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FEBRUARY 29, 2024
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Opioid settlement money coming to Park, Woods

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS AND PARK — Two of the five Pointes are among hundreds of Michigan municipalities that will split some \$725 million in opioid settlement funds over the next 18 years.

The Park and Woods will receive \$164,037 and \$116,895, respectively. Michigan as a whole is getting \$1.5 billion, with half going to municipalities and half to the state. The funds are calculated using a formula that considers fatal and non-fatal overdoses, drug arrests and opioid prescription rates.

Police chiefs in the other three Pointes said they did not apply because they would have received so little as to not make it worth the time to fill out the paperwork.

The Woods in 2020 and 2023 had multiple overdoses in one evening involving fatalities, including last June when three people, including two sisters, overdosed the same night at two houses blocks apart. The July 2020 incident saw four overdoses with one fatality with a fatal over-

dose in the Park the same night.

"This is our first year of funding, so we're still looking at how we'll spend it," Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "It will definitely involve some training."

Departments must use the money on things such as programs, training, equipment and supplies that are in direct support of fighting the opioid crisis.

Park Public Safety Director Jim Bostock also said he's still deciding what route to go.

"Because the money is restricted, we want to make the best use of it," he said. "We'll definitely have some training for officers and the community."

Bostock added he wants to look into machines that can scan people for drugs before they're placed in the department's holding cells.

"They are usually only there for a short time, but it's a critical time," he noted. "You don't want them bringing in something that might be harmful to them or others."

See MONEY, page 3A



PHOTO BY MAYE DAHER

Full moon

On Saturday, Feb. 24, celestial enthusiasts were treated to a snow moon — so named for the heavy snowfall typical of the month — which graced the night sky and was captured by local photographer Maye Daher of Grosse Pointe Woods. It was the second full moon of the year. A full moon only occurs when the moon is directly opposite the sun, fully illuminated, and this phenomenon happens approximately every 29.5 days. This month's full moon also is a micromoon or minimoon, meaning it's at its farthest point from Earth — approximately 252,225 miles. According to some, this moon signifies purity, renewal and the potential for new beginnings; it is considered a time to reflect on our lives, contemplate our paths and cleanse ourselves of the old.

389 St. Clair townhomes ready for reservation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Their physical presence now demanding recognition along the Notre Dame streetscape, a row of eight newly constructed townhomes on the former school administration building property at 389 St. Clair have been designated The Townhomes on Notre Dame in preparation for their sale.

See READY, page 2A



Realtor Patty Vasilos and developer Brian Giles on what will be the front lawn of The Townhomes on Notre Dame.

PHOTO BY RENE LANDUYT

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Solidifying defined contributions

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Among formerly controversial municipal topics now gliding from meeting agendas to meeting minutes is the establishment of defined contribution employee retirement plans.

Once considered by employees as heretical plans have become a workaday goal of city — akin to how some of the citizenry opposed construction of micro-wave-spewing cell phone towers and the establishment of three-minute time limits on individual speakers during municipal board meetings — defined contribution

The latest evidence in the Park was quick ratification in January of two uncontentious public safety department labor agreements establishing defined contribution plans for new hires. As a follow-up, an unanimous city council Feb. 12 passed a resolution adopting a Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) defined contribution plan. "The resolution provides for closure of the defined benefit plan and implementation of the defined contribution plan," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We had a special meeting Jan. 22 and

(approved) new agreements with our patrol and command officers," explained Nick Sizeland, city manager. "As part of that process, MERS asks (this council to) adopt this (resolution) that puts into a defined contribution plan new employees hired into the Park public safety."

Provisions of the resolution were approved by a 6-1 vote. "We had a special meeting Jan. 22 and


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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Patricia Marchand
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Retiree recently finished
50th race in 50th U.S. state.




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Village may invest in bollard blockades

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “A vehicle is not the optimal way to close down a street,” said Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, referring to the City’s tradition of using patrol cars as blockades during events in The Village.

Citing safety as its No. 1 priority, the Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors is exploring the potential

of installing retractable, 3-foot-tall, yellow bollards across every street leading into the downtown district.

“(They) can be manually locked and then unlocked and brought up, so that they’re parking barriers to prevent car traffic from entering into The Village,” said board member Hans Brieden, who is leading the project. “... They can be keyed with one key, so that you can make keys available to the city

or to the police or fire, depending on who needs to use it. They recess back into the ground, so that if snow removal is necessary or plowing, that wouldn’t be a problem.

“To hit a number that would cross each one of our streets accessing The Village,” he added, “it would be about 36 bollards that would be needed.”

At approximately \$750 a piece — estimated to last 30 years —

Main Street Grosse Pointe is looking at a price tag of \$28,000, not including cost of installation.

Upon Main Street Grosse Pointe’s creation, city council agreed to annually allocate \$50,000 to the program for its first three years. The first year’s \$50,000 was spent on new benches in The Village; however, the second year’s funds were set aside for future use, rather than being spent just because it was available.

As such, MSGP’s capital projects fund currently has \$100,000 at its disposal.

“Although that money was allocated the first three years of the program, it did not necessitate that it be spent within those three years,” MSGP Executive Director Cindy Willcock explained.

Bollards also would cut city costs regarding the amount of public safety presence and patrol vehicles currently required to block vehicular traffic to The Village for any length of time.

“There’s benefits to the amount of public safety we use to hold just Music on the Plaza, let alone any other event,” Brieden said to the board in February. “You’re looking at a number (of proposals) within our agenda today that is a great wishlist. Many of those would be safer and probably (better) attended if we could close off The Village.”

While the city of Adrian saw success implementing a bollard system last year, the City of Grosse Pointe’s engineer reportedly is compiling a list of concerns that would need to be addressed.

The placement of underground infrastructure around The Village also needs to be investigated.

“Other things to consider is, does this fit our transformation strategy?” Willcock said to board members. “... Do we currently close the streets down enough to justify that? Are we going to in the future? Is this the direction this organization is going, to be party planners and close the street down

and throw more parties?”

“That’s something that we need to decide. I’m not saying, ‘Yes,’ or ‘No.’ These are just things that need to be taken into consideration.”

Annually, portions of The Village are closed to vehicular traffic for Music on the Plaza, the Sidewalk Sale-ebation, Trick-or-Treat in The Village, The Village Tree Lighting and the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade.

New this year, MSGP also is planning a Main Street Mini Masters miniature golf tournament Saturday, April 6, and May-nopoly — as the name suggests, a Monopoly-themed fundraiser to take place in May.

While city administration is said to preliminarily support the idea, which would require city council approval, Willcock said the Main Street board needs to consider, “if this doesn’t happen, what are we going to do to make things more safe? Because something needs to happen to be more safe.”

Park sends \$20K to senior groups

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City officials have, once again, disbursed the entire annual block grant budget to the benefit of area senior citizens.

As members of the city council did for at least the past two years, this year they divided \$20,000 worth of Community Development Block Grants between The Helm at the Boll Life Center and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation

Services.

The Helm, a senior organization, received \$14,000.

PAATS provides transportation services for people aged 60 or older and disabled persons of all ages residing in the five Grosse Pointe or Harper Woods.

Both organizations are based at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge Road, in the Farms.

“We’re going to take every opportunity we have to support our

senior community and we’re going to leverage dollars with our CDBG funds,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Park officials made the allocations in concert with counterparts in neighboring cities.

“Once again, it is the intent of Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Park and Harper Woods to allocate \$6,000 to

See SENIOR, page 3A



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Developer Brian Giles stands in what will be a third-floor master bedroom in one of eight townhomes being constructed along Notre Dame.



The back of the townhomes, facing the former school administration building, feature a two-car garage and small, second-floor balcony.

READY:

Continued from page 1A

“The weather was our friend with construction,” said Brian Giles, developer with Condo Detroit, LLC. “We broke

ground basically in October and here we are. We’ll be putting brick on in April, which is a pretty exciting thing.”

Pivoting from the original intention to rent each unit, the townhomes will be offered for purchase as they become available for reservation starting Friday, March 1.

“The lending market, as well as the capital market has changed and with mortgages coming down ...” Giles said of the change in plans. “Not that that was necessarily the determining factor, but there’s no product like this in this market

and I think it is needed.”

Reservation pricing for the two end units is set at \$799,800. Pricing for the six middle units is \$749,800.

Aside from the two end units offering mirrored layouts, each of the townhomes feature identical floor plans and come in at a little more than 2,000 square feet, not including a two-car garage off the back of the main floor.

“There are no condo/townhomes in Grosse Pointe that have an attached garage,” said Patty Pozios Vasilos with Sine & Monaghan

Realtors. “There are none that have two-car garages, even detached.”

In front of the garage, the main floor encompasses a full bathroom, as well as a flexible space, which can be used as a bedroom, office, etc.

Between two small balconies off the front and back of the second floor is a living space, kitchen area and half bathroom.

The third floor consists of a master bedroom with adjoining bathroom and walk-in closet; a second bedroom suite with a full bathroom and closet; and a laundry room.

The move-in-ready target date is Sept. 1.

“Our framing’s complete, so when you walk in you can see how everything lays out,” Giles said. “... We’ll be putting in drywall in April and proceeding from there.”

Those interested in reserving a unit in the The Townhomes on Notre Dame should call Vasilos at (313) 477-3124.

As for the former administration building, now renamed The Historic Residences at St. Clair and in the process of being repurposed into 18 apartment units, the timeline will run a little longer.

“Those will be rentals, so we’re not going to do reservations per se,” Giles said. “We are looking to move people in by the end of the year in that building. Stay tuned.”

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PHOTO BY TED O'NEIL

From left, Public Safety Officer Paul Morang, Sgt. Zef Bojaj, Director Ken Werensky, Lt. Ron Coste and Public Safety Officer Jeff Roybal with their awards at February's Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting. Not pictured is Public Safety Officer Dan Kolar.

Shores officers honored

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Five members of the public safety department were honored for their actions in 2023 at city council's meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"This is the best part of my job, getting the opportunity to recognize our public safety officers for their accomplishments," Chief Ken Werenski said. Sgt. Zef Bojaj received

the Director's Award, which is given to the officer who "consistently exceeds the job description and performs at a level not bound by what is expected, but is required for the efficient operation of the department," Werenski said.

Bojaj has been with the department going on seven years, having been promoted to sergeant last May. He is the assistant EMS coordinator and Taser instructor for the department.

"I was really surprised," Bojaj said. "When the chief invited me to come to the meeting, he didn't tell me what it was for."

The 2008 Dakota High School graduate received his paramedic training through Baker College and went to the firefighter academy at Oakland Community College. He has worked as a firefighter in New Baltimore and as an EMT with MedStar.

"It was actually Sgt.

(Jason) Cook who convinced me to come to the Shores," Bojaj added. "He was my supervisor at MedStar."

Cook, with the department a decade, received the Director's Award in 2022.

"I wasn't really familiar with the Shores and I didn't want to give up being a paramedic because that's probably my favorite part of the job," Bojaj said. "But then he explained how we do all three. That blew my

mind."

He added the quick ambulance response times satisfy him the most.

"When we can get to a call in about a minute when people really need us and to see the look on their faces, that's what it's all about," he said.

As a certified crisis intervention officer, he was requested three times last year to assist neighboring cities in cases involving a person having a mental health crisis. Werenski said in each instance Bojaj was able to stabilize the situation and, at the request of each person, escorted them to a medical facility.

Lt. Ron Coste and Public Safety Officers Paul Morang and Dan Kolar received the Life Saving Award for their actions last March. Werenski said they responded to a call at a house on Colonial where an 86-year-old man was shoveling snow and collapsed, going into cardiac arrest.

"Our protocol is to do the same thing for the patient as what the ER would do," Werenski said. "That means we don't transport them until they have a pulse or are declared dead."

The three worked on the man for 33 minutes until they got a pulse and

transported him to a local hospital.

"The ER physician praised these officers' efforts, knowing that time was working against them on the scene," Werenski added. "These officers didn't give up. They battled through the event and eventually got the result they worked for."

Officer Jeff Roybal, the 2021 recipient of the Director's Award, received a Certificate of Merit. Like Bojaj, Roybal also is a certified crisis intervention officer.

He responded to two separate incidents on Lakeshore last year for people having mental health crises, including one woman holding a knife and threatening suicide. He eventually was able to calm both situations and escort the people to local hospitals.

"Officer Roybal is to be commended for his professionalism during these events," Werenski said. "He is an asset to the department and this community."

Mayor Ted Kedzierski praised the officers.

"We don't just have public safety officers, we have public ambassadors," he said. "We have the best public safety department around and people who live here know they are kept safe."

DPW dumps truck

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Dump trucks have long service lives, but 35 years is beyond gezerdom.

A 1988 model dump truck used by the public works department for, among other things, spreading road salt, is being replaced.

Reasons for doing so are familiar to anyone nursing a jalopy while saving money for a replacement.

"After numerous repairs over the lifetime of the truck, the transmission has given way," said Tom Jenny, public works director. "To replace the transmission would cost \$14,000."

An additional \$20,000 is needed

to replace the truck box, the part of the vehicle in which material is carried and from which it is dumped.

"The city has repaired the frame multiple times and the box is rotting out," Jenny said.

"Our mechanics have done a fantastic job welding, fixing and Band-Aiding, but it's just going to be throwing money away at this point," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

SEE TRUCK, PAGE 5A

SENIOR:

Continued from page 2A

PAATS and the remaining \$14,000 to The Helm for senior center operations and transit," Warren Rothe, Park assistant manager, informed his council Feb. 12.

The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall solicited the donation.

"Please consider the following information about your constituents," she wrote Feb. 1 to Hodges and the council about the organizations' combined activities during plan year 2022:

◆ 2,462 Meals on Wheels were delivered to seniors in the Park, a 7 percent increase over the

prior year;

◆ Park residents used PAATS 2,224 times for medical visits and treatment, groceries and pharmacies, banking and other essential errands, a 42 percent increase, and

◆ representatives hosted or made 2,337 programs and presentations to enhance the quality of life for seniors in the community.

PAATS

Reservations for PAATS transportation must be made at least two days in advance.

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Call (313) 394-9712 for reservations and details.

Meals on Wheels

"Five meals per week are provided to Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods-area residents who are homebound and unable to safely prepare meals for themselves," according to The Helm website, helmlife.org/services-support.

Park resident Jim Cooper volunteers to deliver meals.

"Growing older without a significant other or family member is a mountain of challenge," he said. "It can be debilitating, literally. So, I bring warm meals to those in need."

For more information about Meals on Wheels, call (313) 649-2105.

— Brad Lindberg

DEFINED:

Continued from page 1A

lution refer to ratification last month of five-year contracts with separate patrol and command officers unions.

Terms of the labor deals included implementing defined contribution retirement plans for new

hires. New employees can select contribution levels ranging from 20 to 30 percent for which they contribute from 15 to 20 percent while the city adds 5 to 10 percent.

Defined contribution plans break with traditional defined benefit plans by not relying solely on employer

funding. Defined contribution plans are funded in partnership by employer and employee, which makes them less costly to employers.

"We've done this previously with the public works union and (public safety) dispatch," Sizeland said.

MERS of Michigan is the Park's pension pro-

vider.

"MERS is an independent, professional retirement services company that was created to administer the retirement plans for Michigan's local units of government on a not-for-profit basis," according to the organization's website, mersofmich.com.

MONEY:

Continued from page 1A

Kosanke said he'd like to look into possible training on the newest and best ways for officers to search people when they suspect drugs and how best to respond to overdose calls.

"When you're making a drug arrest you have to be very careful with needles," he said. "And when you respond to an overdose, you need to be aware if there's any fentanyl you might come in contact with."

Kosanke also mentioned some sort of program to address mental health issues for officers who

might respond to an overdose.

"That can really take a toll on first responders," he said.

The money is the result of a national settlement stemming from numerous lawsuits against drug companies that accused them of ignoring the problems stemming from prescription painkillers.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 4

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Construction Committee meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy and Contracts Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Communications Committee meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities and Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Curriculum Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Community Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.



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'Backdoor goals'

Reluctant runner relishes finishing 50 races in 50 states

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The first time Patricia Marchand tried to run a mile, she firmly decided that running is stupid.

But that didn't stop her from trying again.

"I started running in the '90s at the urging of a friend," the Grosse Pointe Farms resident recalled. "Back then I couldn't run a mile. And I was an athlete; I played tennis and swam. But I just started trying. Soon one mile became three miles, three became six."

As she began to run more frequently, Marchand recalls setting her first big goal.

"One November I was sitting in my family room in South Carolina," she said. "It was the '90s and the New York City Marathon was on. Tears began rolling down my face. I love New York. ... I thought, 'I want to do that.'"

Since then, Marchand has run the New York City Marathon three times. It's a feeling that never gets old.

"The crowds, the sights — all fabulous," she said, remembering that first plane ride home, pointing out where the race started, where it ended and all



Marchand is all smiles at the Beach to Beacon run in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

the miles she ran in between. "It was one of those moments where I could see, step by step, block by block," the distance she had covered to accomplish a goal.

"After that, I fell in love with running," she added. "I kept with it. I remember my students would ask, 'What are your favorite states?' ... At that point, I'd run in 20-some of them. Then I decided I was going to run in all 50 states."

Last month, Marchand reached that goal, completing her 50th run in her 50th state. She closed out this chapter of her life with a race on Maui, which she said was bittersweet.

"It was bittersweet because of the suffering of so many, but they're continuing to endure," she said of the massive wildfire that devastated the island last year. "It also was a joyous occasion because I'd accom-

plished my goal, but also sad because ... now what?"

While the Hawaiian island was in no condition to host a marathon, she completed a 5K there, which fit her mission: Her path to running 50-in-50 included marathons, half-marathons, 10Ks, 5Ks and lengths in between. Any distance would do, as long as she hit all 50 states. All of the races were officially sanctioned.

"The advantage of running at my age is that I often win or place in my age group," the 68-year-old said.

Marchand has had many memorable experiences during her journey, which included quick weekend road trips with her husband to nearby states, as well as longer trips across the country to check other states off her list.

"A shout out to Mike, my husband, for putting up with this," she said. "This wouldn't have happened if I'd not had a supportive partner."

"... It was very backdoor," she said of her goal. "It became organic, the way it evolved, the beauty of it all. I've seen all 50 states, but I've also seen how people live in different states, what their economy is based on, what their struggles are. I've seen everything from rural West Virginia to the beauty of Washington State and everything in between."

While the New York City Marathon ranks No. 1, Marchand's second favorite race was the Falmouth Road Race on Cape Cod.

"It was started 51 years ago by a group of men who decided to run seven miles from town to town, from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights," she said. "It evolved into an iconic race. Everybody comes out and cheers."

The Beach to Beacon 10K Road Race in Maine, a charity race established in 1998, includes a range of ele-



COURTESY PHOTOS

The bridge race in Astoria, Ore., was one of the most challenging, Marchand said.

vations, from 25 to 100 feet above sea level. The hilly course follows much of the coastline and concludes at Portland Head Light Lighthouse.

"I'd run back and do it again just to have that view," Marchand said. "Maine is everything you think it would be."

Two of her most memorable races were 5Ks in which her son, Chip, participated.

"He does not enjoy running, but did it as a gift to me," she said.

Marchand tried to pick races in areas she wouldn't normally visit, as well as "someplace beautiful or somewhere inspiring or challenging."

"One of the most challenging was the Astoria bridge race in Astoria, Ore., a 10K in October," she said of the Great Columbia Crossing 10K. "The incline of the bridge is 5.62 percent (approximately a 4-inch slope) and goes a mile straight up, across the Columbia River."

Cody, Wyo., was "quaint," while Gulf Shores, Ala., and Sioux Falls, S.D., both were "a pleasant surprise."

"I definitely want to go back to Washington State and run another race," she said. "The wine scene in Walla Walla is amazing."

Marchand was on a roll for years when the pandemic nearly threw a wrench in her plans.

"But then Antelope Island, just outside of Salt Lake City, in the midst of the pandemic, decided they would hold a race," she said. "It was a state I wanted to check off my list."

So she signed up — and agreed to the rules.

"You had to stay in your car until your wave was called," she said. "You had to wear a mask until the start of the race, then you could take it off."

"It was so desolate," she continued. "Three buffalo crossed the road we were running on. It was so rewarding to get a race done in the middle of the pandemic."

While races were her reason for traveling, the places she visited and people she met were her reward.

"Sometimes you'd walk into a little restaurant and eat the best bite of steak you've had in a long time," she said. "Or you talk to locals and hear their stories, hear about how they're rebuilding after a flood

or down in Florida, recovering from the hurricane. You hear about everyday Americans and how they live and the struggles they have, or the reasons why someone immigrated to the U.S., how they got here. I love hearing their stories. There's just so many inspiring people working hard and giving their best efforts."

Marchand said she's grateful for the hard-working race volunteers and directors.

"Without these people and their countless hours of work, there would be no running events," she said.

"I would like to encourage everyone to get outside and walk, jog, run and soak in the beautiful environment," she added. "... It's humbling to think I've run the coast of the Pacific Ocean, the shorelines of the Great Lakes, along the Mississippi River, along the Gulf Coast. ... There are a lot of places I would go back to. I never would have seen all of this had I not come up with this (challenge)."

A native of Canton, Ohio, Marchand lived in Germany, where her husband was stationed with the Army, as well as South Carolina and Long Island, before moving to Grosse Pointe 24 years ago. After 43 years of marriage, in addition to their son, Chip, they have a "mystery dog," Beacon, a rescued from the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

"We don't know how old or what breed," she said, "... but he brings smiles to people's faces."

Marchand recently retired as a physical education teacher at Eaton Academy in Birmingham, though she continues to substitute teach there.

"I tried to take my love of running and impart it to the students I've taught throughout the years," she noted.

When she's not running, she enjoys gardening, traveling and wine, as well as spending time on their boat and occasionally waterskiing.

"It's a nice, comfortable community," she said, noting they picked the Pointes for its proximity to the water. "Hardly a day goes by when I either walk or run along the water. I don't want to take it for granted."

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Grosse Pointe News

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Grosse Pointe Woods

Missing plate

A license plate was stolen from a vehicle sometime overnight Thursday, Feb. 22, into Friday, Feb. 23, while it was parked in the 900 block of Vernier.

Recovery

A vehicle stolen sometime after midnight Sunday, Feb. 25, in the 2100 block of Hollywood was found at an apartment complex in Bloomfield Township later that day with a broken passenger window and steering column damage.

The owner had left a wallet in the vehicle containing her driver's license and credit cards.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Auto theft

A silver 2021 Hyundai Accent was stolen while parked curbside overnight Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the 700 block of Harcourt.

Larceny from auto

Someone took \$10 cash out of a vehicle parked overnight Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the 1000 block of Nottingham. The vehicle was unlocked, according to police.

Unlicensed speeders

Morning road patrols

of Mack last week resulted in the arrests of two speeding drivers for the same reason — violating suspended operator licenses.

Shortly after 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, police caught a 32-year-old Detroit woman during a traffic stop near the intersection of Berkshire.

Shortly before 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, an officer caught a 30-year-old man during a roadside investigation near the intersection of Haverhill, across Mack from Buckingham.

Rollover wreck

Notice of an auto collision involving a 20-year-old man and 62-year-old woman often prompt assumptions of the younger motorist being at fault.

But it was the other way around regarding a rollover wreck last week at 8:46 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in the intersection of Kercheval and Three Mile Drive.

Police cited the woman, of the Park, for disregarding the stop sign on northbound Three Mile and hitting a vehicle operated by the man, of Detroit, heading southbound on Kercheval.

"She ran the stop sign and hit the rear of the (man's) car, which flipped over," said an investigating officer. "Although it was a rollover, everybody involved denied (needing) medical treatment."

Disorderly

Police cleared the area of Windmill Pointe Drive and Trombley of a 57-year-old Park man reportedly being disorderly.

Officers responded to a complaint of the man using vulgar language and threatening people.

"(He is) known to officers (and) was cited for multiple offenses," police said.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Another dog bite

A woman told police she and her dog were attacked by another dog while walking on Lakeshore near Renaud the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The 44-year-old resident said a black and white pug ran down the driveway of a home. She suffered puncture wounds to her left hand and her dog was scratched on its back legs. Officers searched the area and talked to several homeowners but could not locate the dog.

No insurance

A 22-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man was arrested on felony fraud charges after being

stopped for speeding on Lakeshore near Lochmoor around 1:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

He gave officers an insurance card, but when the company was contacted they said no such account existed. The man was released on \$100 bond and his 2017 Chevy Traverse was impounded.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Warrant

A 31-year-old Center Line man was arrested and turned over to Center Line police for a domestic violence warrant after being pulled over at Cadieux and Kercheval for defective equipment at 11:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.

Stolen bike

An unlocked brown Retrospec bike was stolen from outside a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval while its owner shopped between 3:15 and 3:40 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23.

The suspect, caught on video, is described as a black man wearing a green hat, camouflage coat and white shoes.

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

Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Designated driver

An officer suspected intoxication when a 48-year-old Woods woman had trouble answering simple questions after being pulled over for speeding 52 mph on Mack at 12:27 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Although the passenger appeared heavily intoxicated, the driver denied consuming alcohol and refused a preliminary breath test.

After failing field sobriety tests, she was arrested for operating while intoxicated. She also was cited for speeding and preliminary breath test refusal.

End of the line

A Farms officer successfully arrested a 22-year-old Highland Park man as he fled police after a carjacking in Highland Park last week.

When Detroit officers reported the vehicle heading south on Moross past Chalfonte, a Farms officer on patrol caught sight of the vehicle and followed it until the man turned south onto Dodge Place, which is a closed-loop subdivision in the City.

Upon realizing his mistake, the suspect abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot, but was

located resting on a Dodge Place residence's exterior stair landing.

Zero accountability

A delivery driver is suspected of damaging a Beaupre Lane wooden retaining wall while delivering a La-Z-Boy chair at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23.

The driver did not report the incident, but had parked next to the retaining wall. Tire marks also were observed on the concrete leading to where the damage occurred.

Honest Abe

After speeding through a red light on Mack at 4:53 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, a 27-year-old Detroit man admitted to doing so and to the fact his driver's license was suspended.

He was issued a citation for both.

Suspended license

After being clocked at Mack and Kerby for an expired tab on his license plate, a 29-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at 9:46 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, and cited for driving while license suspended and not having proof of insurance.

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

Meet & greet planned for judicial outreach week

THE GROSSE POINTES — Because Michigan's District Court Act of 1968 abolished most municipal courts, the Grosse Pointes now operate the only remaining municipal courts in the state, uniquely offering their constituents judges who reside in and have a nuanced understanding of the community.

Three of the four Grosse Pointe municipal judges will hold their first ever meet-and-greet event from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Central Library, 10 Kercheval, in recognition of National Judicial Outreach Week — which runs March 1 through 10 — and to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions about the role municipal courts play in the Pointes.

Judge David Draper of the City of Grosse Pointe, Judge Charles Berschback of Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores and Judge Ted Metry of Grosse Pointe Woods will be on hand to give residents, "an idea of how they process the rule of law for our local

community municipal courts," Farms Court Administrator Susan Thomas said. "We just wanted to have them available to the public to be able to meet them."

Grosse Pointe Park Judge Carl Jarboe will not be in attendance, due to a scheduling conflict.

The event — Meet the Municipal Judges of the Grosse Pointes — was organized at the behest of Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Elizabeth T. Clement.

"I believe strongly that when judges actively engage the public, their courts are more trusted by the community as a whole," Clement wrote in a memorandum. "With that trust comes higher confidence in the judicial system and in the belief that local courts are fair and unbiased, take the needs of people into account and serve as an appropriate check on the other branches of government."

—Laurel Kraus

TRUCK:

Continued from page 3A

"It's a wonder they were able to keep the old one running as long as they did," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Dump trucks cost between \$7,000 used and more than \$70,000 new, according to the online buyers guide, priceitthere.com.

Park officials are going the used route. Members of the city council agreed Feb. 12, to replace the worn-out truck with a used 2003 Sterling model costing \$38,600.

"It has 40,000 miles on it, which isn't much for a 2003," Sizeland said.

"Included with the quote is a list of complimentary mechanical work that will be completed on the truck totaling \$4,838," Jennys said. "Our city mechanic has inspected the vehicle to review its quality and recommends purchase."

Payment comes from a share of the water-sewer

budget for vehicles and equipment.

The truck is outfitted with a bed that holds loads up to five cubic yards weighing seven tons.

The bed is half the size of the one it is replacing, but allows the truck to be driven into narrower spaces.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner
ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief
MEG LEONARD: Senior Editor

OUR VIEW

Good luck or bad luck?

Leap year ignites theories, superstitions

Happy leap day! Today is Thursday, Feb. 29, also known as 2024's bonus baby. While leap years generally happen every four years, many don't know the reason we even have one. Some use it as an opportunity to debate whether the extra day of the year is good luck or bad luck. Others believe it's an opportunity for women to propose to men, or in some cultures, a year in which to avoid getting married.

The extra day also makes celebrating birthdays very confusing for 1/1,461th of the population who were born Feb. 29. So why do we do it?

Basically, leap years keep the calendar lined up with the Earth's actual orbit. It takes approximately 365.25 days for Earth to complete a full orbit around the sun. Since it's tough to add a quarter of a day into a calendar every year, we round down to 365 days per year.

Those extra hours from each regular year get added up into a leap day that occurs every four years.

There's an exception to it, but it involves Julian versus Gregorian calendars and a lot of math. So unless you feel like giving your brain a little workout, just know leap years generally happen during presidential election years and the next three will be in 2028, 2032 and 2036.

We don't have any strong or controversial opinions about leap year — it keeps our seasons on track and the science of it speaks for itself. Plus it adds a little bit of pizzazz to the otherwise mundane winter months. But in the spirit of keeping your leap day knowledge sharp for a future episode of "Jeopardy!", here are some fun facts about Feb. 29:

- 1. It's how Sadie Hawkins got her start**
In the 1700s, women in England began using leap day to propose to the men in their lives. Now called Bachelor's Day or Sadie Hawkins Day, some retailers in the United Kingdom offer discount packages to women popping the question.
- 2. The Salem witch trials are connected to leap day**
The first warrants for arrest in the Salem witch trials went out Feb. 29, 1692.
- 3. Leap year babies are called "leapers" or "leaplings"**
Many leapers choose Feb. 28 or March 1 to celebrate their birthday instead.
- 4. Some cultures consider Feb. 29 an unlucky day**
In Italy, people say, "Anno bisesto, anno funesto," which basically translates to "leap year, doom year." Yikes.
- 5. No weddings**
In some countries, like Greece, people warn against holding weddings during leap years. If you have seen "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," you have to believe this might be true.
- 6. Hobbits celebrate Feb. 30**
There is one group that celebrates Feb. 30 every year: Hobbits. The wee folk of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" universe observe 12 extra-long 30-day months every year, including Solmath (translated in the text as February).
- 7. There is an official leap day cocktail**
Called the Leap Day Cocktail, this martini-adjacent drink was invented in 1928 by bartender Harry Craddock at London's Savoy Hotel. Mix 1 dash lemon juice, 2/3 gin, 1/6 Grand Marnier and 1/6 sweet ver-

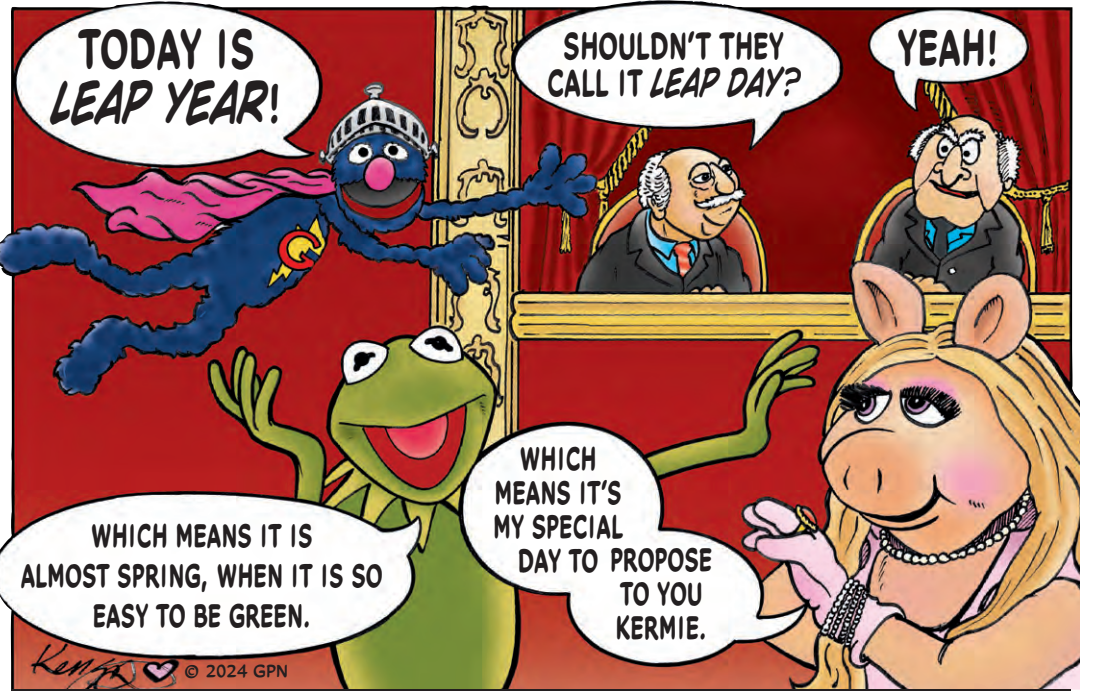


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Lisa Brown

EAT THE CHOCOLATE!

So, how are all those Lenten disciplines going? Have we failed to follow the diet, stick with the exercise regimen and begun yelling at the kids again?

If you, like me, are mourning how hard and fast your perseverance fizzled and are eating a great big piece of humble pie this second week of Lent, may I suggest we extend ourselves a little tenderness and consider the etymology of two words that may put some perspective on where we're at and what God may be inviting us to for the rest of this sacred season.

For Christians around the world, Lent is considered a season of repentance from sin that leads to transformation. But what does Jesus mean when he urges us to "repent" from "sin" — what is he hoping this looks like for us?

When we hear the word repent, we often think it means feeling remorse for our errant behavior and undertaking some punishing hard work to make amends. But our English interpretation of our ancient texts often leads us astray and, in this case, quite spectacularly. The ancient Greek word for "repent" in the Bible is μετανοέω (metanoēō), which simply means "to change our mind" or to "put on the higher mind."

Jesus is not asking us to shamefully beat our breasts and enter into harsh acts of atonement; rather, he is simply inviting us to change the way we understand or think

about something — namely our relationship with God and our neighbor.

Jesus knew that sometimes our deepest human struggles stem from our image of God as a harsh, exacting judge who takes notes on our every misstep. Even though this idea couldn't be further from the God of mercy that Jesus speaks of with such love and fervor, it lingers in our imagination. So, he invites us to think again, to change our mind.

The ancient Greek word for "sin" in the Bible is ἁμαρτάνω (hamartánō), which literally means "missing the mark." In the first century, if someone missed the bullseye in archery, it would be said that the person shooting the arrow had "sinned." We all miss the mark. We all sin. For Jesus, who prayed "that we may be one," sin is anything

See GUEST, page 7A



mouth. Shake, serve and garnish with a lemon peel.

8. Feb. 29 – Good luck or bad luck?

Answers to this question vary. According to an old Scottish maxim, "Leap year was ne'er a good sheep year." So the Scots aren't fans. Prisoners either, especially if you are set to spring the joint March 1 of a leap year. You unwillingly earn an extra day of your sentence. When he was 24, the future Pope John Paul II was hit and left for dead on a German roadside on leap day.

On the flip side, it was a great day for Hank Aaron, who became Major League Baseball's highest-paid player on leap day in 1972. In 1960, Family Circus cartoon (seen every week in the Grosse Pointe News) debuted as "The Family Circle" on leap day.

Leap day also was good fortune for Hattie McDonald, who became the first African American to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy in "Gone With the Wind" on Feb. 29, 1940.

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EDITORIAL
(313) 882-6900
Jody McVeigh:
Editor in Chief
Meg Leonard:
Senior Editor
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Sports Reporter
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EDITORIAL
Ted O'Neil:
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PRODUCTION
(313) 343-5573
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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
39° 28°	51° 36°	57° 40°	60° 47°	65° 46°	52° 37°	48° 31°
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain Showers	Rain Showers
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	40%
SUNRISE 7:08 am SUNSET 6:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:06 am SUNSET 6:23 pm	SUNRISE 7:04 am SUNSET 6:24 pm	SUNRISE 7:02 am SUNSET 6:25 pm	SUNRISE 7:01 am SUNSET 6:26 pm	SUNRISE 7:00 am SUNSET 6:27 pm	SUNRISE 6:58 am SUNSET 6:29 pm

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

Grosse Pointe News **HOT TOPIC: Best Girl Scout cookie?**

POINTER POLL

0% Trefoils 21% Tagalongs rule 34% Thin Mint - End of story 37% Samoas, baby!

Poll taken via GPN Facebook and Instagram. Follow us to see upcoming polls. We want to hear from you!

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.

Thanks, appreciation & congratulations

Letter to the Editor:
To the entire community, I'd like to thank those of you who supported my effort to return home and become the superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. I was truly overwhelmed and humbled by the amount of people who sent emails to the board of education and made public comments to vouch for me to lead our schools and our children. I am eternally grateful to each one of you. This experience was life changing for me personally and professionally.

To the board of education, thank you so much for your time and consideration throughout the application process. I am in awe of your commitment and dedication to the students of our wonderful community. I know the GPPSS is in good hands with

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

From water to wine and problems to peace



“There may be cause for concern, but there is never cause for worry.”

Such is the opening line of a sermon titled, “Help Me with Worry,” by Pastor James Merritt.

On its surface this may come across as condescending, similar to the way telling a person to calm down almost always yields the opposite reaction. Yet, in the life of a follower of Jesus, it is true.

So often when non-believers are approached with what they have to

gain by giving their lives to Christ, the focus is solely on salvation from an eternity in hell, separated from God.

All too easily glossed over is what we gain here and now.

My theory is Christians have forgotten about it ourselves, resigned to the fact this world is marred by sin and understanding that following Jesus does not exempt us from suffering.

These both are true, but just as God didn't leave Jesus on the cross, He didn't leave us to live this life solely waiting for the next.

There is a reason Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace” in Isaiah 9:6 and the Holy Ghost is referred to as “the Comforter” in John 14:26.

Those who walk with the Lord inherit — if we

only accept it — peace that passes understanding, regardless of our circumstances.

It is important to remember this truth, for which I cannot take credit:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego weren't spared the fiery furnace. They were spared IN the furnace. (Daniel 3:1-30).

Daniel wasn't spared the lion's den. He was spared IN the lion's den. (Daniel 6:1-28).

Because we live in a world ruled by sin, bad things will happen, but we are promised, “All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose,” Romans 8:28.

The hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” written in the 1800s, correctly notes, “

... O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear; All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

The hymn was written originally as a poem by a man named Joseph Scriven, who years apart tragically lost two fiances, one to accidental drowning and one to pneumonia, before the age of 25.

Carrying an even more heartbreaking and powerful testimony is the hymn “It is Well with My Soul,” by Horatio Spafford. Spafford's 4-year-old son having died of scarlet fever two years prior, his wife and four daughters were on a ship bound for Europe in 1873, when it sank and only his wife survived.

It was on the trip over to be with his wife, as his own ship approached the

place where the S.S. Ville du Havre was said to have gone down, Spafford penned the words, “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say; It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Just like a muscle, exercising faith is the way to make it grow.

Merritt's steps to help access God's peace amid times of worry are:

- ◆ concentrate on thanking God for all the times He carried us through situations in the past;

- ◆ recognize whatever we worried about in the past, we survived;

- ◆ relinquish control over the situation to God's capable power, realizing we didn't have any in the first place;

◆ and substitute worship in place of worry.

I can personally attest to the truth with which Merrett ends the sermon:

“Turn your worries into worship, and God will take your problems and turn them into peace.”

To keep consistent with the running theme of wisdom-filled hymns, I'll finish with lyrics from “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus,” by Helen H. Lemmel.

“O soul are you weary and troubled; No light in the darkness you see; There's light for a look at the Savior; And life more abundant and free.

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim; In the light of His glory and grace.”

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

ROTARY CLUB TAKES ACTION TO BRING HEAT TO CHILLY GYM: The cold gymnasium and the lack of hot water at the Neighborhood Club,

about which much complaint has been made in past years, will be remedied soon, thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe.

Already work has been started to completely overhaul the Neighborhood Club's heating plant and work will probably be completed within the next

could of weeks at a cost of \$1,000 which the Rotary is financing.

SHORES OUT OF MERGER PLAN: Legal technicalities have arisen which will make it necessary to leave the village of Grosse Pointe Shores out of the movement to consolidate all of Grosse Pointe into a single city. This is due to the fact that there is a small segment of the Grosse Pointe Shores village

which lies in Macomb County and is in Lake Township in that county. This does not mean that Grosse Pointe Shores could not at some later date petition to be incorporated in an overall city of Grosse Pointe.

1974

50 years ago this week

STUDENT

PROTEST EXAMS:

About 40 South High students attended the Monday night meeting of the Board of Education to protest the reinstatement of final exams at mid-year. Many of the students said they had thrown away their first semester notes since they did not think they would be held responsible for their content in June. Other seniors said they had chosen certain courses in their senior year because there would not be a final exam. For the most part, the trustees remained silent on the issue.

NOTRE DAME RESIDENTS RAP TRAFFIC, DEBRIS, DIRT FROM HOSPITAL PROJECT:

A pair of Notre Dame residents, irked at having to put up with the traffic, debris and dirt only construction crews can leave in their wake, attended the last regular meeting of the Grosse Pointe City Council. The men requested the solons' assistance in alleviating difficulties related to work being conducted at Bon Secours Hospital, which is in the midst of a \$19.5 million project that includes additional construction and reno-

vation of present facilities.

1999

25 years ago this week

SPARKY HERBERT'S

CLOSES AFTER NEARLY 20 YEARS:

After almost 20 years of service, Grosse Pointe Park landmark Sparky Herbert's closed its doors forever Feb. 21. Owner Darrell Finken said he was unable to go into details as to the reasons for the closing, but said that it was due to a lack of business.

2014

10 years ago this week

VOTERS SAY 'NO'

TO BOND:

The \$50.2 million bond proposal for the Grosse Pointe Public School System failed in all five Pointes and Harper Woods by large margins. The 10-year proposal dubbed the tech bond was defeated 8,486 to 2,343. It sends a clear message to the board of education and administration to go back to the drawing board.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

that thwarts our unity.

In a word, sin is alienation. Alienation from our best selves, our neighbor and from God. Sin isn't our individual violation of a bunch of rules and regulations, not a lack of perfection that is related to our personal performance, but rather a fumble (in thought, word or deed) in our collective aim of collaboration and togetherness (aka The Body of Christ). We are a good creation that knows our target and holds the good intention of hitting it, but we aren't “living to the full” because we all in some way or another “miss the mark” and contribute to the discord in our world.

So, as we continue this Lent, may our minds be open to change (repent), ready to draw near to the God who loves us without boundary or breaking point and forgives without conditions or demands, so we may be healed of our separation (sin) and be made whole again through embracing all that Jesus held up as most important: forgiveness, non-violence, inclusiveness and unconditional acceptance.

In other words, eat the chocolate! We are being invited to much, much more.

Lisa Brown is associate for children, youth and family ministries at Christ Church Grosse Pointe Episcopal. She also writes “Strong Language,” a blog on the etymology and meaning of words when speaking about God. For more information, head to christchurchgp.org, or to read her blog posts, visit lisaa-badbrown.com.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

you all working together and it was fantastic getting to know each one of you personally throughout the process.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Dr. Andrea Tuttle on earning the superintendent position through her work with Owosso and her stellar interview. I wish her the best of luck as she begins her time leading the GPPSS and know that our children and their futures are in very capable hands with her at the helm and all the staff carrying out the mission and vision each day.

AJ STANISZEWSKI
Grosse Pointe South High School Class of 2004
One of two superintendent finalists

major. The strength, articulation and beauty of the strings and orchestra gave warmth and energy to the audience, bringing the sounds of Bach, in its Baroque beauty, alive.

Next was shining forth Benjamin Graham, who played the Stamitz viola concerto with orchestra accompaniment. Graham created a rich, deep tone with exceptional technical skill, as well as balance on contrast of the three movements. The audience enthusiastically applauded with appreciation to the gifted young musician.

After intermission, the orchestra, under the baton of Joe Striplin, began Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in c minor op. 67, probably the most recognized of Beethoven's symphonies besides the 9th

Symphony. Beginning with recognition of the theme, continuing with deliberate accuracy of phrasing, entrances and nuances required to capture the musicality and spiritual content of Beethoven composition-

ally, the concert ended in this creative fancy of life. An impressive performance by the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra.

LEONA FORBES
G.P.S.O Board Member
Grosse Pointe Woods

GPSO winter concert

To the Editor:

On a wintery afternoon, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra performed their third concert of their 71st season.

Euphonious music of Bach began this remarkable concert as the orchestra played the five movements of his suite for orchestra no. 3 in D

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GPA students take deep dive into life skills

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — For the next month, the Detroit Wing Co. on Mack might seem more like The Grosse

Pointe Academy Wing Co.

Two students from the school, Isabelle Elley and Enzo Colombo, created sauce flavors that will be bottled and sold at the restaurant (See detailed

story below). It was part of an intense, month-long competition for middle school students at GPA designed to prepare them for the professional world.

Called “The Amazing

Shake,” the program focuses on what are often called soft skills.

Head of School Tommy Adams first became familiar with the event after attending one at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac.

“One of our parents has a brother who works there and they invited me to participate,” he said. “I was completely impressed. This develops skills like how to properly shake someone’s hand, maintain eye contact and speak clearly. Those things are lost arts.”

The first round, held Feb. 1, saw all 84 middle schoolers move through 20 stations. The categories included activities such as pitching a book to be published, delivering a breaking news report and teaching a dance move.

Students had 30 seconds at each station to read a prompt, one minute for the activity and 30 seconds to receive a critique and score from the judge.

“We tried to match the judges as closely as possible based on their field of work,” said Mark Bollozos, director of marketing and communications for the school.

Other stations included applying to a college, getting interviewed after hitting a game-winning basketball shot and selling a vehicle.

“The concepts have



COURTESY PHOTO

The five finalists, from left: Emerson Hawkins, Madison Cheatham, Enzo Colombo, Isabelle Elley and Audrey Darke.

been part of our curriculum since fall, but the students didn’t know the exact scenarios going in,” Bollozos added. “They really had to think on their feet.”

Successive rounds pared the students down to 10 semi-finalists after competing in a “work the room” event involving interacting with professional volunteers and finally a debate on the topic of age limits for the president.

Those 10 — Jenna Hess, Estella Tabaczuk, Gianna Decker, Riley Haas, Emerson Hawkins, Madison Cheatham, Chukumeka Donaldson, Enzo Colombo, Isabelle Elley and Audrey Darke — advanced to a regional competition Friday, March 8, at Notre Dame.

The top five finalists, Colombo, Elley,

Hawkins, Cheatham and Darke, had a chance to pitch their wing sauce idea Thursday, Feb. 22. (See accompanying story.) The judges were Gus Malliaras and Justin Buccellato. The business partners are joined in several ventures, including Detroit Wing Co., and both have children in lower grades at GPA.

“I was very impressed,” Malliaras said. “I think in junior high I was making gingerbread houses. I’ve got two kids in the early school and even at that age I can tell a difference in how they carry themselves and how they interact with other kids.”

Buccellato agreed. “The way they carried themselves was great,” he said. “They knew how to shake hands, maintain eye contact, carry on a conversation.”

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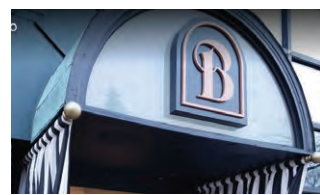


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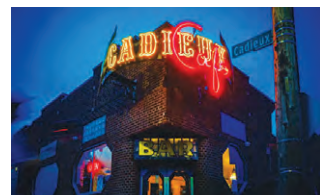


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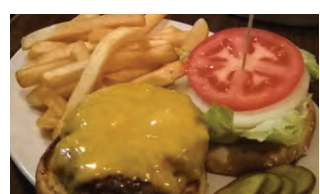


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Awesome sauce with extra awesome

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Two new sauce flavors are available for a limited time at Detroit Wing Co.’s Mack location thanks to two students at The Grosse Pointe Academy.

Isabelle Elley and Enzo Colombo were picked from five finalists after middle school students at GPA went through a month-long contest focused on sharpening soft skills that are important in the professional world.

“The whole process was really fun, right from the start,” said Elley, a sixth grader. “I enjoyed each round because it was always something new.”

Colombo, an eighth grader, agreed.

“I’m a pretty competitive person, so I liked answering the questions,” he said. “Plus I like to argue so the debate round was fun.”

Five finalists were picked to create a new sauce flavor for DWC. Their presentations were judged by the company’s owners, Justin Buccellato and Gus Malliaras.

Each of the finalists was asked to create a sauce using a preset list of ingredients. They had to pick one base, such as ketchup or tomato sauce, one acid, such as apple cider vinegar or fruit juice, and a variety of spices. They also could select from any number of spices, such as salt, pepper, garlic or



Isabelle Elley and Enzo Colombo were selected from a pool of five finalists in a month-long contest that focused on the importance of soft skills.

smoke.

Each ingredient also had a preset price, so students had to calculate the total price and a price per ounce based on a yield of 36 ounces. Next came figuring out the cost to make a 12-ounce bottle, a selling price and profit margin.

Colombo’s creation was Angry Canadian.

“Right off the bat, I knew I wanted something sweet and spicy so I used maple syrup as my base,” he said. “The whole process probably took a day because we had to go to the store and buy new spices.”

Elley chose Chile y Limon.

“Those are the Spanish words for chili and lemon, so it would be recognizable to English and Hispanic speaking customers,” she said. “DWC has a lot of Asian-themed flavors, but not so much Hispanic and that’s a fast-growing market.”

Elley said a taste test by five family members rated 4.5 stars out of 5.

They also had to design labels. Elley’s features a sliced lime sitting atop a curled chili pepper, while Colombo’s includes a maple leaf with an angry face drawn on it.

“I thought it was kind of ironic because Canadians are known for being such nice people,” he laughed.

Malliaras said the sauces will be sold in 12-ounce jars at \$10 each for 30 days.

“At the end, we’ll give the kids some sales data and 100 percent of the profits go back to the school,” he said.

Elley and Colombo were scheduled to face off Tuesday, Feb. 27, after press time, in a mock interview for a NASA public relations internship to crown the champion.

The other three finalist flavors were Sweet & Spicy and Everything Nice by Audrey Darke, Peach n Peppa by Madison Cheatham and Southern Peach by Emerson Hawkins.

Dual enrollment in GPPSS

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — While many high school students earn college credits by scoring well on Advanced Placement exams, a handful of students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System are earning those credits by actually taking college courses.

Under a Michigan law passed in 1996, high school students who meet certain criteria can take college classes through what is called dual enrollment.

According to Keith Howell, executive direc-

tor of teaching and learning for GPPSS, the district currently has 33 students in the program.

“Most of them take one class, but they can take more,” he said. “Right now those 33 are taking a total of 61 classes.”

Using a formula provided by the state, the district pays for the college classes out of the per-pupil foundation allowance.

“If the cost falls below what the formula says, we pay for all of it,” Howell said. “Anything above that would have to be covered by the student’s family.”

The money covers

tuition, course fees and textbooks, but not transportation, parking fees or activity fees.

Howell said most of the district’s students take classes through Macomb Community College, Oakland University, St. Clair Community College and Wayne State University.

“They can also take the classes virtually, so they can pick from pretty much any college or university in the state,” he added.

Other stipulations cover dual enrollment.

“They have to qualify to be admitted to the college of their choice,” Howell said. “They also

have to have the test scores and prerequisites to qualify for the class.”

Dual enrollment isn’t an option if the student wants to take a class already offered by their high school, except in certain circumstances.

“Let’s say a student has band third hour and that’s also the only time a psychology class they want to take is offered, then we’d approve it,”

Howell said. “Or if a certain class doesn’t get offered because not enough students sign up for it. It’s a very fluid process and the counselors are always willing to work with the students.”

Certain college classes do not qualify for dual enrollment, including physical education, theology or those that would be considered a hobby.

“It has to be something that would count toward a degree,” Howell said.

So as not to interfere with their regular school day, most dual enrolled students try to take their college classes first thing in the morning or at the end of the day.

“They also have the option of night classes and if they are doing virtual they have that much more flexibility,” Howell said. “If a student is interested in the program, they should talk to their counselor.”

GPPSS names new HR director

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Nicole Williams, the new human resources director for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, has achieved a goal she’s had for three years.

“I moved to the City in 2021 and thought it would be awesome to work for the district,” she said. “I looked at the website but there weren’t any openings. But things happen for a reason.”

Williams started her new role Jan. 31, replacing Nicole Pilgrim who left last fall for a job in the private sector. She said she first became interested in human resources working at her first job.

“I was working during the day and going to college at night and some things happened at work that I didn’t really agree with,” she said. “I eventually went to work at MGM Grand in the compliance office and my boss asked me what I wanted to do with my career eventually.”

“I mentioned my interest in HR and they gave me that opportunity,” she added. “My goal is to always make the workplace as fair and harmonious as possible.”

Williams has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration with an emphasis in human resources from Davenport University.

“I started off doing recruiting and onboarding, then moved into record keeping and personnel management,” she said.

Williams said being an HR director includes a wide range of responsibilities.

“There are benefits, FMLA, compensation, employee relations, collective bargaining,” she rattled off. “No two days are ever the same.”

She was introduced at the Board of Education meeting Jan. 16.

“We did a very intensive search, including five rounds of interviews, to make sure we had the right candidate,” Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent for educational services, said at the meeting. “It involved community members, administrators, staff and principals.”

Under a policy change



Nicole Williams

from last year, the process also included a board member, in this

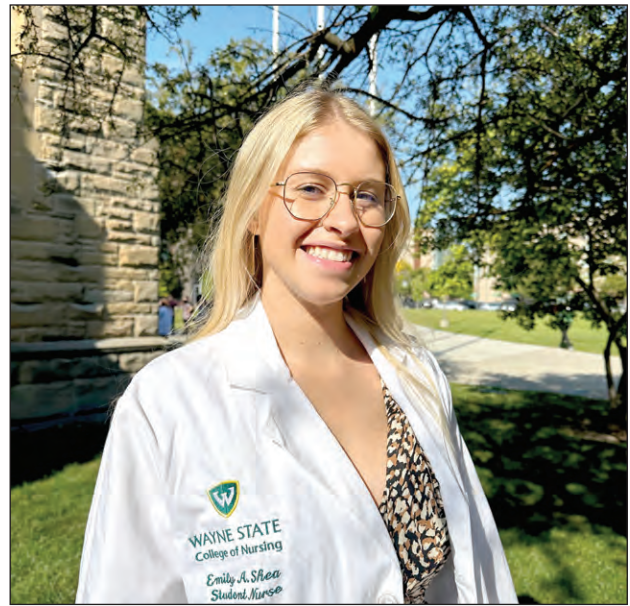
case Trustee Ginny Jeup.

“You were asked a lot of challenging questions and you were on your game the whole time,” Jeup told Williams. “I was highly impressed with your answers.”

Williams also has a son who attends GPPSS, saying she chose to move here for the schools.

“I’m personally and professionally invested in the district and the success of our students,” she told the board.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES



Emily Ann Shea

Grosse Pointe Farms resident **Emily Ann Shea**, the daughter of John Shea and Sarah Shea, was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2023 semester at the College of Nursing, Wayne State University. She is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School.

◆◆◆ **Bode Neumeister** of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the Dean’s List at Tufts University for the fall 2023 semester.

◆◆◆ **Sarah Fredrick** of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the Dean’s List at Saginaw Valley State University for the fall 2023 semester.



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10A | BUSINESS

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COURTESY PHOTO

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce welcomed Nothing Bundt Cakes to The Village with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 16. The bakery offers handcrafted goods in a variety of flavors and sizes, as well as a selection of retail items such as party supplies, decor and gifts. Nothing Bundt Cakes is located at 17012 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, call (313) 435-0437 or visit nothingbundtcakes.com and click the “find a bakery” link.

Pictured during the chamber’s ceremony are Nothing Bundt Cakes owner Andrea Jones, center, with City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak; Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, far right; and several associates, supporters, family and friends of the new business.

Simpler city website coming

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city is switching to a new website provider who charges more but provides more.

“Dollars to doughnuts, (it is) a really efficient use of capital when it comes to satisfying the needs of our residents and what they expect for communication in the 21st century,” said Councilman Brent Dreaver, chairman of the Community Engagement Committee.

The city’s forthcoming website, newly contracted to CivicPlus, promises easier operations and more functions, such as:

- ◆ simpler editing of text and photos, including “a one-stop shop of commu-

nicating and messaging,” Sizeland said;

- ◆ provisions for surveys and blogs,

- ◆ management of recreation programs, including ticket sales, and

- ◆ efficient updating of obsolete information and documents.

“If there’s a water main break, I should be able to hit one click and it distributes to all social media and email,” Sizeland said.

The ability to host surveys and more appealed to Dreaver.

“People can submit suggestions,” he said. “People can interact with it (and) share ideas. The city can respond. Having that interface (for) community

engagement is important.”

Chad Craig, recreation director, said the new system makes it simpler for residents to register for department programs, easier for administrators to manage staff, check reservations, process park pass applications and export ticket and other sales data to the finance director at city hall on a daily basis.

Residents also can add barcodes to cell phone accounts in place of tickets.

“All we have to do is scan the barcode and you’re on your way to the event,” Craig said.

CivicPlus is based in Manhattan, Kan. Among its 10,000 customers is

Grosse Pointe Woods, according to Sizeland.

Park council members this month retained the company at an initial cost of \$30,637 plus \$13,021 annually compared with the \$8,530 year-one cost to remain with the current contractor. During the transition, the current provider is to be paid \$2,200.

Upon the new system’s installation in four to six months, it replaces one that is five years old.

“Five years doesn’t seem like a lot, but it’s a lot in the technology world,” Sizeland said.

He said a “tremendous amount of change” has happened in recent years regarding website development.

“The website is the primary source of communi-

cation between the city and its residents,” Sizeland said. “It’s the lifeblood of how we communicate with each other.”

Although improved municipal communications weren’t specified in goals the council set for Sizeland during 2024, the matter has been an overarching concern of many residents since before most of the present council won office more than two years ago.

“In order for us to move into the next phase of communication, which is something the council has expressed and we’ve heard it from the community, too, this is very important,” Sizeland said of the new web provider.

With the current provider’s contract expiring in

March, now was the time to assess options for growth and change.

“Reviewing with city staff, we polled what currently works and what does not with the current provider,” Sizeland said. “While the website has made major strides from our previous website of years past, it has several challenges.”

Craig looks forward to a website that is simpler to manage.

“The time we save will come back from the initial cost of this recreation upgrade and city website,” he said.

“It looks like there’s going to be cost savings and efficiencies from labor hours,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said.

— Brad Lindberg

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Double birthday celebration! Park woman turns 40 on her 10th 'real' birthday Feb. 29

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Kelene Kaplan's due date was April 8, 1984, but the family joke — one her mother, Ridene Soltesz, is particularly fond of — is that her leap-day arrival was the first and only time she was early for anything.

"I'm constantly late for everything," said Kaplan, who lives in Grosse Pointe Park. "... My friends in high school called me 'Molasses.' My nickname was longer than my first name. My mom likes to say the only time I was early was coming early to be born."

Kaplan, who turns 40 years old today, Feb. 29, is simultaneously celebrating her first "real" double-digit birthday.

The Grosse Pointe Farms native doesn't call herself a "leaper" or "leapling" like many people born Feb. 29. She prefers the term, "leap year baby." She enjoys the uniqueness of being one of approximately five million people with the birthdate.

"It's always been that fun fact you can have," she said. "Like for 'Two Truths and a Lie,' it's a good one to throw in there. It's a built-in icebreaker."

This year marks Kaplan's first "real" birthday in her hometown since she turned 16 — or 4 — while a student at Grosse Pointe South High School. That occasion, a surprise party that took place in her parents' basement, included teenagers singing karaoke and playing games geared toward 4-year-olds.

Her parents, Ridene and Jim, have always been "big birthday peo-



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Grosse Pointe Park resident Kelene Kaplan turns 40 Thursday, Feb. 29, though this is just the 10th time she's celebrated on her actual birthdate.

ple," Kaplan said. "They really get into it. They always made it really fun growing up."

"... Over the years, I've had so many surprise birthday parties, you would think by now I would not be surprised," she said. "... It's like when you watch your favorite movie and pretend you don't know the end."

After high school, Kaplan earned a chemical engineering degree from the University of Michigan and worked

as a petroleum engineer for a while before returning to the U of M Ross School of Business, where friends threw her a surprise party for her 24th birthday.

Her husband, Marc, also a South grad, earned a law degree from U of M. They lived in Chicago nearly 15 years — where friends threw her a surprise party for her 32nd birthday — before moving back to the Pointes in August.

"We felt this is a great place to have our family," Kaplan said. "We're fortunate to be back."

She and Marc have two sons, Andrew, 5, and James, 21 months. Their first daughter is on the way.

Now back in her hometown, Kaplan

already has started celebrating her 10th/40th birthday(s). A few weeks ago, she entertained out-of-town guests with a meal at Marrow and a tour of Jack White's Third Man Records. More fun is planned when her best friend from Chicago comes to town this week.

As for the actual big day, "I'm eight months pregnant, so I'm getting an ultrasound."

Kaplan said there's not one particular thing she likes to do to celebrate when her leap-day birthday rolls around every four years. Often, plans are dependent on the weather.

"Because it's Michigan, some birthdays it's been 74 (degrees) out," she said. "The day I was born there was a terrible snow storm. I hope to try to get out and walk around that day."

"... I'm so lucky because every year I get a normal birthday, which I celebrate on the 28th, because it's still February," she said, noting she likes having February as her birth month. "Normally I like to take the day off work. ... I like to think of where I was four years ago and where I am now. It's a good reflection period."

"Whether it's your birthday or not, I feel like there's this extra day we get — an extra day to go out and enjoy life. Take two minutes out of your day and pause for the extra time we have. Go out and

enjoy it." Over the years, Kaplan has joined Facebook groups for leap-year babies, though she's never actually met anyone with a Feb. 29 birthday.

"It's fun, though, to have a community of people who celebrate it," she said. "I'm sure new babies will be welcomed to the leap-year club this year."

While some believe the birthdate is bad luck, Kaplan does not agree.

"I think it's lucky," she said. "I always have a great day. It can be slightly annoying though, from an administrative side. When there are drop-down menu boxes online, they frequently don't have (Feb. 29) as an option."

She also was lucky on her 16th birthday.

"My driver's license was something I particularly cared about," she said. "It was a birthday year, so I could go to the DMV and get it that day."

Kaplan, who leads the customer insights and analytics team for Walgreens, said she enjoys the rarity of having a leap-day birthday.

"It's fun, something unique that sets you apart," she said. "And my mom named me something unique, too. Kelene is Irish. There aren't many people with that name and birthday combination."

Realizing this will be her first actual double-digit birthday, Kaplan laughed and said, "I'm getting up there — but I am always going to be young at heart."

"... I'm excited for when I turn 64," she added. "I can have a sweet 16 birthday party. I'm looking forward to that one."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above, Kelene Soltesz blows out the candles on her 16th birthday cake. Left, she and her friends sang karaoke during the surprise party on a stage built by her father, Jim.

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2B | FEATURES

Trust yourself more than the internet

Scammers targeting utility customers

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

In the Wild West of internet scammers, the cavalry's not coming to the rescue.

"We generally don't have the resources to follow up on these cases," said Sgt. Jeremy Pittman, head of the Grosse Pointe Park public safety detective bureau. "Most are from outside the country. We're not going to get cooperation from foreign governments on this. Generally, we hit a brick wall."

"The difficulty comes from a lot of it being overseas," said Raphael Washington, Wayne County sheriff. "They're very trained in what they do. They're scamming seniors and others out of their life savings."

He said the most effective way to thwart scammers is educating people how to protect themselves.

"One of the best things we can do is make sure people know what a scammer is and what not to do when that happens," Washington said.

The first safeguard is being skeptical.

"We have to trust our intuition," Washington said. "If it doesn't seem right, it's probably not right."

Fake utility sites

A recent trend in scammerdom is impersonating utility companies with fake but official-looking company advertisements on the internet.

"When customers are looking to start service or pay their bills, they are clicking on fraudulent sponsored ads and unknowingly dialing scammers," said Katie Susko, a DTE Energy

spokesperson. "These scams picked up a little in the last week. We don't want to see anyone falling for these."

Ads appear on legitimate search engines, such as Google and Bing, on which are listed among thousands of authentic sites on the internet labeled "Sponsored." Some of the fraudulent ones targeting DTE customers are titled, "Billing Department" or "Energy Billing Department." They come complete with a normal-looking website address and supposedly official and enticing toll-

"They'll ask for names, a DTE account number and address, Social Security number and also payment information."

sifying the true source of a telephone call to make it look like it's coming from somewhere or someone else.

"Scammers are able to

The best defense

"You should hang up the phone," Washington said.

"Generally, all of these scams are the same," Pittman said. "If they call claiming to be somebody that is your internet ser-

this stuff if you're not paying close attention."

"If people get a call like that and have concerns about it, look up the company's contact information and call them right back and make arrangements," Pittman said. "That will take out the scammers."

"We always suggest that if you think something is wrong, hang up and call us at (800) 477-4747," Susko said. "Our call center reps can tell you if you owe money on your account. Always hang up the call and initiate the call yourself."

Terminating utility service is a long process.

"If a customer is behind on their bill, they will receive several letters and emails (about) setting up a payment plan or assistance," Susko said. "They will receive several communications. That could include phone calls."

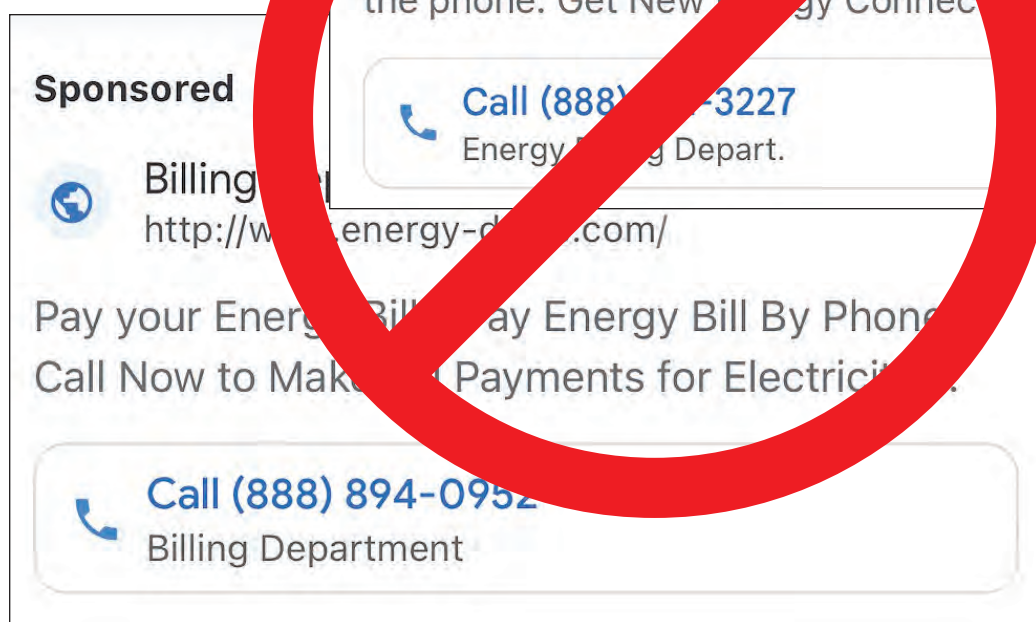
Regarding the search engine scam, she encouraged customers seeking to start service or pay bills to visit dteenergy.com.

Another red flag is demanding payment in odd ways, such as by gift cards.

"If they require you to go to a store, buy a \$500 gift card and read them the numbers so they can get paid right away, don't do that," Pittman said.

"Another thing we've had recently is people getting hooked up with people they meet online who pull a scam: 'I'm having trouble getting cash. I'm going to send you a \$30,000 check. Could you deposit it and take \$30,000 out in gift cards, take screenshots of them and send them to me?'"

"They do that and three days later, the check doesn't clear and they're out the money."



Screenshots of actual fake ads on internet search engines trying to lure trusting customers into revealing personal and financial information.

IMAGES COURTESY OF DTE ENERGY

free telephone number. Fake and fake.

Most of the sites pop up when the user is searching the internet on a mobile phone.

"That's why when they click on the ad, their phone immediately dials the scammer," Susko said.

Once on the phone, fraudsters identify themselves as utility company employees.

"They seek personal identification information," Susko said.

She said utility officials started noticing the trend in December.

"It's not only affecting DTE customers," Susko said. "It's happening around the country to other utilities."

Phone spoofing

"The other scam we're seeing is phone spoofing, where you'll get a call on your phone and its listed as coming from DTE Energy," Susko said.

Phone spoofing is fal-

spoof our number," Susko said. "They'll call and be very forceful in saying you owe money on your account. They'll say your power is going to be shut off immediately if you don't pay right now or within the next few minutes."

That's a big tipoff.

"We would not threaten anyone or be aggressive," Susko said. "We would never shut off your power within a matter of minutes for not paying."

vice provider, or power or gas company, and they threaten that if you don't pay your current bill they're going to shut your power off, that should be a red flag right away. No company is going to call and threaten to shut off your power immediately."

"When the call says it's coming from DTE Energy, how are you to think any differently?" Susko said. "Scammers are getting really tech savvy. It's easy to fall for

AREA ACTIVITIES

Reunion

Grosse Pointe North High School's Class of 1984 seeks classmates for its 40th reunion, which takes place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, 23722 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. The reunion includes a cash bar, light appetizers and live '80s music by Lunar Sessions. For those in town early, a casual gathering at Rustic Cabins in Grosse Pointe Park takes place

Friday, Aug. 23. Cost for the reunion is \$40; Venmo @amytreder holland. For information, contact Amy Treder Holland at amytholland@live.com or call (313) 790-9667, or Marla Ruhana at (586) 801-4701.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Coffee with

Collections, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 29, April 25 and Dec. 5, for members only.

◆ Storytime: Every Night is Pizza Night, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 5 to 26, for ages 7 and younger.

◆ Easter Bunny Photos, noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24. Cost is \$15 per child of members, \$20 for nonmember children.

◆ Easter Brunch, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, March 31. Admission costs vary.

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.

◆ Baffling Bill the Magician, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Meet Up and Make: Book Fan, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 4, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1st Tuesday Book Discussion, 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to

11 a.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 7, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Sprig Into Writing with a Short Story, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Eclipse Talk, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

GPA

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.

◆ Portrait Anatomy Drawing Workshop with Eugene Clark, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 2.

◆ Create a Tote with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

◆ Life Drawing with Anne Garavaglia, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 13 to April 3.

◆ Greet Spring 2024 with Origami Flowers, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16.

◆ Landscapes in the Style of Childe Hassam with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, March 21 to April 4.

◆ Pastel Landscapes with Clouds with Fran Seikaly, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Digital Citizenship, a panel for parents, at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4. Participants include Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Judge Theodore A. Metry, attorney Kevin Sutton and Nicole Runyon, a local

therapist and specialist on technology's impact on children's mental health.

◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, March 5 to April 30. Registration is required by emailing maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Community Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. A panel of experts will discuss the parenting information featured in "14 Talks By Age 14," by Michelle Icard. RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 8, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

See EVENTS, page 10B

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ENGAGEMENTS



Dr. Vincent Brennan Jr. and Jacqueline Baratta

Baratta — Brennan

Mr. Vincent and the Hon. Megan Brennan of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their son, Dr. Vincent Brennan Jr., to Miss Jacqueline Leah Baratta, the daughter of Mr. David and Mrs. Marcella Baratta of Novi. Dr. Brennan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science from the University of Michigan, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Michigan State

University and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance from Wayne State University. He is a staff physician at the Cleveland Clinic Primary Care Institute. Miss Baratta earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in accounting from Michigan State University. She is a certified public accountant with Deloitte in Detroit. An August 2024 wedding is planned.



Christina Calcaterra and Zachary Van Elslander

Calcaterra — Van Elslander

Matthew and Carrie Calcaterra of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Renee Calcaterra, to Zachary Taylor Van Elslander, the son of David and Sue Van Elslander of Grosse Pointe Shores. Miss Calcaterra graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in information from the University of Michigan. She also earned an MBA from the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business. She is a global IT capability development lead for Stellantis. Mr. Van Elslander earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Western Michigan University. He is a Realtor with Saros Real Estate.

A June 2024 wedding is planned. The couple plan to reside in the City of Grosse Pointe.

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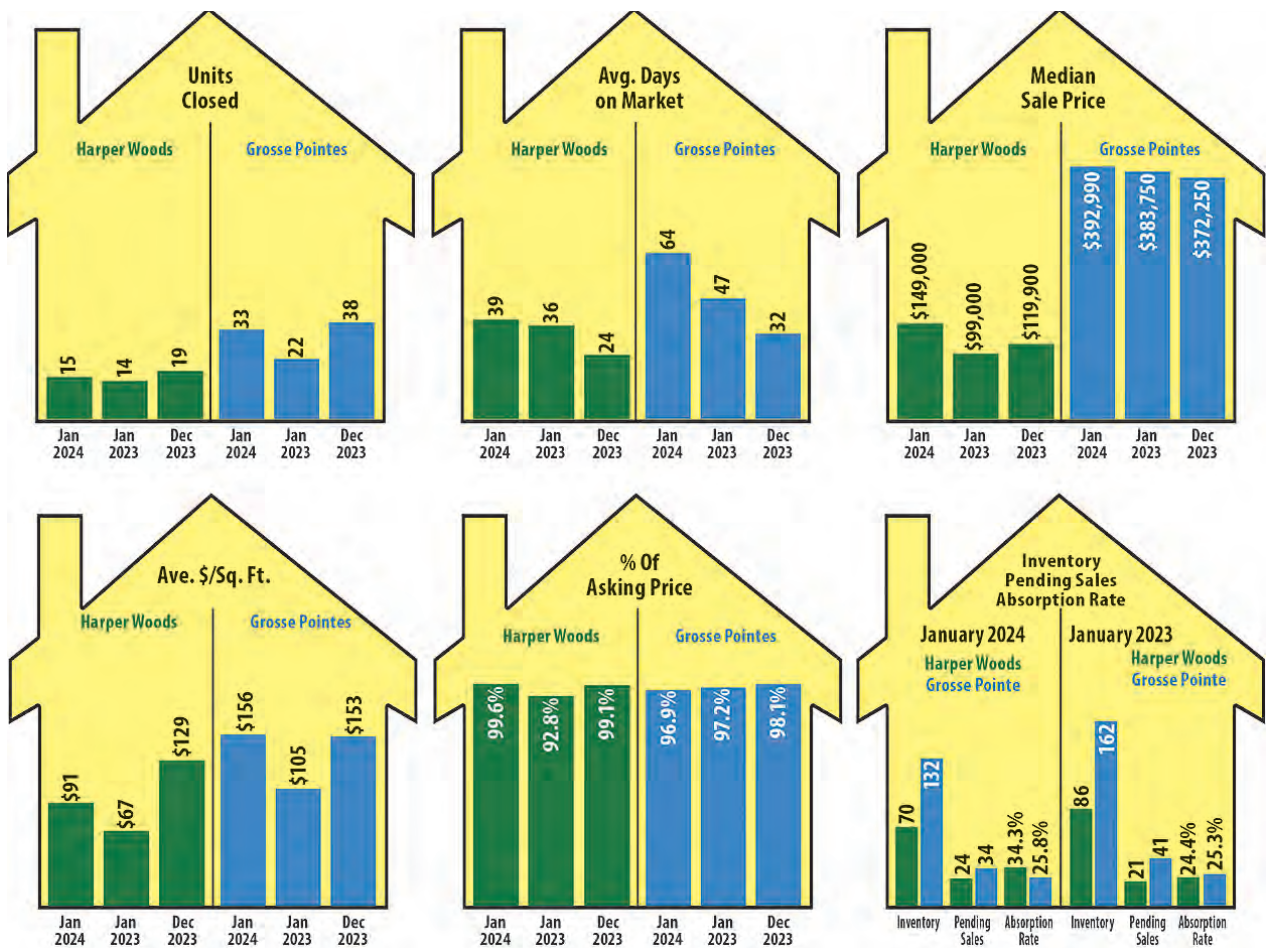
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January housing data in Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods

January 2024 housing data has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. The effects of unrelenting demand and extremely low inventory remain visible in the median sale price and average value per square foot. The importance of carefully vetting the data also is evidenced in the number of days on market and percent of asking price for the Grosse Pointes, where one sale, when eliminated as an outlier, reduces days on market from more than 60 to 46, and percent of asking price increases by just enough to go from being below 97 percent to 97.3 percent.

has improved year over year, with the Harper Woods market showing a significant rise. What this is not, however, is the type of supply/demand dynamic that leads to the excesses seen several years ago. Finally, inventory is unlikely to increase significantly and as household formation continues, demand is not expected to decrease. These factors remain important reasons why consumers should always use the services of an industry professional like the members of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors when it comes to housing.

Additionally, for those who gravitate to the relationship between supply and demand, the absorption rate

— Information provided by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Notes:

Inventory: The number of homes for sale at the beginning of each month plus the number of homes listed during the month.
Pending sales: The number of accepted offers reported for the month.
Absorption Rate: The division of the number of pending sales in a month by inventory. An absorption rate higher than 18.3 percent is considered a seller's market. An absorption Rate under 15.3 percent is considered a buyer's market.

'Hot Music for a Cold Night' is March 1

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts its second annual "Hot Music for a Cold Night," a live music fundraising event open to the public, from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 1. The event features award-winning local jazz group, Hot Club of Detroit, in a tribute to Django Reinhardt. Hot Club of Detroit are 12-time Detroit Music Award winners and international recording artists with Mack Avenue Records. The band features Evan Perri on guitar, Colton Weatherston on guitar, Jordan Schug on bass and Carl Cafagna on saxophone.

Belos Quartet. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, \$30 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Alternatives for Girls, which helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation. Non-alcoholic drinks and snacks will be available for sale; attendees are welcome to bring their own alcoholic drinks to the show. For more information or to buy tickets, visit tinyurl.com/4c8dthbh, the church's website at

gpuuc.org or find the Pointe Unitarian Church event on the Grosse Facebook page.

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BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

Heavenly CHRISTENING WEAR

Your child's christening or Communion is quite a precious day! We've hand-picked some exquisite outfits for the special occasions that will make them even more memorable.



Delicate beauty

A lovely Sarah Louise extra-long christening gown, right, has short puffed sleeves and delicate criss-cross bodice smocking is the ultimate in heirloom beauty.

The gown is made from the highest-quality fabric and is a perfect keepsake to hand down for future generations.

The sweet ruffled-edge bonnet, above, completes the precious look for this once-in-a-lifetime special occasion.

Find it at **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.

Ruffles and bows to her toes!

Oh-so-sweet white sateen baby shoes, right, are the ideal complement for a pretty white baby christening dress.



Buttoned-up charm

Short-sleeved Sarah Louise christening gown, above, has a Peter Pan collar, button detail and an intricate smocked empire waistline for a tailored look. The matching visor bonnet, above left, sets off the crisp lines of the gown. From **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

A hallmark of the lovely shops and boutiques that line Kercheval, Mack and other streets in the Pointes is a dedication to the kind of personalized one-on-one service featuring unique quality items that Grosse Pointers delight in. Apple Blossom Baby & Decor is just such a boutique, specializing in precious upscale children's apparel as well as gifts and decor from the nursery to rooms for "big" boys and girls.

Their inspiration is the classic, traditional

style and service of the area's beloved long-past children's store, Young Clothes, that was a Grosse Pointe tradition from 1945-2002. With a mission of acknowledging current fashion and design trends while honoring yesterday's traditions of quality goods and lifelong customer relationships, a trip to Apple Blossom Baby & Decor is sure to be memorable. Here, clients will find intricately-made children's clothing using high-end fabrics and fine detailing, such as smocking and embroidery, that is hard to find elsewhere. They carry beautiful European lines with heirloom-quality materials and design that simply must be seen in person to

be fully appreciated.

One European import is the English line of christening attire for babies, Sarah Louise. Developed with a desire to create superior artisanal garments featuring intricate needlework, smocking and detailed embellishment, these magnificent gowns and rompers offer a classic look of everlasting elegance. Every piece by Sarah Louise has a history and deep thought process behind its materials and design.

Though it all started in the Lancashire market town of Ormskirk, Sarah Louise has become an internationally recognised childrenswear name.



Sweet formality

This lovely pleated and embroidered white gown, right, is as fresh and pretty as baby herself! The longer length adds to the traditional feel of this stylish look. By Sarah Louise.

Add the knotted bonnet, above, to top off the dress. From **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.



Perfect little shoes

Every christening outfit needs sweet little baby shoes to coordinate with their dress or suit, and these couldn't be more ideal for the occasion. White sateen is lined with cotton edging and adorned with an embroidered cross. These shoes and more available at **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.

Precious tradition

The long-sleeved Sarah Louise pleated christening gown, above, has a short puritan collar and open work embroidery within the gown. This traditional gown offers extra warmth for baby with a truly classic feel to the design. The vintage-look bonnet completes this gorgeous and timeless ensemble. To be found at **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.



Blessed baby boy

Even on the most special of days, baby is going to dribble. To keep the integrity of their christening wear, add a specially-designed bib for the big day. This gorgeous christening bib, above, is perfect for keeping pretty outfits pristine. Delicate open work embroidery adds style to the edging and a white work embroidered cross design adorns the front. From **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.

Darling boys christening romper suit, right, from **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**, is adorably elegant for baptism day. The suit's high-quality fabric has pleats beneath the collar and a buttoned half-belted waist with embroidered hem cuffs. Your little man will be perfectly suited for his big celebration day.



Although the company has scaled into a much larger business, the same level of care taken on day one continues to the present, providing exquisite christening wear for generations of infants in the Grosse Pointes and beyond.

Apple Blossom Baby & Decor is proud to present these special occasion garments and gifts along with several organic collections, toys and books, monogrammable attire, silver-plated keepsakes and so much more for the littlest family members. The shop also provides a gift

registry to help friends and family shop with confidence. Other helpful services include free gift wrapping, local delivery, phone orders and "Blossom Gifting Service" which caters to busy people who need to send a special gift but don't have time to shop. Apple Blossom Baby & Decor will work with you to assemble the perfect gift. For long-distance gifting, they can ship anywhere.

Apple Blossom Baby & Decor is located at 17110 Kercheval Ave. in Grosse Pointe.

6B | BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS



For guests of the baptism celebration, gifting takes on new meaning and importance, as baby begins a lifetime journey of faith.

A pretty cross for baby's room is always a welcome christening present, as is Christian jewelry like tiny bracelets or cross necklaces. Silver baby servingware, cups or bowls, quality heirloom blankets or faith-based stuffed animals to comfort baby or adorn their bedroom are all lovely choices.

Small Favors has a beautiful selection of such gifts, each with a special meaning for the occasion. Every year brings something new for gifting at Small Favors. They have many great ideas in store for creating lifelong sentimental memories between you and the celebrated child.

Small Favors is located at 17112 Kercheval Ave. in Grosse Pointe.

Romantic splendor

The stunning Sarah Louise christening gown and bonnet, left, harken back to the romantic style of the Victorian era – with magnificent layers, lace, ruffles and bows. Gorgeous! The breathtaking gown can be found at **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**.



Faith, hope and love...

Charming crosses represent Christian virtues and look beautiful in baby's room. Choose a favorite or feature all three as a wall arrangement with inspiring affirmations to awaken to each morning. From **Small Favors**.



Blanketed with love

Soft and angelic, this white knit reverse-scalloped Sarah Louise christening blanket, above, is from **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**. This stunning English design features multiple stitches, including open work, for an elegant wrap to keep baby warm as he or she is presented for baptism. It makes a thoughtful and memorable gift that can be passed down through family generations.



Baby's best bib

An exquisite christening bib from **Apple Blossom Baby & Decor**, above, is designed with lush ruffles and intricate embroidery, by Sarah Louise, of England.

Little lamb

Soft and snuggly, the Dolly Lamb rattle blankie, above, from Demdaco's Cozie Collection, comforts and amuses baby as he or she is reminded that they will now forever be a part of the flock. From **Small Favors**.

FIRST COMMUNION FINERY

A first communion is a big day in any little girl's life. The beginning of her grown-up faith walk, it's a day marked by looking her very best.

Connie's Children's Wear has long been a destination for lovely communion wear and gifts, giving families confidence that they'll find just what they are looking for. Communion boys and girls will be surely dressed as beautifully as the day deserves with the selection of high-quality styles found at Connie's.

Dresses and veils, tiaras, shoes and purses, gloves and socks, jackets and sweaters for the girls as well as suits for the boys and so much more make Connie's a regular communion headquarters! Connie's Children's Shop is located at 23240 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores.



Elegance and crystals

A resplendant white first communion dress, left, by Sweet Kids has soft sequin detail, lace and a satin lining on top with precious tulip sleeves. The gorgeous tea length dress also features crystal tulle and floral waist trim. Just darling for your lovely young lady's big day. From **Connie's Children's Shop**.



Swirls, ruffles and pearls

For the littlest sophisticate, the Bonnie Jean first communion dress, above has cap sleeves and a self bow, a dramatic cascade high/low skirt and rows of gleaming pearls at the neckline. The ruffles peeking out from underneath add extra appeal. Your little princess will look every bit the part on her most important day! From **Connie's Children's Shop**.



An embroidered garden

This ultra-pretty Lito white first communion dress is made of embroidered tulle featuring sequins, satin ribbon waist trim and beautiful white-on-white floral embroidery. The tea length sleeveless dress has an intricate lace hem to finish off its feminine finery. From **Connie's Children's Shop**.



Rosary gift set

From the Cherished Blessings Collection, this beautiful porcelain trinket box has a lovely cross design on the top and a silver-toned beaded set of 18" Rosary beads inside. A beautiful gift to support a child's spiritual growth. From **Connie's Children's Shop**.



Sweet headpieces

The Tip Top tiara, above, makes her first communion ensemble a royal success. Studded in lovely rhinestones in a delicate swirl design, your little one will feel so special on her blessed day. From **Connie's Children's Shop**.

The Tip Top floral wreath is a precious crown of sweet white flowers centered with rhinestones and set off with a large white bow in back. Absolutely adorable! Also from **Connie's Children's Shop**.



WHERE TO SHOP:

Apple Blossom Baby & Decor
17110 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 881-7227
Instagram: @appleblossombabygp
appleblossombabyanddecor.com

Connie's Children's Shop
23240 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores
(313) 777-8020
Instagram: @connieschildrensshop
shopconnies.com

Small Favors
17112 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 887-1774
Instagram: @smallfavorsgp
shopsmallfavors.com

8B | OBITUARIES

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.

Charles "Chuck" Donaldson

Charles "Chuck" Donaldson, 71, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, after a 15-year battle with cancer.

Chuck led a life rich in experiences, marked by dedication, humor and a deep love for his family and community. He was a cherished resident of Grosse Pointe Woods as the owner and manager of Alger Deli & Liquor in Grosse Pointe for 44 years, where he forged lasting friendships with people from all walks of life.

Chuck served honorably as a marksman in the U.S. Army National Guard. His time in the military instilled in him a sense of discipline and resilience he carried throughout his life.

Known for his insatiable curiosity, Chuck had a remarkable breadth of knowledge, possessing at least a little bit of insight into nearly every subject imaginable. Whether discussing cars, boats, investments or the nuances of fine wine, Chuck's passion and enthusiasm were obvious.

His love for boats led him to spend countless hours on Lake St. Clair and Bear Lake, where he enjoyed the company of family and friends. He was an avid hunter who created delicious meals from the spoils of the day. He enjoyed golf, euchre, crossword puzzles and the "occasional" — make that frequent — bowl of ice cream.

Chuck possessed a quick wit and great sense of humor, enhancing the stories of his life, which included surviving two plane crashes, disarming gun-toting robbers, too many car crashes to count and things blowing up for no apparent reason. He took things in stride, facing his challenges head on and with great courage.

Beyond his adventures, Chuck was a devoted father and grandfather who took immense pride in his family. He is survived by his children, Danielle Hojara (Steven) and Brandon Donaldson (Cynthia). He was the adored grandfather of Tommy Hojara, Dylan Hojara, Andrew Hojara, Ethan Cook, Angelina Cook and Brady Donaldson; and loving brother of Claudia Muer

(Mike), Sheree Hill (Daley), Jay Donaldson (Linda) and Tammy Olexa (Paul).

Chuck's passing leaves a profound void in the lives of his family and countless friends, who will forever cherish his kindness, generosity and unwavering love. His legacy of courage, humor and compassion will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

A celebration of life is being planned and will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Charles' memory may be made to Hospice of Michigan, secure.qgiv.com/for/hospiceofmichigan, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org/donate.

Robert Louis Hindelang

Robert Louis Hindelang, 77, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

Born Nov. 21, 1946, in Detroit, to John and Louise (nee Van Tiem) Hindelang, Bob was a consummate family man, lifelong scout and trusted counselor at law.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Paula; children, Marianne Warren (Thomas), Maureen Juip (Randall), Michael (Elise), Matthew (Emily) and Mark (Tara); siblings, Ronald (Jean Marchant), Mary (Mark Silver), the Very Rev. Joseph and Ann Noble; and sister-in-law, Christine Kydd-Hindelang. He was predeceased by his parents; and brothers, Thomas and Michael.

Raised in Detroit, Bob attended St. Juliana grade school and Notre Dame High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and an MBA in finance from Wayne State University, as well as a Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. His time in Catholic school provided not only an education, but formed him into a man who lived his faith. Bob loved learning and obtained not only academic degrees, but numerous certifications and licenses, including as a CPA, pilot, certified barbecue judge, residential builder, ham radio operator and more.

He also was a lifelong scout, joining the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts as a youth, then the Sea Scouts and serving as a leader and committee chairman of Sea Scout Ship 308 and Boy Scout Troop 96, as well as district chairman for the Lakeshore District. Bob was proud to be the longest-serving unit committee chairman in the United States. He earned his Wood Badge beads and was highly decorated, receiving the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver and St. George awards for his long and dedicated service.

A respected advisor, Bob built his own accounting and legal practice while sporting his trademark bowtie. For nearly 50 years, he was dedicated to forming a personal connection with his clients, always willing to handle matters that were important to them, no matter how small.

Bob was a tireless volunteer, holding numerous coaching and leadership positions through the Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League and Neighborhood Club. St. Paul on the Lake school and parish and Notre Dame and Regina high schools, among others.

His greatest love was his family. Together with his beloved wife, Paula, he raised five children and delighted as the family expanded to include their children's five spouses and 18 grandchildren. Bob carried a pocket spreadsheet of their birthdays and birth order, with extra copies to pass out to anyone who asked about his grandchildren — and to anyone else he thought should know about them.

Bob was a man of integrity and honor. He prized knowledge and curiosity. Described even by opposing lawyers as a gentleman, he lived his life as he urged his children to do. He will be missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335, juip.weebly.com/bob-hindelang-memorial.html.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul on the Lake. Share a memory at verheyden.org.



Charles Donaldson



Robert Louis Hindelang



Sharon H. Fitzpatrick

Sharon Haley Fitzpatrick

Sharon Haley Fitzpatrick, 83, of Alden, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, peacefully at home and surrounded by those she loved the most.

Sharon's legacy lives on in the memories and relationships she nurtured throughout her life in New York and at Torch Lake with her children, their spouses, grandchildren, potential future spouses, family, friends and an assortment of granddogs.

She was born Oct. 18, 1940, in Detroit, to Gerard M. and Ada (nee Spoor) Haley. Sharon grew up in Grosse Pointe Park and spent her summers at Torch Lake. She attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart Academy, followed by Barat College in Illinois, and graduated from the University of Detroit.

On Dec. 26, 1960, she married Paul Fitzpatrick. Paul and Sharon made their first home in northwest Detroit, then relocated to the northeast. They first moved to New Jersey before settling in Garden City, N.Y., where they raised their four children. Sharon was a proud and dedicated full-time mother who added a full-time career when she began working for Manpower Temporary Services in 1976.

She truly was a pioneer. In an era when it was not typical for women, she achieved a high-level career at Manpower and ultimately led the New York City and surrounding offices as the area manager. In 1993, she retired from her daily commute to Manhattan and, together with Paul, relocated to make her beloved Torch Lake their full-time home.

In 1996, Sharon and Paul opened a branch of The Larkin Insurance Agency in Elk Rapids. In 2000, they made it their own, renaming it The Fitzpatrick Insurance Agency. The original company logo, the Irish Claddagh, illustrated the spirit Sharon brought to her life and business: love, loyalty and friendship. She treated each person who walked

through her door like family. That personal touch set her apart and allowed her to build a successful and special business.

Sharon cherished her trips to Ireland and attributed her gift of gab and strength of character to her deep Irish roots. Though she often threatened to live in a cottage on Dingle Bay, Torch Lake was where she created a truly magical place for her children and grandchildren ("the Hooligans") to come together and make countless memories. With her wickedly sharp wit, trademark wink, signature recipes and apparent ability to control the weather, she captivated her grandchildren and cherished their visits. In every conversation with them, "Gram" showed a true appreciation for their goals and accomplishments. She was a cheerleader for each of them, celebrating their uniqueness while offering guidance, an ear to listen and always a straight answer. Her grandchildren are united in recognizing the incredible strength and enduring love of the woman they called Gram.

Sharon is survived by her children, Paul Fitzpatrick (Kathryn) of Northport, N.Y., Mary Beth Sullivan Bilavsky (John) of Cranford, N.J., Michael Fitzpatrick of Newtown Square, Pa., and Peggy Germain (Mark) of Westfield, Ind.; her 11 grandchildren and the blessing of her first great-grandchild on the way; and her siblings, Michael Haley, Louise Haley and Mary Meier. She now is reunited with those who predeceased her, including her husband of more than 50 years, Paul J. Fitzpatrick; parents, Gerard M. Haley and Ada S. Ryan; and three siblings, Gerard M. Haley, Kathleen Hannan (Haley) and Patrick Haley.

The compassionate and excellent care she received from the Munson Home Hospice team, especially her nurse, Bernadette, will long be remembered as a gift that allowed her to pass exactly as she lived — entirely on her own



John A. Tallerico Jr.

terms. For this, her family is grateful.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Elk Rapids. The family will receive visitors beginning at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Munson Home Hospice, munsonhealthcare.org/munson-healthcare-foundations/areas-you-can-support/munson-healthcare-hospice-support.

Beacon Cremation & Funeral Service, Covell-Elk Rapids Chapel, is in charge of arrangements. Share a memory of Sharon at beaconfh.com.

John A. Tallerico Jr.

John A. Tallerico Jr., 76, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of 52 years to Janet; dear father of Nick and Tessa; loving brother of Randall Tallerico (Siglinde); brother-in-law of Nancy Rodriguez, Anita and Rod LoCricchio and Debbie and Bill Hoffmann; and uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Formerly of Grosse Pointe Woods, John was a graduate of Austin Catholic Preparatory School and Western Michigan University, where he was a proud member of the TKE fraternity.

Over his career, John made significant contributions to the fields of radio, television and advertising.

A memorial Mass took place at St. Malachy Catholic Church in Sterling Heights.

Share a memory at bcfh.com.



Pool weather?

The pool at Neff Park in the City of Grosse Pointe doesn't open until Memorial Day, but this mated pair of mallard ducks didn't have to wait to take a dip in the pool on a sunny day.



Detroit Concert Choir rehearsals take place locally.

Detroit Concert Choir presents 'A Celtic Celebration of Song'

The Detroit Concert Choir, under the direction of Michael A. Mitchell, presents "A Celtic Celebration of Song" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

A second concert is planned at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in

Birmingham.

The performance includes musical treasures from the Celtic lands highlighted with songs, dance and instruments to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The 90-voice Detroit Concert Choir includes singers from more than 40 metro-Detroit communities, including Grosse Pointe residents Robert Acton, Michael Auty, Stan Harr,

Rachel Hutchinson, Judy Jogan, Joseph Lucido, Michelle Metes, Veronica Smith and Marie Zacny.

Cost is \$20 per adult, \$18 for seniors and \$10 per student. Tickets are available through Eventbrite, as well as the DCC website, detroitconcertchoir.org, or by calling (313) 882-0118. Tickets also are available for purchase at the door.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Michael A. Mitchell directs the Detroit Concert Choir during a recent performance.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cellist Wei Yu and pianist Keun-A Lee will perform at the DIA March 28.

Pro Musica of Detroit program features cello, piano March 28

Pro Musica of Detroit welcomes cellist Wei Yu and pianist Keun-A Lee in concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28, in the lecture hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit.

Guests are invited to a pre-glow at 6 p.m. in the Founders Junior Council Dining Room B.

Wei is principal cello, James C. Gordon chair, of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Lee has served the Spoleto Music Festival, The Gotham Chamber Opera, The Juilliard School of Music and Manhattan School of Music. The husband and wife pair have each garnered international acclaim as performing artists.

The Thursday evening concert will feature

masterworks by Czech composer Leoš Janáček and Belgian composer César Franck. A contemporary piece by Chinese-American composer Tan Dun, a thrilling work that highlighted the martial arts action film, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," also will be performed.

The evening's program will be hosted by Cecelia Sharpe of WRCJ 90.9FM.

Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$5 for students with valid ID. Each ticket includes the pre-glow.

For tickets and details, visit promusica.detroit.com. Tickets are not available through DIA, but are available through Pro Musica of Detroit by calling (734) 249-8129.

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302

Masses
 Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. (☎)
 Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
 Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
 Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
 Friday — Noon

(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
 ☎ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
sharing the Light of Christ

March 3 ~ Third Sunday in Lent
*Come as you are,
 for God's embrace is wide*
 Sunday Worship at 10 am
 followed by Coffee Hour in the parish hall

20475 Sunningdale Park 313.884.4820
 Grosse Pointe Woods stmichaelsgpw.org

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
 Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
 www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
 Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
 10 a.m. - Bible Study
 7 p.m. - Worship Service

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

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
 (United Church of Christ)

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Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
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 WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

10B | FEATURES

Food for thought

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club Past President Paul Lechner stands with Darraugh Collins, site director of Food Rescue US-Detroit, at the club's Feb. 20 meeting at Ford House. Collins spoke to club members about businesses that donate unused, viable food which is rescued by Food Rescue US volunteers and donated to agencies that feed the community.

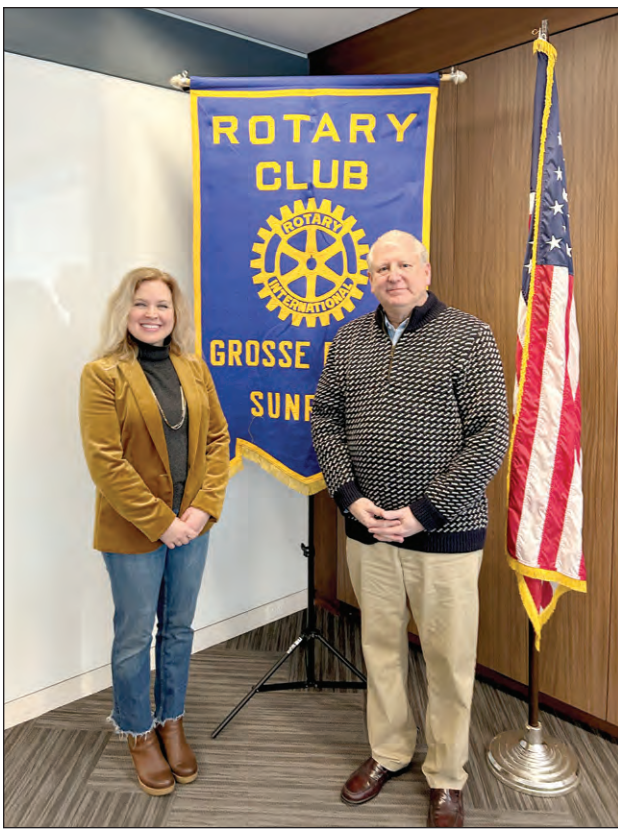


PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Sweet sounds

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sherrie Jones stands with members of the Pierce Middle School orchestra, who visited the club's meeting Feb. 6, at Ford House. The 30-person orchestra, under the direction of James Gross, will perform on Mackinac Island May 6. Grosse Pointe Rotary Sunrise Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join its Tuesday presentations at 7 a.m. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Linda Smith, president of U-SNAP-BAC, a nonprofit operating in Detroit for 38 years to empower its citizens, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Questers

Pettipointe Questers No. 243 will meet Thursday, March 7, at Julie Mercier Mikesell's home in Grosse Pointe. Her husband, David Mikesell, practiced law many years. He began painting while spending winters in Mexico and now paints in his own studio in a Midtown artists building. He collects art and will talk about some of his paintings and his art collection, giving a greater understanding of contemporary and abstract art. Lunch will be served. Five Detroit-area Quester groups meet monthly. Questers is an international organization that stimulates the appreciation and collecting of antiques and encourages the preservation of historical landmarks. For more information, email pettippointequesters@gmail.com.

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:

◆ Field Trip: DSO—Red Carpet Film Scores, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 8. Cost is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers.

◆ The movie "The Age of Adaline" is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 8. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ **Addiction: Understanding and Helping Others**, 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 13, with presenter Brooke Wakeford, preventionist with CARE of Southeastern Michigan.

◆ **Travels with Rufus**, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, with Rufus McGaugh, who has traveled to every country in the world.

Whistle Stop

Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, 21714 Harper, St. Clair Shores, welcomes the Easter Bunny from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Young guests may pose for photos with the bunny, as well as partake in fun activities and a Peep scavenger hunt. Call (586) 771-6770.

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club gathers at 1:30 p.m. for a 2 p.m. meeting Thursday, March 14, in the veterans room on the lower level of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The program is "Super Fighters, Weapons of War." Admission is free and guests are welcome. For more information, call Club President John Bates at (313) 881-4125.

Audubon Society

Grosse Pointe Audubon hosts its next meeting

Monday, March 18, in the annex building behind Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Diane Cheklich will present her documentary, "Pheasants of Detroit." Doors open at 7 p.m. for social hour and refreshments; the free meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Contact brapai@aol.com or visit gpaudubon.blogspot.com/

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Air Show

The Michigan National Guard's 127th Wing will host the 2024 Air Show and Open House at Selfridge Air National Guard Base June 8 and 9. The event is free and open to the public, and features The Thunderbirds, U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, Franklin's Flying Circus, A10 Thunderbolt II, KC135 Stratotanker and several ground displays. The theme is "Innovation Focused: STEAM Driven."

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 advance. Visit fullotusyoga.net.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS BOARD OF REVIEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Harper Woods Board of Review for March 2024 will be meeting at 19617 Harper Avenue on Monday, March 11, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Monday, March 25, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to consider appeals on property assessment and exemptions. Property owners may obtain a Petition to the Board of Review from the Assessor's office or on line at www.harperwoodscity.org or www.michigan.gov/taxes; Property Taxes; Forms-Instructions; Board of Review

Residents who are unable to attend this meeting may submit their appeal in writing/ letter to the Assessor's office at 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225 on or before March 25, 2023, until 3:00 p.m. No postmarks are accepted. For information please call 313.343.2500.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2024 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.00%
Commercial	48.01%
Industrial	49.77%
Residential	42.63%
Timber-Cutover	50.00%
Developmental	50.00%
Personal Property	50.00%

City of Harper Woods
Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, & Feb. 29 2024
Posted: Feb. 15, 2024

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2024 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 18, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS
March 18, 2024 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 19, 2024 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2024 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 19, 2024.

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 19, 2024 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.

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Grosse Pointe News

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The kayak storage space will double in size after renovations are made to the kayak area at Neff Park. Funds for the project are being raised by the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

Foundation seeks support for revamped kayak dock at Neff Park

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation seeks to raise funds to rebuild and restock the kayak dock at Neff Park, which has fallen into disrepair.

"I've been using the kayaks for years and I noticed they were getting old," said Joe Muzingo, chairman of the project's fundraising subcommittee. "And the way the dock is, it's hard to get out of the water, even for an able-bodied person."

To fix the issues, the 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation has been asked by the City of Grosse Pointe to raise funds for the project, which includes a refurbished launch and new kayaks available to rent — including two-person kayaks — as well as more storage space.

"Right now there's space for 40 kayak owners to store their kayaks — and there's a waiting list," said Muzingo, a member of the foundation more than 10 years. "The plan will double that, so there will be 80-ish spaces."

The project also includes the installation

of a ramp that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, "so people can get in and out of the water easier," he added. "It will make it more inclusive so it's not just for the young and strong. It's for all ages and abilities. There's interest (among older people), but there's also fear, because it's so hard to get in and out. This will allow more accessibility."

A selection of paddleboard rentals also will be added. "Traditionally it's been kayaks, but we're expanding it," Muzingo said. "We'll buy three or four paddleboards to rent, too."

Renting either a kayak or paddleboard is restricted to ages 16 and older, he noted.

The project timeline is undetermined, but organizers would love to launch the new dock and its amenities this summer. To do so, they need to secure \$60,000.

Muzingo said the foundation will be a major donor.

"Several individuals have already stepped up and donated and we are

also talking to other foundations for support."

Muzingo said, based on the feedback he's already received, he hopes the goal will be met soon; however, a fundraiser is a possibility should more help be needed.

"I'm passionate about this," he said. "That's why I agreed to chair the subcommittee to do the fundraising. It's a great amenity to the park. I can walk out the door and I'm paddling in 10 minutes. It's grossly underused."

"... Expanding access to this beautiful waterfront is important, too," he added. "You don't need a big boat to get out there anymore. I hope people understand this really cool perk we have in our community and I hope that people get behind it."

Muzingo said he also hopes the upgrades entice more people to use the amenity.

"It's inexpensive to rent a kayak," he noted.

"I know how great it is to get out there. The more you experience it, the better it is."

Residents or businesses who would like to contribute to the project may mail checks, made payable to The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, to The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, 17147

Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

Donations also may be made online at grossepointecity.org/government/city_of_grosse_pointe_foundation/index.php or by scanning the QR code.



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New plans will improve accessibility at the kayak launch, which currently can prove challenging to kayakers.



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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes



Playing video games all day is not advised or healthy for kids

Dear Gabby: All my son wants to do is play video games and I don't know what to do.

Taking away the games just seems to make him angry and unpleasant. How can I show him that other activities are more fun?

I give him books and they gather dust. I buy board games and they

are unopened.

— Screened Out in the Shores

Dear Screened Out,

According to The American Academy of Pediatrics, time allowed for gaming should be under 30 to 60 minutes per day on school days and two hours or less on

non-school days.

Consider looking into Eero or other screen shut down tools, and there will be no question that your child is off the devices.

As far as actually convincing your child that other activities can be fun, model those behaviors on a daily basis. Don't just tell them to read, have everyone read at the same time.

Don't just hand them a game, start playing with them and pop some popcorn. Being interactive with your kids will go a long way.

— Gabby

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointenews.com.

Terrible twos and tough talks

DEAR ANNIE: I have a son who's going to be 3 in August. He's been going through the "Terrible Twos," and as you can imagine, it's been terrible.

those big feelings he can't express yet.

Besides, when he understands that she's telling him he is mean or bad, he will start acting that way more.

him that way because it does nothing but makes things worse. What can I do? — MAMA BEAR

DEAR MAMA BEAR: You can establish boundaries for yourself and your son. That boundary is with your aunt. The boundary is as follows: If she insults your son again or criticizes your parenting or him in any way, she is not allowed to see him. Period. She has no right to place her own adult judgments on a 2-year-old child. Her words, "He is just mean," sound a lot like what she is being to you and him. Until she stops projecting her own negative feelings about herself onto you and your son, she is not allowed to be around you. That is toxic behavior and cannot be tolerated.

DEAR ANNIE: I'm a 67-year-old woman and dating a 70-year-old man.

We live an hour apart. He lives on a farm and is divorced. He told me he enjoys his own company. He is very bright and funny. I have only physically seen him four or five times in the past year.

He had an extremely painful divorce, and I am widowed. He calls me every night at the end of his day, and we talk and laugh for an hour or two.

But he never invites me over. I have suggested we cook together or listen to music for a few holidays. Each time I

ask to get together, he puts me off. I'm quite smitten with him, but sometimes I feel like I'm really not that special to him.

He is a very sweet talker; we hug at the end of each date and share a brief kiss. — FIZZLING OUT AFFECTION

DEAR FIZZLING OUT: I don't blame you. It is going to be really challenging to have a relationship with someone that you never physically see. The nice long phone conversations are great. You can keep those, but by no means make him your number one. He can just be a friend if he doesn't want to physically spend time with you.

DEAR ANNIE: I've found myself in a dating maze and desperately need some advice. I've been dealing with some mixed signals from the person I'm dating; he's all about making plans and being super affectionate one day, then is distant and elusive the next. I'm getting whiplash.

How do I make sense of this behavior without coming off as needy or insecure? I genuinely care about the connection but could use some tips for decoding this emotional puzzle. — LOVE LIMBO

DEAR LOVE LIMBO: If you haven't done so already, it's probably time



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

for the dreaded "what are we?" conversation. It sounds like you are genuinely invested in this person, and ready for a more serious commitment. If he isn't on the same page, then you're wasting your time. The only way to find out the answer is to ask.

DEAR ANNIE: I just read the letter about a friend who talks about politics too much, and the writer said it was causing them to question whether or not to end their friendship.

I had a similar situation some years back with a cousin. So I asked my aunt (not the cousin's mom) how she would handle it. That's when I learned her hard-and-fast rule about three very sensitive areas of discussion and how to handle that situation.

If someone I care about, family member or friend, starts talking about any of them, I simply wait until I can interject this: "I do not talk politics, sports or religion with people I care about, as it NEVER ends well."

Everyone has their own opinions, beliefs and thoughts on those subjects, and I don't want to get into a conversation that can potentially ruin our

relationship/friendship. Is there something else you'd like to talk about, like maybe a movie or book?"

That is usually all it takes to end that part of the conversation. I will repeat it if they persist, and then I walk away. I will repeat it each time we talk if one or more of the "Big Three" is mentioned. Eventually, the person remembers to avoid them in conversation with me, or they remember to avoid me if they really must talk about them to someone.

I do talk about those three subjects, but I'm very careful with whom I have those discussions. I know my close friends and family well enough to know what subjects are safe with each.

My Aunt was very wise! — AVOIDING ARGUMENTS

DEAR AVOIDING ARGUMENTS: I never heard the rule about not discussing sports, but certainly not talking about religion or politics during parties, dinners or other social gatherings is usually a good thing.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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His thing right now is that he will throw a fit, and then when he's done, he will wrap his arms around me and say, "I love you, Mommy!"

Well, my husband's aunt has rolled around after her partner died suddenly and left her with nothing. She is pretty rude sometimes, in my opinion.

She regularly tells my son that he's mean or he's bad. She never really praises him when he's good. I'm not a fan of telling him he's mean or bad all the time. It does nothing to help his behavior; he's only 2, and he's got

I lost it the other day. She told him again he's mean and I said, "He's 2!" And she said, "That's no excuse! He is just flat-out mean!" I took my son upstairs to get away from her since he is "flat-out mean."

This woman, I should add, did not stick around for her kids. She blames other people for her reasons for leaving and has absolutely nothing good to say about them. She also tells me all the time he only throws tantrums because I'm here. I'm also not trying to excuse his behavior; she just needs to quit talking to

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I'm always trying to find the best way to get a good night's sleep. As a teenager, I used to literally be able to fall asleep anywhere and I could stay asleep until noon if my schedule allowed.

As an adult, I find it much more difficult to fall asleep and way harder to actually sleep in later than 7 a.m.

I've tried magnesium, melatonin, and a slew of other random potions that claim to give you the best sleep of your life. Some might work, but nothing is effective enough

to convince me to repurchase the item.



The other day, I was scrolling Instagram and a blogger I follow was promoting Mary Ruth's Liquid Nighttime Multimineral. This product is a liquid vitamin supplement that contains vitamins C, D3, E, B6, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, folate and biotin.

It claims to support relaxation, a great night's sleep and bone health. It is completely safe

for all ages to use, even toddlers, and is all-natural.

The liquid multimineral also contains magnesium, which is said to be great for sleep.

Obviously, I had to try this product out for myself and see if it is worth it!

I ordered it and used it the first night it arrived. All ages up to 13 years old take one tablespoon of the liquid, while ages 14 and older take two tablespoons. It is super easy to pour out and take. It is stored in the fridge until the next time you want to take it.

I can honestly say I immediately noticed a dif-

ference in my sleep quality. I would say this product doesn't make me feel overwhelmingly tired or like I need to go to sleep right away. When I wake up though, I feel well-rested and like I just got the best sleep ever. I have more energy and I've been waking up before my alarm, which never happens.

It's been a noticeable enough change that I am definitely going to order another bottle and will continue to take this stuff.

Mary Ruth's Liquid Nighttime Multimineral is sugar-free, non-GMO and comes in a few different flavors like cranberry, coconut, lemonade and

pineapple.

This brand does its best to use plant-based ingredients with the fewest number of allergens possible.

I'm giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators for ease of use and amazing quality!

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.



Winter break warmth

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

We had a lovely time up north last week. Seeing my twins skiing so independently was just amazing.

Our past ski trips have just been filled with sweat, blood and tears. But they got older and more independent and can actually do it!!

My middle child is completely self sufficient and the older two can help when we need them. I've said it before and I'll say it again, big families are pretty cool. My biggest regret was not stopping in Frankenmuth on the way home for a hearty lunch. So I just made it at home.

Crispy pork schnitzel is paired with homemade spaetzle using a colander. It was easy,

delicious and cheaper than spending the day eating out.

We liked eating this with a side of applesauce but sauerkraut is great too.

Warm up your house with this one. Oh and yes, I bought the packet of pork gravy to serve over top. Don't judge me. Everyone will appreciate it.

Cheers, Mombeau

Pork Schnitzel

2 lbs boneless pork chops

½ cup flour

1 tbsp garlic powder

1 tbsp onion powder

1 tsp salt

1 tsp black pepper

3 eggs, mixed

2 cups Panko bread crumbs

1 tsp dried dill

Start by pounding the pork until it's about a quarter inch thick and season with a bit more salt and pepper depending on your preference. (I would do it.)

Make your three-plate breading station. The first plate will be the flour, garlic and onion powder, salt and pepper. Next plate will be the mixed eggs. The third is the Panko crumbs and dill.

Heat a skillet to medium high heat and cook for three minutes per side.

Spaetzle

4 cups flour

2 tsp salt

8 large eggs

¾ cup milk

4 tbsp fresh herbs (dill or parsley work best)

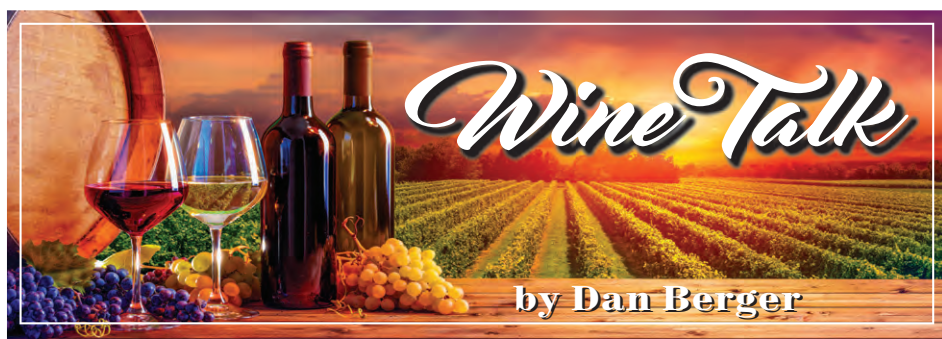
Mix the flour and salt together and then add the eggs, milk and fresh herbs. Combine into a batter.

Bring a stock pot with water up to a boil. Using a colander and a spoon, pour the batter in and slowly push the batter through into the boiling water. This method makes little beautiful noodles.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Once they come to the surface, pull them out and add to a hot pan with oil. Fry for a few minutes or until brown and a bit crisp. Serve with the pork and a side of applesauce or sauerkraut.



Lower alcohol wines

Any definition you can find of the word "wine" also includes the word "alcohol." This includes wines that have no alcohol, which are occasionally called alcohol-free.

However, the fact that we define normal wine as having alcohol kind of puts the phrase "alcohol-free wine" into a strange category, almost the way jumbo shrimp is an oxymoron.

From a scientific perspective, wine is the result of any fruit that's fermented, either accidentally or by design,

and in which the fruits' sugars (such as fructose, glucose or sucrose) are converted into ethanol and carbon dioxide (CO2).

With traditional table wine, the original intention, for literally hundreds of years, alcohol usually remained relatively constant at between 11 percent and 14 percent, with almost all dry table wines (starting about 1800 through about 1980) staying between 12 percent and 13.5 percent.

Alcohol in and of itself

has little flavor except for that of alcohol, which might be noticed by sniffing an ounce of vodka. In higher concentrations, alcohol provides a sweetening element on the palate, which is why high-alcohol wines tend to taste sweet, even if they are technically without any sugar at all.

There has been much serious discussion in the last few weeks, not only on the internet, but also in newspaper articles, about the impact of alcohol on the human body. Some people now say that even a few sips of wine can be detrimental. Others argue for moderation in everything and say that it has never been proven that a glass of wine or two per day is particularly harmful to healthy adults.

Yet when we peruse wine store shelves for even simple, dry table wines these days, almost everything we can find is above 14 percent alcohol, which is significantly higher than it ever was when I became involved with wine on a daily basis.

Frankly, I do not like the taste of alcohol. I prefer wines with 12 percent alcohol. If it were possible to produce a 4 percent 5 percent alcohol wine that had excellent flavor, went with food and displayed charm. I'd be the first to buy one.

Over the last 50 years or more, serious wine scientists have delved into this, but no one has yet been able to make a satisfactory dry wine with very low alcohol. Since this is also a health issue for many people, it would certainly be a boon if such a drink were created.

Dozens of scientists have written about alcohol intolerance, which is "an inherited metabolic disorder" that seems to have more prominence in women than in men, according to an article, published by the Cleveland Clinic.

An article published by the National Institutes of Health explains that an enzyme called aldehyde dehydrogenase "is involved in alcohol metabolism," and a deficiency in this "is present in Asians, but not Caucasians and African-Americans."

So, it is obvious that low-alcohol or zero-alcohol products can have health benefits for some people.

My personal solution to higher-alcohol wines is simple: I just add a little water. This not only moderates the ethanol intake, but also usually improves the balance of the wine.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate web-

page at www.creators.com.

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A Spirit of Continuous Love

A school friend writes:

Is Joan a giggle?
A laughing girl?
We have laughed and even cried with her.

Is Joan serious?
A problem deeply personal touches her,
and her heart and her soul respond.

She encompasses the whole problem no matter whether personal or business and gives it an inner fight until the problem is solved — regardless of the extraction.

She fluffs off the effort, but her brilliance to the solution is one of amazement.
Joan forever.

Katharine Collins

Katharine Collins is a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe and friend of the late Joan LeGro Bushnell, whose poetry was published in the Grosse Pointe News.

The author adds:

Joan's poetry written for the Grosse Pointe News will be a reminder of the daily joy and struggles of our everyday life. Our hope is to have copies of her poetry, published plays and two cookbooks on future file with the Grosse Pointe Public Library so people may continue to tune in to her contagious and inspiring spirit.

Joan was backgrounded by her excellent private education and was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School, as well as Bradford Junior College.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUCH MUCH FILM AND BLACK CAMEL PICTURES

Left, Joanna Lumley as Meghan Geoffrey puts Danielle Macdonald as Millie Cantwell through the paces in the 2020 movie "Falling for Figaro," directed by Ben Lewin.



MOVIE REVIEW
 "Falling for Figaro"
 2020 - Not Rated
 1 hr 44 min
 ★★★★★

I'll start right off by letting you know I'm a self-avowed opera fan. I know some of you think of the genre as just so much caterwauling but it's among the many types of music I enjoy.

That said, you don't have to be an opera buff by any means to appreciate this wonderful film. It has so much going for it including a fun, well-crafted storyline, two fantastic leading actors, and as a special bonus, some of the most picturesque scenery in the British Isles.

Before I launch into my review of the film, I'd like to say a few words about the two stars. Danielle Macdonald got her first big break starring in 2017's "Patti Cake\$," a surprise hit at that year's Sundance Film Festival.

I recently saw her in the gripping Australian



Millie (Macdonald) in the limelight.

mystery "The Tourist," and was quite impressed.

Opposite her is Joanna Lumley. Ms. Lumley was the star of the outrageous, groundbreaking, British comedy show "Absolutely Fabulous," or "Ab/Fab" as it was known to its legion of loyal followers. The two actors

transform what could

have been an OK movie into something quite memorable.

Millie (Macdonald) lives a comfortable life in London. She's a very successful fund manager, has some very nice digs, and a loyal boyfriend Charlie (Shazad Latif).

Everything is rolling along smoothly and when she's given a huge promotion at work, she does the unexpected. Millie decides to quit her job and pursue her childhood dream — to become an opera star.

There's a revealing scene where she and her beau attend an opera. While she's mesmerized by the performance, we see Charlie fast asleep on her shoulder. So we know

just how much (or little) they have in common.

There's an annual event in the UK called the "Singer of Renown" that she's determined to compete in. It's the gateway to operatic fame for the winners of the competition.

To help prepare for the event, Millie heads to the Scottish Highlands to work with the retired diva Meghan Geoffrey-Bishop (Lumley). Little does she know what she's in for.

Lumley is nothing short of brilliant in her depiction of the singing coach. To say she's a stern taskmaster is a bit of an understatement.

Geoffrey-Bishop agrees to coach Millie. She can use the handsome infusion of cash and she

reluctantly admits Millie actually does have a spark of talent.

Geoffrey-Bishop takes her coaching to an almost ridiculous level of cruelty. After Millie sings for her the first time she says, "The future for you is a typical cruise ship with regular burials at sea." Ouch!

To help her improve Millie's diction, she resorts to making her sing while grabbing her tongue. We also see Millie vocalizing while being choked! In other words, Lumley is absolutely fabulous here.

What would a movie about opera be without a bit of romance? Millie's knight in shining armor comes to the rescue in the form of handsome Max (Hugh Skinner). He's Meagan's handyman, cook and protégée. The couple strikes up a friendship, knowing they're each other's competition. But instead of being cut-throat rivals, they spend much of their time helping each other refine their vocal acumen. Max is more than willing to share his knowledge with the inexperienced young novice.

The small Scottish town is full of amusing characters, most of whom are opera enthusiasts. And the setting is stunningly beautiful. Scene after scene could easily be turned into a striking background painting. This is another

one of those gorgeously shot British movies that make you want to vacation there. As an added bonus, I thought the lip-synching was very well done — it really looked like both Max and Millie were singing.

If you're looking for a delightful, amusing little rom-com the whole family will enjoy, I highly recommend, "Falling for Figaro." You won't be disappointed.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I'd give it a PG-13.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also on Netflix, Hulu, and to rent on YouTube 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, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

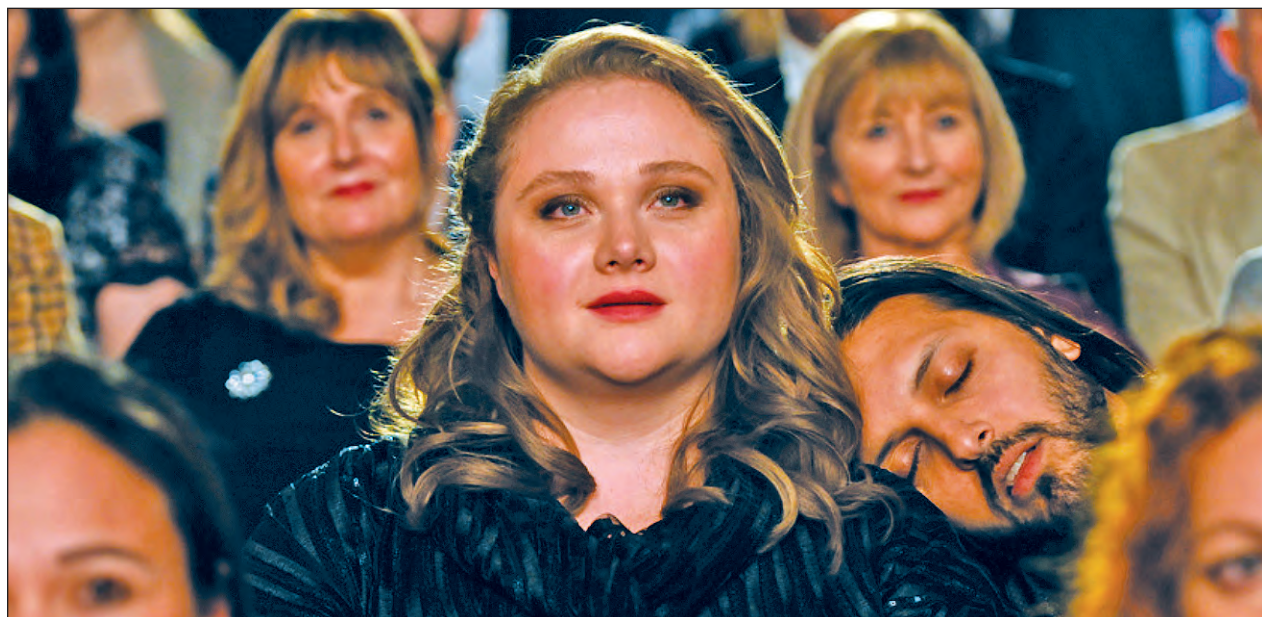
For movie trailers, visit youtube.com.

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Max (Skinner) & Millie (Macdonald) rehearse.



Millie (Macdonald) & Charlie (Latif) attend an opera.



Millie (Macdonald) and Max (Skinner) sing a duet.



Millie (Macdonald) takes the stage.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Scorpio. Happy Leap Day!

Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 29, 2024:

You have a perceptive insight into what makes others tick, which is why you have great social skills. Home and family always matter to you. This is a fun-loving year! Let your guard down and loosen up. Enjoy yourself with old friends who might reappear.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

This is an excellent day to make financial plans or discuss inheritances or issues related to shared property, taxes or debt. You're in a sensible frame of mind, but you're also optimistic and ready to think big. This is a lovely balance of influences that will help you make intelligent decisions. Tonight: Check your finances.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Discussions with friends, partners and members of the general public will be successful today. Someone older or more experienced might have advice for you. You'll enjoy interacting with groups of people of all ages today. It's a great day to plan for the future! Tonight: Cooperate.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a productive day, in large measure because you will make a great impression on bosses, parents, teachers and people in authority. They see you as reliable, conscientious and trustworthy. Meanwhile, you're not afraid to speak up with visionary ideas and bold plans. Tonight: Work.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Explore opportunities in publishing, the media or anything connected with medicine, the law or higher education. Today you can make serious plans, and yet at the same time you have a strong optimism for the future. It's a great day to make travel plans as well. Tonight: Play!

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Family discussions about shared property and inheritances will go well today. You might take some time alone at home to sort out paperwork, especially because you feel optimistic about what is possible. Not only are you optimistic, you're also realistic, which is a favorable combination. Tonight: Cocoon.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This is a great day to study and learn something new. Meanwhile, discussions with neighbors, relatives and siblings will be practical and hopeful. This is an excellent day to make plans, because they might add joy or luxury to your life. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Business and commerce are favored today, because two separate influences are at play. One influence is practical, serious and solid. The other influence is ambitious and hopeful. The combination of these two influences means you will likely come up with realistic, profitable ideas. Tonight: Check your belongings.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Things will go your way today, which is why you should go after what you want. It's a great day to entertain or enjoy social outings,

especially with children or anything related to sports or the entertainment world. Relations with partners and close friends will be warm and supportive. Tonight: You win!

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is the perfect day to hunker down and enjoy some privacy. You can also get a lot done working alone or behind the scenes. You also might choose to be reclusive at home. Either way, you'll be productive and happy! Tonight: Solitude.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

An older friend might have advice for you today about dealing with children, sports, vacations or the arts. You also might be interested in the entertainment world. Listen to those who have more experience than you; they will expand your future opportunities. Tonight: Friendships.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Financial discussions will go well today. In fact, you might impress someone older, perhaps a parent or a boss. You might buy something practical that brings enjoyment to home and family today. Trust your ability to make wise financial decisions. Tonight: Show respect.

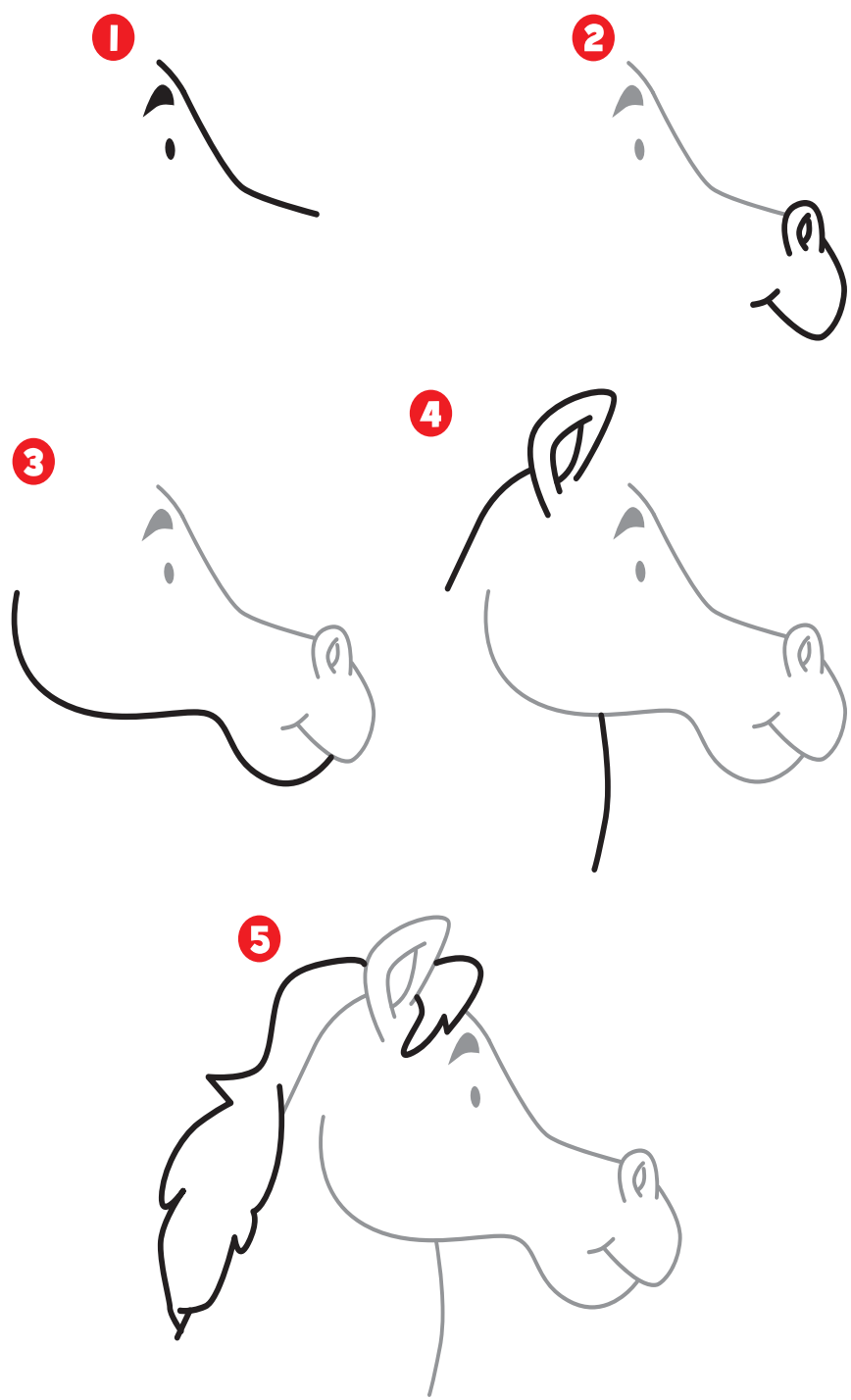
PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a great day to study. It's also a wonderful day to make travel plans. Discussions about legal matters will go well for you today, because practical results are promising. You might enjoy a short trip. You will love to learn new things. Tonight: Explore!

BORN TODAY
Motivational speaker Tony Robbins (1960), actor Peter Scanavino (1980), actor Jessie Usher (1992).



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Contract Bridge

DUTCH TREAT

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ A Q J 5 4 2
♣ Q 5

WEST

♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ K
♦ 9 6 3
♣ K J 8 4 2

EAST

♠ Q 10 9 6
♥ 5 3 2
♦ K
♣ 10 9 7 6 3

SOUTH

♠ K J 8 3
♥ A Q 8 6 4
♦ 10 8 7
♣ A

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.

Dutch expert Herman Filarski likes to tell the story of this deal, which occurred in a tournament in Holland many years ago. Filarski, North, opened one diamond, and he and his partner eventually reached six hearts, which was certainly a reasonable contract.

West led the nine of diamonds, and South had to decide how to play the

slam. After a brief huddle, he decided not to finesse the diamond and went up with the ace. He was afraid that the nine might be a singleton, in which case, if he finessed, East would take the king and return a diamond to set the slam.

South also felt certain the diamond finesse couldn't win, since West was not the type of player who would lead from a king against a slam.

South's judgment was dramatically confirmed when the ace caught East's king. Declarer then led a trump and went up with the ace after East followed low. South was planning to play another trump next to prevent East from ruffing a diamond if West started with the K-x of trump.

However, South was again rewarded when the ace caught the king, and the outcome was that declarer — after playing two tricks and nabbing two singleton kings — was able to claim the rest of the tricks.

Filarski was very pleased by his partner's performance — sparring two kings in a slam — but the opponents viewed the feat with some degree of suspicion. On the next deal, they held their cards much more closely to their respective chests.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

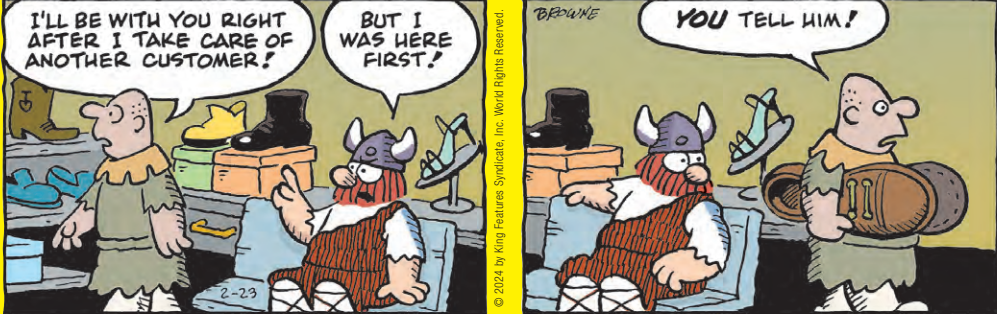
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



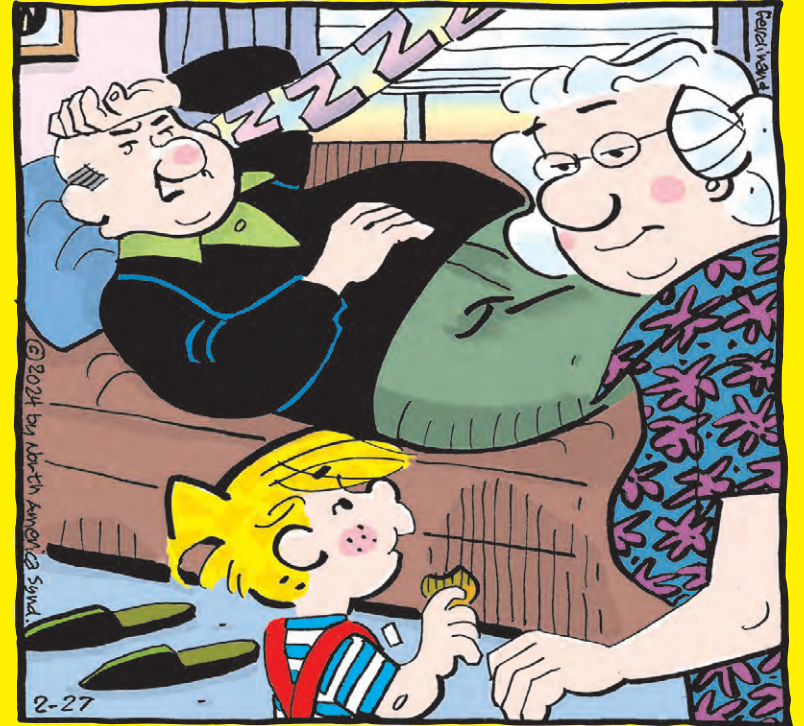
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



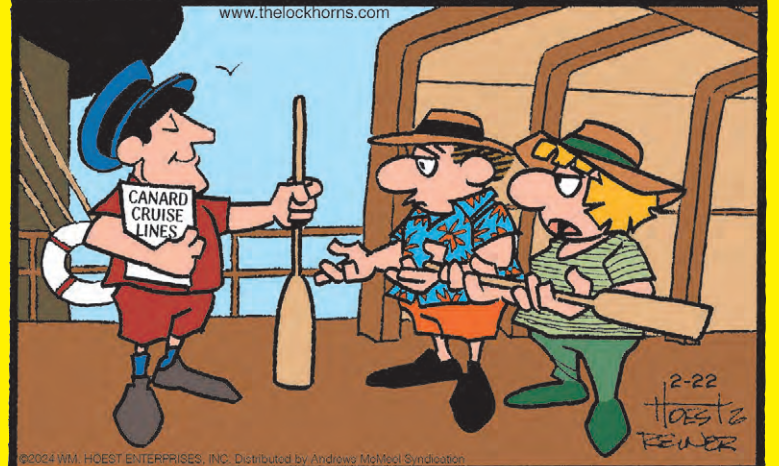
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



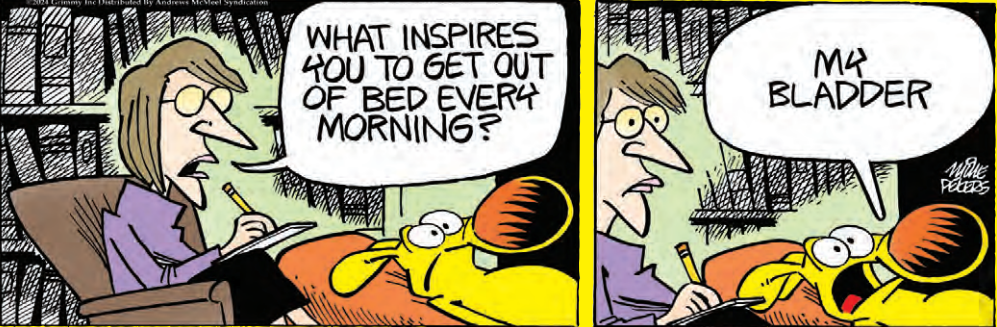
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



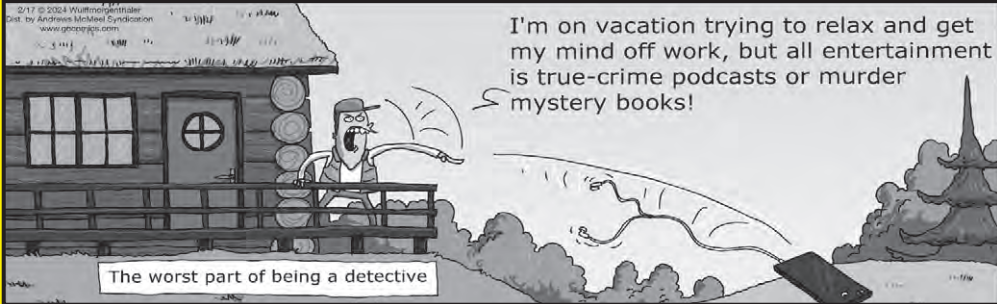
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



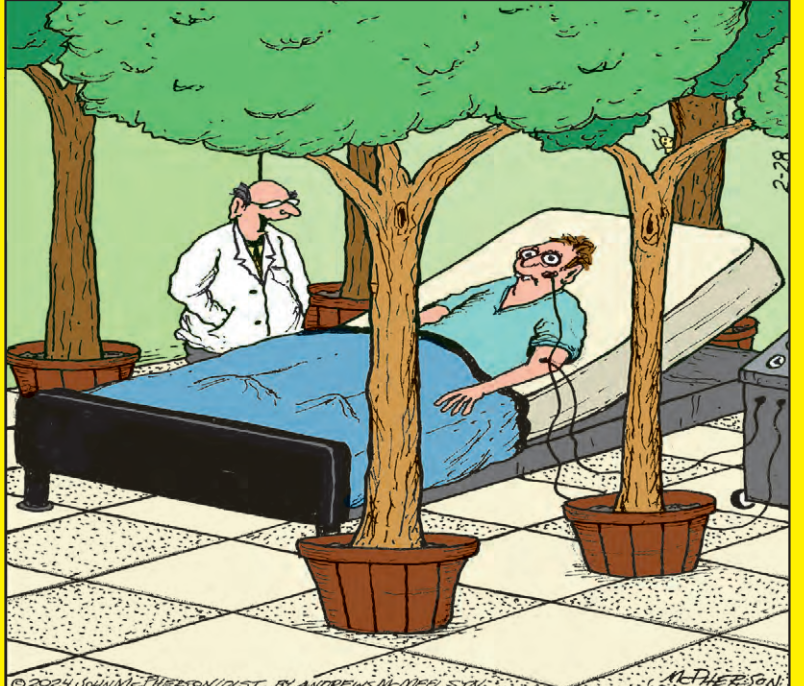
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



SPORTS



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Big MAC Attack

Two more Pointe teams crowned conference champs

Borowski's buzzer-beater wins MAC Red/White tourney title for North girls basketball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Just one week after Grosse Pointe South's boys varsity basketball team won the MAC Tournament title in a thrilling victory, Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity hoops squad did the very same to help the Pointes establish league dominance. The Norsemen took on Anchor Bay last Saturday, Feb. 24, in the finals of the MAC Red/White Tournament and won the game in the final seconds, as sophomore Eva Borowski sunk a shot

just before the buzzer to end the game 46-44 North. "It was really, really exciting," North girls basketball head coach Gary Bennett said. "The whole sequence, it all started with eight seconds to go and our defense getting it going... (Anchor Bay) got the ball in and we were right there to force a travel... Our defense got the stops and then that's what led to us being able to get a final shot."

Saturday afternoon's game was close practically the entire way. North led for much of the day, but the only time that lead was

more than just a few points was in the first quarter. The Norsemen got out to a hot start, scoring nearly half their points for the entire game in the opening quarter, leading the Tars 22-12 after eight minutes. Anchor Bay's defense slowed down North in the second quarter, helping the Tars to reduce the deficit before halftime. The Tars held the Norsemen to just five points in the second frame, but North still led 27-23 going into the break.

See BBALL, page 2D



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Eva Borowski, center, holds the hard-fought MAC Red/White Tournament trophy for Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity basketball team after they beat Anchor Bay 46-44 in dramatic fashion Saturday, Feb. 24, for its second consecutive league tournament title.

South boys swim and dive hoists MAC Red championship for 26th consecutive season

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

For the 26th consecutive season, Grosse Pointe South boys swim and dive owns the title of MAC Red champions, continuing to build on what's been established as the Blue Devils' gold standard in statewide high school athletics.

With 372.5 points, the team earned its latest crown Saturday, Feb. 24, winning nine of the meet's 12 events, including two relays and 1-meter diving, among a field of six teams. Grosse Pointe North placed third overall at the championship meet.

South athletic director Andy Rishmawi said a high school league championship streak like this is "unheard of." He credits the team's head coach John Fodell

South's Ben Bryan raised the championship belt in four events last Saturday.

PHOTO BY DAILEY JOGAN

for establishing the high bar.

"We often talk about this as coaches and staff here at South, that we want to set the standard of how we act, compete and represent our school," Rishmawi said. "But he sets the gold standard across the state."

There are no other programs that are close. He's doing everything right."

The program's streak began in 1998-99 when Fodell, a South graduate, was a freshman on the team. That season, the Blue Devils edged out archrival and reigning league champion North by just three points to win the MAC Red.

Fodell said before this year's meet, he had a pep talk with his underclassmen about stepping up and finishing in the top eight to earn points for their team.

"We had a whole bunch of juniors that I needed to do something, like Johnny Klepp, who snuck into the top eight in the (200) IM. Then Henry Doyle snuck into top eight in the 50 free.

"That's the big difference (finishing) in the top eights (at prelims) and getting multiple swimmers back for the final," he said.

See SWIM, page 2D



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

South's Rodriguez makes school history on road to wrestling finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Blaine, Washington is a small town about two hours north of Seattle, situated right on the U.S.-Canadian border. That is where Milania Rodriguez spent much of her life before her family recently moved to Michigan, where she is finishing high school as a senior at Grosse Pointe South.

It was in her hometown in Washington where Rodriguez first started wrestling in middle school and then on the girls team at Blaine High School, building up a love for the sport that

carried over in the move to Michigan and has now ultimately made her the first female wrestler in South school history to qualify for the state finals.

"Girls wrestling is a lot bigger in Washington than it is in Michigan," Rodriguez said about how she first picked up the sport. "My sixth grade math teacher was also the girls wrestling coach at our high school and he first got me



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Milania Rodriguez
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Wrestling
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

into wrestling. I played soccer but dropped it for wrestling and really started to love it so much...I've done it ever since and have been wrestling for six years, and ever since moving here and joining the team at South they've been so welcoming."

This will not be Rodriguez's first trip to a state finals. Two seasons ago, during her sophomore year, she qualified for the Washington state

finals.

She punched her ticket to Ford Field on Sunday, Feb. 18, by finishing fourth in the 135-pound weight class at the MHSAA girls wrestling regional tournament. Rodriguez's trip to the state finals this year is historic for South, but also a moment that encompasses the success of her wrestling career in both of her home states.

"Not only am I the first girl in (South) history to go to states, I really felt like I made my coaches proud back home in Washington and my coaches here," Rodriguez said. "I immediately jumped into coach Dave's arms and my other coaches and my mom and my sister were there and it was super incredible."

Wrestling has been and still is, in a sense, a sport largely dominated by boys. The MHSAA only



COURTESY PHOTO

Rodriguez celebrates with a hug from South wrestling coach Dave Salazar after clinching a qualifying spot for the MHSAA girls wrestling state finals.

started sponsoring a girls state championship for wrestling in 2019.

Being a female wrestler on a team largely made up of boys and oftentimes having to compete against boys, is

something that Rodriguez has become used to over the years. At times, that made her a bit like a fish out of water. However, she knows that

See ATHLETE, page 3D

Magnificent Milania

- First wrestler in South school history to qualify for MHSAA girls state finals
- 17-8 record in matches this season
- Qualified for Washington state wrestling finals as a sophomore in 2022



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2D | SPORTS

SWIM:

Continued from page 1D

South won the top spot in nine individual and relay events, including:

◆ 200 medley relay of Ben Bryan, Vincent Maffesoli, CJ Schindlbeck and Troy Liu in 1:37.19

◆ 200 IM, won by CJ Schindlbeck in 2:02.28. Teammates Jack Finazzo and Klepp finished in 6th and 8th place respectively.

◆ 50 free, won by Liu in 20.98. Joey Drawbaugh, Maffesoli (tie) and Doyle finished in 4th, 5th and 8th respectively.

◆ 1-meter diving, won by Troy Richard with 393.90 points. Blue Devil Ethan Hurford took second place with 384.00

finished 3rd, while Finazzo finished 7th.

◆ 400 free relay, won by Bryan, Maffesoli, Drawbaugh and Liu in 3:15.85

Junior Duncan Richards also earned points for the Blue Devils by finishing fourth in the 200 free and in the 500 free.

In addition to winning the league championship meet, South also is the 2023-24 MAC Red dual meet champion for the regular season.

Fodell said year-round hard work is his program's secret to success.

"It really starts in the summer and how their summer training goes," he said. "The boys lifting program starts when the school year begins with our girls team. Our prepa-

pretty consistent thing."

North won one relay and finished frequently in the top eight in individual events to earn third place overall at the championship meet with 190.5 points. Its best finish came in the form of a first-place win in the 200 free relay.

Norsemen Alex Robinson, Keegan Wettstein, Tommy Moreland and James Gusmano won it in 1:31.59. They outpaced South's team of Drawbaugh, Finazzo, Doyle and Schindlbeck, who placed second in 1:33.42.

In the meet's two other relays, North's Tyler Collins, Moreland, Gusmano and Wettstein finished fourth in the 200



PHOTO BY DAILEY JOGAN

Swimmers from North and South get set at the MAC Red championship meet.

— the 50 free (22.20) and 100 fly (52.56). Teammate Collins tied for fifth in the 50 free and finished sixth in the 100 fly. Gusmano placed fifth in both the 100 free and 100 breast.

Freshmen Winbigler also represented North on the podium by finishing in third place in the 500 free and fifth in the 100 back. Alejandro Delgado took eighth in the 200 IM.

North finished 4-1 in the MAC Red regular season.

Swimmers have a final opportunity to qualify for this year's state final at the Last Chance meet, which was hosted by South Tuesday after press time.

South's Brieden, Bryan, Liu and Shindlbeck have qualified for the state final. Additional swimmers were added to the Blue Devils' state roster for relays after Tuesday. Diving will not be solidified until after regionals this weekend at

Birmingham Seaholm.

Along with South's team, North's Moreland also has qualified for the state final meet. He will

be joined there by his Norsemen relay teammates March 8 and 9, at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Fly High Flynn

Grosse Pointe South's varsity boys swim and dive team held a dedication ceremony at its home pool for a special former teammate before the MAC Red championship preliminary round began Friday, Feb. 23.

With the words "Fly High Flynn," Lane 11 was dedicated to South swim alum Flynn MacKrell, who died in a car accident last November. South swimmers also wore special T-shirts with "Fly High Flynn" on the sleeve during MAC Red championship weekend.

The team also is establishing a memorial scholarship housed within South's athletic department named in MacKrell's honor. It will be awarded to a deserving member of the boys swim team each year at season's end. The team has established a Go Fund Me for the scholarship that went live Monday.

John Fodell, head coach of South's boys and girls swim and dive teams, will help raise funds for the scholarship by swimming in a 10-mile open swim along the Tennessee River next October.

"I'm trying to do something that just helps keep this going," Fodell said.

To donate to the scholarship, scan this QR code or head to South's swim and dive team Facebook page.



PHOTO BY DAILEY JOGAN

South's boys varsity swim and dive team celebrates after Saturday's win.

points.

◆ 100 butterfly, won by Bryan in 51.10, where teammate Paul Kaminski finished fourth. Kaminski also placed 7th in the 100 back.

◆ 100 free, won by Liu in 46.62. Drawbaugh and Maffesoli finished 7th and 8th respectively.

◆ 100 back, won by Bryan in 51.86. Blue Devil junior Owen Mulcahy finished 4th in the event and also finished 5th in the 200 free.

◆ 100 breaststroke, won by Schindlbeck in 1:00.96. Junior Thomas Brieden

ration is ongoing, way before the season begins and I think there's a great culture behind it."

Fodell said he had many future Blue Devils volunteering on the pool deck last Saturday, another factor he said helps build the Blue Devils' culture.

"I think we're so good at connecting the community," he said. "I had so many swimmers volunteering who should swim for South in the next five years ... and they were excited that we were winning, even though it's a

medley (1:42.70), while Collins, Paul Stephens, Brady Winbigler and Robinson finished fifth in the 400 free relay (3:38.12).

Moreland finished second overall in two events

BBALL:

Continued from page 1D

The game continued to be a close one for the entire second half. Mostly, North remained in front, but by a narrow margin. At the end of the third quarter, the Norsemen were still in front, but only by three, with the scoreboard at 38-35.

Anchor Bay fully came back with just over three minutes to go in the final quarter, tying the game at 40. The teams were then tied at 44 in the final ten seconds, when the North defense forced a crucial Anchor Bay turnover.

The Norsemen got the ball and called a timeout with three seconds on the clock, where Bennett was able to draw up the eventual game-winning play for his team.

"We just wanted people cutting hard to get to open spots," Bennett said about the winning play.

Senior Julia Liagre was

tasked with making the inbound pass after the timeout. She found Borowski running toward her around the top of the three-point arc. Borowski caught Liagre's perfect pass in stride, driving down toward the baseline and

the net just before the clock hit all zeros.

"She's one of the best competitors I've ever coached," Bennett said of Borowski. "When she got the ball there with a chance to score, she saw two girls there. She had to make her way between to work and try to get a shot up. That's just her competing. The play wasn't necessarily designed for anyone specific to get the ball... It happened to be Eva and Julia made a great pass to get it to her.

"Eva really competed," he continued. "We do a lot of stuff in practice to focus on scoring around the basket, and she always goes hard in practice with that stuff. So to her, it probably felt just like practice."

Borowski's shot at the buzzer helped her finish the game with ten points, one of two Norsemen to reach double figures in the win. Senior Natalie

Babcock led the team with 17.

The win also made it back-to-back MAC Red/White Tournament titles for the Norsemen. With just a couple of games remaining in the regular season before state playoffs begin, winning the league tournament serves not only as a momentum boost, but also as a precursor for the high-pressure of the playoffs will bring.

"I felt like during the league tournament, every game was a must-win," Bennett said. "It wouldn't have been the end of the world if we lost any of those games, but it still felt like a pressure-packed situation. I think it was great preparation for the upcoming state tournament."

North went on the road to play Westfield Prep Tuesday, Feb. 27, after press time. The team closes out the regular season with an away game at 6 p.m. at Mercy Thursday, Feb. 29.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Sophomore Eva Borowski had 10 points for North, including the game-winning basket.

eventually to the basket, where her layup bounced off the glass and through

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

and

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters **HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd.**

G.P.N.: 2/15/24; 2/22/24; 2/29/24; 3/7/24

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.

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South boys hockey season ends; Liggett moves on in postseason

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Playoff hockey is always intense and exciting, and this year's thrilling postseason action began last week as teams took the ice for the opening playoff rounds. In Division 2, Grosse Pointe South saw its season come to an end in a close and bitter defeat. University Liggett School began its playoff run in Division 3 with a dominant victory to move on in the regional round.

South

Last Monday, Feb. 19, the Blue Devils cruised to a 10-1 win over host Port Huron in the opening round of the Division 2 regional tournament. That set up a meeting Thursday, Feb. 22, with De La Salle Collegiate in the regional semifinals.

Despite a hat trick by junior Evan Bernard, South came up just short of knocking off the Pilots and saw its season come to an end with a 5-4 loss.

"The entire game really came down to one rough eight-minute stretch in the second period," South boys hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz said about the loss. "For much of the game besides



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett sophomore Luke Slanec lines up across from Bishop Foley's Blake Holtkamp for a faceoff in last Friday's regional semifinal playoff game.

that, I feel like we really controlled play. ... I'm proud of the way the team responded. We could've just said it's not our night, but we got ourselves back in it and in the end just couldn't put it away. I'm proud of the way we came out and handled ourselves."

Hayden Crane scored South's other goal in the loss to go along with Bernard's three. The loss brought the Blue Devils' final record for the season to 9-17-1, closing out Korolewicz's first year

behind the bench for the program.

A good portion of those 17 losses came during a rough seven-game losing streak in December and January. However, the team rallied to win five of its last eight games of the regular season and showed positive improvements on and off the ice that helped the team not only get back its pride, but built promise for brighter days going into next season.

"It took us a while, with all the changes that hap-

pened before the season, to kind of establish an identity for ourselves," Korolewicz said. "I think that's something we really struggled with for the first two months of the season. When we finally found that identity, we had several players who took it upon themselves to step up and become better leaders on and off the ice and I think that's when we really improved."

This year's South team had 12 seniors on the roster, filling the squad with

veteran leadership. The Blue Devils will have a lot to replace going into next season, but Korolewicz saw this year's seniors provide plenty of lessons the returning players can use to build on to hopefully lead South hockey to better results next winter.

"There were three main things (the seniors) really showed them," Korolewicz said. "The first is how to carry themselves as a team. We never had issues on the bench or internal conflicts which is so important. ... The second thing would be work ethic. A majority of the seniors were the hardest working players on the team, as it should be, and we had so many guys who went above and beyond and gave their all on every shift.

"... Lastly, a lot of these kids sacrificed a lot to be here this year," he added. "For some of them, I'm their third head coach in four years. ... The fact that they're still here is a testament to their dedication and their loyalty. It's really something special to walk into a season with a brand new coaching staff. It shows their dedication to this team, this school and the pro-

gram."

Liggett

The Knights began playoff action Friday, Feb. 23, in the regional semifinal round of Division 3. Liggett did not face much of a test in its first postseason game, easily handling Bishop Foley 8-0 to advance to the regional final.

Drake Griffin opened the scoring in the first period for the Knights, giving them an early 1-0 lead. This began a flurry of Liggett goals, with Griffin Marchal and Nick Gould adding two more within the next two minutes, putting the Knights up 3-0 after one period.

Liggett continued to pile on in the second period. Griffin scored another before Andrew Johnson found the net twice to close out the second period with the Knights up by six. Two more goals in the final frame sealed the blowout win for the Knights.

Liggett faced off against Cranbrook in the regional final Wednesday, Feb. 28, after press time. The Division 3 state quarterfinal is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at Yack Arena in Wyandotte.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

at South and back with her former team in Washington, it all comes down to working together for the good of the team and treating everyone like family.

"When I first started in middle school I was on a co-ed team with like four girls and almost 30 guys," she said. "During weigh-ins, it could be uncomfortable stepping on the scale in front of everyone and guys looking at my weight was a bit of a reservation for me when I first started. I'm very proud of my weight class now and I've come a really long way...I think wrestling is one of the most inclusive groups of people I've been around."

Rodriguez is good about not letting anything get into her head before or during a match. Wrestling is, after all, a sport that is just as much of a mental game as it is physical, and she prides herself on having the mental flexibility to both plan ahead for a match

and adapt on the fly.

"Before a match, I have to visualize what I'm doing before I get on the mat," Rodriguez said. "I visualize in my head what my first move will be and what I can do after that...But once you get out there on the mat, they can do something completely different than what you would expect and then you have to work with that...You have to go with the flow of wrestling."

Rodriguez's wrestling IQ was already one of the best the coaches at South had ever seen when she joined the team this season, and it has only gotten better since. Even if there was a little adjustment going from an all-girls team in Washington to a co-ed team, the Blue Devils knew almost right away that they had added another wrestler who was ready to compete for championships.

"She was already a very polished athlete and really accomplished in Washington," said South wrestling coach Dave Salazar. "Depending on how she does at Ford

Field she can get her 100th win there, which would be huge...She clicked really well with the team. It was a little daunting for her at first to practice with guys and girls since she came from an all girls team (in Washington).

"She had so much experience and was so polished that really we just sharpened the sword a bit...We just wish we had some more time with her," he added.

That mental strength is going to be key if Rodriguez wants to leave Ford Field this coming weekend as a state champion. She will wrestle her first match Friday,

On Feb. 18, Milania Rodriguez became the first girls wrestler in Grosse Pointe South school history to qualify for the state finals.



COURTESY PHOTO

March 1, and battle to try and make it to the championship rounds the next day.

The entire experience of competing on that stage is what Rodriguez is looking forward to the most. The wrestling state finals at Ford Field are truly something that need to be experienced firsthand to really appreciate, with over 20 mats lined up on the field and fans packing the stands to cheer on their favor-

ite teams and wrestlers.

For someone like Rodriguez, it feels like a special experience that showcases the sport they love.

"I'm really excited to go and just wrestle because I love wrestling and it's my last season and am there to love the sport," she said.

The experience will of course be exciting for Rodriguez and her three fellow South teammates who also qualified for states, Wyatt Hepner, Josh Lemanski and Paul Wilson. Rodriguez does not plan to wrestle in college, as she will be attending Syracuse University in the fall looking to major in psychology.

With it being the end of her competitive wrestling career, however, it will be bittersweet in a way no matter what the results end up being. Rodriguez is proud of what she has been able to accomplish throughout her wrestling career both here in Grosse Pointe and back in Washington. Even if she

won't be competing on the mat for much longer, she knows that she has been and can continue to be an inspiration for the next generation of female wrestlers.

"Wrestling is ingrained in me at this point," she said "I'm going to help out at Pierce Middle School and coach because I know there's some girls on the team there which would help get girls in the wrestling room more...It's such a fast growing sport and I'm so excited to be part of it and help bring more women into such a great sport."

Nominate Your Athlete

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointe.news.com/athlete-of-the-week.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:

Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 12, 2024	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 12, 2024	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 19, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 26, 2024	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2024 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted at to the Assessor's Office prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

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, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 434-2452.

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates
2/22/24, 2/29/24, 3/7/24

Eric Dunlap
City Assessor

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2022 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting

March 12, 2024 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings

March 12, 2024 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM

March 26, 2024 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. **COMPLETED 2024 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY**, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor's office end of day Tuesday, March 28, 2023 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 822-6200

GPN: 2/22/24, 2/29/24, 3/7/24

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Announcements

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Merchandise

406 ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE
1451 Beaconsfield
Miscellaneous furniture, tools, kitchenware, washer, dryer and some women's clothes.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10:00- 4:00

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Property For Sale

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709 TOWNHOUSES / CONDOS FOR RENT

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406 ESTATE SALES



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1323 AUDUBON GROSSE POINTE PARK
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
MARCH 1 AND 2
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

This is a nice sale! We have a like new pair of Ethan Allen loveseats, antique dining room set for six with buffet and china cabinet, antique Arts and Crafts buffet, nice large upholstered chair, brown leather chair, kitchen table with four chairs, Kling bedroom furniture, men's and women's clothing, jewelry, Tiffany style floor lamp, artwork, carpets, books, signed aviation artwork, aviation books, games, puzzles, trains, legos, Thomas the Tank Engine, baseball cards, drafting table, photo enlarger, portable safe, Blackburn Trak bike stand, Penguin AC, two dehumidifiers, K2 and TREK bikes, prepper supplies, outdoor basketball hoop, Craftsman snowblower, lots and lots more!

Street Numbers honored at 8:30 a.m. Friday
Check out marciawilkstatesales.com to see some featured items on Wednesday evening
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721 VACATION RENTAL-FLA

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406 ESTATE SALES



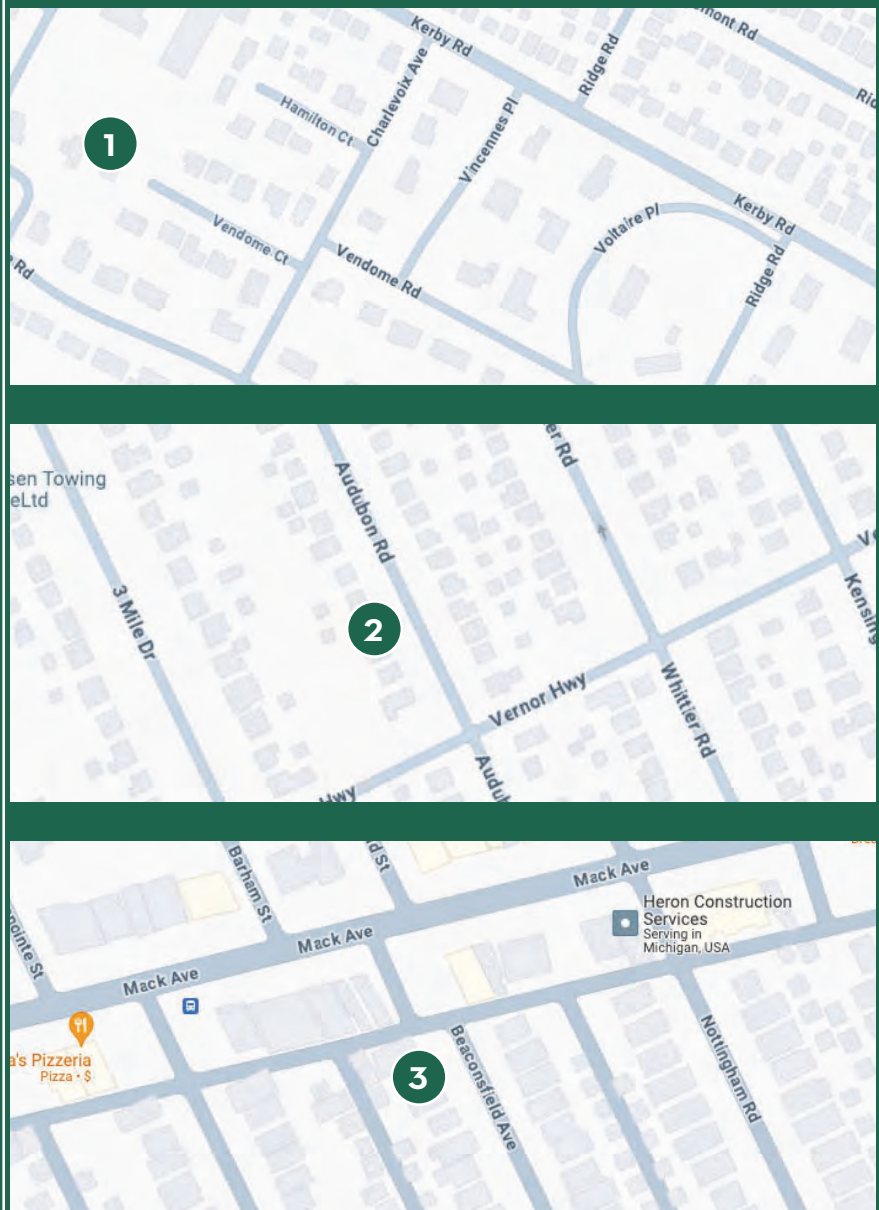
empty the nest LLC
scale-down solutions

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9:00 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM
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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. Empty the Nest Estate Sale
280 Vendome Ct., GPF

2. Marcia Wilk Estate Sale
1323 Audubon, GPP

3. Estate Sale
1451 Beaconsfield, GPP

See Classifieds for more details

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

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HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here's more of this week's sports highlights from around the Pointes:

GROSSE POINTE UNITED GYMNASTICS

On Tuesday, Feb. 22, two additional Grosse Pointe United gymnasts earned scores required for regional competition at the Last Chance meet, hosted by Grosse Pointe North. Makiya Latham and Penny Roustemis qualified for the All Around competition at the regional meet, and will join five GPUG teammates when they hit the mat at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at Birmingham Groves.

The gymnasts will compete in Saturday's regional on vault, bars, beam and floor, including:

- Allie Mattes in Division 1
- Makiya Latham in Division 2
- Penny Roustemis in Division 2
- Ainsley Tanghe in Division 2
- Lucy Tull in Division 2
- Jessi Taylor in Division 2
- Anna Nguyen will compete in vault, beam and floor in Division 2.

The team also has two gymnasts who qualified for the Division 3 regional Friday, March 1, a consolation meet hosted by Canton. Catie Kaslatas will compete on vault, beam and floor. Natalie Whittaker will compete on vault and beam.



SOUTH GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

South's girls varsity hockey squad also picked up a win this week, defeating Orchard Lake St. Mary's 4-1 Monday, Feb. 26, with Abby Evans scoring twice. The Blue Devils open the playoffs Saturday, March 2, against Ann Arbor Skyron at 10:15 a.m. at Fraser's Big Boy Arena.

LIGGETT GIRLS HOCKEY

The Liggett girls varsity hockey team closed out yet another undefeated regular season last Thursday, Feb. 22, defeating Washtenaw United 7-0. Senior captain Sofie Ancona scored a hat trick in the victory. The Knights begin playoff action Saturday, March 2, against either Ann Arbor Pioneer or Livonia United. That playoff game begins at 10 a.m. at Big Boy Arena in Fraser.

LIGGETT BOYS BASKETBALL

University Liggett's boys varsity basketball team dominated Madison Heights Madison 54-18 in the first round of the district playoff tournament Monday, Feb. 26. Senior Ian Flynn had a huge night, scoring 27 points to help the Knights advance in the postseason. Liggett faced Center Line Prep Wednesday, Feb. 28, after press time in the district semifinal round.



Does your team have a newsworthy quick hit or highlight from the week to share? Send it along to mleonard@grossepointenews.com.

2024 SPORTS CALENDAR MARCH

<p>1 FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 10 a.m. - MHSAA Boys & Girls Wrestling State Finals (@ Ford Field) » TBD- Boys Hoops MHSAA District Finals 	<p>State Quarterfinals</p> <p>13 WEDNESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops Regional Finals
<p>2 SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- Boys Swim & Dive Regionals » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hockey Quarterfinals » 10:15 a.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Skyron (Playoffs 1st Round @ Fraser) » 9 a.m. - MHSAA Boys & Girls Wrestling State Finals (@ Ford Field) » 10 a.m. - Gymnastics Regionals (@ Groves) » 10 a.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. TBD (Playoffs 1st Round @ Fraser) » 2 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey vs. St. Mary's (Playoffs 1st Round @ Fraser) 	<p>14 THURSDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No Events Scheduled <p>15 FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hoops State Semifinals <p>16 SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hoops State Finals
<p>3 SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No events scheduled 	<p>17 SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 3 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Woodhaven (@ Little Caesars Arena)
<p>4 MONDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- Girls Hoops MHSAA District Quarterfinals » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Royal Oak 	<p>18 MONDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No events scheduled <p>19 TUESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops State Quarterfinals
<p>5 TUESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- Boys Hoops MHSAA Regional Semifinals 	<p>20 WEDNESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 5 p.m. - GPS Girls Soccer vs. Port Huron » 6 p.m. - GPN Girls Soccer vs. L'Anse Creuse » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Lax @ ND Prep » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Lax @ Country Day
<p>6 WEDNESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- Girls Hockey Playoffs State Semifinals (@ Fraser) » TBD- Girls Hoops MHSAA District Semifinals 	<p>21 THURSDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 7:30 p.m. - GPS Boys Lax vs. Royal Oak
<p>7 THURSDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hoops Regional Finals 	<p>22 FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops State Semifinals
<p>8 FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hockey State Semifinals (@ USA Hockey Arena) » TBD- Gymnastics State Finals (@ Kenowa Hills) » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops District Finals 	<p>23 SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops State Finals
<p>9 SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hockey State Finals (@ USA Hockey Arena) » TBD- Boys Swim & Dive State Finals (@ Eastern Mich.) » 8 a.m. - Figure Skating State Finals (@ Dearborn) » 2 p.m. - Girls Hockey State Championship Game (@ USA Hockey Arena) 	<p>PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA</p>
<p>10 SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No events scheduled 	
<p>11 MONDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Girls Hoops Regional Semifinals 	
<p>12 TUESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TBD- MHSAA Boys Hoops 	

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