointes in purple."

"This is just to let fellow citizens who have challenges know we see them, we care about them, we embrace them," Sunisloe said. "I worked for 38 years in mental health. I know it can be very isolating, very lonely. Oftentimes people in those situations don't necessarily feel welcome or included. They may feel like they don't have the



same value as others. Sometimes just having a visual expression of our care and concern goes a long way."

For more information about Purple in the Pointes, call (313) 469-6660.

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Greenway's Spring Community Clean-Up is Saturday, April 15

The Moross Greenway Project hosts its spring community clean-up event Saturday, April 15. Volunteers are needed to collect trash and work in the garden beds on the median islands.

Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. in front of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 21150 Moross, at Edgefield, in Detroit.

Water, traffic vests and trash bags are provided. Volunteers should dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Those interested in working in the garden beds should bring a hedge trimmer as well.

For more information, email morossgreenwayproject@gmail.com or visit morossgreenway.org.



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Kids on the Go celebrating quarter century of impact

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Seeing a need for children with special needs to receive therapy during summer months led Kristy Schena to develop Kids on the Go, a pediatric nonprofit program that began offering a multidisciplinary summer camp for ages 3 to 6.

"When I first started this, people were moving out of Grosse Pointe ... to get better services for their children," Schena said.

To offset costs and make camp affordable to anyone interested, Schena enlisted local businesses to provide scholarships for campers.

"I didn't see us outgrowing the multidisciplinary camp we started from," Schena said.

The first year, 13 scholarships were awarded; last year's scholarships tallied 450.

Now in its 25th year, the mission of Kids on the Go is to recognize and facilitate the goals of children with special needs and further develop their current skills through therapeutic and wellness programs.

From its humble beginnings, Kids on the Go now offers programs in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, as well as Traverse City. While initially camps were offered to ages 3 to 6, the age limit later increased to 14 and currently, programs are available for students up to 17 years old.

Bigger growth occurred in 2018, when Kids on the Go moved into the Nonprofit Center at Pare in St. Clair Shores, finally finding a place to call home.

"Since we moved, we've seen significant growth with grants to enhance our programs

and add new programs," Schena said.

What started as a summer program expanded to include year-round therapies for students with special needs. Classes range from robotics, social skills and cooking to adaptive bowling, basketball and music therapy.

New program ideas largely come from parents seeking certain outlets for their children.

"The thing that drives new programs is our parents," Schena said.

Grants also play a big role in Kids on the Go. A Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds grant helped the nonprofit further its health and wellness programming, which now includes tennis, football, boxing, golf and basketball.

Where typical children have a variety of options where to play sports, those outlets generally don't have accommodations for children with special needs.

"We provide expert support where it's needed and the opportunity for them to participate like their peers," Schena said. "Our sports programs are taught by instructors who are paired with therapists so they can modify the program."

"I believe every kid should have the opportunity to do something their typical peers can do and they shouldn't be excluded," she added. "... Sports are competitive. That's not going to change. But we can offer these kids a chance to compete."

A William Davidson Foundation grant allowed Kids on the Go to implement Empowered II, for girls ages 11 to 17, which covers health and wellness topics such as nutrition, positive body image and self-confidence.

Former Michigan State University Rose Bowler and NFLer Darien Harris, director of player relations at MSU, is working with Schena to bring Kids on the Go campers to the MSU campus to play flag football. Students who attend can bring their brothers and sisters.

"When you have a child with special needs, it affects the whole family," Schena said, "so why not

include the siblings?"

Taiwan Jones, also a former MSU and NFL football player, and longtime Kids on the Go instructor, leads the program's boxing classes.

"We found the kids

he's a nationally competitive archer.

"Seeing those kids like CJ gives hope to all our families," she said. "Kids are employed in our community now after going through our program. Several students have graduated. That goes to show how long we've been around."

One program that helps students prepare for the workforce is Teens to Work, which launched in 2018.

"It started with teaching interviewing skills, then we offered a two-

day work training program and now it's offered all year," Schena said. "Several students leave the program and get jobs in the community."

"In response to the pandemic, we started an ambassador position, where they worked with us for six months to be a part of our staff," she noted. "An occupational therapist helps them explore job opportunities in the community. We still offer the ambassador position. It's a confidence booster that offers one-on-one focus."

While many nonprofits were stifled during the pandemic, Kids on the Go offered 51 classes during summer 2020 — 42 of them virtual and nine in person, outdoors, using COVID protocols.

"Where a lot of nonprofits shut their doors, we didn't," she noted. "That's one of the things

I'm most proud of."

Parent workshops, a summertime offering pre-pandemic, recently were reimplemented, with a session about special needs trust and estate planning and financial planning. More than 30 parents attended.

The success Kids on the Go has seen over 25 years is a trajectory Schena hopes carries on.

"I hope we're able to go on for years to come," she said. "I hope it always continues to grow and be accessible to families."

"In addition to grants, we've established an endowment fund through the Community Foundation (for Southeast Michigan) so we can be set up to continue the longevity of the program."

Schena emphasized that Kids on the Go campers aren't the only beneficiaries of its programs, which teach empathy, kindness and compassion.

"Kids need it, but parents need it too," she said, noting among parents the friendships made, play groups started and resources shared. "You don't know what somebody's going through. We have compassion for the children, but understand that parents might be going through something too."

"I never want a parent to feel alone," she added. "Do not let a diagnosis define your child or their future. And don't be afraid to ask for help. If we don't have the answers with our resources, we can help you navigate this unknown journey."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTY SCHENA

Wyatt is all smiles during the gardening program with Kids on the Go.

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really love it," Schena said. "It's one of our most popular classes."

She recounted a student who was severely bullied at school, who was encouraged to take the boxing class — not to learn to fight, but to learn confidence.

"Taiwan told him to hold his head up high and be confident," Schena said. "Then he enrolled in football. Watching him play football, his mother said it was the first time she saw him smile. Now he's all smiles and he gets all A's and he's on student council."

"This is about letting kids participate in things where they'll be successful and feel good about themselves," she added.

Schena can relay success stories in split seconds, hesitating only to decide which one to share first.

There's CJ, who Schena has known since he was 3 years old and a new Kids on the Go camper. He's now in his second year of law school at MSU, pursuing a degree to help others with special needs.

Another camper Schena recalls as "bouncing off the walls" with unbridled energy. Now,

day work training program and now it's offered all year," Schena said. "Several students leave the program and get jobs in the community."

"In response to the pandemic, we started an ambassador position, where they worked with us for six months to be a part of our staff," she noted. "An occupational therapist helps them explore job opportunities in the community. We still offer the ambassador position. It's a confidence booster that offers one-on-one focus."

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"Where a lot of nonprofits shut their doors, we didn't," she noted. "That's one of the things

More to come

Upcoming community events for Kids on the Go include "May the Fourth be with You," a dance party with the Full Circle Foundation, which takes place May 4, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church; and the eighth annual Kids on the Go golf outing, which takes place May 19, at Cherry Creek Golf Club. Additionally, Kids on the Go spring 2023 programs begin in April. Learn more at kidsonthegocamp.com/programs



Participants in the popular Kids on the Go boxing program pose with their instructor, longtime Kids on the Go supporter Taiwan Jones.

OPINIONS MATTER

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Second 'Raise the Roof' fundraiser a men's night out

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Following the success of its first official "Raise the Roof" fundraiser — a ladies' night event in February — the creators of Michael B's Cafe in Grosse Pointe Park are hosting a men's night, coinciding with March Madness.

"Bourbon, Beer and Basketball" tips off at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Cabbage Patch Saloon, 15130 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

"Sweet 16 starts that night," said Alicia Carlisle, whose dream it is to open Michael B's Cafe, which will employ adults with special needs to enhance their sense of self-worth and respect through meaningful work and cooperative relationships.

"I want to create a safe place for people who have special challenges to work and contribute and educate the community so they see how valuable everybody is," she added.

Just before the first matchup of the night, the Full Circle Foundation choir will prime guests for a night of hoops and hoopla by singing the national anthem.

The evening also includes food prepared by Olga Merametdjian and hourly drink specials, as well as contests



COURTESY RENDERING

Michael B's Cafe is scheduled to begin construction this summer. Fundraising events are being held to support the project.

and raffles. One contest challenges participants, for a fee, to a taste test to see if they can correctly identify a selection of bourbons.

Raffle items still are coming in, but already include 100 bottles of beer donated by Imperial Beverage and an array of Final Four paraphernalia donated by Grosse Pointer Dennis Hyduk.

"We'll also auction off the ability to 'purchase' different parts of the building," Carlisle said. For example, guests

can donate \$6 to cover the cost of a caulk tube, \$150 for a lock set or \$750 for a commercial toilet. Big spenders have the opportunity to make an impact on items like exterior doors at \$25,000 a piece or an elevator for \$175,000.

"We'll have basketball and good camaraderie for a good reason," Carlisle said.

Carlisle's goal is to raise \$3 million for the project, so every bit helps. The fundraisers — there's a third event

open to the community in June — not only raise money, but also awareness for the project.

Michael B's Cafe is named for Carlisle's 26-year-old son, who is autistic. The Grosse Pointe South High School graduate and current college student "forges his own path in life and does it all with a smile and innate kindness," according to the website. "The cafe is a dream come true for Michael B. He is proud to be a part of an organi-

zation that employs individuals like himself who simply need an opportunity to show their worth."

Carlisle said she's touched by the support she's already received from people in the community and beyond.

"The Michael B's project is an exciting one," board member Christian Fenton said. "Starting with a dream concept from Alicia Carlisle, it has been fun for me and others to watch it develop. The planning

and developing of architectural renderings, cost estimates and program ideas has been exciting. Every step of the way, the goal of helping out special needs young adults is at the forefront. My hope is more people in our community will hear about this project and will join us in making Alicia's idea come to fruition. We have more work to do, but I have great faith in this community to help make this happen."

Building demolition takes place this summer, followed by around one year of new construction. Jeff Russell is the general contractor, Erik Heiderer the architect.

"The women's event was so good; we were full," Carlisle said. "This one will be geared toward men, but of course there will be women there. ... Over \$15,000 was raised at the women's event, so the men have a challenge now."

Tickets for the event are \$100 each and may be purchased online at michaelbcafe.com.

For those unable to attend "Bourbon, Beer and Basketball," a donation page is available on the Michael B's Cafe website — michaelbcafe.com — on the "Events" page.

For more information, call (313) 821-1111.

Soroptimist International of GP hosts annual awards dinner

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe recently hosted its annual awards dinner during which five women were celebrated and presented awards.

Virginia Wagner Award

Lauren Gothro, who attends Wayne State University, plans to complete her Master of Social Work degree by May 2024. She was awarded the Virginia Wagner Educational Award by Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe at its March 9 awards dinner.

The Virginia Wagner Award honors a woman enrolled in a university degree program, who shows effort toward scholarship, has volunteered in the community and/or school and has financial need.

Gothro said she chose social work because she is "passionate about individual growth and large-scale changes." Her goal is to support people who are healing emotionally and advocate for policies that will improve systemic issues in the country and its communities.

Three Live Your Dream Awardees

Live Your Dream awards are given to women who provide the primary financial support for their families. It gives women the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

First-place awardee Jamie Pakula earned an associate degree in nursing from Macomb Community College and has been accepted at University of Michigan Flint. Her dream to



From left, Erin O'Mara, Mercy Education Project, winner of the Ruby Award; J'nai Baker, second-place winner of the Live Your Dream Award; Jamie Pakula, first-place winner of the Live Your Dream Award; Desiree Perry, third-place winner of the Live Your Dream Award; and Lauren Gothro, winner of the Virginia Wagner Educational Award.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

has three children, two siblings and a parent, all of whom she supports.

"I want to show them you can still get things done with discipline, perseverance and dignity," she said.

After facing and overcoming personal hardships to reach her goal, Desiree Perry was the third-place awardee. She has completed her prerequisites and is enrolled at Macomb Community College to obtain an associate degree as a nurse practitioner. Perry is a wife and mother of four chil-

become a nurse originated when she became a mother.

"I look forward to becoming a nurse and helping people who come in at their worst and helping them

recover and be able to go home feeling their best," she said. "I picture myself as an oncology nurse, as I am a cancer survivor myself."

Second-place awardee J'nai Baker graduated

from Denby High School and currently attends Wayne County Community College. She is taking prerequisites for the nursing program. She plans to be an anesthesiologist

or certified registered nurse anesthetist. Baker

See AWARDS, page 8B

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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.

Karen A. Humphrey

Karen A. Humphrey, 67, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2023, in White Lake.

Karen was born May 13, 1955, to Kermit and Lois Humphrey, both now deceased. She attended Michigan State University and earned undergraduate and master's degrees, then went to work at General Motors. She was a history buff who loved reading and Turner Classic Movies. She was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

James Evans

James Evans, 78, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 4, 2023, after an extended battle with cancer.

A lifelong Grosse Pointer, Jim passed away just two miles from his place of birth in Grosse Pointe Farms. He was born Aug. 7, 1944.

Jim graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1962, and received a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. He had to a 35-year career with DTE before retiring in 2001. He was a distinguished IEEE Committee member, Senior Life Member of Distributech and enjoyed membership in the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron for many years. After retirement, he continued as a consultant and instructor for Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Boating was Jim's passion and he delighted in caring for his Chris Craft Sea Skiffs and the vessels of friends at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park. His reputation for solving

marine challenges was well known and the local boating community held a special place in his heart. Jim also enjoyed family outings at the Pier Park and traveling with his wife, Barbara, to research family history in Maine, New Hampshire and New York.

Jim is survived by his wife, Barbara Evans; son, Geoff Evans (Tara); grandchildren, Nate, Madi and Ben Evans; and sister, Judy Siegel, PhD. He was a "cat dad" to Butterscotch and Pepper. Jim was predeceased by his father, Ira Edgar Evans; mother, Lucile Evans; and brother, Ed Evans.

The family extends a special thank you to the Thursday morning breakfast group, whose friendship meant a great deal to Jim.

Per Jim's request, no funeral or remembrance service is planned. His ashes will be privately committed to Lake St. Clair this summer. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org, with the designation for orphaned and abused cats.

Robert Timothy Kelch

Robert Timothy Kelch, 71, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away unexpectedly Friday, March 10, 2023. Tim was born Oct. 26, 1951, in Dayton, Ohio, to Shirley S. Kelch and Raymond A. "Buzz" Kelch. Tim had a fabulous 28-year career with Chrysler. He lived his life through music and connecting with those around him.

Tim was married to his wife, Lisa, for 37 years. He was the middle of five children.

Tim was predeceased by his two older brothers, Carlton W. and Raymond A., "BJ." He is survived by Stephen A. and Lori Kelch, Laura (nee Kelch) and Bill Winterhalter, David and Nancy Herbert, Steven and Judy Herbert, Kathy and Jamie Priest, Laurie and David Voigt, and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his wife, Lisa, and their children, Maggie and Joe Wild, and Kate and Will Meyers; and their granddaughter, Elizabeth Blake Meyers.

Memorial contributions in Tim's honor may be made to a charity of choice. His final party will be hosted in late spring.

Arrangements were entrusted to the D.S. Temrowski & Sons Funeral Home in Warren. Share memories at Temrowski.com.

David Wells

David Wells, 75, passed away Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, at home in Grosse Pointe Shores.

David was a charismatic conversationalist and unique intellectual who left a significant impression on those he encountered. He was a passionate and skilled sailor whose image is best evoked aboard his sailboat, The Amerika, cruising the Great Lakes, ultimately headed for Georgian Bay. He will be deeply loved and fondly remembered by the many people whose lives he touched during his 75 years of life.

David was born Nov. 1, 1947, to Clark and Betty (nee Cavanagh) Wells in Grosse Pointe. David and his siblings, Anne, Tom and twin sister Mary, never failed to reminisce fondly about their child-



Karen A. Humphrey



James Evans



Robert Timothy Kelch

hood house on Handy Road, designed in the mid-century modern style by acclaimed architect Alden Dow. Like much of his family, David was an avid reader despite a childhood diagnosis of dyslexia. Betty and Anne worked to find David a place at The Gow School in New York to ensure he would have a love and appreciation for books, for which he was so well known. He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in August 1967, but returned to school after serving his country and received a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from the University of Detroit in 1974.

During the Vietnam War, David served as a field radio operator. He was honorably discharged at the rank of lance corporal after he was critically wounded during the Tet Offensive at Hue City in spring 1968. The USMC recognized David for his honorable and heroic service with the Purple Heart Medal and National Defense Service Medal. David came home from Vietnam with one glass eye, which he managed to turn into a gleeful way to terrify his children and grandchildren. Although he did not often speak about his experience in combat, he was a proud Marine who always appreciated hearing people thank him for his service.

David was a naturally gifted salesman with a career focused on mortgage brokerage and prop-

erty management, at times leading more than 500 staff members. He was a personable and generous boss whose employees loved working for him. One year he used his bonus to treat his entire team to a cruise as David knew how to balance a good work ethic — he knew when to lighten up, when it was time to add humor and fun and when to reward himself and others for their work — and consistently infused a spirit of humor into his office environment.

In addition to his professional life as a businessman, David was fulfilled by his lifelong passion for working with his hands. He and his wife could almost always be found tinkering with projects around the house, doing yard work and curating the perfect garden for friends and family to enjoy. David also created beautiful macramé masterpieces, often when on vacation, leaving them behind for hosts. He was known to capture unsuspecting wrists if you were to sit next to him while he was weaving one of his famous leather bracelets. In recent years he often could be found in his brother-in-law's wood-working studio, trying his hand at making furniture he often gifted to his children.

David's love for Detroit sports teams has been instilled in his children as they recall his love and support of the Tigers and Lions, even through the toughest of years. They also recall fond memories of frequenting Travis



David Wells

Burger restaurant, as David thought it to be the best meal in town outside of his wife's kitchen. He was a hockey dad who tied skates and faithfully woke up early to drive to 7 a.m. practices, and a reliable airport chauffeur, always ready to dispense advice on the joys and sorrows of life and love.

David is survived by his wife, Dr. Pamela Loomis; children, Kate Wells, the daughter of David and Elizabeth Thurber Crawford (March Dempsey), Pearson Wells and Stewart Wells (Victoria Stankus); grandchildren, Wallace, Miles and Eloise Dempsey; and 14 nieces and nephews, many of whom will remember him for his questionable babysitting skills and inappropriate jokes.

A memorial for David will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Vets Returning Home, a Michigan non-profit that seeks to directly assist veterans in crisis, vetsreturninghome.org.

Assumption announces spring programs

A variety of fitness classes, self-improvement classes and events to educate, excite and entertain are available through Assumption Greek Cultural Center. From cultural events like lectures, concerts and learning to make Greek dishes to working out, traveling, learning a foreign language, learning about retirement planning or shopping garage sales, Assumption has

something for everyone this spring.

Assumption presents an all-new Springtime Cultural Series. The first event is a lecture: "Russian Expansion vs. Ukrainian Survival, or Authoritarianism vs. Democracy," presented by Detroit native Natalie Melnyczuk, an analyst, academic, diplomat and consultant. The lecture takes place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23.

Suggested donation is \$15.

The second event is a violin and piano recital, performed by violinist Kypros Markou, director of orchestral studies at Wayne State University, and Dr. Marina Stojanovska, collaborative pianist at Oakland University's School of Music. The recital takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 26. Tickets are \$20.

The third cultural event is a Hellenic cuisine cooking demonstration, where participants learn to make classic spinach pie and a Greek custard phyllo dessert. The demonstration — which includes samples to taste — takes place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 15. Class fee is \$20.

Assumption also offers "Retirement Reimagined," a six-week course that helps those looking to retire figure out what to do with their newly found post-career free time through a retirement life-planning workshop. The goal is to achieve a more purposeful and fulfilling retirement. The instructor is Steve Torakis of Systematic Performance Training. Classes begin Thursday, April 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$49, and includes all workbook and course materials.

For those interested in fitness, Assumption's KALOSOMATICS exercise program's spring session begins Monday, April 3, and runs through Friday, June 16. KALOSOMATICS offers women and co-ed classes with cardiovascular

emphasis incorporating aerobics, yoga and Pilates-like mat work. Beginner, intermediate and seniors classes are offered, day and evening. Students may alternate classes and times to accommodate their personal schedules, new students may attend any class free for one week and seniors receive a 25 percent discount. Assumption also offers two yoga classes: Gentle Mat Yoga and Yin Yoga. In Gentle Mat, students are guided through gentle postures that link breath with movement while increasing strength and improving flexibility. In Yin Yoga, students hold postures that move into deeper connective tissue. By the end of class, students feel as though they just had a deep tissue massage.

For those who prefer team sports, Assumption offers pickleball, a game that is sweeping the nation in popularity among all age groups, especially with seniors. Various clinics teach beginners how to play and help advanced beginners learn skills to improve their game. Group Pickleball Play also is available where participants are sorted

by skill level. Courts are available for open play and private rentals.

Other fitness classes are Tae Kwon Do Karate for adults and children, offering the opportunity to develop strength while learning the art of discipline.

Travel with Assumption includes two trips by motorcoach. The first is to Charleston, S.C. and Savannah, Ga., May 7 to 12. The second trip is Christmas at the Biltmore House in Asheville, N.C., featuring a Candlelight Christmas Tour, Nov. 13 to 18.

For those who enjoy concerts, Grosse Pointe North High School's Great Works Concert takes place Wednesday, April 5, in Assumption Church.

Other opportunities for self-improvement are French language classes taught by the Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe.

Assumption's 13th Annual Giant Garage Sale takes place Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20. Food and baked goods will also be available for purchase.

This summer's GreekFest 2023 takes

See SPRING, page 7B

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'Soup & Art' event returns April 5

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Full Circle Foundation, in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, is hosting "A Taste of Soup & Art" from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We did this in 2019, and it was a huge hit, so I'm really excited to be doing it again," said Stephanie DiVirgil, Full Circle program/oper-

tions coordinator. "Fifteen to 20 area restaurants will be making their best soups for us, which will be available to taste at the event. Each ticket holder will be able to vote on what they thought the best soup was."

In addition to savory soups, several tables will feature artwork from Full Circle's special needs adults, the GPAA's senior and veteran art program participants and Grosse Pointe Public School System middle and high school students.

"Our Team 26 coordinator, Regan Wright, is getting artwork ready for the event," DiVirgil said. "(GPAA President) Karen Pope coordinated with Grosse Pointe South and arranged for 10 National Arts Honor Society students to work one-on-one with 10 Full Circle young adults to create self-portrait 'Super Heroes.' These unique pieces of art will be on display at the event."

Community members, Full Circle families and members of the GPPSS community will volun-

teer serving the soup, she added. The event also includes a cash bar and live music from The Thrift Store Cowboys.

"This is not meant to be a fundraiser," DiVirgil noted. "We're doing it just to bring everybody together to have a good time."

Tickets are available for purchase on the website — fullcirclefdn.org/soup-art — or by calling Full Circle at (313) 469-6660. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Those who wish to further their support can

become a Souper Star for a \$50 donation, which includes a commemorative bowl along with admission.

"We'll also have a 50/50 raffle and we have over 20 themed baskets for a tin-can raffle," DiVirgil noted. "The event is from 5 to 8, but the raffle winners likely will be picked within the 7 o'clock hour."

Though not a fundraiser — funds raised will offset event costs — any additional funds will go toward Full Circle's quest for a wheelchair-accessi-

ble van.

"We would like to update our automobile situation so we can accommodate more people," DiVirgil said. "Right now we have an Explorer that was gifted to us in 2016, as well as a nine-passenger rider van, which is older, but still in great condition. However, it does not have wheelchair capabilities. We've already raised over \$20,000 for it, but anything above and beyond from the soup event will go toward that."

Bunnyville at the Detroit Zoo returns April 7-8

Hop over to Bunnyville at the Detroit Zoo this April for two days of "egg-citing" fun for the whole family.

The zoo's annual springtime celebration,

presented by Meijer, returns from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, and is free for zoo members to attend. Non-

members also can join in on the fun, as admission to Bunnyville is included with a ticket purchase to the zoo.

New activities for Bunnyville this year include a bounce house and inflatable obstacle course, as well as a face-painting station for children to appear as their favor-

ite wild and whiskered friends. The fan-favorite golden egg hunt, which features 100 hidden eggs each day across the zoo's 125 acres, also is back at Bunnyville — along with habitat chats and educational activities, live entertainment, photos with the Easter Bunny and more. Lucky golden egg recipients will receive an animal plush and biodegradable pot with native seeds to support local pollinators. Only one golden egg may be redeemed per child.

In addition to providing an "egg-stravaganza" of activities, Bunnyville is giving back to the community this spring. Those who join in the fun are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to Gleaners Community Food Bank. Additionally, the Detroit Zoological Society will donate a portion of the weekend's ticket sales directly to Gleaners.

"When you purchase admission to Bunnyville, you are not just signing up for a great day of family-friendly fun," said Marissa Ratzenberger, events supervisor for the DZS. "You are also helping those in need and providing critical support so that the DZS can give excellent care to the animals who call the Detroit Zoo and Belle

Isle Nature Center home."

Bunnyville is sponsored by Doetsch Environmental Services, Michigan Educational Credit Union and BioLife Plasma Services.



All ages are invited to visit Bunnyville at the Detroit Zoo April 7 and 8.



CHURCH BRIEF

St. Paul on the Lake

The St. Paul on the Lake Knights of Columbus offers baked salmon dinners from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 17, and Friday, March 31, at St. Paul on the Lake School, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call (313) 885-3430.

Blooming business

Grosse Pointe's newest gardening venture is The Plant Advisors, LLC, bringing onsite advice to metro Detroit homeowners who are learning about biodiversity and native plants. Consultants from The Plant Advisors assess sites and provide customized reports of native alternatives and suggested pollinator habitats. More information can be found at theplantadvisors.com. David Swank, an Audubon-certified habitat advisor for The Plant Advisors, recently visited the Grosse Pointe Optimist Club to discuss the new venture. Swank, left, receives an Optimist Certificate of Appreciation from Club President David Fries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT COMMER

SPRING:

Continued from page 6B

place Aug. 17 to 20. This four-day event features Greek foods and pastries; live entertainment, a kids' tent with a

petting zoo and pony rides, magic shows, hair-braiding and tattoos, as well as a marketplace with vendors from all over the U.S. and Greece.

A grand raffle takes place Aug. 20. First prize is \$10,000. Second prize is a Meira T

Gold Diamond Necklace, valued at \$3,170, donated by Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers. Additional cash prizes will be raffled as well. Raffle tickets go on sale soon.

Finally, Marchiori Catering will host special events for as

few as 50 attendees to as many as 500 attendees. With more than 60 years of experience, Assumption provides various rooms with indoor and outdoor seating.

For more information or to register, call Assumption

Cultural Center at (586) 779-6111. View the spring/summer brochure at assumptionculturalcenter.org.

Assumption Cultural Center is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

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10 a.m. - Bible Study

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8B | FEATURES

AWARDS:

Continued from page 5B

dren. "I am confident that when I finish this program, I will have the skills needed to move from working as a nurse tech to being a registered nurse," she said.

Ruby Award

The Ruby Award honors a woman who, while volunteering or working for a nonprofit that provides services to women and/or girls, makes an extraordinary difference in improving lives. Not only does her work make a significant impact, but it also inspires and encourages other women. The monetary portion of the award is given in her honor to the nonprofit organization she repre-

sents. This year SIGP's Ruby Award was given to Erin O'Mara, director of community engagement at Mercy Education Project in Detroit. MEP provides after-school educational programs for girls from second grade through high school.

Also offered is a College and Career Readiness program for 11th and 12th graders who are determined to be college-bound. MEP provides girls with STEAM and leadership opportunities in its summer Emerging Leaders Program.

"When we work one-on-one with our girls, we also affect generations to come," O'Mara said. "I do not think there is any more important work than this."

The organization's

Women's Program provides highly individualized educational services dedicated to helping every woman pass the GED test. The Women's Program also offers college, career and job readiness preparation, designed to support women as they transition into higher education, the workforce, specialized training and reaching their full potential.

MEP's mission is "Empowering women and girls through education in Detroit since 1992." Except for a difference in expression, its mission is the same as SIGP's: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment."

Truck talk planned at Piquette Museum

Henry Ford first coined the term "pickup" when he wanted to make a vehicle suitable for farmers. The truck has come a long way since 1917, when Ford based his new design off the Model T and named it the Model TT, capable of carrying a cargo load of one ton.

The Ford Piquette Plant Museum will present a talk titled "Ford Trucks — From TT's to the Design and Development of Today's All-New Super Duty," at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 31.

Taking place among the museum's historic collection of TT's, this Speaker Series event features Aaron Bresky, chief technical officer for Ford Motor Co.'s Super Duty program, heavy-duty trucks designed for towing, hauling, plowing and off-road driving.

A social start to the evening includes complimentary beverages and a sweet-and-savory pretzel bar. The formal program begins at 6 p.m. and proceeds benefit the museum's cultural and educational mission.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at fordpiquetteplant.org/events or by calling (313) 872-8759. Tickets for museum members are \$20. Seating is limited, so purchasing tickets in advance is recommended.

Bresky is responsible for delivering overall engineering and product development. He has held various positions in his 26 years at Ford Motor Co., and has worked on Super Duty as well as other programs including the E-Series, F-150, F-650+, Excursion, Mustang and Windstar.

"Super Duty is a way of life for me," he said. "It's not just a work assignment; I am so ingrained in Super Duty that 'Ford trucks' will likely come up in almost any conversation."

The Piquette Avenue Plant Museum is open year-round to the public, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. For more information, visit fordpiquetteplant.org, email piquetteplant@gmail.com or call (313) 872-8759.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Library, 29777 Gratiot, Roseville.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 17, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 23, St. Basil Catholic Church, 22851 Lexington, Eastpointe.

The Helm

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

◆ St. Patrick's Day lunch and trivia competition, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 17. Cost is \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers.

◆ Tour & Lunch Series: Basilica Ste. Anne de Detroit, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 22. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for future members. Attendees are responsible for the cost of their

lunch.

◆ The movie "Six Minutes to Midnight" is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 24. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Cooking Demonstration, "Healthy Meals for 1 or 2," with registered dietitian Nancy Weis and Chef Dan Kellogg, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29.

◆ Wise Guys conversation group for men, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.

◆ Canasta Club, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays.

◆ Watercolor Painting with Roselyn Rhodes, 2:30 to 4 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Cost is \$25 per class for members, \$35 per class for nonmembers.

◆ Crafting with Holly, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month, with Holly Hazel. Cost is \$10 per class for members, \$15 per class for nonmembers. January students make colorful collage luminaries.

◆ Euchre Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Free for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

◆ Pingpong, 2 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Free for members, \$5 per hour, per table for nonmembers.

◆ Knitting for Charity, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

◆ Ask the Physical Therapist, 9:15 to 10 a.m. the second Thursday of each month, with physical therapy professional David Gilboe.

Healthspan

Healthspan, 18450 Mack, Ste. 101, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a Makeup Application Lesson from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 16. The event also includes information about what foods to eat for healthy skin. Healthspan offers preventative healthcare, testing, nutrition counseling and exercise plans with a focus on healthy aging through lifestyle. For more information, email info@drginette.co or call (313) 583-4333.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical Breakfast meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, March 17, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Scott Hanoian, director of music and organist at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, where he directs the church's four choirs and oversees the yearly concert series, speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ "Explorations in Abstraction Using Acrylics," a two-day workshop with Valerie Allen, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18.

◆ Woodblock workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, April 22 and 29. Registration is required by April 12.

Audubon

Grosse Pointe Audubon hosts its next meeting Monday, March 20, in the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Resale Shop, located behind the church at 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Audubon Vice President Mark O'Keefe spent 2022 trying to find as many birds as he could in North America. He will recount the triumphs and frustration in 365 days of birding from coast to coast. Doors open at 7 p.m. for social hour and refreshments; the free meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact brapai@aol.com or visit gp.audubon.blogspot.com/

advance.visitfullotusyoga.net.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 22. Angela Brown Wilson, COO of Eastside Community Network Detroit, will speak about plans for the Mack Avenue Business Association and streetscape. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Mini Picassos

Mini Picassos, 21520 Harper, St. Clair Shores, offers a variety of classes and camps. To register, visit minipicassosstudio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

◆ Spring Break Four-Day Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 28 to 31, for ages 5 to 12. Cost is \$230 per artist. Snacks and drinks are provided.

Adaptive yoga

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

Healthy GP

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

Alliance Francaise

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

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.



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Art Takeover Project pairs artists, businesses Month-long, Village-wide project seeks participants

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

Teamwork makes the dream work — and Michelle Bogges-Nunley has a dream.

The new owner of Posterity Gallery in The Village has a vision of what she wants her Art Takeover Project, debuting this fall, to look like: a couple hundred artists, paired with 100-plus businesses in The Village, showcasing a variety of artwork and bringing in new customers.

It's a spinoff of last year's Art Collaboration Project, which paired artists in different mediums to display their skills in collaborative works.

"I had such a great turnout and great feedback," Bogges-Nunley said, "but since I have a home base now, I thought I'd do it here and make it bigger."

"Bigger" comes in the form of a walkable, month-long, Village-wide exhibition that invites artists to display their work in participating businesses, while drawing new visitors — and ideally customers — to town.

"Cindy Willcock of Main Street Grosse Pointe loved the idea of an art project taking over the whole city," Bogges-Nunley said. "It will bring new visitors in from the outside and introduce Grosse Pointe artists to people from other communities.



Visitors to Posterity Gallery in The Village check out this month's art display.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELLE BOGGESS-NUNLEY

"... Cindy is looking for long-term art to display in The Village," she added. "I'm hoping this will correlate with that, too."

Artwork in all forms is accepted, including two- and three-dimensional pieces, as well as wall art, sculptures, indoor and outdoor installations, interactive displays or murals. Artists are invited to submit samples of their work to demonstrate their artistic styles.

"They can submit up to three pieces of their previous work to show us what they do," Bogges-Nunley said. "There's also space (on the application) to share about what they want to create."

Businesses wishing to display the work also must submit applications noting their available space and capacity limits. "Businesses will be able

to tell us what their needs are," she noted, "if the art can go in their window, front lawn area or on the sidewalk."

Participating businesses will receive a sign to display, to let visitors know they can stop in, browse the artwork and vote for a favorite piece.

Voting is easy. Visitors simply stop in and scan the QR code in front of their favorite work of art. The code will direct them to the Art Takeover Project website with more information and ways to vote.

The website also will include a map of participating stores and artists, as well as dates for key events, including opening and closing receptions, a Meet the Artists event, live music and a family-friendly art scavenger hunt.

During the Meet the Artists event, artists will wear name badges with QR codes to make it easy for guests to identify them, as well as create opportunities to meet them and discuss their work.

Businesses can operate during normal business hours, but are encouraged to stay open later for planned key events. Artists and their hosts also can arrange their own special events throughout the month as they see fit.

Business sponsorships also are available in gold, silver and bronze levels.

In addition to Art Takeover participants, during the special events, other vendors are welcome to share their handmade artwork. Applications for vendors are accessible on the website.

All applications are required by July 23. Artists will be paired with businesses by July 31, giving them the month of August to create a fresh piece for exhibition. The Art Takeover Project takes place the month of September.

The artist whose work receives the most votes will be announced during

the closing reception. The winner will receive prizes yet to be determined, as well as a month-long solo exhibition either at Posterity Gallery or another Village business.

"At the closing, each artist will get a drink ticket to a local establishment," Bogges-Nunley said.

"The whole plan is to shake it up and showcase the talented artists we have here," she added. "What the Art Collaboration Project taught us was that a lot of them are still working together, even after the collaboration. A lot of them have shown interest in doing it again. Now, instead of one gallery space, we're using the entire Village as gallery space and it benefits the businesses. I'd like to make it yearly if this one goes well."

Just like her Art Collaboration Project, the Art Takeover Project will culminate in the creation of a book showcasing all of the displayed work.

"It's something tangible to keep after the show," she said.

Artists, businesses and vendors interested in participating may sign up online at posterityartgallery.com.



The Art Takeover Project comes on the heels of Bogges-Nunley's successful Art Collaboration project, above.

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Planning weekly meals for a picky family

Dear Gabby: I cannot get it together with dinners and meal planning for my family.

None of them like the same thing, and what's worse — it's so hard to plan a meal.

I end up spending too much money on DoorDash or grocery shopping and throw away half of it at the end of the week because I don't end up making all of the recipes I thought I would.

Do you have any suggestions?

— Starving and Broke in the Shores

Dear Starving,

Family dinners can be a lot of work, not to mention expensive, thankless and somewhat annoying to plan. Fortunately, there are a lot of meal services that can work for your situation.

I share your frustration with wasting food, especially, which is why I highly recommend checking out Hello Fresh or anything along those lines.

These services send all of the ingredients perfectly portioned

with a recipe card to follow. In order to help with nobody liking the same thing, you can choose the meals they send — it's sometimes almost fun to have your family members weigh in.

If you find this un-fun, you can also let the service choose for you, based on some general preferences.

You can choose how many portions you need, and I find the amount to be pretty generous. In addition, having kids help with the dinner prep and cooking can be

more enjoyable than you'd think.

It's up to you how many meals you order per week. I recommend two to three max for a few weeks. After that, you might be surprised to find you are more enthused about cooking on your own.

Sometimes we can all use a boost!

— Gabby

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



Daughter weighs reaching out to father after long silence

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was an infant. My father had weekend visitations with me sporadically, if at all.

Growing up, I was super angry at him for leaving and blamed him for not being around while I was abused by my stepfather. I haven't seen my father in person since I was 18.

As a 40-year-old woman with kids, I'm thinking about reaching out. My kids are curious

about their grandfather. I'm curious about his life.

Can I really be mature enough to get to know him? How do I keep my anger in check and not demand an answer for every bad deed on his part? Is it worth it?

I don't want to be manipulated. The rest of his family doesn't speak to him, either. — REVISITING HISTORY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR REVISITING:

Have you ever tried discussing the reason for the failure of your parents' marriage with the other relatives? If you haven't, you should. If she stood silently by while you were abused by her second husband, she bears part of the responsibility for the abuse.

Because you feel the need to know about your father's life, reach out and ask him. There is usually more than one side to stories like this. However, your chances of getting the answers you're looking for will improve if you refrain from doing it with a chip on your shoulder..

DEAR ABBY: I have two sons, 28 and 23. My 23-year-old has pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-

NOS).

He has always struggled in school, with friends, society, jobs and in dealing with his emotional highs and lows.

My older son and his fiancée tell me I should force him to go out on his own — "make him snap out of it." I have tried to explain his condition, but they don't listen because it's not considered a severe disability disease.

They are convinced he will be fine and that I need to stop caring for him. My mother and brother, who have been very involved in my son's life, feel I'm doing the right thing by looking for a home where he will have his own separate apartment.

How do I get through to these insistent individuals that I am doing what is best for him? I have supported my oldest son and his fiancée and son extensively over the years, while my youngest son never asks for financial help. I try to give equally of myself to both



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

of my children, and I can't understand why they want to see my youngest suffer. Please advise. — CARING MOM IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR CARING MOM: Your older son and his fiancée may have taken the stance they have because of jealousy, greed or ignorance. Your younger son should be forced out on his own so he will "snap out of it"? You are a responsible and protective parent, doing what you feel is right for a son with challenges.

That said, have you considered what his future will be if something should happen to you? For this reason, start a discussion with your son's doctor about what supportive services for him are available should it become necessary, so you — and he — will be prepared. Clearly, your older son and his fiancée can't be counted on.

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a widow. Her husband passed three years ago,

but she still carries a lot of feelings for him. This weekend would have been their wedding anniversary. She has been very moody all this week.

Should I give her space this weekend to deal with her emotions by herself? Or should I try to be there for her? I do not want to disrespect her or her husband's memory. — UNCERTAIN IN TEXAS

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Talk to her. Tell your lady friend you can see that she's not herself.

Ask if there is anything you can do to help her, and then listen. If you do, she will tell you what she needs from you, whether it's some space or a willing ear to vent her feelings.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



It's always difficult to find healthy, high-protein breakfast options that keep me full and satisfied all morning long. My usual go-to options are yogurt and granola, eggs or store-bought oatmeal packets.

The typical oatmeal I purchase from the store is chock-full of sugar and other random ingredients I don't want to consume every morning.

After searching the web for some breakfast ideas, I found a super easy and really delicious overnight oats recipe. It's filled with protein, healthy ingredients like chia seeds and almond milk, and it's a great way to start the day!

Overnight oatmeal is basically a no-cook method to making oatmeal. It involves mixing the ingredients together in a large bowl, letting it sit in the refrigerator for

an hour, giving the mixture a good stir, then letting the oatmeal sit in the fridge overnight. It could not be easier.

Overnight oats have a rich fiber and protein content and are loaded with healthy vitamins and minerals. To make mine even more filling, I add two scoops of vanilla protein powder that I purchased from Trader Joe's. You can add any protein powder you prefer, or you can skip that step all together.

Check out The Conscious Plant Kitchen's Overnight Oats with Protein Powder recipe and let us know if you try it. You can find the full recipe at www.theconsciousplantkitchen.com.

Ingredients:

1 ½ cup old-fashioned rolled oats

2 tablespoons chia seeds

2 scoops protein powder

2 cups almond milk

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Instructions:

1. In a large mixing bowl, add old-fashioned rolled oats, chia seeds, protein powder and cinnamon. Stir to

distribute evenly.

2. Stir in almond milk, maple syrup and vanilla extract. Seal the bowl with a lid, refrigerate overnight. I recommend stirring the mixture one hour after you pop it in the fridge. This prevents the chia seeds from sinking to the bottom of the bowl.

3. The next day, serve it in small serving jars with peanut butter, dairy-free yogurt, fresh berries and nuts.

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



5 Out Of 5



A beautiful and seasonal lunch

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Even though snow seems to fall on most days, I'm seeing flowers coming up everywhere. We are so close to a beautiful spring.

The seasonal vegetables are becoming prominent in our local grocery stores and I'm here to showcase and celebrate leeks today. They are buttery and soft with a mild taste of onion and beautiful color that makes your mouth water.

Pair it with potatoes, goat cheese and puff pastry and then imagine yourself sitting in a French bistro enjoying the finer things in life.

Simple, great ingredients are the key to the perfect meal. Shop seasonal for the best.

Cheers, Mombeau

- Leek and Potato Galette**
- 2 tbsp butter
 - 2 tbsp olive oil
 - 3 leeks, washed thoroughly and sliced into half moons
 - 2 large yukon gold potatoes, sliced thinly
 - 4 oz goat cheese
 - 2 tbsp heavy cream
 - 2 tbsp fresh dill
 - 1 sheet of defrosted puff pastry
 - 1 egg

Start by sweating the leeks in a large skillet with a pinch of salt and pepper, butter and olive

oil. Cook over medium to low heat.

You want them to just sweat and not take on color because they will continue to cook in the oven. Any juice from the leeks will help cook the raw potatoes while in the oven.

After five minutes, add the minced garlic and cook for another minute then shut off the heat. Meanwhile, mix the goat cheese, cream and dill in a bowl and set aside.

The next step is to roll out the puff pastry on a floured board. Roll the dough to quarter-inch thickness.

Preheat the oven to 400 and then begin to assemble the galette. Start with half of the raw, sliced potatoes and then season with salt and pepper.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Layer on half of the leeks and half of the goat cheese and dill mixture.

Repeat with the other half of the ingredients, ending with the goat cheese and dill mixture. To finish the galette,

gently fold the outside dough into rustic pleats. It's not hard, I promise.

The point of a galette is a rustic and handmade finish. Brush with

an egg wash of one egg and a splash of water that has been mixed.

Cook for 45 minutes and enjoy with a bright green salad.



The more we know

An experience recently changed the way I look at wine — and especially how others view it.

I pulled the natural cork to open a bottle of wine and poured a glass. Instantly I knew that it had been ruined by cork taint. The cork had been infected with a chemical called TCA that I occasionally see when natural corks are used to seal wine bottles.

Without getting too technical, TCA imparts a moldy smell to bottled wines and it's noticeable to most professionals at concentrations as low as three parts per trillion. I've tried many wines that had far more than that amount, making the wine awful to me and professional winemakers, wine competition judges and retail wine shop owners.

The phrase "it's corked" usually means no one will enjoy it.

The bottle that changed my outlook on this was a wine that wasn't strongly corked. The TCA level wasn't high at all. In fact, I was the only one of seven people at the table who detected it. I said nothing about it and noticed that others were enjoying it. I could not.

After a few minutes, however, my oldest son (all three had been steeped in wine culture since they were infants) said he thought something might be wrong with this bottle. I asked him what he thought it was. He just said, "It doesn't seem right."

I whispered that I believed it was slightly corked. whereupon he smelled the wine again, nodded, and said, "Corked. Yeah."

What made the episode so interesting was that no one else at the table had the slightest problem with it. I then realized that the more we know about the flaws that can exist in wine, the more we become ultracritical about everything that we smell and taste, which makes some people see the flaw-finders as cantankerous.

It's much the same

way with coffee, bread and a host of other foods about which we know a lot more. Some people don't care about the quality of the foods they get in a cafe, but others resist mediocrity when they believe they know enough so.

But wine is obscure for most; few people are knowledgeable enough to reject mediocrity just because they don't like something. Often, it's because they fear that those in authority will fight back.

I've been writing about wine since 1976. So, I have seen just about every flaw known to the industry, and at concentration levels so small that some in-the-industry types ignore them. Among the flaws I once saw was acetaldehyde, a smell I'll never forget. I haven't encountered it in decades.

A more common problem is what winemakers say is volatility, which isn't unlike nail polish remover (acetone?). Some high-alcohol zinfandels seem prone to tiny amounts of volatility. At low concentrations it can be attractive.

Some winemakers say it's a flaw at any concentration.

Similarly, some wines that were not opened early enough in their lives can display oxidative aromas and tastes that will be off-putting to experts. But the same flawed wine may be fine for newcomers or the uninitiated.

The good news is that wines with noticeable flaws are almost nonexistent today, especially when the wines are made by large wineries that put into place safeguards to make sure the wines are sound.

Moreover, cork producers have worked diligently to eliminate cork taint. It's hard to find this trait as often as we did 20 years ago.

There is, however, a new category of wine in which slight flaws are more common and can

pose problems. Called "natural" wines, many of these products are fascinating and made to appeal to those who don't mind aromatics and flavors that might otherwise be termed rustic or gutsy.

It's difficult to explain most of the strange characteristics I see in natural wines, usually because the extraneous elements really range from A to Z. Nor is every odd characteristic widely accepted as a flaw; some are just unusual.

Since flaws are so rare these days, I hope consumers learn more about them before rejecting wines just because they don't like them.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PRESSMAN AND ANIMUS FILMS

Left, Dev Patel as Srinivasa Ramanujan and Toby Jones as John Littlewood, in a scene from the 2015 movie "The Man Who Knew Infinity," directed by Matt Brown.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



surreptitiously intercepted their letters, so they each thought the other had forgotten about them.

Even though the story of Ramanujan took place over a hundred years ago, it's surprising it took this long to hear

library card). Also on AMC+, Pluto TV, IFC Films Unlimited, and Prime Video.

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 and Kanopy, as well as theatrical releases.

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).

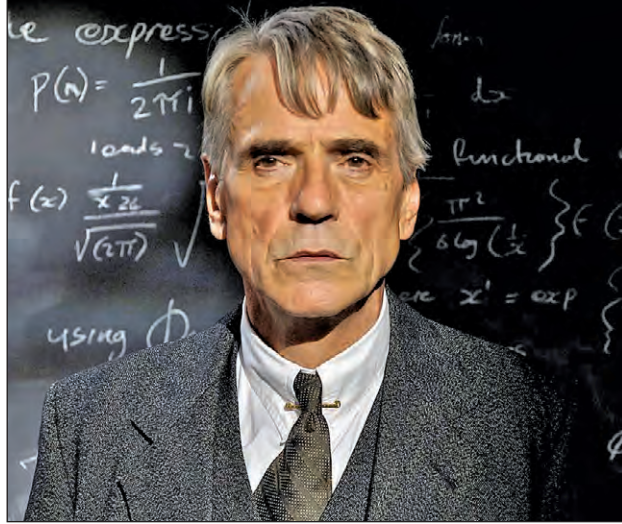
MOVIE REVIEW
"The Man Who Knew Infinity"
2015 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 48 min
★★★★☆

There have been numerous biopics about mathematic geniuses. "A Beautiful Mind," "The Theory of Everything," and "The Imitation Game" are a few of the more noteworthy ones. The 2015 film "The Man Who Knew Infinity" deserves to be included with those fine movies.

It's the story of the Indian wunderkind S. Ramanujan, who stunned the scholarly world in the beginning of the last century.

lowly accountant working for the British Government in colonial India. A short time after he was hired it was obvious to his boss, Sir Francis Spring (Stephen Fry), that he was a mathematical genius. He saw theories and numbers floating in the sky, much like Mozart saw imaginary notes and symphonies. It's practically all he dreamed of.

Ramanujan is encouraged to send a letter of introduction and samples of his work to the renowned Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons). At first he's dismissed as an imposter, but with encouragement from



Jeremy Irons as G.H. Hardy.

married, Ramanujan has a hard time leaving India. He does so with the promise that he'll send for his devoted wife Janaki (Devika Bhise), as soon as he can. It's a tearful farewell, and you can definitely feel his pain. However he's committed to fulfill his destiny and he's on his way.

Ramanujan's life work was in cracking the seemingly unsolvable mathematical problem of "partition," whatever that is. You don't have to be a math whiz to appreciate his genius. Trust me, I wasn't exactly an AP math student in high school, and yet didn't feel lost watching the film. Professor Hardy started out as a teacher and mentor to Ramanujan but they soon became equal partners in their scholarly pursuit. They definitely were an odd couple. Irons is an aloof, genteel professor, a role he plays so well. And Ramanujan is a bright-eyed, naïve young man, just full of bravado and self-confidence. It's fun to see them interact.

There's an underlying theme of contrasts in "The Man Who Knew Infinity." The scenes in India are full of vibrant, exciting colors, as opposed to the drab grays and browns of Cambridge. G.H. Hardy was a committed atheist while Ramanujan was a devout Hindu. Ramanujan was totally self-taught while Hardy rose up through the traditional British educational system. It's these differences that make it such a fascinating story. And the outstanding performances by Patel and Irons make it a must-see film.

Life at Trinity College proved to be rather challenging to Ramanujan. He was a vegetarian, which must have been challenging in a country of carnivores like England, especially with wartime food rationing. He also faced constant prejudice, not only from other students, but his professors as well. They jokingly referred to him as "Gunga-Din" behind his back. His life was lonely without the companionship of his young wife. Unbeknownst to the couple, his mother

about this remarkable man. According to scholars, he is one of the most brilliant, if not the most brilliant minds that ever lived. I feel this beautiful film certainly does him justice. If you're looking for a captivating movie that will tempt you to learn more about this fascinating character, give "The Man Who Knew Infinity" a shot.

Currently streaming for free on Tubi and Kanopy (with your



Left, Dev Patel as Srinivasa Ramanujan and Stephen Fry as Sir Francis Spring.



Devika Bhise as Janaki.

He's played by Dev Patel ("Slumdog Millionaire," "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel") and it's refreshing to see him take on and shine so brilliantly in a more serious role.


Ramanujan was a

Hardy's colleague Professor John Littlewood (Toby Jones), Hardy invites him to travel to Trinity College at Cambridge University to complete and publish his theories.

Having been recently



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A steep, deep dive on red-tailed hawks

By Rosann Kovalcik
Guest Writer

Did you know Michigan holds the nationwide record for the most red-tailed hawks seen at one observation area east of the Mississippi River? In 2019, a total of 22,420 red-tailed hawks were counted at the Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch.

Locally, we have a pair that frequently can be

seen on the lamp posts along I-94, most commonly from Moross to Eleven Mile Road. Why would red-tailed hawks be drawn to the side of an expressway? The trash that is discarded by vehicles draws mice and rats to the area and those rodents are food for the hawks. Sitting and observing is one of the ways a red-tail locates food, using its excellent vision to see movement below. Unfortunately, car collisions can be the end result.

This hawk is from the family known as *buteos*, stocky hawks with tail and wings about the same length when perched, known for soaring and perching in their pursuit of food. The average size of a red-tailed hawk is 19 inches tall with a wingspan of 49 inches and weighing 2.4 pounds,

with dark colors on the back, a red tail in mature birds and a light-colored chest with a belly band of dark streaks.

Red-tailed hawks feed on squirrels, rabbits, mice, rats, voles and snakes. Prey is killed with sharply taloned feet; the beak is used for ripping apart prey for eating. My most memorable sighting of a red-tailed hawk eating was watching it remove the hair from a squirrel's tail, clip the tail from the body and then slurp it down in one piece.

The habitat that red-tail hawks prefer is an open field with trees on the perimeter so they can perch to look for prey and also use the trees for nesting. This is why we find them most frequently at Country Club of Detroit, Ghesquiere Park, Ford House and Lochmoor Club, where I often see them sitting on top of the poles near the driving range. Nests of the monogamous pairs have been seen at all those



© WAYNE RICHARD POPE

PHOTO WAYNE RICHARD POPE

Red-tailed hawk eating snake.

locations.

Courting red-tailed hawks put on a display in which they soar in wide circles at a great height. The male will dive steeply, then shoot up again at an angle nearly as steep. After several of these swoops, he approaches the female from above, extends his legs and touches her briefly.

Nests are tall piles of dry sticks up to 6.5 feet high and 3 feet across. The inner cup is lined with bark strips, fresh foliage and dry vegetation. Construction takes four to seven days. Incubation of the typical two to three eggs lasts 28 to 35 days, with the female doing most of the incubating while the male brings her food. It takes about 45 days from the time of hatching before the young leave their nest, but they continue to rely upon their parents

for food another eight weeks after they fledge.

One of the most famous attributes of the red-tailed hawk is their call — a shrill, raspy, descending, two-note whistle: “rEEE-ehh-hhr.” Many times it is used in movies as the call of an eagle that is being seen, an amusing misappropriation.

A pair of red-tailed hawks recently was sighted over the Moross and Mack area, defending their territory by attacking a bald eagle in their airspace. To view a video of these birds, check out the Facebook page of Wild Birds Unlimited, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Have fun with your own



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMOTHY BUCKLEY

Red-tailed hawk with rat.

observations of this common, yet very special raptor we are so fortunate to have among us.

Rosann Kovalcik is the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Follow Wild Birds, Grosse Pointe Woods on Facebook.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSEMARY BAY

Red-tailed hawk.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KUIPER

Red-tailed hawk.

With so much going on in the world, how about a little ‘good news’ for a change? See what’s going on in our neck of the woods, from family fun to the latest fashion, humor, entertainment, reviews, travel and more – all from a local angle.

Treat yourself to the positive side of life, every week. It will put a little **spring in your step** and a guaranteed

smile on your face!



Grosse Pointe News

You deserve more good news. Add some extra happiness to your week and see what's up with your neighbors and friends. Subscribe now.
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SPRING BREAK ESSENTIALS



FASHIONS CURATED BY KELLEY MUZINGO

PACKING THE RIGHT STUFF MAKES FOR SEAMLESS SPRING VACATION STYLE

Oh, how we love that last warm getaway of the year, escaping the drab pre-spring landscape for warmer climes, palm trees and blue seas. That means taking along a wardrobe that will compliment sunny skies instead of snow and mud. We've got the goods if you are looking to add a few exemplary travel pieces to your carry-on!

Clockwise, from bottom left: A) Waves of calming pink beauty adorn this charming beaded clutch from Glitter & Scotch.

B) You'll be the picture of relaxed sophistication in this salmon-pink and shiny gold tunic dress with a flattering fitted bodice. From Village Palm.

C) This sharp, versatile navy set is the ideal mix-and-match duo to pair or wear with the other pieces packed in your bag. Easily extend your whole vacay wardrobe! Perfect for day or night, from Taylor Reese.

D) The Lilly Pulitzer Orchid bracelet, top, in lovely resort white, is a pretty

and feminine breath of spring. Find it and more jewelry at Village Palm.

E) From IRIS, this beautifully-made high-quality cotton woven navy shirt has delicious vacation-friendly flower embroidery and sparkles on the puffed sleeves. So perfect for seeing the sights and stopping for lunch on the shore.

F) Blue-and-white patterned Ryla sleeveless top, from IRIS, takes you perfectly from poolside to date night. In soft cotton poplin, this breezy silhouette is truly a spring break essential.

G) Every spring vacation needs a great go-anywhere pair of sandals. These beauties, a part of the TKEES Nudes Collection were designed to feel like a second skin. This classic flip-flop is handcrafted from soft Brazilian leather with a cushioned insole and a rubber outsole for comfort. They go with anything and provide the ultimate comfort for plenty of walking or spring break fun. Get them at Girlie Girl.

H) The sweet and light flower-themed mesh purse, top, from Glitter & Scotch, personifies the vacation look as it stores your must-haves for the day.

I) This elegant pleated spring dress will be the centerpiece of your vacation wardrobe. The adorable checked and ruffled masterpiece has you looking fresh as a daisy for whatever your getaways bring. In soft cotton poplin, this breezy silhouette is truly a spring break essential.

J) From Village Palm, this breezy blue and white striped swing tunic dress is a beach lover's dream.

K) A bright floral long-sleeved bathing suit provides protection and style as you splash in the water. From Village Palm.

L) Ocean-blue flowers decorate this maillot suit, top, with a fun decolletage detail, from Village Palm.

M) Pretty white sequin top from IRIS,

strikes just the right balance between casual and dressy. The adorable tee perfectly embodies Elliott Lauren's "classic with a twist" fashion philosophy. Wear it with white jeans and a tote for a sunny weekend ensemble or dress it up with a blazer and trousers post-vacation.

N) Cool white cropped jeans from Glitter & Scotch offer an updated look with hot frayed detailing and front patch pockets. The comfort stretch fabric has just the right amount of give to keep you comfy on your travels.

O) Navy blue tote packs a lot of punch in the perfect lightweight size! The zipper top and pocket are convenient and make travel so easy. It's water-resistant and washable for your next trip. From the Corner Active & Leisure line of attractive activewear totes.

Adorned by Kelley

Kelley Muzingo, Stylist & Wardrobe Consultant

Kelley has over 20 years of fashion industry experience in NYC and Detroit. Her business provides personal shopping, outfitting and expert closet organizing.

www.adornedbykelley.com • IG: @adornedbykelley

Capricious
74 Kercheval Ave. Grosse Pointe Farms
(313) 458-8719
IG: @capricious_gp

Corner Active & Leisure
15124 Kercheval Ave. Grosse Pointe Park
(313) 821-4941
IG: @thecornerstudiogp

Girlie Girl
19838 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe Woods
(313) 881-4475
IG: @girliegirllc

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

IRIS
19794 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe Woods
(313) 821-4494
IG: @iris_grossepointe

Taylor Reese
84 Kercheval Ave. Grosse Pointe Farms
(313) 571-3323
IG: @taylorreesehop

Village Palm
17131 Kercheval Ave. Grosse Pointe
(313) 882-7256
IG: @villagepalm

Sweet success

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

In Michigan, the beginning of February until mid-March — depending on how much maple trees are willing to give — is sugaring season, during which maple trees are tapped for their sap, which is made into syrup. When the sap comes out of the trees, it is clear like water. It takes around 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Michigan, on average, produces around 90,000 to 190,000 gallons of syrup.

The best conditions for tapping are when temperatures are below freezing at night and above freezing during the day, which creates pressure in the tree, forcing the sap out. Tapping season comes to an end when trees begin to bud, causing them to divert nutrients to new growth.

Maple syrup stored in a pantry unopened can last around a year, but once opened it must be refrigerated and will last nine to 10 months.



First grader Jackson Ford said he enjoyed his pancakes with the harvested syrup and he added sprinkles for fun.



Server Gwendolyn Williamson pours syrup harvested from maple trees on The Academy campus over pancakes, which students ate for lunch to celebrate their first year of collecting.



Second grader Sloane Kordas lets the syrup drip off the pancake in slow motion.

Grosse Pointe Academy

This winter, students in The Grosse Pointe Academy farm-to-table class tapped 12 maple trees — including sugar maple, silver maple and red maple — on school property for the first time. Grosse Pointe Park resi-

dents Larry and Amie Reno came out on a cold morning to assist Academy middle school math and science teacher Wendy Jerome through the tapping and evaporating procedures.

More than 100 gallons of sap was collected. Jerome planned to do

most of the evaporation process outside by the school's greenhouse, but the weather didn't cooperate, so she had to boil it at home.

Jerome said next year they plan to be more efficient and sophisticated with the use of a reverse

osmosis system that was built by students in The Academy's STEAM program.

The Academy hopes to have maple syrup available for sale in both the school store, which is run by financial literacy students, and also in its summer farm stand market.



A few silver maples near the parking lot also are tapped for sap.



The sugar bush, where trees lining the driveway in and out of the grounds are tapped.

Ford House

On the Ford House property, between February and March, 60 trees — mostly silver maples — are tapped for syrup. This is the seventh year for tapping trees at Ford House, but only the second year syrup has been sold in its gift shop. They'll be made available in early April.

At this point, Ford House has boiled down 170 gallons of sap, which produce 2.8 gallons of maple syrup, or 72 five-ounce jars.

Most of the trees being

tapped are located along the driveway in and out of Ford House grounds, which is called the sugar bush; the area where sap is boiled down into syrup is called the sugar shack.

An evaporator in the sugar shack holds approximately 20 gallons of sap, but while boiling the sap, around seven gallons an hour will evaporate. A warmer bucket of five gallons of sap is kept nearby to be added to the evaporator when the syrup gets low because of the evaporation process.



COURTESY PHOTO



In the sugar shack, Kevin Drotos, Ford House landscaping and natural areas manager and the lead on the maple syrup tapping program, adds another log to the fire under the evaporator to keep the syrup at a certain temperature. To the left is a pot that keeps warm five gallons of sap to add to the evaporator as sap evaporates. In the blue bottle is sap waiting to be warmed. Only after the sap is slowly boiled to syrup does it take on the amber hue.

EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

- » **2023 UNCF "A Mind Is..." Reception**
Comerica Park, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
2100 Woodward Ave.
- » **Baby Time with Miss Jane**
Woods Branch, 9:30-10 a.m.
20680 Mack Ave.
- » **Ben Green's Harmoloids**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Nonfiction Book Club**
Offsite, 7-8 p.m.
grossepointelibrary.org
- » **Rodney Whitaker**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- » **Detroit Shamrock Festival 2023**
Music Hall Amphitheater,
9-1 a.m.
350 Madison Street.

- » **Fish Fry**
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 5-7:30 p.m.
23120 Gratiot Ave.
- » **Fish Fry**
Our Lady of Hope/St. Germaine, 4-7:30 p.m.
28301 Little Mack.
- » **Fish Fry**
Our Lady Star of the Sea, 5-7 p.m.
467 Fairford Road.
- » **Fish Fry**
St. Paul Catholic School, 5:30-7 p.m.
170 Grosse Pointe Blvd.
- » **Hampton University Concert Choir**
Westminster Church of Detroit, 7 p.m.
17567 Hubbell Avenue.

- » **Hollywood Casino @ Greektown Present The Jacks**
Music Hall Center, 8 p.m.
350 Madison.

- » **J.I.D & Smino - Luv Is 4ever Tour**
The Fillmore Detroit, 7 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.

- » **The Philippe Lemm Trio**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

- » **Rodney Whitaker**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- » **Michigan Sneaker Xchange**
Huntington Place, 12-7 p.m.
1 Washington Boulevard Hall E1.
- » **Monster Energy Supercross**
Ford Field, 6:30 p.m.
2000 Brush St.

- » **The Philippe Lemm Trio**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

- » **Rodney Whitaker**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

- » **Saturday Storytime**
Woods Branch, 10:30-11 a.m.
20680 Mack Ave.

- » **"The Science of the Cookie"**
Michigan Science Center,
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
5020 John R St.

- » **The Simon & Garfunkel Story**
Music Hall Center, 2 p.m.
350 Madison.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

- » **Jazz Brunch: Cliff Monear, Jazz Piano**
The War Memorial,
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
32 Lake Shore Drive.
- » **The Philippe Lemm Trio**
Cliff Bell's, 7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

- » **"The Science of the Cookie"**
Michigan Science Center,
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
5020 John R St.

- » **Your Old Mansion**
The War Memorial, 4 p.m.
32 Lake Shore Drive.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- » **"HOP" Down the Avenue!**
Avenue-in-the-Woods

- » **Protect Mi Pet: Michigan Animal Abuse Registry & Automatic Forfeitures**
6-8 p.m.
michiganpet.org/education-and-training/roundtable

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

- » **Keshi: Hell & Back Tour**
Fox Theatre, 8 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.

- » **Read, Rhyme & Play**
Ewald Branch,
10:30-11 a.m.
15175 E Jefferson

- » **Steel Panther - On The Prowl World Tour**
The Fillmore Detroit,
6:30 p.m.
2115 Woodward Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

- » **Hughes & Smith Quintet**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

- » **Jam at Cabbage Patch Saloon**
Cabbage Patch Saloon,
9:30-11 p.m.
15130 Mack Ave.

- » **Wizkid - More Love, Less Ego Tour**
Fox Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.

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

St. Paddy's Day

"May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go."
It's an old Irish blessing, its author unknown,
And I forward it here as sort of a loan.

Now, don't try to pretend you don't know what I mean

For everyone's Irish on March 17

And, whether it's green or "St. Paddy's Day Blue,"
I'm wishing the luck o' the Irish to you!

You don't have to be Irish or fancy to be
(You could be a whole mix of genetics like me!)
So it's "Sláinte is táinte" and "Here's to your health!"

It also means "Cheers!" Have a drop for yourself!

You'll be healthy and wealthy, according to fable,
And set to indulge when you come to the table
To raise up the Guinness and tip the green beer
For the corned beef and cabbage and bangers are here!

And, we've cockles and mussels and leek soup with cream

And a true Shepherd's Pie that is out of a dream!

And the best is that moment when no one says,
"No!"

When you load up on two or three servings or so!

(For that's when the cattle come back on their own

And Danny Boy jigs with sweet Molly Malone!)

The Irish are generous, giving and good.

(I might event be born again one if I could!)

Joan LeGro Bushnell

Joan LeGro Bushnell is a freelance writer and composer who has been performing since age 5. A vocalist, actress and radio talk show hostess, the Grosse Pointe Farms resident has long been active with Detroit theater groups, the Fine Arts Society and the Theatre Arts Club. Her published credits include several plays and a book about theater, as well as a pair of cookbooks.



Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Capricorn.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 16, 2023:

You are intelligent, curious, insightful and also psychic. It's important to you to stay balanced in this life. This year is a wonderful year when you will get recognition for your efforts and your work. You will get a promotion, an award or some kind of acknowledgement or kudos.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

"Hold the phone!" Think twice before you reply to anyone today, because people are quick to take offense and ready to throw back a zinger. This is because people are irritable and a tad grumpy today. Some are just looking for an excuse to fight. Tonight: Seek solitude.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Be patient today so you will have no regrets. This is because it's easy to suddenly squabble with a friend or a member of a group. If you get embroiled in an adversarial discussion, it might be hard to mend bridges later. That's why you have to avoid this — to have no regrets. Tonight: Patience.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Be smart and steer clear of challenging comments from bosses, parents, teachers and the police. These could easily lead to an all-out fight that will only bring you problems. Hopefully, you're reading this in the morning, and you can give authority figures a wide berth today. Tonight: Show respect.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Do not get involved in controversial discussions about politics, religion or racial issues if at all possible, because they will ramp up into nasty arguments almost immediately. This is the kind of day where people can't resist making a snarky remark. Run away! Tonight: Avoid conflicts.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a good thing that fair Venus is at the top of your chart, because this will help you slide through difficult discussions about finances, shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. It's important that you maintain your cool so that you don't make an enemy. (Who needs enemies?) Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a challenging day. You might find yourself at odds with partners, close friends, as well as bosses and parents (that just about covers everyone). For your own protection, keep your head down and your powder dry. Don't get involved. Smile and be agreeable. Tonight: Stay chill.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

By nature you are a people pleaser. You're also an excellent debater! This latter quality might get you in trouble today, especially at work, because foreign interests, or issues related to universities, medicine or the law might get your goat. Don't take the bait. Tonight: Say nothing.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Parents must be very patient with their kids today. Everyone is grumpy and inclined to say things they don't really mean. Remember who is the adult and who's the kid. Wait for another day to lay it on the line. Tonight: Be

patient with others.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Family squabbles are classic today, especially with parents. The reason families argue so much is because there's so much at stake — people love each other. Feelings are easily hurt. Crazy assumptions are made. Don't even go there today. Take a walk. Tonight: Don't get involved.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

There's a lot of mental energy flying around today. Wise people will use this energy to study and learn. Not so wise people will get caught up in arguments and snide comments that will make everyone miserable. The choice is yours. Wanna be a wise guy? Tonight: Stay mel-low..

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Money squabbles will be tough to avoid today. These could arise during financial negotiations. They also might arise if you're shopping or buying something, especially if you're trying to return something. They also could relate to romance, sports, children or a social diversion. Tonight: Zip thy lip!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Fiery Mars is at odds with your sign today, which is a sure ticket for arguments, disagreements and challenging times with others. You might be impatient. You also might be quick to take fault with someone or criticize them. (You know this will go over like a lead balloon.) Tonight: Be nice.

BORN TODAY

Actress Lauren Graham (1967), actress Alexandra Daddario (1986), actor Alan Tudyk (1971).

Contract Bridge

THE ART OF GOOD DEFENSE

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 5 3 2
♥ Q J 7
♦ 10 3
♣ 10 7 3 2

WEST

♠ Q J 9
♥ 6 2
♦ A Q J 5
♣ K J 9 5

EAST

♠ K 10 6 4
♥ 5
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 8 6 4

SOUTH

♠ 8 7
♥ A K 10 9 8 4 3
♦ K 9
♣ A Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Dble	2♥	Pass
4♥			

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There are many hands where defending mechanically will allow declarer to get home with a contract that could have been defeated.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four match where West led the queen of spades against four hearts. South played low from dummy, as did East, and West continued with the jack. Declarer took the ace, ruffed a spade, played the A-Q of hearts and led a low diamond to the nine.

West cashed two diamonds but was then stymied. He had to lead a club or diamond, either of which would hand South the contract.

At the other table, four hearts was also the final contract. Again West led the queen of spades, ducked in dummy, but here East overtook the queen with the king and returned a diamond. West cashed two diamonds and reverted to spades, thus putting the contract out of reach. South later lost a club trick and went down one.

The second East defended exceptionally well to defeat the contract. Overtaking the queen of spades was not particularly difficult, as West was marked by the bidding and declarer's first play with the Q-J-x.

But East then guessed well to shift to a diamond rather than a club. Had East returned a club at trick two, South could still have made the contract with careful play.

He puts up the ace, leads a spade to the ace and ruffs a spade. He then leads a trump to the jack, ruffs dummy's last spade, cashes the ace of trump and exits with the queen of clubs. West takes the king but is helpless, since he must either establish dummy's ten of clubs or South's king of diamonds as declarer's 10th trick.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



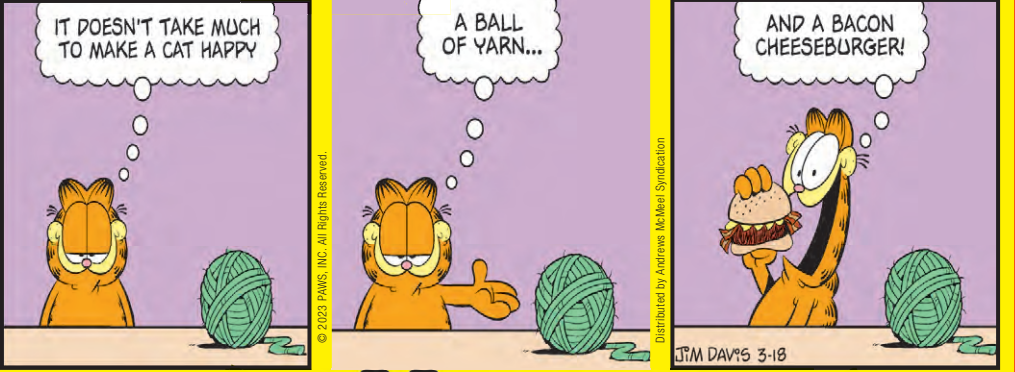
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Bill and Jeff Keane

"It's St. Patrick's Day. Can we have green eggs and ham?"

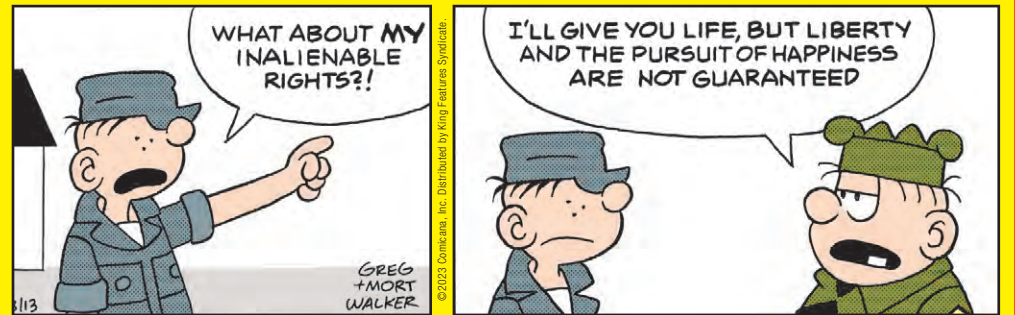
Garfield

Jim Davis



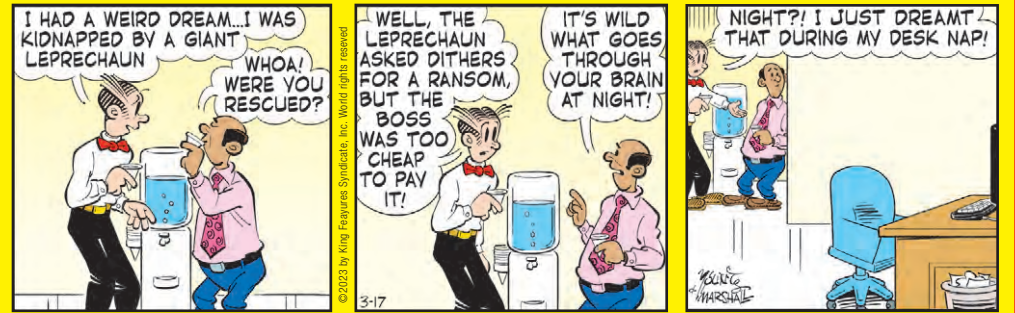
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian and Neal Walker



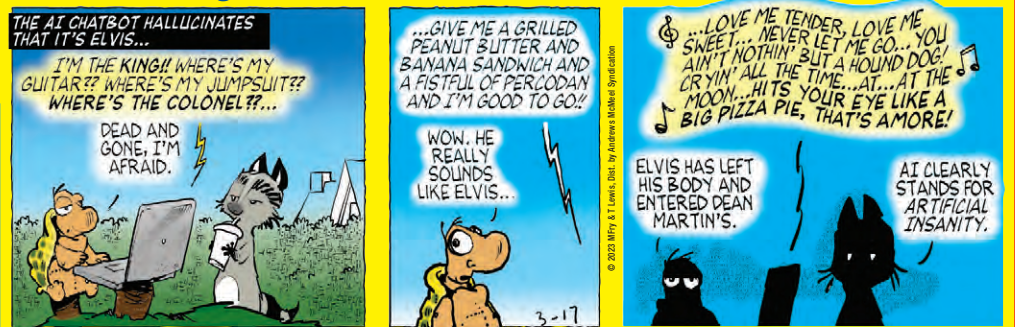
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



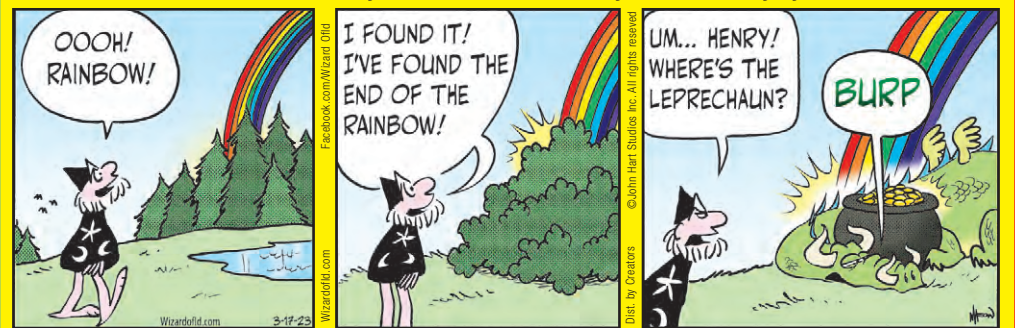
Andy Capp

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

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/16 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 16, 2023

ACROSS

- 1 U.S. territory in Micronesia
- 5 Mushroom's reproductive cell
- 10 Situated on "Round on the ends and high in the middle" state
- 15 Tanker filled with tank-filling fluid
- 16 Make a donation
- 17 Promising young horticulturist?
- 20 Luster
- 21 Golf course standard
- 22 Chemically nonreactive
- 23 Entice
- 25 Use a plus sign
- 26 Promising young pilot?
- 32 Made up (for)
- 34 Foreboding forewarning
- 35 Kanga's kid
- 36 Drink a lot
- 37 Drink a little
- 38 Baby wolves
- 39 Crossed paths
- 40 Related
- 42 Religious dissent
- 44 Promising young scuba instructor?
- 47 Granola morsel
- 48 GPS guesses
- 49 City known for its Heat
- 52 Hit the moguls

- 54 Religious rationalist
- 58 Promising young banker?
- 61 Low-level worker
- 62 Large concert venue
- 63 Dove's home
- 64 Tools with teeth
- 65 Full of the latest
- 66 "Fill in this answer or ...!"
- 1 Oodles and oodles
- 2 "Nope"
- 3 Senator's assistant
- 4 Posing for a fashion magazine, say
- 5 Jr., to Sr.
- 6 Perpetually filthy "Peanuts" character
- 7 Actress Kurylenko or gymnast Korbut
- 8 Backside
- 9 Spell "maybe," maybe
- 10 Business plan?
- 11 Fork prong
- 12 Done with
- 13 Sassy
- 18 Currently occupied
- 19 Brought about the destruction of

- 24 Purge (of)
- 25 Wide st. like a blvd.
- 26 Way to get there
- 27 On the way out
- 28 Ax-wielder's accessory?
- 29 More loyal
- 30 "I'm such a butterfingers!"
- 31 Like a promising future
- 32 Highest point
- 33 Those people
- 37 Wrath or envy
- 38 Felt-but-not-seen spirit
- 40 "Until we meet ..."
- 41 DIY purchase
- 42 Chart-topper
- 43 Give the runaround
- 45 Hadrian's subjects

- 46 Does something beneath one's dignity
- 49 Illustrations at the front of many fantasy novels
- 50 What a concept!
- 51 Admit openly
- 52 "Your majesty"
- 53 Didn't just suppose
- 55 Object of worship
- 56 Matching groups
- 57 Sequoia or sycamore
- 59 Coconut milk container
- 60 ___ it on thick

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

U	S	S	R	B	A	L	K	S	A	M	P	M		
N	O	H	O	A	V	A	I	L	Z	E	R	O		
I	P	O	S	S	I	N	A	I	U	D	O	N		
S	H	U	E	I	D	E	S	T	L	I	N	K		
O	I	L	V	E	R	B	O	S	E	A	T	E		
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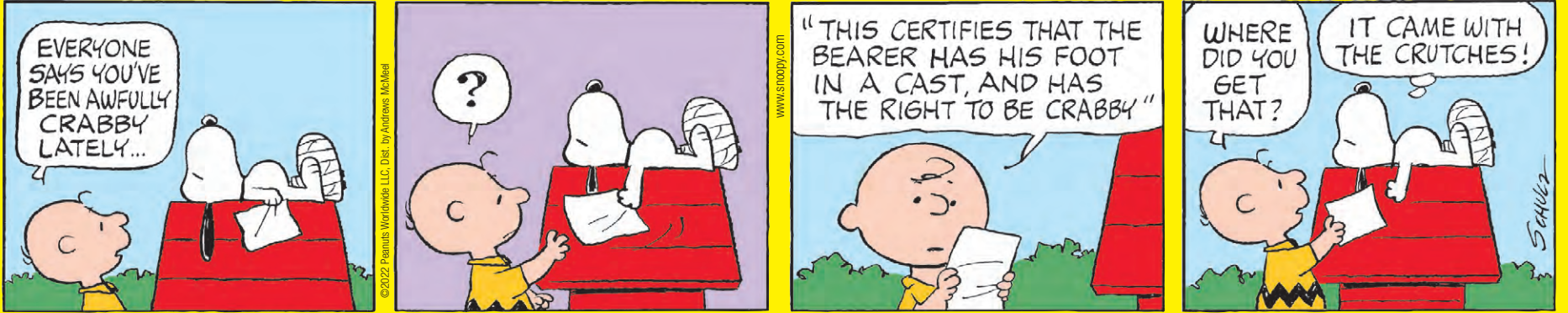
Promising Young Professionals by David Alfred Bywaters

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Comics

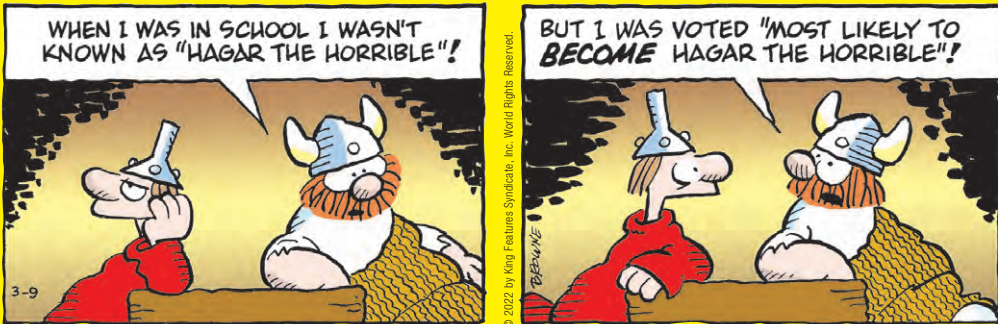
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



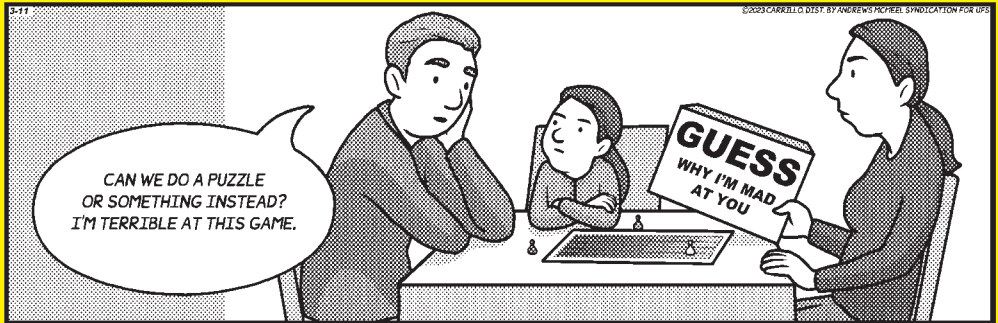
Crock

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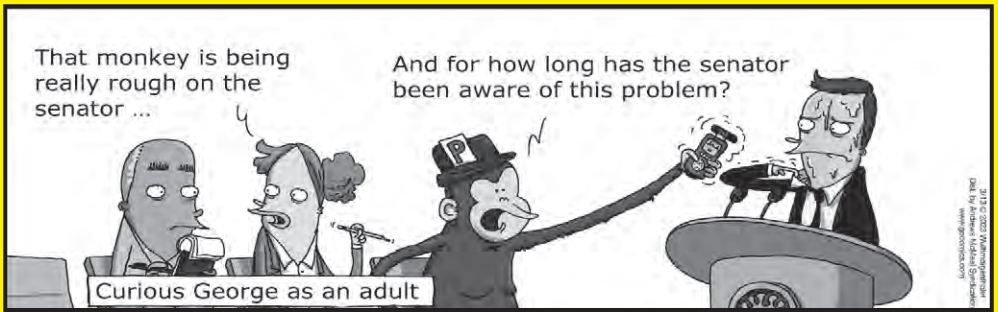
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Tony Carrillo



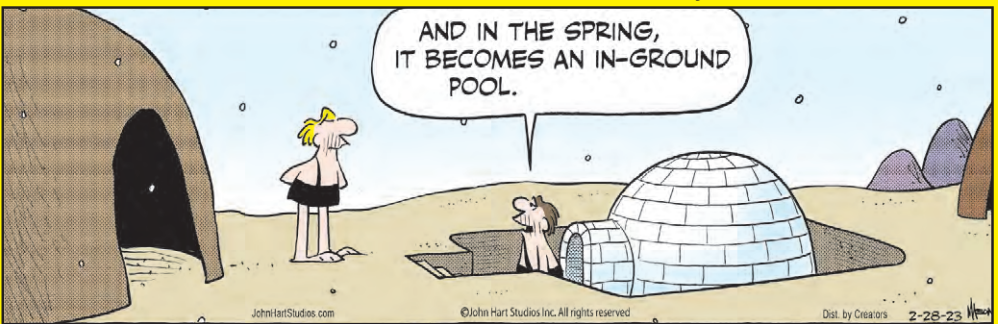
Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



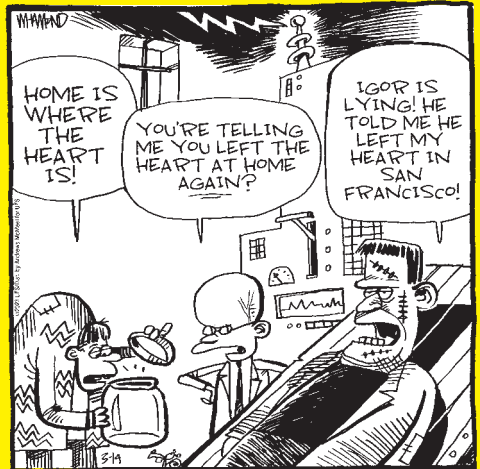
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



GROSSE POINTE READERS, LOOK FOR

POPEYE AND DENNIS THE MENACE



APPEARING IN THESE COMIC PAGES STARTING NEXT WEEK!

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



KID SCOOP MEDIA LITERACY SERIES POINTS OF VIEW

Viewpoints

A balanced news report provides different points of view about the news.

There is a highway that starts in Alaska and ends at the southern tip of Argentina in South America. Or does it start in Argentina and end in Alaska? It depends on your point of view.

This silly news article is about Popcorn declaring itself the best movie snack. This is Popcorn's viewpoint. Clearly not everyone has the same opinion, so the reporter interviewed a couple of other snacks to get their point of view.

Standards Link: Understand point of view.

Which movie snack does Red Licorice think is the best?

Why?

Which movie snack does Chocolate Mints think is best?

Why?

If you were interviewed for this article, what would you say?

Standards Link: Answer questions based on evidence in text.

While the article below is just pretend, we wrote the article in the format of a real news article.

Woodward knows that when you report on the news, you need to have "balanced reporting." That means that the reporter includes information from people with different opinions about the news.



SNACK STARS DAILY

IS POPCORN REALLY THE BEST MOVIE SNACK?

By Reed Enwright
STAFF REPORTER

HOLLYWOOD — In an interview Tuesday, Popcorn declared itself the best movie snack in the world.

"Not to brag, but I'm the best-selling movie snack of all time. Obviously, people really love me!"

While signing autographs for fans, Popcorn added, "I'm crispy, buttery, salty and delicious. I've been a movie tradition for generations!"

Red Licorice was asked to comment on Popcorn's statement. "It's true that movies wouldn't be the same without Popcorn," Red Licorice said. "But with all that crunching, Popcorn can be kind of noisy. I'm sweet, tasty and quiet, which is good in a movie theater."

After hearing Red Licorice's comments, Chocolate Mints said, "I'm quiet, too. And I'm in a box that you can close and



Popcorn signing autographs for fans. Photo: Eli Smith

take home if you don't finish during the movie. I'm delicious and convenient."

Dismissing concerns about noise, a confident Popcorn replied that "people with good manners know how to eat popcorn quietly in a movie theater."

"Besides," Popcorn added with a grin, "Chocolate Mints can melt in a warm car ride home. Popcorn never melts."

New ice cream flavor welcomed by Mayor Dairvton at gala reception

Graph It!

Ask some friends which movie snack they like the best and why. Then write a short article explaining which movie snack is the favorite among your friends. Make a graph to show your results.



POPCORN RED LICORICE CHOCOLATE MINTS
Standards Link: Display data in graphs.

Extra! Extra! What's Outside the Picture?

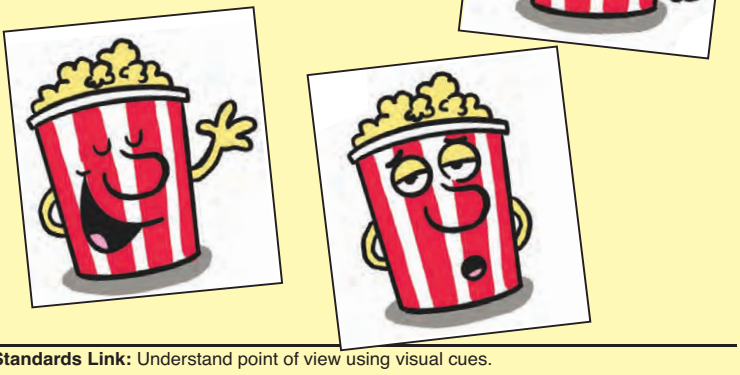
Look at a photo in the newspaper. Cut it out and glue it in the center of a blank piece of paper. Think about what is outside the edges of the photo. Draw or list what you think is outside what you see in the photo.

Standards Link: Use visual cues to understand points of view.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Choose a Photo

The photos that go with a news article can give more information and create a feeling about a news event. Which photo would you choose for the above article? Cut it out and glue it into the box in the article above.



Standards Link: Understand point of view using visual cues.

Double Double Word Search

- BALANCE
- BOX
- FRIENDS
- GRAPH
- HOME
- LICORICE
- MELTS
- MINTS
- NEWS
- OPINION
- POPCORN
- QUIET
- SNACKS
- TRUE
- VIEWPOINT

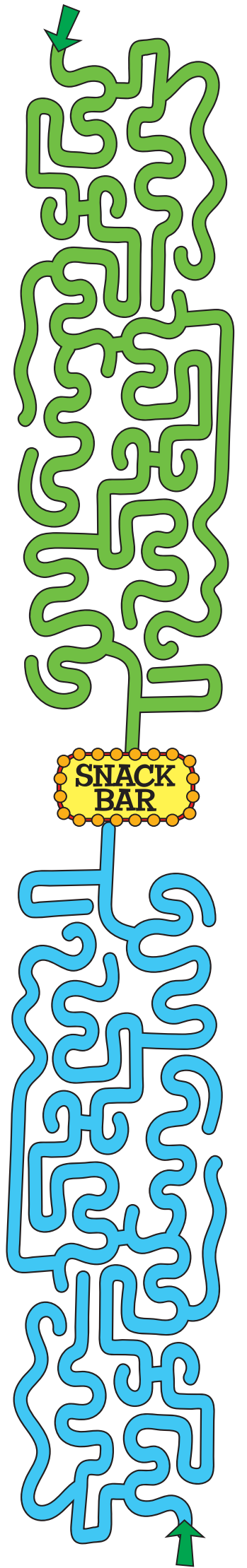
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Fastest Snack

Who will reach the movie theater snack bar first? Race against a family member!



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **VIEWPOINT**

The noun **viewpoint** means the way someone looks at a situation to form their own opinion.

From the dog's **viewpoint**, humans get all the best food.

Try to use the word **viewpoint** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Advertising Points of View

Look at three ads in today's newspaper. Write down the name of the company advertising, what they are selling and why they think people should spend money with them.

Standards Link: Compare and contrast points of view.



ANSWER: Hip hop music!

Write On!

I'm a Mosquito!

Write about a mosquito from a mosquito's point of view.



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Three Blue Devils win state crowns; Norsemen, Knights make waves at swim and dive finals

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Three first-place victories in individual events set the pace for Grosse Pointe South boys varsity swim and dive at the Division 2 state championship meet March 11, helping the team earn 207 points to capture a fourth-place finish among 35 teams competing at the Holland Aquatic Center in Holland, Mich.

Blue Devils seniors Logan Hepner, Keiran Rahmaan and junior Troy Liu took the top spots in diving, the 100

fly and 100 free, respectively. The three individual titles are a program first, and ties South's girls program, which earned that distinction by winning the 200 medley relay, 100 fly and 100 back in the 2018 state final.

"You know you are doing something right when you are setting state records," South head coach John Fodell said. "We are a smaller team relative to other programs and schools, but we are producing."

The team was also the only program among all three divisions to have

two athletes named to the 2023 Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (MISCA) Dream Team, Hepner and Rahmaan.

South finished only three points behind third-place Birmingham Seaholm. Birmingham Groves won the title with 274 points, while University of Detroit Jesuit took second with 267.

University of Michigan commit Hepner successfully defended his 2022 diving crown, cruising to first place and breaking

See SWIM, page 3D



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

The University Liggett Knights girls hockey team made it three titles in a row last Saturday after defeating Grosse Pointe South 3-0 for the Division 1 state championship.

Knights beat South, complete title trifecta

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Three proved to be the lucky number for the University Liggett girls hockey team in 2023, who took a 3-0 victory over Grosse Pointe South to earn their third consecutive Michigan High School Girls Hockey League Division 1 state championship.

"That locker room is a family and it extends to the actual families because we have a great group of people who are always pulling in the

right direction and I think that's a huge reason why this team has been able to have a three-peat," Liggett girls hockey head coach Cassie Jaeckle said. "The contribution is not just from the players and coaches but the families as well and the support from the school and I think that's why we can go for another one next year."

There was plenty of build up and anticipation after both Liggett and South won their semifinal matchups last Wednesday night to set

up the championship meeting on Saturday, March 11 at USA Hockey Arena. No stranger to each other, it would be the fourth meeting between the two sides this season, with two of the previous games ending in favor of the Knights and the third matchup ending in a tie.

As Liggett and the Blue Devils took the ice Saturday afternoon there was little separation in the early stages. The first period ended in

See CHAMPS, page 2D



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIA RAHMAAN

South swimmers, divers and coaches gather on deck with the hardware for their fourth place finish at the state final meet last weekend in Holland.

Athlete of the Week

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Grosse Pointe South senior Keiran Rahmaan is one of those special swimmers who wins every race in his mind before he even touches the water, thanks to a mental game that is just as strong as his physical one.

The four-time All American envisions his every move before stepping on the starting block. He imagines taking his mark. He anticipates his entry into the water, timed perfectly with the starting horn. He visualizes every stroke, kick and turn. He reaches for the wall with his full momentum at just the right moment, careful not to jam too close to the touch pad, to finish first before every competitor.

"I try to tell myself, 'the wall is lava,' and try to get out of (the pool) as fast as possible,"

Rahmaan said. "I visualize my whole swim beforehand. But once I'm in the pool, it's go, go, go."

It's a mentality that has

elites within South's storied boys varsity swim and dive program. On March 11, in the Division 2 state meet, he won a state championship in

the 200 medley relay. He was the team's highest points-earner at 37, named to the 2023 Dream Team and earned All American consideration for his two individual events and the 400 free relay, a status that will be finalized in April.

It doesn't stop there. He leaves South as an All American and 2022 Dual Meet National Champion. He holds five school records to go with nearly half a dozen pool records throughout Michigan. Rahmaan also earned All State status in 16 events during his high school career.

He will take this impressive resume with him next fall when he joins the Division 1 men's swim program at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI).

"When I went on an unofficial visit, I got to

See ATHLETE, page 2D



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMELA RAHMAAN

South's Keiran Rahmaan has every reason to flex: the senior swimming sensation just won a state championship in the 100 fly and was named by the state's swim coaches to the 2023 Dream Team to cap off an impressive high school career.

Grosse Pointe News



Keiran Rahmaan

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Swimming and Diving

Sponsored by Joe Ricci

placed Rahmaan, a backstroke and butterfly specialist, among the all-time the 100 fly, took second place in the 100 back and 400 free relay, and fifth in

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2D | SPORTS

CHAMPS:

Continued from page 1D

a scoreless tie. Not until well into the second frame did the game see its first goal. Liggett's Alice Roth found the back of the net to give the Knights the 1-0 lead.

The next goal came in quick succession. Sullivan Estes added another for the Knights to make it 2-0 before the second period came to a close.

The Blue Devils fought through the third period trying to make a comeback, but could not get anything past goalie Brooklyn Peshl and the Liggett defense. With just over five minutes to go in the game, Sophia Secco sealed the deal by adding Liggett's final goal. Peshl finished with a shutout victory in goal for the Knights.

"It starts from the net out," Jaeckle said about Peshl's performance in the championship game and all season. "Without

her, I don't think you have the success we've had and it goes back to her compete level and she's fun to coach because you want a kid to have that drive within them from the start."

The Blue Devils, who were the No. 2 seed in the tournament behind Liggett, fell short of the chance to build on the program's legacy of championships. However, getting back to that championship stage felt like a massive step in the road back to success.

"Making it to the game was a building block that we achieved in and of itself," South girls hockey coach Lexi Bohlinger said. "The season as a whole saw a lot of improvement from every player on the team. We had 22 girls all of whom got to see ice time, and everyone improved tremendously on their hockey IQ and skill throughout the season."

Last weekend proved

to be a testament to the prominence of the Pointes when it comes to girls hockey. Liggett won its third consecutive title, becoming what many would call a dynasty, similar to what Grosse Pointe South's girls hockey program has achieved in the past. Last Saturday the Pointes girls hockey presence was in full force, as Grosse Pointe North was also in the building, competing for the Division 2 championship against Bloomfield Hills (see full story on page 3D.)

"Having it be a rivalry was pretty special," Jaeckle said. "...It's a testament to the programs that generate these players who come to our high school teams. That would be the Bulldogs and the St. Clair Shores Saints. They put in the front end of any youth hockey player in developing skills and I think it's a perfect testament to the success they have."



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

Liggett netminder Brooklyn Peshl ended the season with a shutout in the state championship.



South's Ruby Lenhard puts her stick to good use on defense against Isabel Standish.



Rahmaan and senior diver Logan Hepner share many big accomplishments. The 2023 Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week are both individual state champions, members of the 2023 Dream Team and are taking their talents to the collegiate level next season.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

meet the team and spend time with the coaches," Rahmaan said. "I really liked everyone and they were so helpful and made me feel welcome."

Rahmaan said another reason he was drawn to IUPUI is that the team is "really competitive" and is just coming off a second-place finish in the Horizon League, behind Oakland University.

Consider him ready for the big stage. His list of accomplishments began shortly after his older brother, Khalib, a formidable Blue Devil swimmer in his own right, influenced him to dive into the sport.

Keiran Rahmaan set records at Pierce Middle School that still hold today, including in two relays and five individual events. He also holds two individual records in the decades-old Lakefront Swim Association summer league.

At South, Rahmaan has become adept not only at setting new records, but breaking the very ones he set, including:

- ◆ Earning the MAC Red record in the 100 back (49.91), breaking both his 2021 and 2022 records. He also broke the school record this year in the 100 back (49.70) and 100 fly (49.02), previously set by Jacob Montague in 2016. In addition, he anchored the 400 free relay team to a new school record at last weekend's state final.
- ◆ Placing first in the 100 fly in 50.16 at the

Wayne County championship meet at Trenton High School, breaking his own 2022 pool record of 50.77.

- ◆ Winning Swimmer of the Meet in the MAC Red championship (as determined by NISCA Powerpoints) and the 2023 MAC Red MVP.

"Keiran is just a great racer," said John Fodell, Rahmaan's head coach at South and Grosse Pointe Gators, his year-round swim program. "He is in the right headspace of 'don't let people beat you.' His underwaters (techniques) are phenomenal. He knows what his weapons are and knows how to use them." Fodell, who has coached Rahmaan since he was 7 or 8 years old, said Rahmaan's big meet experience, especially on the national stage, has positioned him well for the collegiate level.

"He's going to produce," Fodell said. "His experience at big meets makes him really dangerous because he doesn't let the moment overwhelm him."

"He is about to swim in one of the fastest pools in the country (at IUPUI)," he added. "As he gets going, he will become a leader on that team."

As a South co-captain, leadership is something Rahmaan takes to heart, as he works hard to lead by example and keep camaraderie and laughter at the heart of team practices and meets.

"I always try to share a laugh and have fun with my teammates," he said. "I don't ever try to rule by intimidation, but sometimes you have to get

tough if we are losing focus."

During the season, Rahmaan takes only one day off a week. Otherwise, he is in the pool every day and the weight room three times a week.

"Swimming is taxing on your body," he said. "Sometimes I have to give myself pep talks heading into practice, knowing I'm about to dive into freezing cold water. There's been a lot of sacrificing over the years, especially when swimming takes away time I could be spending with friends. Your social life takes a hit."

But despite those sacrifices, Rahmaan still manages to pack a lot in. Outside of swimming, he holds a 3.5 grade-point average, is a member of the Devil's Den student section, volunteers for Special Olympics, works at the Detroit Yacht Club in a co-op program, teaches private swim lessons and has worked as a lifeguard in Grosse Pointe Park throughout high school.

He credits his parents for their unwavering support, saying they handle all of the extras, like helping him wake up on time and eat right, "letting me focus on my races," he said.

His team, however, gets his highest praise.

"I don't think I would have gotten to where I am without my teammates," he said. "They play the biggest factor above weightlifting, practices or anything else I do."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAMELA RAHMAAN

Keiran Rahmaan powers his way to the MAC Red championship in the 100 fly last month.

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships!

Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

SWIM:

Continued from page 1D

the D2 state record with 560.80 points to earn back-to-back titles. He bested runner-up Grayson Davis of Birmingham Seaholm by 53.6 points. He also earned South 20 points with the win.

In individual events, Rahman, who will swim for Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis next fall, won the state title in the 100 fly, setting a new school record with a personal best time of 49.02. He also took second place in the 100 back, also setting a new South record with a time of 49.70. He was the team's highest points winner with 37.

Liu took the pool by storm in the 100 free, winning with a lightning fast time of 46.17, beating Grand Rapids Northern's Caleb Howe (46.27). He also finished fourth in the 50 free in 21.18, an event where the first through seventh places were separated by .68 seconds.

Two other Blue Devils earned All State honors with Top 8 finishes, including junior Ben Bryan, who took sixth in the 100 IM in 1:57.25. Bryan finished ninth in the 100 fly, missing eighth place by 0.02 seconds. Senior Chandler Bower finished eighth in the 200 free in 1:46.07. He also finished 16th in the 500 free in 4:54.62.

Senior Jake Chunn went on to take 10th place in the 100 free (49.11), while fellow senior Drew Rulison finished 14th in the 100 fly (52.10).

South's relay teams also made waves all day. The 200 medley of Rahman, Liu, Bryan and Adam Johnson took fourth in 1:34.54. The 200 free relay of Chunn, Flynn Mackrell, Vincent Maffesoli and Rulison took 11th place in 1:30.10.

Liu, Bryan, Bower and Rahman nearly took first in the 400 free relay, setting a new school record and finishing second in 3:07.82, falling just shy of UDJ's winning time of 3:06.63.

"I'm really happy with how we swam," Fodell said. "I'm also really happy of how proud our swimmers were of each other, and that's all we try to instill. For the seniors, you can see by the looks on their faces of, 'I can't believe it's all over.' So it's a little bittersweet, but I know our whole team can walk away knowing we swam our hearts out."

Grosse Pointe North

Six swimmers from Grosse Pointe North teamed up to finish 21st in the Division 2 state swim finals, just one point behind 20th place Birmingham Brother Rice, thanks to strong performances in several individual and relay events.

Juniors Tommy Moreland and Connor

McMahon led the way for the Norsemen, earning 14 points and six points for the team, respectively.

In individual competition, Moreland swam to personal bests in both the 200 free and 100 fly. He placed ninth in the 200 free in 1:45.31. He took 11th in the 100 fly in 52.57, moving up two places with a time improvement of 1.80 from prelims.

McMahon also achieved a personal best in the 100 breast, finishing in 11th place in 1:00.52.

In the 200 medley relay, Moreland and McMahon joined freshmen James Jewell and James Gusmano for a 14th-place finish in 1:41.17. Junior Keegan Wettstein and freshman Alejandro Delgado also represented the state team for North, but did not qualify for finals out of Friday's preliminary round.

North head coach Kyle Kinyon said he considers this successful season a building block the program can bring into the future.

"It was truly a season to remember," he said via email. "I am thrilled to finish second overall in the MAC White division and also to take six different boys to the state meet."

McMahon showed great poise and focus throughout the season and Moreland led the team by example as a team captain, Kinyon



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE KINYON

Starting clockwise, back left, Grosse Pointe North's 200 medley relay of Connor McMahon, Tommy Moreland, James Jewell and James Gusmano celebrate their 14th place on the podium at the Division 2 state championship meet.

added.

"I am very proud of these young men for their dedication and commitment to their goals and to one another," he said. "I look forward to coaching them all again next year."

University Liggett

Coined this season as "The Little Team That Could," based on its small roster of four, two varsity swimmers from University Liggett embodied that fighting spirit at the Division 3 state finals, held March 10 and 11, at Oakland University.

After qualifying for a finals swim in the 200 IM Friday, freshman Brendan Beland swam a

personal best in 2:04.87 to finish 14th in the state. He scored three team points for the Knights. Beland missed the finals cut in the 100 fly during Friday's prelims, finishing 25th in 56.48.

Despite putting up some competitive times, freshman Charlie Bronk fell short of qualifying for the final round in both of his individual events. He finished 23rd in the 500 free in 5:08.46, and 32nd in the 100 back in 59.97.

"I couldn't be prouder of these two outstanding freshmen, who accomplished nearly all their goals this season," Liggett head coach Bart Bronk said. "While the

state meet didn't go exactly as we hoped, it was a great learning experience for both swimmers. They were among the Top 5 freshmen in all of Division 3 in the events they entered. Their futures in swimming are bright."

Cranbrook-Kingswood won the D3 State Championship with 271 points, finishing 12 points ahead of East Grand Rapids. The championship between these tightly matched teams was largely determined by the meet's first race, the 200 medley relay, in which Cranbrook-Kingswood beat higher-seeded East Grand Rapids by just .01.

Norsemen girls hockey loses state title in double OT heartbreaker

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Nothing ever quite matches the excitement of overtime playoff hockey. Overtime in a state championship game? That always makes for something special. Unfortunately, for Grosse Pointe North girls hockey, the team ended up on the wrong side of one of the sport's most exciting moments, losing 5-4 in double overtime to Bloomfield-Birmingham in the

Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 2 state championship game Saturday, March 11.

The Norsemen and Bloomfield-Birmingham entered overtime tied 4-4, but the Blackhawks proved victorious in the second overtime period ending North's hopes of a state title.

"It was an unreal accomplishment for North to make it to the state championship game for the first time in over 10 years," North girls

hockey assistant coach Taylor Shaheen said. "Honestly, the game could've gone either way. Our girls left everything out on the ice and gave every shift their very best. The puck didn't bounce in our favor this time around."

North may not have gotten the crucial bounce in overtime, but it was another strange bounce that gave the team an early advantage. Ella Dobbs put the Norsemen up 1-0 when her attempt to center the puck as she

skated by the side of the net took a bounce off the Bloomfield goaltender and into the back of the net.

That goal kicked off a flurry of first-period scoring. The Blackhawks scored twice after that to take a lead of their own. Not long after, North's Paige Martin brought the game back to even before Josie Cueter put the Norsemen back in front 3-2.

A fast first period ended with North up by one, but the Blackhawks evened things up on the scoreboard yet again in the second. Cueter netted her second goal of the game to put the Norsemen on top 4-3, but once again Bloomfield

tied the game back up.

The scoreboard read 4-4 at the end of the second period and stayed that way at the end of the third. Both sides had chances to go back on top before regulation ended but with neither team quite able to push the puck through, the title game went to overtime.

A first eight-minute overtime period also saw nobody able to break through for a winning goal. But well into the second overtime, Bloomfield's Jessie Rebeck managed to sneak in an odd-angled shot that won the game to put the Blackhawks the D2 state title.

"There were so many

people that came to cheer us on, which definitely raised our energy level and made us even more excited to play," North senior captain Grace Cueter said. "I'm super proud of our performance during the game. We played as a team unit and worked to connect passes and set up goals. Although the outcome wasn't exactly what we had hoped for, we were still able to celebrate the successful season as a team."

The loss was a heart-breaking end to what was a still successful girls hockey season for North. The Norsemen end with a final record of 14-5 and were the top seed in the Division 2 playoffs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH GIRLS HOCKEY

The Norsemen are saluted by their fans after defeating Regina in the Division 2 state semifinals to advance to the championship game.

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4D | SPORTS

North girls hoops keeps rolling in playoffs, wins regional title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For a while last Tuesday, March 7, chances looked uncertain if Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity basketball team would play for a regional title, until senior Annabel Ayrault hit a three-point, buzzer-beating shot in overtime, lifting the Norsemen 55-52 over Dakota and sending North into the regional final.

From there, North looked unstoppable in the regional championship game Thursday, March 9 as the team took down Cass Tech

with relative ease 51-35 to take the regional trophy.

"We had already beat Dakota twice and it was on their floor and we had everything to lose so that contributed to some tightness in that game but after that against Cass Tech we were really loose," North girls basketball coach Gary Bennett said. "We were free to play and a lot of the stuff we did, you could see the freedom allowed the team to play and not be constrained in any way. Tuesday night helped but also this is something that the girls really wanted to accom-

plish and they weren't going to be denied."

North's defensive abilities have been on display throughout the playoffs and were certainly a factor early on in Thursday's regional final. The Norsemen led 17-6 after the first quarter with the defense shutting down Cass Tech at almost every turn. North did it again in the second quarter, once again holding Cass Tech to just six points while extending its lead to 19 before the break.

The early advantage that the Norsemen built came in handy for the second half as Cass Tech started to find

some rhythm on offense. However, the Technicians were already in a hole and still had trouble catching North as the deficit reached over 20 going into the final quarter.

With the game well in hand, North's attack slowed down some as Cass Tech continued showing more signs of life than it did early in the game. Still, it was too little and too late for the Technicians as all they could do was bring the game back to within less than 20 points before the Norsemen were officially crowned regional champs.

Following up her buzzer-beating win two nights before, Ayrault led North with 26 points. Natalie Babcock put herself in double digits in the victory with 14 points while Jenna Winowiecki had nine.

North was not the only team from the Pointes to be playing for a regional title last Thursday. On the same night, the University Liggett Knights girls basketball team fell in the Division 3 regional final 59-29 to Bishop Foley. Hallie Marcero led the Knights with 13 points.

The regional title gives the Norsemen



North's Annabel Ayrault had 26 points in the regional championship game last Thursday. Two nights earlier, she hit a game-winning shot at the buzzer in overtime to give the Norsemen a win in the regional semis.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team proudly holds the regional championship trophy after defeating Cass Tech March 9.

three major trophies on this season as the MAC Red, district and regional champions. North's pursuit of a state championship trophy continued on Tuesday, March 14 after Red, district and press time with a regional championship matchup in the state quarterfinals against Detroit Renaissance.

South boys get long-awaited district trophy, advance to regional final

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Three decades. That is how long it's been since Grosse Pointe South boys basketball was able to call itself district champions. That changed last Friday, March 10, when the Blue Devils defeated Harper Woods 68-45 to claim their first district title since 1992.

"We didn't stress or take too much time talking about how it had been 30 years since we won the district, this had just been one of our goals all season," South boys basketball coach Anthony Benard said. "We thought we put in

the work and had the talent to play in that game...

It all just came together that night and I think we played one of our best games of the year and were really unselfish and sharing the ball."

South's victory against the Pioneers last Friday was never in doubt. The Blue Devils seized control of the game early on and left Harper Woods struggling to find answers. By halftime, South led 43-26 at the break.

The Blue Devils had a 17-point lead entering the fourth quarter. In the final eight minutes South salted away the victory and after the buzzer

sounded, lifted its long-awaited district trophy.

Anthony Benard's triple-double night in the district championship highlighted the blowout win. Benard had 22 points to go along with 11 rebounds and ten assists. Karter Richards added 13 points and Vince Vachon had 13.

"It was a great night for us and the community and all the South alumni who made it a great atmosphere and it was great to be part of it," coach Benard said.

South's district win advanced the team to the regional semifinals. That meant a matchup with familiar foe Dakota

Monday, March 13. It is often said that it is hard to beat a team three times in one year, and the Blue Devils faced that task on Monday night.

The Cougars finished fourth in the MAC Red, the division that South won, but the Blue Devils knew that nothing in the postseason comes easy. The game stayed close all the way but South pulled it out with a narrow 48-45 win to keep its playoff run alive.

Defense was the story for much of the game as neither side let the other establish a lead for too long. South led 14-7 at the end of the opening

quarter and stretched its lead barely into double digits in the second quarter. However, a scoring drought for the Blue Devils before halftime led to Dakota began closing the gap, leaving South with just a four-point advantage at the break.

The second half continued to be a tight game. Both teams saw a slight uptick in offense in the third quarter that ended tied at 36 apiece entering the final eight minutes.

The fourth quarter was a battle, and it was clear that this game could come down to who had last possession. With South up by one, a cru-

cial late traveling call on Dakota gave the Blue Devils the ball and a chance at free throws to extend the lead. Benard converted on those free throws and then thwarted a last-second shot attempt by the Cougars to secure the win.

Benard once again led South, this time with 17 points, while Richards ended the night with 13. Senior Alex English got into double digits with 10.

South's win earned the team the chance to play for a regional championship. The team faced De La Salle in the regional final Wednesday, March 15 after press time.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 06, 2023

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 22, 2023 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Local Officers Compensation Commission meeting held on February 21, 2023, the Planning Commission meeting held on March 1, 2023 and the Cannabis Subcommittee meeting held on March 2, 2023.
- 2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) . to approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 126826 through 126892 in the amount of \$267,860.52 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) to approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,790.66 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of March 2023. (3) to approve payment in the amount of \$11,650.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with two water main breaks and miscellaneous repairs at various residential locations. (4) to approve payment to The Helm in the amount of \$14,000 for Senior Services and \$6,000 to Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, Inc. in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the city's proportionate share of expenses relative to the senior transit services for residents of Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. (5) to approve payment to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in the amount of \$7,116.14 for Harper Woods' proportionate share of the Intermunicipal Radio System for the period July 1 through December 31, 2023.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, March 16, 2023



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The South boys basketball team won its first district championship since 1992 by defeating Harper Woods last Friday night.

United gymnastics beams with pride over Top 10 finals finish

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Described by their head coach as “a team who never gave up on themselves or teammates,” Grosse Pointe United Varsity Gymnastics (GPUG) took that tenacious attitude and nailed a 10th-place finish at the Division 2 state championship meet March 10 and 11, at Lakeland High School in White Lake.

It is the program’s highest finish since 2014, when the team placed fourth overall.

In Friday’s team competition, GPUG finished the night with a score of 136.250. Rockford took the state title with an overall score of 144.500, just ahead of runner-up Jackson Area’s total of 142.400. Farmington United placed third with 141.325 points.

Sophomore Allie



PHOTO COURTESY OF IZZY NGUYEN

From left to right, Ava Rogowski, Madi Lucido, Allie Mattes and Maddie LoPorto celebrate their top finishes in beam, floor and the All Around individual competition at state finals on March 11.

Mattes had team-high scores on three of the four events, with additional contributions coming from seniors Maddie LoPorto, Maddie Lucido, Ava Rogowski and Brooke Lezotte, juniors Alayna Okonoski and Ainsley Tanghe and sophomore

Lucy Tull.

“It was a total team effort,” GPUG head coach Izzy Ngyuen said. “This season did exceed my expectations. The girls did such an amazing job and have improved so much as the season went on.”

In Saturday’s individual rounds, three gymnasts earned All-State honors, including one with a Top 10 All Around finish. Rogowski earned all-state on beam and floor along with eighth place in the individual Division 2 All Around with a score of 34.925. In addition, LoPorto and Lucido earned D2 All-State honors on the balance beam. Both gymnasts earned a score of 8.875, sharing a tie and a spot on the podium together.

Mattes finished the Division 1 All Around tied for 18th place with a score of 33.90. GPUG’s top individual events and scores in the D2 finals include:

Beam:

- Ava Rogowski — 7th place (9.00)
- Madi Lucido and Maddie LoPorto — Tied for 10th Place (8.875)

Floor:

- Ava Rogowski — Tied for 9th Place (9.300)

All Around:

- Ava Rogowski — Tied for 8th Place (34.925)

Ngyuen said this season’s success was bolstered in part by a larger roster of talent. The team nearly doubled in size when it jumped from seven gymnasts in 2022, to 14 this year.

“The team bonding for sure became stronger and they were all able to get along,” she said. “Being a bigger team is hard, because not all of the girls can compete at every meet, but the girls still stayed positive and always cheered each other on no matter what.”

The squad’s upbeat attitude elevated the whole season for everyone, she added.

“This year’s team is motivated, energetic and positive. It’s been an amazing experience.”

While the squad will lose four strong seniors to graduation, Ngyuen said she expects Mattes, who qualified for the individual All Around state final as only a sophomore, will be back next season as a junior with improved skills.

“I will also have four seniors next year, too, who will also help with our team scores,” she said. “Hopefully we’ll have some incoming freshmen next year, too.”

In addition to GPUG’s athletic achievements this season, five individual gymnasts also earned All-State academic honors. LoPorto, Lucido, Rogowski, Tanghe and Lezotte were named to the All-State All-Academic team, based on their cumulative GPAs.

Norsemen, Knights’ playoff hopes end early

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Boys basketball playoffs began last week as the district round tipped off Wednesday, March 8. For Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett, it would be the beginning and the end of their respective playoff runs as both teams found themselves eliminated in the district semifinal round.

North

The Norsemen entered last Wednesday as the hosts of the district tournament in Division 1 and drew a matchup with Harper Woods in the semifinals. The Norsemen hung right with the Pioneers for most of the night, giving them a tough battle, but Harper Woods pulled away at the end to cut North’s playoff run short with a final score of 62-55.

The first half was about as even as a basketball game can be. North and the Pioneers ended the first quarter in a low-scoring tie at just eight points apiece. There was a bit more scoring in the second quarter but not much, and things remained incredibly close as the Norsemen led by just one at 20-19 going into halftime.

Harper Woods began to establish itself early in the second half and took the lead away from the Norsemen. The Pioneers led by six at the end of the third quarter, with time left for North to make a comeback.

The fourth quarter ended up being the most explosive in terms of

offense on both sides. Both teams scored over 20 points in the quarter, but the slim lead that the Pioneers built at the end of the third ended up being the difference as North’s efforts at a comeback ended up falling just short.

“They’re an aggressive team and they took us out of our rhythm a bit,” North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. “We were prepared to go but we have a lot of guys who it was their first playoff game so we had some jitters in the first half... We went into halftime with a one point lead and I felt like that could have been built on but we didn’t really capitalize and came out a bit flat in the third quarter.”

Adam Ayrault led the Norsemen with 21 points in the final game of his high school career before he moves on next season to play basketball at Wayne State University. Junior James Phillips finished with 14 while fellow junior Rubin McBride-Williams was the third North player in double digits with ten.

The loss ends North’s year with a final record of 12-11. Ayrault, Kyle Armbruster, Drew Hill and Zachary Cody are the departing seniors as the Norsemen will have a solid core returning for 2023-24. For that returning group, Johnson hopes that they come back next year ready to handle any kind of pressure situation thrown their way.

“We played really well at home but have to be able to win more games on the road,” he said.

“Getting in the weight room and playing against high level competition is a huge key as these guys progress down the road and get ready for next year.”

ULS

The Knights were in action last Wednesday night in the district semifinal round in Division 3. Matching up with Madison Heights Madison, Liggett was on the wrong end of a lopsided 61-36 game that ended the Knights’ season.

The loss served as the final high school basketball games for seniors Josh Pierce, Jarren Purify and Mac Katz. With plenty of young players around them all season, their impact on the Liggett basketball program will surely be felt for years to come.

“They had great leadership and taught the younger players how to approach the game and know what it looks like to play at a high level and compete hard,” said Liggett boys basketball coach Solomon Spann. Spann also had a message for the nine Knights players expected to return for next season.

“Commitment and being involved during the summer,” Spann said. “Many of our guys play multiple sports and maybe basketball isn’t their first sport...But we want them to be in the gym with us and have the understanding that that’s where the real improvement comes from.”

Liggett ended the season with a final record of 13-9.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North’s Rubin McBride-Williams had ten points in the team’s playoff loss to Harper Woods last Wednesday, March 8.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2023 March Board of Review

The 2023 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

March 20, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS

March 20, 2023 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM

March 21, 2023 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2023 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 21, 2023 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 885-5800.

6D | STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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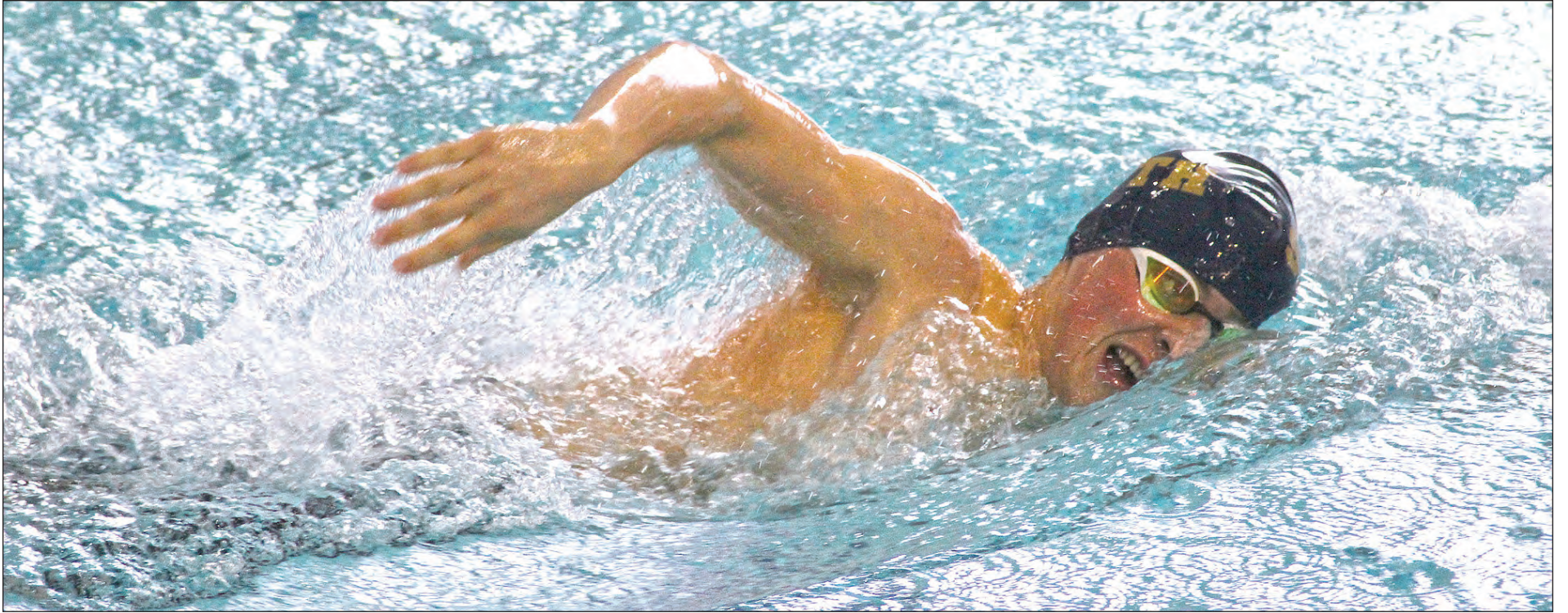
Pointe athletes vie for state championships

By Meg Leonard, Associate Editor

Athletes from throughout the Pointes fought for state championships March 10-11. The Grosse

Pointe News brings you poolside for boys swim and dive, to the ice for girls hockey and to the mat for girls gymnastics. Congratulations to Grosse

Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett on your teams' accomplishments this season. You make the Pointes very proud!!



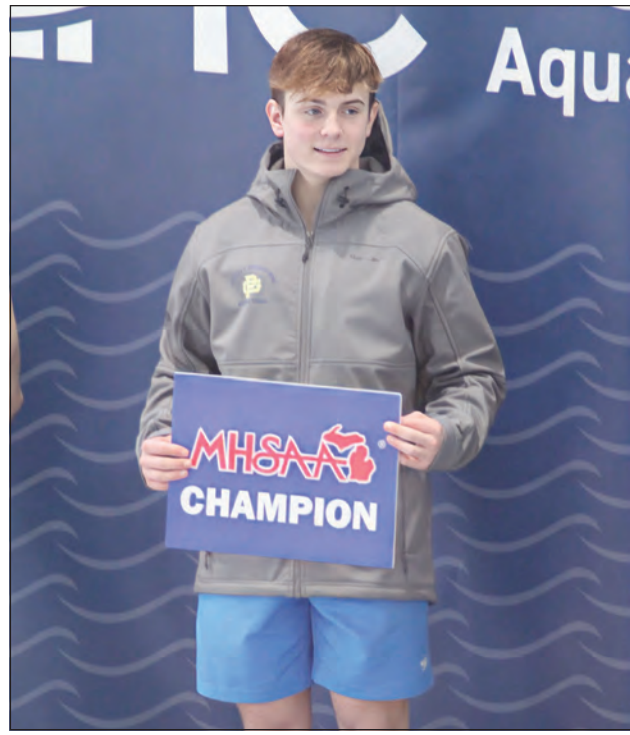
South's Chandler Bower locks in last weekend for his 500 free swim at the Division 2 state final meet in Holland March 11.



South's Keiran Rahmaan is king of the 100 fly.



North's Connor McMahon, second from left, hits the podium after his 11th place finish in the 100 breast at the Division 2 state final meet in Holland March 11.



Repeat! Diver Logan Hepner defended his 2022 state championship in diving by earning the 2023 crown and setting a new Division 2 state final record of 560.80 points



South junior Troy Liu raises his championship sign for winning the 100 free at the Division 2 state final.



South's Logan Hepner cuts through the water with championship precision during his first place diving performance at the state meet.



South's Ben Bryan gives a triumphant fist pump after his sixth place finish in the 100 IM in the state final meet.



Knight teammates Charlie Bronk (left) and Brendan Beland don the Liggett red and blue at the Division 3 state championship meet at Oakland University March 11.



Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics celebrates a 10th place finals finish last weekend.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS | 7D



Liggett celebrates the sweet taste of victory that comes with winning its third consecutive state championship.



Blue Devils defend their end of the ice during the state championship game against University Liggett last weekend.



North girls hockey gets a sendoff at ESH Arena last Saturday morning before heading to Plymouth for the Division 2 state championship game.



Liggett's fans in the stands cheer on the girls hockey team to a three-peat Division 1 state championship.



From left to right, Annaclaire Doppke, Giuliana Lutfy and Elle Quinlan flash three fingers, one for each state championship ring Liggett girls hockey has won throughout their high school careers.



Players from Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett girls hockey battle for a loose puck during the Division 1 state championship March 11.

Liggett and South hockey photos by Leon Halip	Gymnastics photos courtesy of Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics	GP South swim and dive photos courtesy of Nia Rahmaan	GP North swim and dive photos courtesy of Kyle Kinyon	University Liggett swim and dive photos courtesy of Bart Bronk
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The Grosse Pointe News' own Mike Adzima, left, with radio broadcast partner Tyler Kuehl, center, and TV broadcaster Ryan Radosevich spent time in the broadcast booth last weekend, helping provide color commentary at USA Hockey Arena for the MHSAA boys hockey state championships.

OPINIONS

MATTER

What will the neighbors think? Find out every week on the Grosse Pointe News opinion pages. Keep the pulse of your community on the current issues that affect us all. And share your opinion. It's important.

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