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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 13, 30 PAGES
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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Second zoning draft approved

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The scope of work required to revise the zon-

ing ordinance is shown by the size of the document's glossary. Definitions make up 26 pages of the 157-page document, which is

divided into 16 articles, each averaging more than seven sections. Some definitions are clear cut, such as "addition": "A physical

enlargement or expansion of floor area or height of a building/structure." Others need more clarification. Definitions for a

dwelling and landscaping occupy the equivalent of whole pages. Traveling beyond the lexicon from "abandonment" through "yard,"

the zoning ordinance includes zoning maps, usage standards of everything from in-ground swimming pools to height limits on structures, allowable construction materials, parking requirements, See DRAFT, page 2A

Poupard sale getting closer

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — The developers wanting to build homes on the site of the former Poupard Elementary School continue to gain momentum toward making that a reality. Tim Loughrin, vice president of land acquisition for Robertson Brothers Homes, said more than \$5 million in grants will help offset construction costs.

"There are a lot of layers and incentives," Loughrin said. "We're trying to work through them all." Some \$5.6 million has been secured through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and Wayne County. Loughrin said the company is now working at the city, county and state level to secure a brownfield redevelopment grant to tear down the building. Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said the district originally intended to apply for a grant to tear down the building, but that could have derailed the deal and possibly led to legal issues for GPPSS. "We were looking at a \$750,000 blight grant through the Wayne County Land Bank, but then we found out we wouldn't have been able to sell the property for seven years," he said. "But we still have a contract with Robertson

See SALE, page 9A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Construction continues on Neff at St. Paul.

Neff in need of surprise base repair

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Reminiscent of complications with Rivard roadwork in 2022, a portion of Neff Road — which saw a water main replacement project last year — will unexpectedly require base repair, extending its time under the knife.

Where Rivard presented a disintegrating concrete base, Neff is built atop an aggregate base. Pavement cores taken prior to the design of the project showed an average of 5 to 7 inches of asphalt with 2 to 4 inches of gravel base beneath. The typical standard is 5 inches of asphalt above an 8-inch aggregate

base. While the base beneath Neff between Kercheval and Waterloo will be good as new with some simple joint crack repair, the blocks between Charlevoix and Waterloo and Kercheval and St. Paul will require a new foundation be laid. "What we found after we milled it is that the underlying asphalt, in

some instances, we really had no asphalt left," said Ryan Kern, of Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc. "... It's not sufficient to current standards, that gravel base, but the asphalt that was still remaining was basically falling apart as they were driving across it with any equipment.

See NEFF, page 3A

GPPSS discussing transfer policy

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is reviewing its policy that currently doesn't allow K-8 students to change schools. "In just my short tenure here, I've had numerous people ask me why they can't move from school X to school Y," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said at the Board of Education meeting Tuesday, March 19. "This is mainly informational. If

you hear conversations about it, I want to let you know the administrative team is talking about it." Tuttle said she wasn't suggesting the district make the change for next school year, but did say she felt a change could have its advantages. "We're just starting the conversation," she added. "We're such a data-driven district that in order to make a decision we need to gather more data to see how we can retain the students we have and try to attract stu-

dents from Grosse Pointe who have chosen to go elsewhere." Board President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said he appreciates the administration's efforts to get feedback on the matter. "First, I think a student should always be able to go to the school closest to their residence," he said. "I'm interested to hear from our residents whether they would like to have the ability to choose a different school if there is capacity." Cotton added he also wants to

find out if residents who have chosen private schools would return to GPPSS if they could choose a school other than the one closest to their home. "The question I ask myself when faced with any decision is whether or not it will increase enrollment," Cotton said. "It is my No. 1 mission to get every student in the Pointes to understand that our school system is the best opportunity for their success in life." Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent for educational services, told the board the change came See POLICY, page 9A

Grosse Pointe News

THE NOSH

NEW MONTHLY FEATURE SHOWCASING WHAT'S NEW AT LOCAL EATERIES

SEE INSIDE PAGE 9A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Kourtney Thalgott
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Krolczyk retiring after 25 years with Shores

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Tom Krolczyk said he took a job with the city because it meant a shorter commute.

“I used to work at the yacht club,” he laughed, “so it saved me a few feet.”

The St. Clair Shores resident is retiring today after 25 years.

“I started off in DPW picking up garbage,” he said.

He now serves as deputy clerk, assistant city manager, harbor master and building administrator.

“With a small staff like ours, everyone wears multiple hats,” he said.

He spent 17 years at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, overseeing the facility’s electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.

City Manager Steve Poloni called Krolczyk one of a kind.

“I’ve worked with Tom since 1999, and throughout the years he has always been the consummate professional,” he said. “He has always been the first to volunteer and pitch in to help, no matter what the project was. His efforts have always focused on how he

could make Grosse Pointe Shores a better place to live and work. I know with certainty he will be missed by the residents and those he has worked with.”

Krolczyk, 62, said when he first joined the building department, it wasn’t uncommon for people to buy a house, tear it down and build a new one.

“That was happening all over the city, not just on the water,” he said. “Then with the economy in 2008, that stopped for quite a while.”

There are two such projects currently on Lakeshore.

Krolczyk said he will miss the people the most.

“That’s been my favorite part of the job,” he said. “The residents are great and our staff has a real family dynamic to it.”

Although he doesn’t have any set plans for retirement, Krolczyk and his wife, Linda, have an Alaskan cruise planned for June 2025.

“That’s the earliest we could book one because they’re so popular,” he said. “I’ve had people who have gone on multiple cruises say that it’s the best they’ve ever taken. They say there’s a surprise around every corner.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Krolczyk, right, and his replacement at city hall, Courtney Delmege.

DRAFT:

Continued from page 1A

signage rules, plus the process for site plan review, appeal and the city’s methods of enforcement.

All are foundational to municipal operations. Together they explain why the update is unfinished despite nearly two years’ work by city administrators, members of the city council, the planning commission, municipal attorneys, a planning consultant, members of the public and a newly formed resident subset of the planning commission.

Commissioners approved Draft 2 of updates March 18.

“Changes to this draft were primarily proposed by city staff,” said Warren

Rothe, commission secretary and assistant city manager. “Feedback from community open houses, including online exercises, will inform the next draft.”

“Further discussion of the zoning ordinance is going to be based on Draft 2,” said Patrick Coletta, chairman of the planning commission. “Draft 2 is the new working document.”

He also formed a citizens advisory board to suggest changes.

“Hopefully (it) will take a deep dive into this (and) give us feedback so the public is still meaningfully involved in this process,” Colletta said.

Commissioners are expected to work on successive drafts through May.

“Draft 3 could be the draft we send to council

this summer,” Rothe said.

Draft 2 changes

Draft 2 of the updated zoning ordinance includes a question-and-answer section intended to simplify and guide laypersons through often-confusing procedures.

“It consolidates important questions, (such as) where I can build a structure on my property, how to determine heights and setbacks — basic things like that,” said Michael Boettcher, senior planner, McKenna Associates, consultants to the planning commission.

Subjects also include such deceptively simple matters as determining property lines (the front property line is the shortest property line along a street), how to measure maximum building

height (it’s measured in feet from the average finished grade) and what construction projects require zoning permits (almost everything).

Among changes are:

- ◆ Adding multi-family residential usage in mixed-use districts as a special land use. “Adding them as a special use will reinforce those corridors as mixed-use corridors and potentially bring (in) more residents,” Boettcher said.
- ◆ Requiring a review process and public hearing for approval of accessory dwelling units. “The standard approval will be by the building official,” Boettcher said. “Notice is required of (property) owners and residents within 300 feet. If any of them object, they have to tell the building official why they want this reviewed at the planning commission level.”
- ◆ Prohibiting short-term rentals on a property containing an accessory dwelling unit.
- ◆ A new section lists parking lots and structures as principal uses. They are allowed only as a special exception approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and must meet special land use standards.
- ◆ The addition of electric vehicle parking standards and pedestrian access points to parking

facilities.

- ◆ A new section requires approval to demolish a structure. The proposal states structures can’t be demolished unless a site plan for the redevelopment of the property is approved or when demolition is authorized by a court or governmental agencies.
- ◆ Drive-through retail businesses are prohibited except for banks and financial institutions.

Exterior design

Public feedback regarding exterior residential design construction materials favored brick, burnished concrete and stone.

On the other hand, the public, as represented by five votes, chose barbed wire as the No. 1 material to be prohibited for fence construction.

“Pretty much everybody concurred that barbed wire and electrified fences were not a good idea,” Boettcher said. “(Existing) fence standards were largely supported.”

Garages

There was “all kinds” of feedback regarding garages during two public engagement events, according to Boettcher.

People don’t like front-facing garages built at the front line of the main building.

“That was pretty universal,” Boettcher said. “They were more favorable if set back with side entries. On side streets, there were comments that the garage shouldn’t be any closer to the side street than the sidewall of the principle structure as well. It should be back at least as far as the house.”

Short-term rentals

Public engagement registered mixed support for allowing short-term rental property.

“Opposition focused on potential destruction of single-family neighborhoods,” Boettcher said. “Wary respondents suggested additional fees, inspections and other regulations, potentially limiting these uses.”

Accessory dwellings

“Attached (above garage) accessory dwelling units received the most support across residential districts,” Boettcher wrote in a report to the commission. “Detached ADUs, attached ADU additions and interior converted garages received similar support. Overall, there was more support for allowing ADUs in all districts with comments noting there must be a differentiation between an ADU and a duplex and provisions for parking, while the design be subject to an architecture review board.”

The city currently lacks an architecture review board.

Commercial design

“It wasn’t too controversial,” Boettcher said. “People had a few suggestions, including encouraging density, particularly in the neighborhood mixed-use district on Charlevoix, and establishing an average building height in the central business district of two or 2.5 stories, where the graphics we’ve had (show) potential three stories. (Also suggested was) allowing rooftop decks and stepping back facades so the street-level storefront is at the property line, whereas the second story and above that kind of sits back.”

Grosse Pointe News

NEW MONTHLY FEATURE SHOWCASING WHAT'S NEW AT LOCAL EATERIES

LOOK FOR IT ON PAGE 9A!



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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The 20-year-old clock tower at Neff Park has been on the fritz for years.

Gift of time

Councilman funds clock tower repair

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Within Neff Park, time perpetually is frozen at either 3:33 or 10:50, depending on which side of the clock tower residents are facing.

By the time the pool opens in late May, this no longer will be the case, thanks to a \$6,375 donation from first-term City Councilman David Fries to cover the full replacement cost of the clock’s 20-year-old mechanisms, which reportedly have been on the fritz for years.

“I worked, before I was a council member, during COVID at the park,” said Fries, who also is a member of the City’s parks and recreation commission. “And in addition to walking the park on a regular basis, I would see that darn clock with either the lights not on or one of the two sides of the clock (not working).”

“One of the cool things I thought I could do would be to step up and



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilman Dave Fries donated the full cost of repair for the Neff Park clock tower.

fix the clock tower.”

The clock’s repair will include new drives, hands for the clock and LED lighting.

“Initially, we were told we would need to replace the control module, which we purchased last summer,” Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Becca Jenzen said via email. “When the installer arrived to get everything connected, he discovered that the drives in the clock were completely worn down and no longer ‘catching,’ which is why the hands weren’t moving and we weren’t even able to reset

the time when needed.”

The repair work will be conducted by The Verdin Co., which originally installed the clock tower. The tower opened in summer 2002, and the clock’s internal mechanisms have yet to be replaced.

“At my age, I’ve been very blessed financially and socially,” Fries said. “As I get older, I feel the greatest gift is the gift of giving back. And I just enjoy that feeling of supporting something and making things better.”

As a former president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club, Fries said he felt stirred to lead by example.

“We want more people to do this,” he said. “We want more people to get involved either with the Grosse Pointe Foundation or just civically look for something that they can get involved with.”

“... I think that makes our community stronger,” he continued. “People get excited because they’ve done something to make the city better.”

Driver charged in 2023 Ridge fatality

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A 17-year-old Grosse Pointe boy last week was charged with second-degree murder in connection with a Ridge Road single-car accident last November, which resulted in the death of passenger Flynn MacKrell, an 18-year-old also from Grosse Pointe.

Charges come from the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office four months after the defendant — 16 years old at the time — was the driver of a 2021 white BMW X3 when police say he lost control due to highly excessive speeds and left the roadway, striking a utility pole and tree, a little after 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17.

MacKrell was declared deceased at the scene, with the driver left in critical condition. Both teens were wearing seatbelts.

While the defendant is not being charged as an adult, he has been adult-designated.

“This means that, upon conviction, an adult designation allows the judge to have the option of sentencing the defendant as a juvenile, or as an adult, or to fashion a blended juvenile sentence with the option of imposing an adult sentence if the juvenile is not rehabilitated,” explained a statement from the prosecutor’s office.

Under Michigan law, second-degree murder encapsulates an unplanned, intentional killing; or a death caused by reckless disregard for human life.

“The evidence in this case will show that the defendant was driving in a residential neighborhood at speeds that rival speeding on our Michigan freeways,” Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy said last week in a release. “Sadly, Mr. MacKrell lost his life as a result. We know that the rules of the road exist for a reason: speed kills. Driving 25 mph in a residential neighborhood is mandated, not a mere suggestion.”

During a preliminary hearing before Wayne County Referee Leslie Graves Thursday, March 21, the defendant was given a \$10,000 cash/surety bond.

“In terms of the lengthy time element of the investigation, this was mainly due to the amount of work it took to assemble and formulate all of the necessary information into a comprehensive report for review,” Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Director John Hutchins reported. “The Michigan State Police played a crucial role in assisting us during the process.”

A preliminary examination before Wayne County Judge Cylenthia Miller is set for Wednesday, April 3.

The Week Ahead

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe Parks and Harbor Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Memorial tree dedication ceremony and meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 4**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 6**
- ◆ Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Neff Park, 17350 E. Jefferson, City of Grosse Pointe. For residents of the City, Farms, Park and Shores.

NEFF:

Continued from page 1A

You can even take your hands and start breaking it apart.”

Neff has been resurfaced numerous times, Kern reported, and it’s clear the base is significantly old.

“If we were to put asphalt down with what’s there, those cracks, it’s going to start displacing that new asphalt,” he said. “Those cracks are going to start to reflect through within a few years. Obviously, we want to do it right.”

City council agreed, last week authorizing up to an additional \$300,000 for the foundation work, which should allow the street to last another 20 to 25 years.

“It’s not an ideal situation, but unfortunately it is necessary before we put down any surface on that road to make sure that the foundation is solid,” City Manager Joe Valentine said.

Curb and gutter work along Neff was set to begin last week. Once cured and complete, the

city’s contractor, Pro-Line Asphalt, will begin the foundation work, aiming to lay asphalt the week of Monday, April 15.

“I wanted to say how happy I am with Ryan’s involvement and Pete’s (Randazzo, public services director) work,” resident Debra Brady, who lives in the 500 block of Neff, told council during public com-

ment. “Even though it’s inconvenient with the street being done, I think the communication has been excellent.”

Despite the recent cases of Rivard and Neff, Kern told council it’s pretty rare that necessary base repairs take the city by surprise.

“We’ve done several resurfacing streets here

in the city,” he said. “Most of them have worked out where we’ve been milling (and) we’ve got a good base, so we might have to do a few base repairs here and there. Maybe 10 to 20 percent of the base needs to be repaired.”

“In this case, it’s a significant amount of the base that definitely needs to be repaired.”

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While waiting for his order, a DoorDash driver stole approximately \$25 from a countertop tip jar at a business in the 17000 block of Mack at 9 p.m. Friday, March 15.

A follow-up investigation led to his identification, after which he confessed.

No plate

For driving a vehicle without a license plate, a 21-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at Mack and Cadieux and found to have a suspended license at 1:55 a.m. Thursday, March 21.

He was cited and his vehicle impounded.

Blinded

A 21-year-old Detroit woman was found to have an arrest warrant out of Warren for retail fraud after she was stopped at Mack and University for driving with high beams at 4:20 a.m. Thursday, March 21.

She was arrested and turned over to the Warren Police Department.

Suspended

After being stopped at Mack and Rivard for a broken tail light at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, a 33-year-old Clinton Township woman was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Fraud

A Grosse Pointer’s Visa credit card fraudulently was used to make a \$600 Meijer purchase at 10 p.m. Thursday,

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

March 21.

An investigation is ongoing.

Bad decisions

A 22-year-old Detroit man decided to speed on Mack at 11:55 p.m. Friday, March 22, despite not having a valid driver’s license and while driving a vehicle with an expired plate.

He was cited and the vehicle impounded.

Stolen Hyundai

A 2018 Hyundai Elantra was stolen from an apartment parking lot in the 17000 block of Mack at 3:30 a.m. Saturday, March 23.

Child endangerment

When a 21-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at Cadieux and Charlevoix for faulty brake lights at 9 p.m. Saturday, March 23, it was revealed he had multiple warrants and no driver’s license.

He accelerated away from the traffic stop at a high rate of speed, disregarding all traffic control devices.

Because a small child was in the backseat, he is being sought for fleeing and eluding, as well as child endangerment charges. An investigation is ongoing.

Anybody home?

A resident in the 400

block of St. Clair called officers at 4:45 a.m. Sunday, March 24, because a 21-year-old Woods man was banging on the door and trying to enter the home with a shovel.

The man was found to be intoxicated and received a drunk and disorderly citation.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Child neglect

A 24-year-old Detroit woman was arrested around 7:50 p.m. Friday, March 22, after officers responded to a report of three small children in a running vehicle in the parking lot of a business in the 20400 block of Mack.

The children were 6 years, 2 years and 3 months. When officers located the woman inside, she said she had only been inside a few minutes, but had a full shopping cart. She also told officers she had a concealed weapons permit and there was a handgun under the driver’s seat.

She was arrested for a felony warrant out of Novi and the children were released to a family member.

— *Ted O’Neil Report information*

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Something to hide

A 25-year-old Detroit man was arrested for illegal use of a credit card, open liquor transport and a second offense of driving with a suspended license, after being pulled over in the 19000 block of Mack for illegal front window tint and no license plate at 12:37 p.m. Tuesday, March 19.

Paypal and credit cards belonging to other individuals were found with him.

Colliding with the law

For speeding 55 mph on Mack and almost swerving into a parked patrol vehicle at 11:43 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, a 24-year-old Woods man was arrested for operating while intoxicated and open liquor transport. He also was cited for an expired license plate and speeding.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.17 percent.

What’s the password?

Officers arrested a 69-year-old Detroit man for trespassing at a busi-

ness in the 19000 block of Mack at 8:37 p.m. Saturday, March 23, because he was standing in the doorway and not allowing patrons to enter or exit the store.

Officers were called to the business just five days prior for the same situation with the individual.

Suspended

When pulled over for driving on a suspended license on Lannoo at 8:57 p.m. Sunday, March 24, a 24-year-old Detroit man said he was selling the car the next day and just filling the tires with air.

He was cited for the infraction and a passenger with a valid license drove the vehicle back to his house.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

It’s a park

A 37-year-old Redford man was arrested after he was found sleeping in his vehicle in Osius Park around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 20. In the actual park.

The man had been driving eastbound on Vernier when he crashed through the park’s wrought iron fence near the basketball court.

He was arrested for

drunken driving and resisting an officer and ticketed for no vehicle registration, no insurance and refusal to take a Breathalyzer.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Suspended

Two motorists were caught last week violating suspended operator’s licenses.

The first happened late morning Monday, March 18, when a patrol officer investigated a 42-year-old Detroit man for speeding on Mack near Buckingham.

The second, shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday, March 21, involved another speeder, a 34-year-old Detroit woman at the intersection of Mack and Cadieux.

ID theft

A Park resident told police last week of ABC Warehouse and Home Depot accounts being issued in his name without his approval.

He canceled both.

— *Brad Lindberg Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 82-7400.*

Spring cleaning the budget

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK

— Just as roadwork is a public works routine to maintain smooth driving surfaces, an example of rote work in the finance department is amending the municipal budget to reconcile projected versus actual revenues and expenditures.

“I look at it as spring cleaning,” said Councilman Tim Kolar, elected last fall due in part to his background in governmental accounting.

Budget amendments this year were more numerous than in at least the last three years. New Finance Director Ginger Moriarty attributed changes largely to shifting money among funds to directly link costs to the proper departments.

“There’s appreciation for the work and effort you’re putting into essentially a massive cleanup project,” Kolar told Moriarty during the March 11 city council

meeting. “Our auditors a couple months ago said it’s going to take a year. This is the next step in that multiple-year project.”

An example is the city mechanic’s salary. He works at DPW headquarters on Mack Avenue, but tends all municipal equipment and vehicles, from recreation department carts, public works snow plows and public safety department fire trucks.

“The mechanic is paid from the general fund, while approximately 60 percent of his time is devoted to the water-sewer function,” Moriarty told the council, making her case for changes. “He repairs their equipment (and) vehicles. Right now, he’s 100 percent paid by the general fund. This (proposal) is to amend wages and salaries to be appropriated to the general fund to cover the portion of his wages that the general fund is now compensating, which should be compensated by the

water and sewer fund.”

Another change impacting the water and sewer fund is insurance costs.

“I created a new department within the general fund for the city’s property insurance and liability so we can track year over year the actual amount of expenditures for property and liability insurance,” Moriarty said. “I amended the budget to transfer (money) out of the water sewer fund into the general fund to cover their portion, which is approximately 25 percent of the property and liability insurance.”

Council members approved those and more changes by resolution.

“Amendments are reflective of activity incurred in the general fund since adoption of the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget approved May 8, 2023,” according to the resolution.

“Amendments include the cleanup of closed funds to close out

remaining cash transfers to those funds for their designated purpose,” Moriarty wrote in a memo to council.

“Budget appropriations include a request for a number of active and retiree healthcare accounts as a result of the allocation of healthcare to departments based on the employee or retiree’s original home department. Allocations of existing healthcare fringes were also affected by the fourth quarter healthcare expenditures, resulting in an annual healthcare cost of \$2.4 million for fiscal year 2024.”

Another big-ticket change taps fund balance.

“The council authorized the finance director

to appropriate fund balance amending the 2024 general fund balance in the amount of \$1,174,900,” according to the resolution.

Additional changes for which amendments account are:

- ◆ general fund revenue, \$956,200;
- ◆ building inspection revenue, \$8,500 and
- ◆ Tax Increment Finance Authority revenue, \$23,600.

The following amounts were withdrawn from fund balance: \$98,900

for the major road fund, \$36,400 to the local road fund and \$86,200 for building inspections, \$18,900 for downtown development and \$56,600 for the capital projects fund.

“As we go through our activity, we’ll be amending the budget for revenue and expenditures, as we talked about before,” Moriarty told the council.

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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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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

Royal AI mess fuels controversy as GPPSS begins developing new policy

“Like many amateur photographers, I do occasionally experiment with editing. I wanted to express my apologies for any confusion the family photograph we shared yesterday caused.”
— Princess Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, in a March 11 statement

The above apology from Ms. Middleton — a key figure in the British Royal Family, whose husband William is next in line to become the king of England — is in response to the public outcry resulting from a particular photo Kensington Palace issued of her with her children earlier this month. Officials released the image to ease growing concerns about the princess, who had not been seen in public since she had what was termed a “planned” surgery in January. Since then, a much-analyzed video surfaced of the princess and the future king at a farmers’ market, just days before the Palace released a video last Friday of Kate announcing she has been diagnosed with cancer. Questions now abound with the authenticity of the videos and that they may have been produced by the help of artificial intelligence, or AI.

The frenzy began when news organizations, TikTokers and X users on social media detected 16 “irregularities” in the family photo. Industry experts say modern cameras can reveal the truth behind a manipulated photo by accessing metadata embedded in the image file. Unfortunately for the royals, some members of the press did just that. They determined the photo was manufactured by the help of Photoshop and AI. As a result, Associated Press issued a “kill notification,” meaning the image was so manipulated no newspapers should run it because it failed to meet publication standards. Multiple global photo agencies, including Getty Images and Reuters, joined AP and removed the photo from their press libraries, citing concerns about manipulation. Though Princess Kate and Co. find themselves in a royal mess over AI, the issue is hitting close to home, too. As reported in last week’s Grosse Pointe News, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is taking a deep dive into how it should handle AI in its curriculum.

Chris Stanley, the district’s executive director of learning technology and strategic relations, said the district is figuring out ways to use it for “personalized learning and how structural it can be for teachers.” To that end, the district has formed the GPAI Leadership Council, consisting of 30 members including administrators, teachers, parents and a few students. One goal in GPPSS is to figure out how AI can be a tool for student learning and for teachers to better develop instruction. One place the district may find a positive example of AI is at the University of Michigan and the school’s MWrite program. MWrite is a technology housed in U of M’s Sweetland Center for Writing. It’s designed to help faculty tackle writing activities through an algorithm, which identifies areas of a student’s writing piece where they are struggling and issues within the assignment that are contributing to weaker writing, according to the university’s website. Professors use the information to clarify and strengthen the assignment’s prompts.

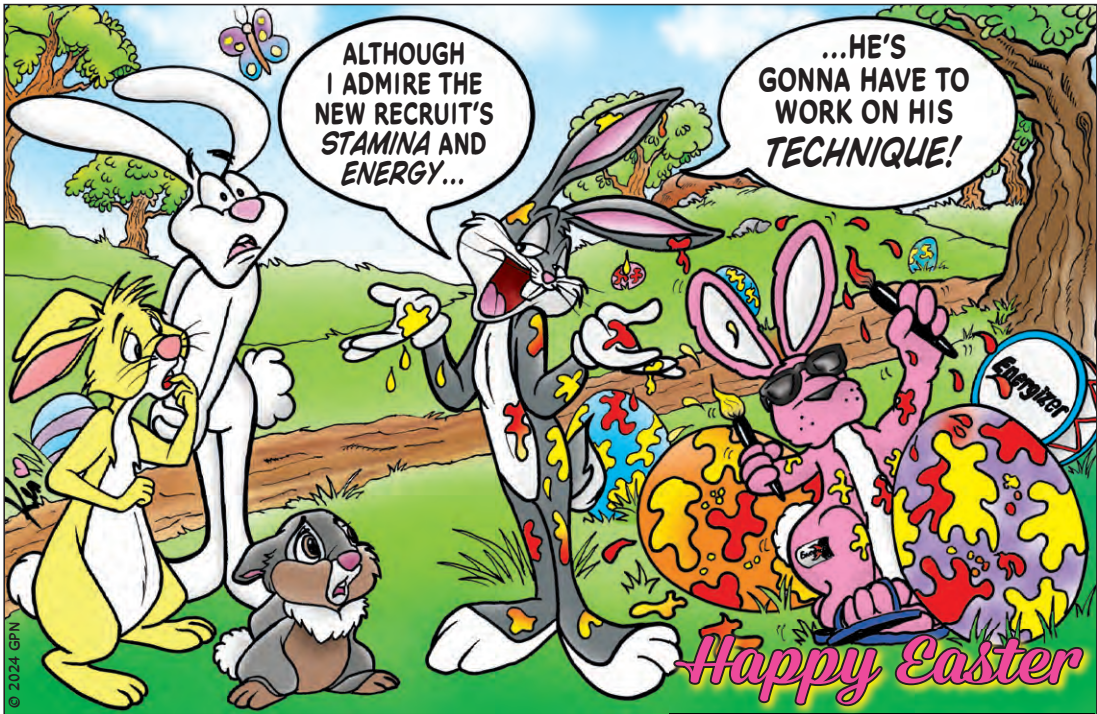


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Melissa Fradenburg

Tidying up your finances

The spring-like weather we experienced mid-March had Grosse Pointers flocking to Allemon’s Landscape Center and Ace Hardware, eager to gather the essentials to freshen up their flower beds. Yet, as the temperatures have dropped once again, hinting at the tease of a fake spring, it presents the perfect interlude to turn our attention indoors — not just to our



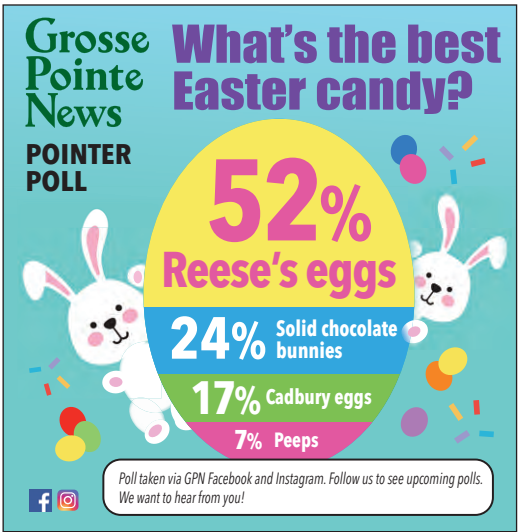
physical spaces, but to the financial clutter that often goes unnoticed. As a financial advisor, I see this as an opportune moment to dive into a spring cleaning for your finances, ensuring you step into the season with a refreshed and organized financial outlook. Tidy up your financial documents: Begin with decluttering your financial documents.

See GUEST, page 7A

MWrite also uses an automated peer review tool to help students improve their writing. Maintained by Michigan’s IT staff, the tool enables students to upload their written responses to an assignment, provide feedback to several peers who responded to the same assignment and receive feedback on their own writing. This automated system uses this data to create course-specific algorithms that could identify struggling students. The Khan Academy also uses a personalized AI-powered tutoring system called Khanmigo, a chatbot that offers guidance to students on math, science and humanities problems. It also offers a debate tool with suggested topics like student debt cancellation and a writing tutor that helps students create a story. But plenty of high schools around the country are not so convinced and have gone so far as to ban AI wholesale. Districts in Alaska, Los Angeles, Seattle, Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, New York City and Washington, D.C., are just a handful of places where this use of this technology is a student no-no. Some colleges also penalize the use of AI, up to and including student expulsion. The Royal Family’s recent photo fiasco and the prolific AI-generated disinformation and misinformation surrounding elections around the globe are just two of the most recent issues concerning AI. In a time when any image, video, exam or essay can be manufactured by a computer’s algorithm, how can we know what part’s actually real and human-generated?

We recognize the ethical considerations in front of GPPSS as they develop this policy. AI is complicated, but we applaud the district’s attempt to discern facts about its assets from the pitfalls of over-manufacturing in the classroom. The hard work lies in figuring out

cutting-edge ways to empower our students and support our teachers with this powerful technology.



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.

Reasonable rewards

To the Editor: Our youth sports organizations are one of the many facets in our community in which we can take pride. Engaged and supportive families enrich our children’s experiences and make youth sporting possible and rewarding from character-building and skill-enhancing perspectives. One issue, however, puzzles me. Frequently, upon completion of a sporting activity (which may only involve minimal physical exertion to the child, depending on age), a well-meaning parent, designated by the snack rotation, provides a sugary treat, beverage, or both, as an instant reward for participation in a game. Admittedly, I have done this myself for fear of being the outlier. While this approach arguably adds to the fun dynamic, it is antithetical to the purpose of

See LETTERS, page 7A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

March 28 – April 3



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
51° 28°	55° 39°	51° 36°	52° 34°	50° 41°	50° 34°	46° 32°
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	AM Showers	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
0% 0%	0% 0%	40% 0%	0% 0%	0% 0%	60% 0%	0% 0%
SUNRISE 7:20 am SUNSET 7:54 pm	SUNRISE 7:19 am SUNSET 7:55 pm	SUNRISE 7:17 am SUNSET 7:56 pm	SUNRISE 7:15 am SUNSET 7:57 pm	SUNRISE 7:13 am SUNSET 7:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:12 am SUNSET 7:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:10 am SUNSET 8:00 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



Picking and choosing election deniers

All copies of the Barbara McQuade book, "Attack Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America," at the Grosse Pointe Public Library are checked out or on hold. In it, McQuade, an MSNBC legal analyst and a former U.S. attorney who helped rid Detroit of corrupt Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, reportedly supports the title to a degree

warranting praise from numerous political players and historians. Online excerpts indicate that McQuade introduces the book with an anecdote about a gullible woman from suburban Atlanta driving 10 hours to support an election-denial protest in Washington, D.C. The woman "had fallen under the spell of the election-denier movement bound by a belief that the incumbent president, Donald J. Trump, had won the presidential election but had been robbed of his victory through fraud." It is too bad that a Georgia resident would

drive more than 650 miles to vent when afforded an equal opportunity close to home. Yet politics and predilection taint perception, a lesson Grosse Pointe high school freshmen learn upon reading Helena's lament in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream": "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore winged Cupid is painted blind." Following are 16 (out of many more available) quotes about denying election results. Quotes span a recent four-year period. Choose those correctly attributable to Trump or, if

by someone other, name the true source or sources. There are right and wrong answers. No participation ribbons. But, moving forward a few grades in Shakespeare studies, we cushion test results with Prospero's forbearance of those succumbed to a world of fantasy in "The Tempest": "As you from crimes would pardoned be, let your indulgence set me free." "I will not concede because the erosion of our democracy is not right." "It was not a free and fair election." "But will I say that this election was not tainted, was not a disinvestment

and a disenfranchisement of thousands of voters? I will not say that." "It was a stolen election. They stole it from the voters." "I refused to concede because concession means that the process was proper, that the result was true and right, and I cannot say that." "I did win my election. I just didn't get to have the job." "I didn't lose. I got the votes. But we won't know exactly how many because of how they cheated." "They are going to steal your elections." "The election was stolen from the people."

"We didn't get the victory we secured." "The game is rigged." "I don't call it a loss. I just didn't win ... officially." "I 'absolutely' stand by my decision to refuse to say I lost." "The (losing) results were purely and fully attributable to voter suppression." "I believe it was stolen from the voters." "It was stolen from the voters." Trump made none of those statements. All came from losing 2018 Georgia Democrat gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams.

Federal assistance available for August storms

WAYNE COUNTY—Those affected by severe Michigan storms that brought tornados and flooding Aug. 24 to 26, 2023, have until Monday, April 8, to apply for federal disaster loan assistance. President Joe Biden declared the occurrence a major disaster in early February, opening funding to businesses, homeowners and renters in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties. Additional counties eligible for federal

disaster assistance are Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston and Monroe. Available funding includes more than \$83.1 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency housing grants for home repair, home replacement and rental assistance for temporary housing; more than \$19.9 million in Other Needs Assistance grants for personal property replacement and serious storm-related needs such as moving and storage fees, transportation, childcare, and medical and dental

expenses; and more than \$2.2 million in U.S. Small Business Administration long-term, low-interest disaster loans for homeowners and renters to repair, rebuild or replace disaster-damaged physical property, as well as for economic injury for businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations. To apply, call FEMA's toll-free helpline at (800) 621-3362, go online to disasterassistance.gov or download the FEMA app. —Laurel Kraus

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

Just as we tackle the clutter in our closets and drawers, it's equally important to address the financial "junk drawer" many of us have — a mishmash of unsorted documents, neglected accounts and the evergrowing list of financial tasks we plan to get to "someday." This involves sorting through bank statements, bills, insurance policies and investment reports. Digitize what you can to reduce physical clutter, ensuring that you have secure backups for digital files. For essential documents that must be kept in hard copy, such as birth certificates and property deeds, invest in a fireproof safe. Remember, the goal is to know what you have and where it is. Automate your financial life: One of the simplest yet most effective ways to manage your finances is through

automation. Automation in finance can be likened to a timed irrigation system for your garden — set it up once and it takes care of the rest, ensuring your financial responsibilities are met without a second thought. Set up automatic payments for recurring bills and automatic transfers to your savings or investment accounts. This ensures you never miss a payment and steadily grow your savings without having to think about it every month. Reevaluate your budget and goals: Spring is an ideal time to review your budget and financial goals. Life changes and so should your budget. Maybe you have new income sources, or perhaps certain expenses have decreased or increased. Adjust your budget accordingly and set new financial goals if necessary. This could mean saving for a home renovation, planning for a vacation or increasing your retirement contributions. Invest in your financial education:

Finally, consider using this time to invest in your financial education. The more you understand about personal finance, from investing basics to tax strategies, the more empowered you will be to make informed decisions. There are countless resources available, including books, podcasts and online courses to suit every learning style and interest. A season of financial renewal: As you enjoy the sense of renewal spring brings to your home and garden, extend that refreshing energy to your finances. By decluttering, consolidating, automating, reevaluating and educating, you can create a solid foundation that supports your current needs and future goals. Remember, financial well-being

isn't achieved by accident; it's the result of deliberate actions and ongoing management. As you patiently wait for the ground to warm and the blooms to emerge, remember that the seeds of financial well-being you plant now will bring peace and prosperity in the seasons to come. Melissa Fradenburg, AIF, CDFA, is a financial advisor, podcast host and active community member in Grosse Pointe. Follow her on social media @money_do_list or reach out at (313) 290-2602. Antonelli Financial Advisors offers fee-only, discretionary investment management and wealth advisory services tailored to meet a client's financial needs and investment objectives.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

the activity — teaching our children healthy habits and fueling their bodies for active lifestyles. What happened to the reasonable balance of yesteryear — the game-day orange slices and water followed by the one-time, year-end, celebratory ice cream trip to the locally owned shop? My challenge is to leagues to encourage this reason-

ableness and parents to consider moving in this direction to strike a more balanced approach to reward mechanisms and health. MEGAN IRVING Grosse Pointe Woods Truly blessed To the Editor: What a wonderful article (March 21, 2024) about Officer (Charity) Vanover — named first Public Safety Employee of the Year in Grosse

Pointe Farms! I hope everyone gets to read it. Officer Vanover goes way above and beyond her required duties to help people. One example cited in the article — she used her own money, time and tech skills to help a man locate his wife who has dementia. We are truly blessed to have people like PSO Vanover working in our community. Thank you, Officer Vanover. MARY JO MAGEE Grosse Pointe Farms



Grosse Pointe Based



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TO READ CLIENT REVIEWS:

SCAN ME

Open up and say, ‘Mmm’

Crispelli’s Bakery and Pizzeria now open on Mack

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Marking its first venture outside Oakland County, Crispelli’s Bakery and Pizzeria opened last month at 19852 Mack. “It’s been fantastic,” General Manager Eric Rowley said. “We’ve received a very warm welcome from the community.”

Crispelli’s has locations in Berkley, Troy, West Bloomfield, Clarkston and Royal Oak.

Rowley said he’s surprised how well the bakery side of the store has been received.

“We’re selling a lot more bread than our other stores,” he said.

Crispelli’s Bakery and Pizzeria opened last month at 19852 Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods.

PHOTO BY
RENEE
LANDUYT



“It’s baked fresh daily, which our customers really appreciate.”

The bakery menu features everything from morning treats such as croissants and muffins to rolls and buns to full

loaves like focaccia, kalamata olive and sourdough.

On the pizzeria side, build-your-own pies are available in deep dish or thin crust, while gourmet choices include

Mediterranean, mar-gherita and wild mushroom. Beyond that are salads, soups, sandwiches and pasta.

Although they have a full liquor license, they’re only serving

beer, wine and hard seltzers as of now. Crispelli’s also offers catering, along with room for private events at its Troy, Berkley and West Bloomfield locations.

Rowley said the store expected to start deliveries through DoorDash this week.

“We wanted to start off a little slow so we didn’t overwhelm the employees,” he said. “We wanted to hone in on getting everything in place.”

Rowley said he has close to 50 employees, including several local high school students.

The Grosse Pointe North High School girls basketball team stopped in after winning its district championship earlier this month.

“That was fun because some of their classmates were working,” he said.

“They gave us a heads up ahead of time and dessert was on us. We

appreciated their business.”

Rowley said Crispelli’s also wants to get involved with local school fundraisers.

“Whatever group it is will advertise it by handing out fliers,” he said. “People bring those in and we’ll donate 10 percent of those sales that day.”

Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

“Friday and Saturday nights have been a good draw so far,” Rowley said. “We have seating for 59, so not a huge dining room, but we don’t have any TVs either, so people aren’t lingering having another beer and watching a game. We can turn the tables over pretty fast.”

Visit crispellis.com or call (313) 332-5067 for more information.

Harbour View Inn under new ownership

Jon and Lauren Cotton of Grosse Pointe are the proud new owners of Harbour View Inn on Mackinac Island, previous owner Timothy Moskalik recently announced.

“My wife, Katie, and Karen Pulte are honored to have been stewards of this iconic Mackinac Island property,” Moskalik said. “It has been a privilege to carry on the tradition of Bill Pulte, who loved the island so much. We are thrilled to pass along this heritage to Jon and Lauren Cotton. We are equally excited for the opportunities that this sale presents to our associates and guests and the island itself.”

Added Jon Cotton, “As longtime residents of Michigan, my family and I have visited the island many times and understand the importance of these historic hotels to the future of Mackinac Island. I am excited to honor the history and tradition of the Harbour View Inn.”

The hotel becomes part of a collection of iconic properties in northern Michigan owned by Jon and Lauren Cotton, which includes Hotel Iroquois on Mackinac Island, The Perry Hotel in Petoskey, Bay View Inn in Petoskey, Crooked River Lodge in Alanson, Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs and Weathervane Restaurant

in Charlevoix.

Hotel Investment Services of Troy has been selected to continue managing Harbour View Inn.

“There is tremendous opportunity to build upon the excellent reputation this hotel has established over the years and to continue to honor its historic importance,” said Ron Wilson, CEO of HIS.

Jon and Lauren Cotton said they look forward to planning and curating the appropriate building renovations and landscape for the hotel so it will continue providing the highest level of service and best guest experience possible well into the future.



Jon and Lauren Cotton



COURTESY PHOTOS

The historic Harbour View Inn on Mackinac Island is now locally owned.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

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Grosse Pointe News

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MONDAY APRIL 15, 2024, 7:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 110 of 2006 the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended, and the Grosse Pointe City Code, that the Grosse Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing as noticed above at 7:00 pm at the Grosse Pointe Council Chambers at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI. The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing to consider the following items(s), in brief:

1. Consideration of the request of Chris and Kathy Manos regarding the property located at 16 Lakeside Court (Parcel No. 37-006-12-0001-000) for a variance from Section 90-405(1) of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinances, which stipulates that residential front yard fences shall be between 24 and 36 inches in height and shall be ornamental in nature. The applicant is proposing a 48-inch-high “wrought iron style” fence, including a walk-through gate and a double-swing driveway security gate.

The property is located in the R-1A, Single Family Residential District Zoning Classification. Standards for variance consideration are contained in Section 90-101 of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinances.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on April 15, 2024. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to city@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800

Christopher Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 3/28/24

Thirteen advance to state history championships

University Liggett School recently announced that 13 students are advancing to the Michigan History Day state championships at Central Michigan University on April 20.

Out of 26 ULS students who showcased their in-depth projects at the District 10 competition of Michigan History Day, 13 have been chosen to move forward to the state championship.

This year's District 10 competition boasted more than 160 participants, more than double the number from last year.

ULS students who will move on to the state championship are:

◆ Fourth grader Elliott Hemler of Grosse Pointe Woods, in the youth division, individual documentary

◆ Middle school students Mac Costanzo of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mac O'Reilly of the City of Grosse Pointe, Dalton Shaffer of St. Clair Shores and Hans Wimmer of Detroit, in the junior division, group documentary

◆ Upper school students Elliot Karr of Grosse Pointe Park, senior division, paper; Liam Kurtz of Detroit, senior division, individual exhibition; Johnny Secco



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULS

ULS students Zaire Polk and Teresa Romanelli will advance to the Michigan History Day state championships.



Enzo Rossi presents his Michigan History Day submission at the District 10 competition.

of Grosse Pointe Farms and Griffin Marchal of Grosse Pointe Farms, senior division, group exhibition; Enzo Rossi of St. Clair Shores, senior division, group exhibi-

tion; Annabel Klaasen of Grosse Pointe Farms, Zaire Polk of Grosse Pointe Woods and Teresa Romanelli of the City of Grosse Pointe, senior division, group exhibit.

POLICY:

Continued from page 1A

on the heels of reconfiguration, when the decision was made to close Trombly and Poupard elementary schools.

“Prior to that, we did allow intra-district transfers if there was a seat available,” he said. “It took into consideration things like staffing levels and educational programs. It wasn’t approved if it was cost-negative, like having to add another section.”

The current policy does allow students to transfer at the high school level in rare circumstances. Transfers are not allowed because of:

- ◆ Family legacy
- ◆ Sibling or other rela-

tive at a particular school

- ◆ Proximity
- ◆ Specific educational plan only offered at one school

- ◆ Creation or maintenance of friendships

◆ Any other reason not based on the student’s safety/educational needs

“When we get a request like that, we talk to both principals,” Bishop said. “Student safety comes first and we want to make sure there’s an intervention plan in place.”

The district also gets transfer requests at the K-8 level due to its registration deadline of May 1. Registering before that date means a student is guaranteed to attend what the district calls their “home” school, meaning the closest one. If a family moves into the

district over the summer, for example, their student or students would be placed in a K-8 school that has room if their “home” school was at full occupancy. Parents then often request a transfer to the “home” school because that is where all the children in the neighborhood attend.

Other metro Detroit districts that, like GPPSS, do not participate in schools of choice — or do so on a limited basis — allow intra-district transfers based on space. Those include Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Livonia and Plymouth-Canton.

Dearborn recently reversed course and did away with transfers because its schools are at capacity.

SALE:

Continued from page 1A

Brothers, so they possibly could have forced the sale.”

Robertson Brothers and the district signed a contract in November 2022, for \$650,000. The company originally planned to build 100 attached townhomes and stacked flat units between 700 and 1,400 square feet on the 6.5-acre site.

The company approached the board in April 2023, saying it needed an extension as it sought grant money.

New plans call for a mix of 70 single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes between 1,200 and 1,400 square feet. Each would be two bedrooms and two bathrooms and include a den with exterior access that could be used as a third bedroom.

CEO and President Jim Clarke at the time said the company thought it could sell each unit for \$200,000, but it would

cost \$325,000 to build each one.

Loughrin said if everything falls into place, the company could close by

September and start demolition, with construction in 2025. Move-in would take place in 2026.



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City gets \$600,000 lead line inspection grant

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City recently got word it was awarded \$600,000 — the maximum grant award per proposal — for lead service line investigation work through a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

Unlike many federal and state grants, there is no local match commitment.

“This is part of PA 166, where the state appropriated about \$48 million

into this grant program for basically investigating lead line replacements, so it was a dedicated program back in 2022,” City Manager Joe Valentine explained, adding the funding “allows us to advance our investigation efforts and identify as many potential lead lines that exist and need to be abated as possible.”

Of 172 applicants this fiscal year, the City is one of 65 to be awarded funding through EGLE’s Community Technical, Managerial and Financial, or TMF, support program for lead line replacement.

“Municipalities have the ability to apply for that on an annual basis,” Valentine said. “But I think once you get it, then you have to step back for a year or two and it’ll allow others the opportunity.”

While city administration has reviewed its records for lead line replacements already completed, onsite physical verification is the most effective process and is what the grant will fund.

“How far this funding will go, I think will be realized once we get into the investigation process,” Valentine said,

“because if some of them can be identified relatively quickly by looking at the stop box and identifying what we have at the stop box, then we don’t necessarily have to go all the way to the house.”

“But if we need to do further exploration on certain properties, then obviously it’s going to cost a little more per property.”

Because of EGLE’s Lead and Copper Rule of 2018, Michigan municipalities are required to replace 5 percent of lead service lines annually and

100 percent by 2041.

Thus far, the City has taken an approach of identifying and replacing lead service lines in conjunction with its annual water main replacement projects.

“For example, last year we were doing the water lines on Neff,” Valentine said.

Having applied this past year for \$5,830,000 from EGLE’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund — the cost believed to cover replacement of the estimated 650 lead service lines left within the City — the city was not successful in that endeavor,

but that may be what allowed it to receive the \$600,000 TMF grant.

Funding for the TMF grant was first prioritized by communities which did not receive a Drinking Water Asset Management grant and have not received Drinking Water State Revolving Fund or associated dollars within the last five years. Ranking then was determined by Median Annual Household Income in ascending order.

“We reapplied,” Valentine said of the DWSRF, “and we’re in consideration again for the next review period.”

City mayor integral in regional air quality improvement plan

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — “The air isn’t going to stop at the border of our city,” said Sheila Tomkowiak, City of Grosse Pointe mayor and co-chair of the Southeast Michigan Healthy Climate Taskforce, regarding her role in a regional plan aimed at improving air quality via the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the enhancement of natural areas that capture climate pollution.

“I hear from residents all the time, ‘What are you doing about climate?’” she added.

For its part, the City recently incorporated bioswales into the CVS lot’s reconstruction, passed an ordinance requiring downspout disconnection and put a focus on permeable surfaces; however, Tomkowiak was quick to emphasize — similar to ongoing stormwater efforts to protect against future basement backups — the improvements



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEMCOG

City of Grosse Pointe mayor and SEMCOG Healthy Climate Task Force Co-Chair Sheila Tomkowiak, center, celebrates adoption of the PCAP with the SEMCOG Executive Committee and Healthy Climate Task Force members Friday, February 23, at SEMCOG’s office.

can’t have the intended impact unless implemented on a regional level.

Ergo, why Tomkowiak and co-chair Coleman A. Young II, a Detroit councilman, led the charge toward last month’s adoption of a regional Priority Climate Action Plan, or PCAP.

The plan’s adoption not only lays the data-driven groundwork for five tangible priority

measures to reduce climate pollution, but also makes eligible public entities in southeast Michigan for applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, which will award \$4.6 billion nationwide in 2024.

“The thing that is just so powerful is that this is something where there is

money behind this,” Tomkowiak said. “You can write any plan you want and know what to do, (but) if you don’t have money to execute that plan, it’ll sit on the shelf.”

“This is something that has money attached to it with no local match,” she

continued. “... No local match is absolutely huge.”

Any awarded funding would be put toward implementation of the plan’s priority measures:

- ◆ decarbonizing buildings and industry, such as replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy;
- ◆ modernizing mobility systems by shifting to emissions-free fleet vehicles, increasing use of shared transportation and adding walking and biking infrastructure;
- ◆ managing waste materials sustainably, such as turning food waste into meals and compost;
- ◆ expanding renewable electricity generation, such as solar, wind, geothermal or combined heat and power;
- ◆ optimizing natural and working lands by increasing the coverage and health of trees, building green stormwater

infrastructure — bioswales, rain gardens and green roofs — and conserving and expanding wetlands.

“While this is a relatively early milestone in southeast Michigan’s coordinated effort to reduce greenhouse gas, GHG, emissions, it is a crucial one,” Tomkowiak said in a release. “It will enable us to apply for upcoming implementation grants from the EPA for regional projects with maximum impact.”

While the PCAP’s measures aim to reduce climate pollution by 2030, they also are the foundation for a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan set to be completed in 2025, which will provide both short-and long term solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Visit tinyurl.com/26ns9k86 to view the full PCAP plan.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 18, 2024

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held March 4, 2024, and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Beautification Commission meeting held on January 29, 2024 and the Beautification Commission meeting held on February 26, 2024.
- 2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 129497 through 129625 in the amount of \$1,678,028.34 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment in the amount of \$35,100.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks, replacement of stop boxes and service line repairs at various residential locations.
- (3) . approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$27,600.00 for the removal of trees in conjunction with several water main breaks and for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (4) approve payment to Wolverine Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$13,142.00 for the removal of main break spoils, ground fill supplies and cold patch for filling potholes.
- (5) . approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$36,005.40 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of February 2024. (6) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$6,711.66 for the printing, folding and mailing of the monthly water bills. (7)approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$49,201.73 for professional services during the month of February 2024 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; 2024 Pavement Striping, #180-342; 2024 Misc. Concrete Repairs, #180-338; Eastland Center Red. #180-244; 2023 and 2024 Joint/Crack Sealing, #180-318 and #180-341; Roscommon Park, #180-329; City Hall Generator, #180-291; Harper/Van Antwerp Dev. #180-313; 2023 and 2024 San. Sewer FCIPP, #180-316 and 180-339; 2023 and 2024 Storm Sewer, #180-314 and #180-337; 2023 and 2024 San. Sewer Cleaning, #180-317 and #180-340; DWRF Lead Water Svc. Repl. #180-331; Temp Water Operator, #180-303 and EGLE Support Grant, #180-343. (8) approve payment to Intrado Life and Safety Solutions Corporation in the amount of \$13,509.04 for the renewal of an extended maintenance plan for the Viper dispatch call-taking console.
- 2) to approve payment to Insituform Technologies USA in the amount of \$17,516.95 for Progress Payment No. 2 (final) on the 2023 Sewer Rehabilitation by Full Length CIPP Lining, #180-316.
- 3) to accept the grant award from the Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA) in the amount of \$50,000.00, and further to accept the proposal prepared by McKenna for the scope of work to update the City of Harper Woods’ Zoning Ordinance in an amount not to exceed \$87,000.00, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the City.
- 4) to approve payment to the Bank of New York Mellon in the amount of \$325,000.00 for the principal and \$7,312.50 for the interest, a total of \$332,312.50, on the 2004 General Obligation Library Bond.
- 5) to approve payment to the US Bank Trust Company in the amount of \$170,000.00 for the principal and \$24,000.00 for the interest payment, a total of \$194,000.00, for the Michigan Clean Water Program.
- 6) to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with L. Anthony Construction of ShelbyTownship for the 2024 Miscellaneous Concrete Pavement Repair Program, #180-338.
- 7)to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 with Michigan Joint Sealing, Inc. of Farmington Hills for the 2024 Pavement Joint Sealing Program, #180-341.
- 8) to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC of Waterford for the 2024 Storm Sewer Repair Program #180-337.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Posted: March 19, 2024
Published: GPN, March 28, 2024

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC LIBRARY COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN

ON NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE POSITIONS

Three vacancies on the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees will exist as of June 30, 2024: a representative from Grosse Pointe Park; a representative from Grosse Pointe Shores; and a representative from Grosse Pointe Woods. The term for these positions will expire on June 30, 2028. Applicants must be registered voters and reside in the municipality that will be considering their appointment.

Applications are available at the Central Library Administrative Office (313-343-2325), 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday or on the Library’s website, grossepointelibrary.org.

Applications must be submitted to the Secretary of the Library Board, no later than April 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Submit applications to:

libraryboard@grossepointelibrary.org

Or:

Secretary of Library Board
Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Library
10 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Published: GPN, March 28, 2024

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE - ORDINANCE NOS. 460, 461, AND 462

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 460 amending Chapter 6, Article II - Liquor Licenses, Ordinance No. 461 amending Chapter 42, Article I, § 42-9 - Mechanical Equipment, and Ordinance No. 462 amending Chapter 58 – Signs of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances.

Ordinance No. 460 amends Chapter 6, Article II – Liquor Licenses to include cross references to the NC, T, T-1, and T-2 zoning districts which have been added since the last revision.

Ordinance No. 461 amends Chapter 42, Article I, § 42-9 - Mechanical Equipment to broaden all references to “Refrigeration Equipment” to “Mechanical Equipment”, so as to include EV Chargers as regulated equipment.

Ordinance No. 462 amends Chapter 58 - Signs to include “ER” district within single family district provisions, to include “NC, T, T-1 and T-2” districts within commercial mixed use district provisions, remove “C-1” and include “T and T-1” districts within freestanding sign provisions, and to add a new section to provide for signage within H, hospital facilities districts.

These Ordinances will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 460, 461, and 462 are available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

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HART
seeks help
for Haitian
refugees

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Since 2009, the Haiti and Africa Relief Team, or HART, has provided medical and dental aid to more than 25,000 Haitians through the efforts of more than 400 missionaries. Additionally, three churches have been built and, since 2012, thousands of Haitian orphans have been fed each year. HART Vice President Martin Petz has been involved with the organization 12 years and has gone on more mission trips to Haiti than he can remember.

“I got involved with

HART because I saw an opportunity to give back — and give back to people who couldn’t do a single thing for me,” he said. “It’s a way to follow in the steps of Jesus and be active in my faith. I stayed active all these years because, having been there and experienced it firsthand ... we talk about poverty here, but real poverty is something that takes your breath away.” Since the increase in hostility in Haiti, demand for HART services has increased more than 300 percent. Those services include providing food, medical assistance and education to an under-



The HART mission team from one of its last trips.



HART built St. Jude Church. “We spent a couple years back and forth to Haiti overseeing construction of the church,” Petz said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTIN PETZ

Haitian girls eat a mix of rice and beans.

served population.

The mission

“It’s heartbreaking,” Petz said. “One family gets a sack of beans and rice and they use that to eat for a week. It’s what you and I might use for a meal or two. They’re fortunate if they can get a meal every three days. They’re literally starving. I’ve seen them take grass and dirt and make cakes and eat them to reduce the pain in their stomach.” Many of the children in orphanages supported by HART aren’t actually orphans. “Their parents are still there, but they can’t feed them or clothe them or take care of them,” Petz said, “so they give them up to these orphanages in hopes they’ll get fed.” One of HART’s pilot programs is the Haitian Orphan Prevention Effort, or HOPE, which is overseen by the Rev. Louis Merosne, pastor of

the Cathedral of St. Anne in Anse-a-Veau. “We’ve ‘adopted’ 50 children who still live with their parents,” Petz explained. “They come to St. Anne’s parish where they get some structure. They get two meals while they’re there. They also get mentoring on behavior and education; we pay for them to go to school. It’s six days a week. We also bring their parents in several times a month for training on parenting. And we teach faith formation to all of them.” HART also supports St. Jude Church in Morne l’Hopital, where the Rev. Roosevelt Leriche preaches. While St. Anne is on the coast, St. Jude is in the mountains, the roads to which are difficult enough to travel, but have become worse as travelers often are stopped by armed gangs. “Things in Haiti are far worse than they’ve ever been in the time we’ve

gone there,” Petz said. “We stopped going to Haiti when COVID hit, but then the violence got so bad that I, as the trip director, didn’t feel safe bringing a team down there. We have a number of people who work for us in Haiti, so we’re able to keep a lot of the activities going. “... We still have the ability to get food and medications, but the cost of doing that has gone through the roof,” he added. “Down there, the cost is further exacerbated because the violence and control of gangs are putting pressure on the ability to move items from one point to another. There’s a risk, because as you go along, you lose. To get through a roadblock, you have to share something you have in the vehicle.” When HART was visiting Haiti directly, thousands of people would be seen by visiting doctors, who donated their time and services.

“When the dental team is there, all they’re doing essentially is yanking teeth out of people’s heads,” Petz said. “There’s no time to do anything more. It helps with their pain; their mouth is rotting. “... Quite often the patients we see in clinic, there’s nothing we can do to help them,” he added. “Maybe we can ease their pain, but we know they won’t likely be around in a month. It’s heartbreaking and hard, but that moment of hope when someone sees them, that’s what it’s about.” Missionaries not only donate their services, but also pay their own way, covering airfare, ground travel, food and lodging. “Trip participants pay a good chunk of the cost of being there,” Petz said.

“Ninety-five percent of funds for HART go to the poor, buying medications, food, paying the people we’ve hired there.” Petz, who also serves as the music minister on mission trips, said it’s a labor of love. “It’s what God wants us to do,” he said. “It’s clearly spelled out in the Bible, when Christ was walking the Earth. We should emulate a little of that good thing. We could use more of it.” Help needed HART stands on three tenets: sharing faith; bringing humanitarian aid to the people; and creating opportunities locally for people to help make a difference. Those opportunities include going on mission trips and, just as importantly, contributing financially to support HART activities. Local folks can sponsor an orphan for \$750 per year. “That covers most of their expenses — not all, but the lion’s share — for food, the mentors and support people,” Petz said. While currently it’s unsafe to travel to Haiti, HART is planning its third missionary trip to the Dominican Republic, where Haitian refugees are receiving care. While this trip, planned June 1 to 8, is full, those interested in joining a future missionary team can make arrangements through HART. Financial donations also go a long way. “You can pick what you want to donate to on the website,” Petz said, noting educational, food and medical programs, among other designations. See HART, page 6B

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2B | 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.

Virginia McCandless Joliet

Virginia “Ginny” Joliet, 82, formerly of Grosse Pointe, peacefully passed away Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, surrounded by her five children.

Born Sept. 25, 1941, in Detroit, to Jim and Grace McCandless, Ginny grew up in Grosse Pointe as the second of five children. She was a proud graduate of Grosse Pointe High School, Class of 1958, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan.

Ginny married Robert “Bob” Joliet in May 1966, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. They welcomed four boys and then a daughter and raised them in Grosse Pointe. Both from large families, Ginny and Bob were lifelong members of St. Paul. They emphasized faith and family and instilled those values in their children.

After Bob passed away suddenly in 1985, Ginny went back to school and earned an MBA from Wayne State University, which she completed at night while working full-time and raising her young children as a single mother. Ginny’s greatest joy was being a mother to her kids, Jim, Jerry, John, Jeff and Joanne, and she was overjoyed when her family grew with her daughters-in-law, Michelle, Sadhana, Mariel and Amy, whom she loved dearly. Ginny also was the proud grandmother to 13 beautiful grandchildren.

Professionally, Ginny was blessed with a sharp intellect. Her career was focused in accounting and information systems with multiple companies in the Detroit area, including American Natural Resources, Coastal Corporation, EDS and the City of Taylor.

Personally, Ginny had a flair for the exciting and unconventional, as evidenced by her large collection of colorful eyeglasses and limited-edition convertible VW bug, in which she zipped around town with the sun on her face and wind in her hair.

After retiring, Ginny loved volunteering as a performing arts docent at the Detroit Opera House and Detroit Symphony Orchestra, as well as serving on the Bon Secours Assistance League. She relaxed by gardening, doing puzzles and playing games on her iPad. She also was a voracious reader, spending countless hours in her garden, engrossed in a book while enjoying the warm sun and a gentle breeze. Ginny also loved to visit her children and grandchildren around the U.S., usually without a return date established, and enjoyed traveling to exciting destinations such as Hong Kong, Rome, the Bahamas, London, Alaska, Vancouver, China, Hawaii, Ireland and the Netherlands with various family members over the years.

Always one for a new adventure and never known to look back, Ginny decided to sell her Grosse Pointe home in 2021, and moved into the

senior independent living community at Cedarbrook of Rochester, where she met so many wonderful new friends. At Cedarbrook she remained extremely active by serving on the movie committee, organizing field trips, taking in operas on Netflix and, most of all, playing cards. Ginny also cherished time spent at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House where she would attend retreats, pray and reflect while walking the beautiful grounds and praying at the Stations of the Cross. She renewed and deepened her Catholic faith at Manresa, which brought her great peace, comfort and joy.

Ginny’s warmth and love touched so many. For her kids’ friends, Ginny was a second mom and always there to provide love, support or even a little help to get out of some mischief. Her intelligence and quick wit fueled a fabulous sense of humor. She was strong, brave and fiercely determined in all her efforts, but especially when it came to selflessly supporting those she loved. Ginny was truly beautiful and her piercing bright blue eyes and wide smile were signature traits. But her patience, kindness and grace were what made her such a wonderful soul.

In heaven, Ginny joins her beloved husband, Bob. She also is welcomed by both of her parents; sister, Marilyn Gillis; brother, Jim McCandless; mother- and father-in-law, Leo and Marcella Joliat; her brothers- and sisters-in-law, Tom and Elaine Joliat, Jack and Hozee Joliat, Joan and Joe Angel, Jim Dichting and baby Celestine Joliat; niece, Jenny Dale; and nephew, Jeff Joliat.

Ginny leaves behind her children, Jim (Michelle) of Rochester; Jerry (Sadhana) of Southport, Conn.; John (Mariel) of Los Angeles, Calif.; Jeff (Amy) of Indianapolis, Ind.; and Joanne of Charlotte, N.C. She will be missed greatly by the 13 grandchildren she adored, Rachel, Jake, Drew, Jay, Alex, Asha, Hayden, Emerson, Olivia, Jack, Caroline, Ella and Henry; as well as her brothers, Bill McCandless (Lynn) and John McCandless (Robbie); sister-in-law, Julianne Dichting; and 24 nieces and nephews. She will be missed and remembered fondly by her high school and college friends, former coworkers, former Grosse Pointe neighbors and Cedarbrook residents.

A memorial Mass for Ginny will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, April 5, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in St. Paul’s Gathering Space. Ginny insisted that any memorial service be a happy and cheerful celebration of her life, so the family welcomes guests to wear bright colors.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ginny’s name to Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, 1390 Quarton Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI

48304, manresa-sj.org/donate/.

John Richard “Dick” Gehlert Jr.

John Richard “Dick” Gehlert Jr., 77, died Friday, March 15, 2024, in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He was born Oct. 1, 1946, in Detroit. In 1975, Dick joined the family business, Cadillac Coffee, and served at various times as president, CEO and chairman of the board.

Dick is survived by his children, Keith Gehlert, Julie Young, Amy Kidwell (Mark) and Amberley Ervin Gehlert (Rick Foster); grandchildren, Oliver Gehlert, Makenna Brockhouse (Tylar), Ellie Kidwell and Orson Leggat; brothers, Ken Gehlert (Barb) and Guy Gehlert (Danielle); many loved ones, including Melissa Delcid, Lynn Doctor, Catherine Moritz and Brandon Porter (Bubu); and his handsome, loving and ornery cat, Joey. He was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Christel Gehlert, who died in 2022; and son-in-law, Bryan Young, who died in 2021.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Humane Fort Wayne, humanefw.org/donate/.

Arrangements were entrusted to D.O. McComb and Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind.

Theodore M. Barthel Jr.

Theodore M. Barthel Jr., 83, passed away Monday, March 18, 2024. He was a longtime Verheyden Funeral Home director.

Theodore was born April 24, 1940, in Redford, to Theodore and Jessie Barthel, both now deceased. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and a master’s degree in mortuary science, both from Wayne State University. He worked at Verheyden Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe and was discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves as a lieutenant junior grade. He also enjoyed hunting, boating and fishing.

Theodore was predeceased by his parents; and his wife, Kristine Karp-Barthel. He is survived by his daughters, Darcia A. Callaghan (Brian) and Lisa M. Rybak (Tom); son, Theodore M. Barthel III (Dawn); grandchildren, Patrick Rybak, Scott Rybak and Benjamin Barthel; brother, David G. Barthel (Pamela); and former wife, Cynthia Barthel Hamlin (Curtiss).

A funeral Mass took place Friday, March 22, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Coast Guard Foundation, coastguardfoundation.org/ways-to-give.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



Virginia Joliet



Sandra K. Witt

Sandra K. Witt

Sandra K. Witt, 80, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Sandra was born July 14, 1943, in Minneapolis. Time spent on a relative’s farm generated a lifelong love of animals.

In 1967, she graduated from Wayne State University, where she met Donald Witt. She often said marrying Don was the best thing that ever happened to her. Throughout their marriage, the pair shared a mutual appreciation of art and music and a strong devotion to family.

Sandra’s degree in Spanish came in handy when the couple moved to Madrid with their young child, Michele. Subsequently, the Witts moved back to Detroit and Don joined the family business, Painters’ Supply. Before long, the birth of her daughter, Heather, completed the family. Later on, two pet cats, Sol and Thor, joined the household.

As her daughters got older, Sandra went to work at Solomon Friedman Advertising, where she spent 25 years as an accounts executive. During this time, she fulfilled a childhood dream of owning a horse and practicing dressage. Don joined her on trail-riding adventures in Banff National Park, Canada and Canyon de Chelly, Ariz. An annual trip to a cabin near Platt Lake was a time to enjoy with members of Don’s extended family.

Always the nurturer, Sandra showed love for her family through food. In the 1970s, Julia Child’s “Mastering the Art of French Cooking” sat alongside “How to be a Sneaky Organic Chef” on her kitchen bookshelf. She loved hosting dinners for Don’s extended family on Easter and the Fourth of July, and always made sure her siblings were invited. At Christmas and on birthdays, “gifties” were beautifully wrapped and lavishly bestowed.

After they retired, the birth of Heather’s daughter, Zoe, brought Sandra and Don closer as they had more time to devote to their grandchild. They especially loved taking her on Disney cruises.

In her spare time, Sandra enjoyed reading and studying history. She visited Teddy Roosevelt’s ranch in Medora, S.D., Normandy Beach in France and the most westerly site of the Lewis and Clark expedition. She attended the annual Shakespeare Festival with her daughter, Michele,



John R. Gehlert Jr.



Joann Z. Freydberg

and the ballet with her sister, Marilyn. Sandra and Don had season tickets to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and took trips to the great art museums of Madrid, Paris and London together.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Don; daughters, Michele and Heather; granddaughter, Zoe; and siblings, Marilyn Sitaker and Richard Hunsaker II. She was predeceased by her parents, Thelma and Richard Hunsaker; and her in-laws, Lodge and Marcella Witt.

Visitation for Sandra will be held 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, and 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 4, with the funeral service to occur at noon at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Joann Zita Michalak Freydberg

Joann Zita Michalak Freydberg, 92, passed away Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, in Wimauma, Fla.

Joann was born June 15, 1931, in Detroit, to Albert and Margaret (nee Bachi) Perior. She graduated from Dominican Catholic High School in 1949, then went on to work for the Federal Reserve Bank in Detroit. Joann was an avid golfer. She would jokingly say she had to go to work, three times a week, with her office being the golf course. Joann also was an excellent seamstress, loved to dance and play cards.

While living in Grosse Pointe, Joann and her husband, Andrew “Bud” Michalak Jr., were members of Hillcrest Country Club. They moved to Florida permanently in 1978. Bud died in 1980, from colon cancer.

She met Richard Freydberg in 1988, and married him a few years later. Richard and Joann traveled Europe and cruised often, including to Alaska. She also loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joann was called “Honey” by her grandkids and enjoyed FaceTiming with them. Richard passed away in 2006.

Joann was predeceased by her husband, Richard; son, Andy (2007); and twin sister, Margaret. She is survived by her daughters, Denise Gianino and Suzanne Michalak; sons, Mark, Jim (Jane) and Bill Michalak; daughter-in-law, Cindy; grandchildren, Chris, John and Matt Gianino, and Andrew (Katie), Matthew (Marion), Mary-Kate and



Theodore M. Barthel Jr.



Betty L. Cannon

James Michalak; great-grandchildren, Olivia, Moriah, Jonah, Mattilyn, Zech and Micah Michalak; and sister, Sharon Collins.

A funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center, Fla. She will be interred at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach, Fla., on Anna Maria Island.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Jude Children’s Hospital Quality of Life and Palliative Care fund, stjude.org/donatedtoday/, or LifePath Hospice, 3010 W. Azeele, Tampa, FL 33609.

Betty L. Cannon

Betty L. Cannon, 84, passed away Monday, March 4, 2024.

She was born Jan. 27, 1940, in Yazoo City, Miss., to James and Lurenzia Williams. She was the second of seven children.

Betty’s earlier years were shaped with deep commitment to her Christian faith. She was educated in the Detroit Public Schools system and graduated from the High School of Commerce in 1957. She furthered her studies at the Detroit Institute of Commerce, laying the foundation for a successful career.

Betty met and married the love of her life, Edwin H. Cannon, in November 1962. They shared 57 beautiful years of marriage until his passing.

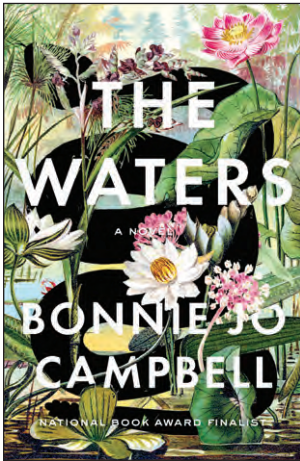
Outside of her work and family life, Betty was a member of the Prince Hall Order of Eastern Star, where she served as a Worthy Matron and recording secretary. Her contributions to the organization and her commitment to its principles leave a lasting legacy of service and sisterhood.

She was a resident of the American House in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she was dearly loved by fellow residents and executive staff alike.

Betty was predeceased by her parents; her beloved husband; and one sibling.

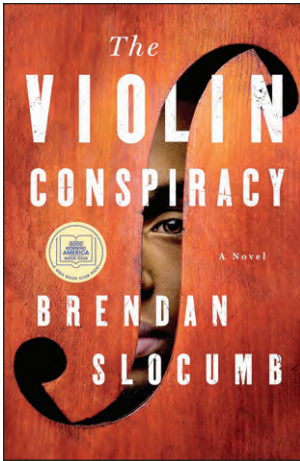
While her family mourns her passing, they also celebrate the beautiful life she lived. She leaves behind her son and step-daughter; three brothers; two sisters; three grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends who will cherish her memory always.

Betty’s funeral service was held at Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Michigan author Bonnie Jo Campbell’s book, “The Waters,” was selected as Jenna Bush Hager’s January 2024 book club pick.



The New York Times calls author Brendan Slocumb, “... a maestro of musical mystery.” His two novels are “The Violin Conspiracy” and “Symphony of Secrets.”

The GPPL announces its 2024 Books on the Lake authors

Get ready for an unforgettable literary experience as the 2024 Books on the Lake welcomes authors Bonnie Jo Campbell and Brendan Slocumb.

“Books on the Lake is our signature author event where the library features authors selected by our library staff,” said Jessica Keyser, library director. “This year’s authors will not disappoint and will be available at the end of the program to autograph books.”

The brunch is Saturday, May 11, at The War Memorial. Tickets are \$40 per person and go on sale online 9 a.m. Monday, April 8.

The New York Times said, “Brendan Slocumb’s first novel, ‘The Violin Conspiracy,’ displayed his deftness at crafting character-driven stories featuring amateur sleuths with a deep reverence for music history. ... With his pitch-

perfect follow-up, ‘Symphony of Secrets,’ he firmly establishes himself as a maestro of musical mystery.”

A native of North Carolina, Slocumb graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a degree in music education, with concentrations in violin and viola. He was a music educator for kindergarten through 12th grade, was named the 2005 Teacher of the Year for Robert E. Lee High School and is a Nobel Teacher of Distinction. He also serves as an educational consultant for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He’s working on his third novel, slated for publication in 2025.

Michigan author Campbell’s novels include “The Waters,” selected as Jenna Bush Hager’s January 2024 book club pick, “Once Upon a

River,” a national bestseller and “Q Road.” Her critically acclaimed short fiction collections include “American Salvage,” which was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critic’s Circle Award; “Women and Other Animals,” which won the AWP prize for short fiction; and “Mothers, Tell Your Daughters.”

Campbell grew up on a small Michigan farm with her mother and four siblings on the west side of the state. She attended the University of Chicago to study philosophy.

Presenting sponsors are Wayne County Community College District, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit grossepointe.library.org.

Grosse Pointe Theatre scholarship auditions scheduled April 6

Grosse Pointe Theatre will host its 2024 scholarship auditions Saturday, April 6, at 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe.

Grosse Pointe Theatre created a scholarship program in 1972, designed to help high school students planning to attend an accredited college or university, as well as high school juniors enrolled in a recognized summer theater or performance camp. This year marks GPT’s 51st year of granting scholarships to students in the community.

The past 17 years alone, GPT has given out \$127,000 in scholarships. Student do not need to be majoring in a performance or technical role in college to apply for the scholarship.

Applications and rules and regulations are available at gpt.org/scholarship for any interested high school student meeting ONE of the following criteria:

- ◆ Is a student at a Grosse Pointe high school
- ◆ Lives in Grosse Pointe
- ◆ Is a child or grandchild of a Grosse Pointe Theatre member or season ticket holder

◆ Has performed in or worked backstage for a GPT show and was acknowledged in the program

◆ Has participated in GPT’s “Youth on Stage” program

Scholarships are awarded for theatrical performance or technical theater work.

Students will audition with a choice of two pieces: a memorized dramatic monologue, a memorized comedic monologue, a song or a dancing talent demonstration.

Technical theater applicants should prepare a presentation of their work such as videos, PowerPoints, models, pictures or binders of work. This will be presented and evaluated as a whole body of work. All applicants will receive immediate feedback from the judges.

Applications are due Monday, April 1, and may be sent to scholarship@gpt.org or mailed or put in the mail slot at Grosse Pointe Theatre, 315 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

For more information, call Linda Zublick at (313) 320-4325 or Scholarship Chair Beth Teagan at (313) 421-6363 or email scholarship@gpt.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

◆ Teen Dream Lab Takeover, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Meet Up and Make: Total Eclipse of the Art, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, at

Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Eclipse Talk, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Eclipse Pinhole Viewer and Craft, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 5, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe

Woods.

◆ Teen D&D Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Eclipse Pinhole Projector and Crafts, 2 to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 29, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, April 5, Our Lady of Hope, 28301 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 8, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ford House

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

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

◆ Storytime: “The Hidden Rainbow,” for ages 7 and younger, 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday in April.

◆ Ballroom Dance: Foxtrot, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 3, 10 and 17, and May 1. Cost is \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at Village Grille, 16930

See EVENTS, page 6B

Fisher House MI fundraiser is April 20

Deadline for tickets is March 30

Fisher House Michigan is a not-for-profit organization formed to improve the quality of life of military members, retirees and veterans, as well as their families and caregivers.

The organization supports the construction and operations of comfort homes, called Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Houses, built near VA medical centers in Michigan.

Currently, there is a Fisher House that supports the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and funds are being raised to support a Fisher House at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

In support of its mission, Fisher House Michigan is hosting its “Build It for the Brave!” fundraising gala from 5

to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The black-tie-optional event includes emcee Al “Big Al” Muskavito; keynote speaker James “Doc” McCloughan, a Medal of Honor recipient and veteran storyteller; live music from Julia Merchant; a live auction featuring Christopher’s Auctions; dinner with a hosted bar and more.

Event registration is required by Saturday, March 30.

Tickets are \$200 for individuals, \$375 for couples.

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities also are available.

For more information, to register or become a sponsor, visit secure.qgiv.com/event/fhm2024/register/

ENGAGEMENT

Tripp—Holquist

Dan and Kim Tripp of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their daughter, Hannah Tripp, to Todd Holquist, the son of Todd Holquist of Oak Park and Lisa Lavender of Royal Oak.

Miss Tripp earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Central Michigan University. She is an admissions coordinator at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills.

Mr. Holquist earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in international studies and Spanish from Western Michigan University. He is a senior production planning specialist for Toyoda Gosei in Troy.

A May 2024 wedding is planned.



Hannah Tripp and Todd Holquist

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BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS

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LET’S GET READY FOR THE ELEGANT DINNER PARTIES OF YOUR NEW LIFE TOGETHER WITH A PRIMER ON FORMAL PLACE SETTINGS



Jane Knaus, a table decor expert at The League Shop, displays her own handpainted Danish wedding china, above, to showcase a proper formal place setting.

By Donna Zetterlund and Olivia Monette
Special Writers

As brides-to-be consider bridal registries and envision life together with their grooms, thoughts go to exciting times ahead entertaining as a newly-minted couple. The beautiful heirloom china, crystal and glassware, servingware and linens they choose evoke dreams of lovely celebrations to come, gatherings with family and friends at elegant dinner parties accented by good conversation, laughter and delicious food.

While every bride may not aspire to be the next Martha Stewart, knowing some basics about formal table settings can bring more style to your new life as husband and wife.

Whether mom taught you from day one, or it’s info you’ve always wanted to know, here are some pointers on selecting your new dinnerware — and how to set a formal table with your beautiful new pieces.

Jane Knaus, of The League Shop in Grosse Pointe, is an expert on all things history, etiquette, and table decor. She

advises that registering for 12-place matching settings is now considered old school. The new, more practical way to do it is to register for two different styles, with two sets of six of each style. Since you’re likely to more often be serving six guests or less, you’ll have two styles to choose from without taking out all of your china at once.

She says that most couples may rarely have 12 people over for dinner at the same time these days. But when you occasionally do, you can mix and match from the two smaller sets. Getting complementary sets allows you to use them together by alternating the place settings and bringing in linens and florals with colors that tie everything together.

As for setting and utilizing the place settings, Knaus reinforces that diners start from the outside in. The outer fork is for salad, the inner fork is for the entree. It’s an easy rule of thumb to remember that is borne of practicality.

The modern formal table setting style used today has its roots with Queen Victoria of England. Along with popularizing the white wedding gown and cameo jewelry, she historically made the style of serving dinner “à la russe” — or from a

sideboard — requiring that flatware for all courses be kept on the table instead of being brought to the guest with each course, which had been the trend of the day. And it stuck.

Through time the modern setting was whittled down to hold only enough silverware for three or four courses, which obviously gets adjusted depending on the number of courses served.

Knaus reminds us that all formal setting layouts are suggestions only. “If you know the rules, you can break the rules,” she said. “Do whatever works best for you and your household in regards to the table,” she added.

Like Queen Victoria, Knaus is left-handed, so she breaks the rules all the time — because many of them were made for right-handed people. For the left-handed queen, everything in Europe was based on a left-handed setting, to accommodate her. It’s good to be queen.

So learn the rules but follow your heart. May all your future entertaining be grand.

The League Shop is located at 16847 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. Visit theleagueshop.com or call (313) 882-6880.

How to set a formal table:

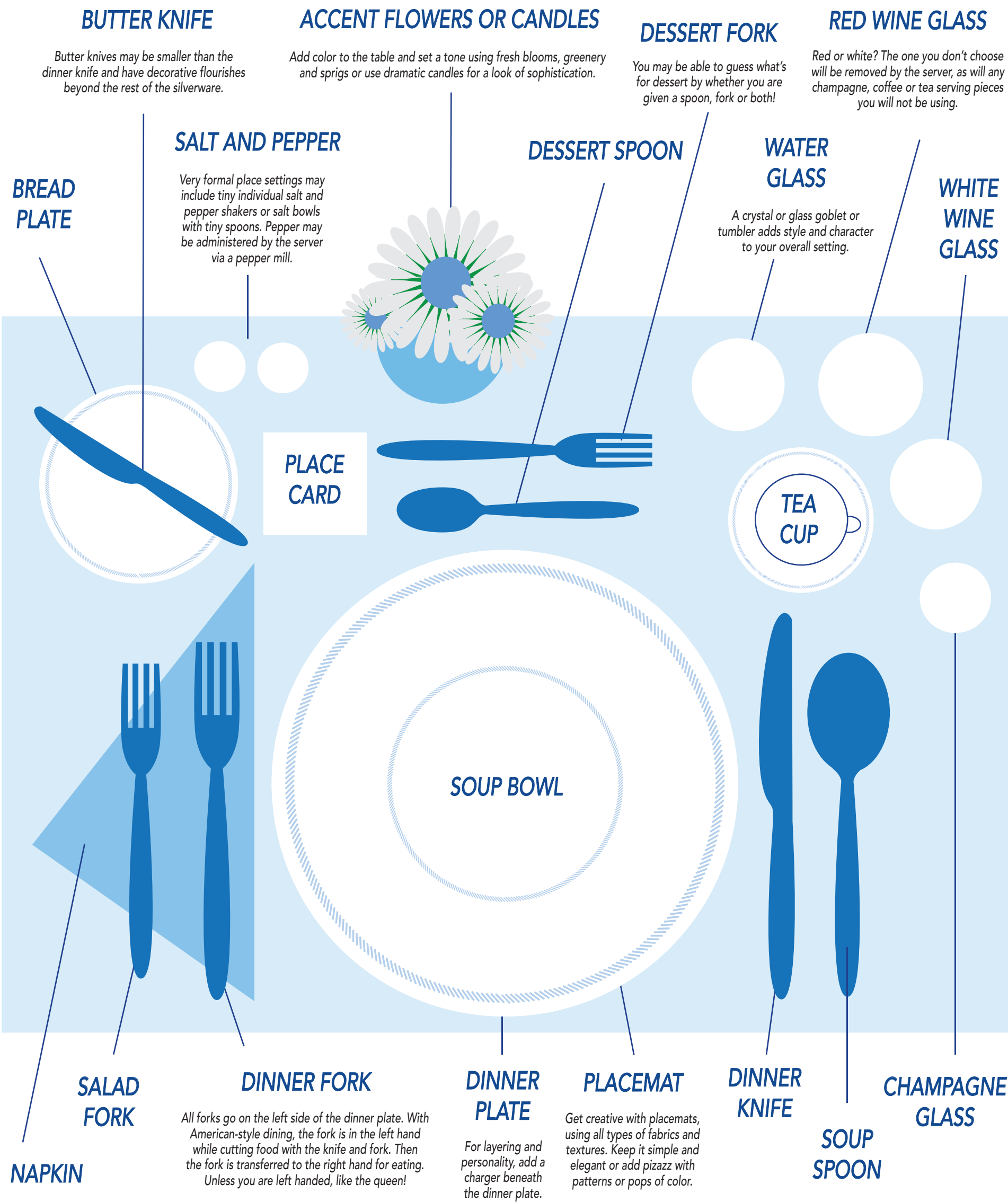


ILLUSTRATION BY DONNA ZETTERLUND

CHINA FIT FOR A QUEEN



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA MONETTE

Herend's most famous pattern, Queen Victoria VBO design, above, is made up of almost a 100 kinds of stylized butterflies and blossoms, painted in cheerful and lively colors. A six-piece set consists of a serving plate, dinner plate, soup plate/bowl, dessert plate, teacup and saucer.

The décor Victoria was unveiled at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, where it scored a huge success, thanks to the queen's popularity. The recognition meant a gold medal from the jury and a commission from the person who gave her name to the design. Queen Victoria ordered a table service in the pattern for the Windsor Castle.



Bite-sized fun facts about formal place settings:

From Jane Knaus

- The soup spoon: It's traditionally a little bit of a different shape than the other spoons, circular and deeper to be able to hold liquid better.
- Old tradition: If you give a knife set as a gift, it is customary to put a penny in with the knives so as to show the recipient that you have no intentions of severing the friendship.
- Quick finger bowl story: Queen Victoria was well-known for hosting innumerable charity events. There was once a guest at her table that did not know the proper way to use a finger bowl (the proper way is to use it to lightly rinse your hands during the course of your meal.) Ever the polite hostess, the queen set out to ensure that the woman was not embarrassed by the mistake at her table. So Queen Victoria made the same finger bowl faux pas that the woman did — so her guest would not feel uncomfortable. She also signaled to her other guests to overlook the incorrect usage of the bowl and to stay calm and carry on, as royalty so often likes to say, at least according to social media memes.
- Use your fork: The next time you say, "you could cut that with a butter knife," remember Queen Victoria. It was she who encouraged silver makers to round the ends of table knives to discourage diners from using them to spear bites of food instead of using their forks.

6B | CHURCHES

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Frederick Edward Kilgus

Frederick Edward Kilgus, 81, passed away Friday, March 8, 2024.

He was born Frederick Edward Hesse on Aug. 21, 1942, to Paul and Estelle Hesse of Lincoln Park, and later adopted by his loving foster parents Donald and Marjorie Kilgus of Grosse Pointe Woods. He now rests at peace with his beloved wife, Lynne Kilgus, and his Lord Jesus Christ.

Fred loved life. In spite of a difficult childhood punctuated by parental loss and family separation, he found joy in his new family and friends. He attended Grosse Pointe High School and Ferris State College, from which he graduated with a degree in business. After serving in several capacities in the foundry industry, he went on to work as a sales representative, eventually becoming a partner at Casting Sales, Inc.

Fred had a passion for all things outdoors, including fishing, hunting and any type of work that kept him in the woods or up at his happy place, “The Ranch” in northern Michigan. Surrounded by family and friends, he spent days sharing stories, working in his pole barn or appreciating all of the wilderness and beauty around him.

Fred and his wife, Lynne, loved to travel and shared their trips



Frederick E. Kilgus

with family and friends. Their children and family friends have fond memories of shared visits to places as far away as New Zealand, Fiji and Spain.

Most of all, Fred was a model for those who knew him. He lived life joyfully; even when times were tough, he lived open-handedly, giving generously to his church, family, friends and neighbors. He was a man of strength and honor and an amazing husband, father, papa and friend.

Fred leaves behind his son, Todd Kilgus (Lisha); and daughter, Kathy Driscoll (Todd). He also leaves behind eight adoring grandkids, Max, Mackenzie, Lucy and Charlie Driscoll, and Sterling, Sofia, Kingston and Preston Kilgus; his brothers, David and John Hesse; as well as many friends and relatives.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trail Life, a faith-based father/son outdoor activity organization similar to the Scouts that Fred was passionate about, in-memory-of-fred-kilgus.cheddarup.com.

HART:

Continued from page 1B

“The general fund is for outside things you don’t think about,” he added. “We support those things because it supports our main mission.”

Each dollar raised is making a difference, Petz said.

“It’s throwing HART pebbles into the water and making little ripples,” he said. “HOPE is a pebble making ripples.”

“One of the fathers said the greatest gift you can bring is hope,” he continued, “to let people know they’re not forgotten, that someone cares, that God cares enough to send someone to them. When we do this, the work can be very frustrating. There are trials and challenges. But the end game — the love you share, the faith you express — that’s transformative, not only for you, but for the people you touch and the people who go on the trip. I’ve been told by many trip attendees that it transformed their lives.”

Because of the increased need and costs, HART is asking for help from the community.

“We keep asking because they can’t,” Petz said. “When people give, they get blessed. We’re blessed with the ability to give, but then we’re blessed in return, too.”

To make a financial contribution, visit hartfund.org or mail a check to HART, P.O. Box 806176, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.



From left, HART’s Dr. Tom Graves, the Rev. Roosevelt Leriche of St. Jude Church and HART Vice President Martin Petz.



Haitian orphans eat food provided by HART.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTIN PETZ

Hundreds of Haitians wait to receive medical treatment from HART missionaries. “When we get there at 6:30 a.m., there’s already a crowd waiting,” Petz said.



EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Michelle Boggess-Nunley, owner of Posterity Gallery in The Village, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

- ◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, through April 30. Registration is required by emailing maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.
- ◆ Mental Health

Matters Series, 7 p.m. Mondays, April 1 to May 20. Local therapists discuss new topics each week. Monday, April 1, Thad Galvin, LMSW, founder of Calm Safe Place LLC, discusses what to expect from good therapy and how it can impact one’s life.

◆ Understanding and Supporting Gender Identity, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. This free event features a moderated panel discussion that includes a school psychologist, Christian pastor, physician, father of a transgender youth, transgender adult living authentically, LGBTQ youth psychologist and lawyer.



On one occasion when thousands of Haitians were lined up for the clinic, Petz had to determine who among them was the sickest and most needed a doctor that day.

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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
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(United Church of Christ)
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Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302
Masses
Holy Thursday — Mass of the Lord’s Supper — 7:00 p.m. (☞)
Private Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — until Midnight
Good Friday — Stations of the Cross — Noon
Liturgy of the Lords Passion — 1:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday — Blessing of Easter food — Noon
Easter Vigil — 8:00 p.m. (☞)
Easter Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
☞ Holy Thursday and the Saturday Easter Vigil are live streamed on our facebook page with rebroadcasts on demand anytime afterwards.

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
sharing the Light of Christ
Holy Week Services at St. Michael’s
Maundy Thursday at 7.30 pm
Good Friday at 12 noon and 7.30 pm
Easter Day at 6.00 am and 10.00 am
More information at stmichaelsgpw.org
20475 Sunningdale Park
Grosse Pointe Woods
313.884.4820
stmichaelsgpw.org

Worship Service

St. Matthew Catholic Church
Harper at Whittier
Holy Week Liturgies
Palm Sunday Masses, Saturday, March 23, 4:30 pm and Sunday, March 24, 10:00 am
Monday, March 25, 7:00 pm ~ Lenten Penance Service
Holy Thursday, March 28, 7:30 pm ~ Mass 9:00 to 10:30 pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Good Friday, March 29, noon ~ Stations of the Cross 1:30 pm ~ Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Holy Saturday, March 30, 9:00 pm ~ Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:00 am ~ Mass of the Resurrection ~

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Going wrong done exactly right

GPT presents ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’ April 5-14

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It takes skill to precisely choreograph a production in which everything falls apart.

That’s the challenge Nick Marinello welcomed when he decided to direct Grosse Pointe Theatre’s “The Play that Goes Wrong,” which takes the stage April 5 to 14, at Parcels Middle School.

“It’s a play about a group of actors, the Cornley Drama Society, a British group, putting on the play, ‘The Murder at Haversham Manor,’” Marinello said. “Throughout the course of the play, everything you can image could go wrong, goes wrong. Actors drop lines, they get injured, props break, set pieces malfunction. It’s a farcical sprint to get through this show — they are feverishly trying to get through this show together — and hilarity ensues.”

Marinello caught wind of the Broadway smash through theater friends when it came to Detroit several years ago. He missed the performance then, but made sure to catch it during a trip to New York two summers ago.

“As an actor, it resonated with me, because I’ve been in some of those situations myself,” he said.

One of the reasons he selected this play was that no local community theater group had done it before — and for good reason.

“The technical requirements, having a set that’s



PHOTOS BY MONI VALENTINI AT THE FORD HOUSE

The cast of “The Play that Goes Wrong” includes, front row from left, Zak Shugart, Conner Motzkus, Kyle Phillips, Hannah Roth and Mario Simone; and back row from left, Kevin Fitzhenry, Tagg Smith and Bridget Hillyer.

supposed to fall apart, is challenging,” he added. “It’s also extremely physical. But Grosse Pointe Theatre is not afraid to take on this kind of challenge. I found the best people I could and said, let’s do it.

“We’re the first community theater in southeast Michigan to do this show,” he continued. “We figured out the technical requirements for the set and were off to the races. In many ways it’s like a musical, where the movements are very precise, unlike a straight show where there’s wiggle room. I was interested in the challenge. I’ve directed two musicals. ... The challenge here is it’s a musical dressed up like a straight show. Precision and technical craftsmanship come into play. The actors have to be at their best the entire show; you can’t snooze during this show.”

Marinello brought on an apprentice director, Panos Varlamos — who GPT regulars may remember as the lead role in 2021’s “Shrek the Musical” — to assist with problem solving.

“He said we need a fight coordinator,” Marinello said, “so we hired a professional who spent two weeks with the cast teaching them how to fight safely, like a mini boot camp of fight choreography.

“We had to make sure the set operates exactly how we want it to, when we want it to,” he added. “Technical challenges have to be top of mind. The stage manager, the crew — they’re moving around backstage as much as the actors in front of the stage. There’s a lot of planning and forethought and anticipating what will go wrong so it will go right.”

Marinello also focused

on his actors, on their beat, delivery and emotion.

“The authors of the play made clear these are not bad actors; they’re actors in a play where things go wrong,” he said.

“... With the actors, I want everything to happen all at once,” he added. “I want people to feel like they have to come back and see it again because there was a lot of stuff they missed. It’s a rich experience. It’s an hour and a half that’s jam-packed, fast and fun.”

Another challenge, Marinello noted, was rehearsal space.

“Our regular rehearsal space at 315 (Fisher) was not sufficient,” he said, noting GPT rented the set from Circle Theatre in Grand Rapids. “We were able to get it very early. I knew we needed to have more time on this set, more than the usual two weeks, so we found a warehouse space.”

Grinding Products in Warren allowed GPT to build a stage and the set, where the cast and crew have spent the last six weeks rehearsing. Now it will be torn down and moved for two weeks of tech at Parcels before opening night Friday, April 5.

Marinello said the production is side-splittingly funny and a fun show for all ages.

“This show is family friendly,” he noted. “It’s a funny show from the very beginning. And it’s not just dumb physical humor. It’s smart jokes, too. The actors do an amazing job of creating characters who are playing characters within a play.

“It’s an escape from everyday life, a fun night out and it’s new to the

The details

- ♦ What: Grosse Pointe Theatre’s “The Play that Goes Wrong”
- ♦ When:
 - ♦ 8 p.m. Friday, April 5
 - ♦ 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6
 - ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7
 - ♦ 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10
 - ♦ 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11
 - ♦ 8 p.m. Friday, April 12
 - ♦ 8 p.m. Saturday, April 13
 - ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14
- ♦ Where: Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods
- ♦ How: Tickets are \$35 online at gpt.org/wrong, by calling (313) 881-4004 or available at the door.

area,” he added. “It’s not the same thing other community theater groups are doing and it’s not something we’ve done.

“... It’s going to feel totally different,” he continued. “If you’re an actor, you will feel for these people because you’ve been there. If you’re an audience member, you’ll also feel for them because you know this isn’t right, but you also know they’ll keep going. It’s got endearing charm, as these actors fall apart but keep on going. My cast has been working really hard at this. I’m so excited for people to come and see it.”

For more information or tickets, visit gpt.org/wrong.

ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

Facts about underage drinking

Q: My husband and I are in disagreement about alcohol and our 17-year-old son. We are quite sure he has been doing some drinking since he was 16 and is now quite open about the fact that he drinks with his friends, but never drives while under the influence. My husband says our son is being responsible, so we shouldn’t be concerned about his underage drinking. “All kids do it,” is what my husband tells me again and again.

But I have serious concerns. My son comes home on weekend nights quite inebriated and is hung over in the mornings. It’s obvious he drinks to get drunk on a fairly regular basis — at least once or sometimes twice a week. My husband points out that our son is still an excellent student, an all-around good kid and it’s just a “boys will be boys” thing. I feel differently. I am concerned about his drinking and what will happen when he’s off to college next year. Am I being unreasonable?

A: Teenagers and drinking is not just a modern-day phenomenon. It has been an issue for centuries. Today, however, we have the neuroscience that supports the concerns of parents and other adults: Research on the developing brain shows that alcohol consumption is more serious than previously understood.

First, let’s address the idea that “all kids do it.” According to the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in the age group of 12 to 20, 15.1 percent report drinking in the last month. When asked about binge drinking in the same age group, 8.2 percent

reported engaging in binge drinking. As for heavy alcohol consumption in the past month (having four to five drinks in a one-day period), the number dropped to 1.7 percent. Even if these percentages are conservative, we can see that all underaged kids do not drink.

As quoted in the New York Times, research professor in the psychiatry department of Duke University, Dr. Aaron White, stated: “There is no doubt about it now: There are long-term cognitive consequences to excessive drinking of alcohol in adolescence.” He goes on to explain that it wasn’t previously understood that alcohol affects the developing brain differently.

According to an article by the National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, drinking, especially binge drinking, creates “changes within and between brain regions.” Different regions show a reduction in size and diminished functioning.

We recommend you and your husband team up and do the research. You can begin with a study published in “Frontiers in Neuroscience” (16 January 2023). Use this link to get started: bit.ly/4a6vb4x.

Jeff and Debra Jay have helped families face addiction more than 30 years. They are the authors of “Love First: a family’s guide to intervention,” 3rd edition (Hazeldon, 2021). They are professional interventionists who live in Grosse Pointe Farms. Contact them with questions at (313) 882-6921 or lovefirst.net.

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes



Always encourage your kids to be fit for life

Dear Gabby: My son says he wants to get in shape before fall so he can try out for a high school sport. I am afraid even if he does this he won't make it. Should I try to discourage him and try something else?

— Worried in the Shores

Dear Worried,

When your teenager has ambition and motivation, please don't ever take that away from them. It's a rare gift.

If there isn't a specific sport in mind, how about a no-cut sport like cross country or football? These are fantastic

ways to stay fit, make friends and have the ultimate team experience. Best of luck to your ambitious, go-getter son.

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

Giving grandkids the gift of quality time

DEAR ANNIE: When my nephew was a toddler and his family visited, my mom (his grandmother) got big furniture boxes discarded from stores and made forts and tunnels in our large family room. She got down on the floor and played whatever character he chose her to be in this turf maze. She didn't care if she played a dinosaur or the Lone Ranger.

You could hear them giggling and laughing and enjoying play time that lasted for hours. She

wasn't concerned about her appearance or how others might see her as weird. She knew the impression she left on her grandchild and knew she had contributed to his balanced well-being. Our family was not rich in money but rich in love-sharing.

When the phone rang at his home, and someone said, "Johnny, it's Grandma for you," he knew which grandma it was. It was NOT the grandmother who just sent money, who didn't take time to play with

him or only asked his mom how he was instead of speaking directly with him. His face lit up, and he literally ran to the phone to have personal time with her. My father was just as much a loving influence as well.

Taking time with a child is the most valuable thing you can give them. They don't have any concept of time unless someone is spending time with them. To this day, "Johnny" remembers his loving, caring grandma in a loving and caring way. He hardly has any

fond memories of his other grandma.

Grandmothers everywhere should figure this out and not just throw money at the child. Take the time to show how to relate and how to encourage loving memories that will last a lifetime.

One of the most beautiful sounds in the world is the laughter of a child. You can almost hear their brain enjoying life.

Thank you for your wise advice. — DEVOTED READER

DEAR DEVOTED



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

READER: Thank you for your wonderful letter. You highlight the importance of having experiences with your grandkids rather than buying them material items and how that has a large impact on your relationship with them. Choosing experiences instead of material things is always a good idea.

But try to not be too

hard on the other set of grandparents. They are doing the best they can. If they knew better, they would probably do better.

DEAR ANNIE: I have eight beautiful grandchildren. I have been blessed to help care for six of them from birth to 5-6 years old.

See ANNIE, page 3C

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I've lost almost every hair tie I've ever purchased. Let's be honest, who can keep track of those things? The majority of them rip out precious strands of hair, are uncomfortable to wear and leave giant crease marks in my hair.

Unfortunately, hair ties are an inevitable part of life. I'm bouncing between work, activities with the kids, errands, cooking, driving and more every day, so my hair goes into a bun or ponytail by lunchtime.

After way too many frustrating experiences with annoying, scratchy

hair ties, I knew I needed something better. I was on the hunt for hair ties or scrunchies that were gentle and didn't leave marks in my hair.

I wasn't sure if a product like this even existed, but my sister gave me a pack of Slip silk hair scrunchies for my birthday a few weeks ago and let me tell you, they are amazing!

At first glance, I thought silk hair scrunchies sounded extremely fancy and like a huge waste of money.

I mean, how much could they possibly help my fine, color-damaged

hair? How much good can a simple scrunchie do?

Well, the silk scrunchies literally never, ever break or damage hair, no matter how much you tug or pull at it.



Whether you are putting your hair into a high ponytail, tight bun or long braid, the silk scrunchie

stays exactly where it is supposed to be and never rips out the hair.

These things are the absolute best.

They never leave my hair creased and they are

so comfortable that I routinely fall asleep with one in my hair.

There's really nothing

better than having tangle-free hair and being able to preserve a great blowout, even if I have to put my hair into a ponytail to get things done.

While the product is simple, it's a huge game changer for people with hard-to-manage hair like myself.

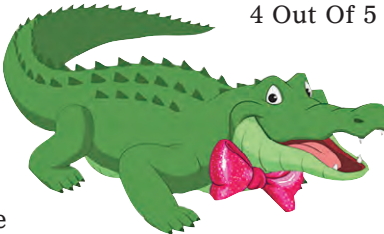
I love knowing my hair will be damage-free after using the Slip silk hair scrunchies and that I am doing everything I can to protect my hair.

We are giving this product 4 out of 5 alligators because

this brand is on the pricier side for hair ties, but once you have them, you will understand how valuable they are!

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.

4 Out Of 5



Kids Coalition Against Hunger

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Kids Coalition Against Hunger has been teaming up with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms since 2014, to package food for hungry families. Approximately 300 people visited The War Memorial in two shifts Saturday, March 23, to package 50,000 bags of food. One-third of the food packed that day will stay local, one-third will go to Guatemala the final third will be stored for disaster relief.



Michael Bruwell, executive director of Kids Coalition Against Hunger, stands with Jonathan Lackner, a Boy Scout with Troop 96 out of Memorial Church and a senior at Grosse Pointe North High School who has helped at this event the last six years.



Kathy Kurap and Mickey Kurap pack finished bags into boxes for distribution.



Elijah Grosch doesn't let the too-big-for-his-hand glove stop him from doing a great job scooping the dehydrated food into the package.



Natalie Starrs, Evie Hartung, Anna Runk, Ana Klahm, Viviana Kean, Lydia Schwieger and Violette Kean are from Girl Scout Troop 77044, originally based at Kerby Elementary School and now at Brownell Middle School. The girls have been together in this troop and volunteering at this event the past five years.

Dessert for every occasion

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

A good and easy dessert is essential this time of year. Especially when you have two graduations, two first communions and one confirmation all falling at the same time. Oh, and two birthdays that happen before the chaos.

I need a go-to dessert that is beautiful and tastes amazing because I'll be repeating it. I'm not complaining.

A friend of the family gave me a kitchen towel that read, "My house is run by a tiny army that I created." I relate to that very much. You just have to go with the flow. I have never regretted the size of our family or closeness of age. I've said before it's absolutely cool.

Good food that makes them happy solves most of my daily issues. Maybe that's why they call me Mombeau.

Blueberries and lemon are a wonderful combination for a dessert. My middle child hates blueberries but loved this one.

The blueberries almost make a compote

that thickens and is drizzled throughout creating a beautiful result.

It's creamy and tastes like custard with a gingersnap crust. Don't ignore this one.

condensed milk

Zest from 1 lemon

¼ cup lemon juice (about 1 lemon)

3 eggs

Cheers, Mombeau

Blueberry and Lemon Bars

Gingersnap Crust

1 ¼ cup crushed gingersnap cookies

1 tbsp brown sugar

5 tbsp melted butter

Blueberry Filling

1 cup fresh blueberries

2 tbsp sugar

1 tsp water

1 tsp vanilla extract

Pinch of salt

Lemon Filling

14 oz sweetened

Start with the crust. Preheat oven to 350. Use a food processor or rolling pin to smash the cookies into a fine crumb. In a bowl, add the cookie crumbs, butter and sugar. Mix together and add to an 8x8 pan that has been lined with parchment paper. Press down to make a crust. Bake for 10 mins. Take out and let cool.

While the crust is cooking, add the blueberry ingredients to a saucepan and let simmer until soft and bubbly. Mash some with a spoon, leaving some whole, about 10 minutes. Take off the heat and set aside.

For the lemon filling, add all ingredients to a bowl and mix. Once everything is semi cooled you can start to assemble.



Over the crust, pour half of the lemon mixture. Next spoon over half of the blueberry mixture. Do one more

layer of lemon filling and top with the remaining blueberry filling. It looks really good when you take a butter knife and

swirl the blueberry compote over top. After it's all put together let it set overnight in the fridge and then cut into squares.

PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Complexity in wine

Describing wine isn't easy. Casual wine lovers usually start with, "This stuff tastes good," or "It's pretty rough." More esoterically, we get truly abstruse descriptors such as "TDN," "brett," or "VA."

The latter terms generally are heard only in tastings in which wine-makers or wine scientists delve into vinous minutiae that are appreciated mostly by wine geeks.

Some of the simplest of all wines today are inexpensive chardonnays. They are typically made from grapes that have little flavor and are either lacking in distinctive aromas or are products of additions such as oak chips. To me, they're not chardon-

nay-like at all.

Another simple wine is French Beaujolais Nouveau, which honestly is barely wine at all. It's more like grape juice with alcohol.

Rarely are such wines described as "complex." They're all about fruit, little else. The aromas are simple, the midpalates are light and aftertastes are trivial.

Unfortunately, most of the inexpensive (roughly \$4 a bottle) wine made in the United States is like this — simple and easily forgotten. Many consumers have found it's best to serve them cool or cold. Most cheaper wines are so soft and simple that they do little to improve food.

Included in this category of simplistic wines are sweet wines. And there's a vast sea of mediocre red wines out there, some of it at ludicrously high prices, that do not go with food. Most are blended reds with no distinctive varietal aromas. Most are overripe and display elements that are so amorphous that they actually detract from most foods. And as with cola, sweet wines can have a pillaging effect on savory foods, though they can be fine with ketchup, barbecue sauce and balsamic vinegar!

One key suggestion is to avoid wines of 15 percent alcohol or more. Such wines rarely are complex.

One aspect of complexity that seems to be widely appreciated

throughout this country, including with many people who are judges at wine competitions (!), is the aroma associated with aging of wine in oak barrels. The aromas that wood imparts to wine include bacon, chocolate, roasted, nuts, caramel and smoke.

Oak flavoring is a form of complexity, to be sure, but it isn't beneficial, in my view. However, the aroma of oak seems to be appreciated by many novice wine drinkers. And wine companies know this. So, it's widely utilized.

The result is a growing interest in wine flavorings, with all manner of oaky things including oak staves, oak chips and



other oak additives that are legal.

Although oak flavoring is a form of complexity, when I find it in a \$3 bottle of a blended red wine, it's difficult for me to take even one sip.

The fascinating thing, especially recently, is that real complexity in wine basically comes from buying varietal wines made from grape varieties that are considered to be nonmainstream.

Some of the best wines of complexity are made from chenin blanc, carignan, petite sirah, grenache, cinsault, tempranillo and even merlot.

Wine of the Week:

2022 Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough (\$16) — Bright lime, lemon grass, dried herbs and a trace of jalapeno mark the aroma; the midpalate flavors are typical of a cool climate, where this New Zealand wine was born. Bottle Barn in Santa Rosa, California, has it for \$12.99, and it can ship. <https://bottlebarn.com>.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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DEAR ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

My daughter has twin 7-year-old boys. She has issues with me that I've apologized for and have given her space to work through things. I've never met my twin grandsons. I've only seen them in pictures and several times in public, but neither she nor her husband knew I was in the same store.

I know our relationship isn't going to get any better for the moment, but I want to meet my grandsons and get to know them with my hope being that she sees I'm a good nana — a much better nana than a mom. What do you suggest?—HEARTBROKEN NANA

DEAR NANA: It sounds like you have a big, loving heart that you just want to share with those who mean the most to you. The key ingredients in mending your relationship with

your daughter and getting to have one with your grandsons are consistency and patience. You've apologized and given your daughter space to work through her issues.

When you reach out next, let her know just how much you'd like to meet those special boys and be a part of their life. It might take her some time to get on board, but eventually, she will hopefully see that their lives would be better with you in it.

DEAR ANNIE: I have had a friend for almost 10 years. I say almost as we are no longer friends. About six years ago, we parted ways as friends due to him letting his girlfriend create friction in our friendship and we agreed to just go our separate ways.

Time goes on and three years later, we ended up being friends again; he had left his girlfriend.

This friend and I became close over the next two years, drinking,

partying, etc. I put a good word in for him so he could get a job where he then met a girl who he decided to date.

I was against this, and he knew because the girl's family had done damage to my property with my ex a few years prior. I didn't want to be a part of that again.

Again, he decides to remove me from all social platforms and stop being my friend because he got a girlfriend.

A short time later, he breaks up with her, adds me back on everything and we are friends again.

This friend leads me on in several ways when he is single with messages, pictures, actions and words. What do you know? A year later, he finds a girl and guess what. We are no longer friends again.

He always said I am just jealous that he had a girlfriend and that he didn't spend time with me anymore. I am so confused why he proceeds to lead me on when he is "straight" and

single, then always unfriends me when he finds a girl.

I have made the decision that I will no longer be his friend after this relationship falls to pieces because I feel he is the one confused with his sexuality. Am I overthinking or being jealous? — CONFUSED OR JEALOUS

DEAR CONFUSED OR JEALOUS: Your instincts are right on — this person is not a good friend to you and is not worth your continued time or energy.

Some people lose themselves when they enter a romantic relationship. It seems not only does your friend suffer from this, but he fails to remember his life and the people in it when he has a girlfriend.

It's not fair to you to endure this whiplash. Focus your energy on the people in your life who value and reciprocate it.

You deserve friends who are caring, loyal and interested in maintaining

a bond with you, whether they are single or not.

Send your questions for

Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RHOMBUS MEDIA, ZAPRUDER FILMS AND (IN ASSOCIATION WITH) CBC
Left, RIM co-founders Doug Fregin, played by Matthew Johnson and Mike Lazaridis, played by Jay Baruchel in the 2023 film “BlackBerry.”

MOVIE REVIEW
“BlackBerry”
2023 - Rated R
2 hr
★★★★☆

Hollywood has produced a number of movies focused around the development and successful launches of various consumer products. These include “The Founder,” “The Social Network,” and the more recent “Air.” While these fine films tell the inside story of some iconic businesses, “BlackBerry” presents a tale of a wild climb to the top and the subsequent spectacular and almost unbelievable crash and burn.

If you’re of a certain age, you no doubt remember when BlackBerries were all the rage. They were the cutting edge communication devices before the introduction of Apple’s iPhone.

This amusing film chronicles the astounding arc the company traversed. “BlackBerry” was directed by Matt Johnson (who also stars in the film), and co-written by him, along with

Jacquie McNish and Sean Silcoff. It’s based on the 2015 book “Losing the Signal,” which was penned by McNish and Silcoff.

Way back in the late 1990s, there was an innovative company called Research in Motion (RIM) in Waterloo, Ontario. The film opens with a scene inside the company’s offices. It’s total mayhem. RIM is comprised of a bunch of nerds who love nothing better than to spend their days playing video games and goofing off.

Not letting work getting in the way of a good time. It’s this fun-loving spirit that dominates the first part of the film.

The company is run by longtime friends Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel) and Doug Fregin (Matt Johnson). While they like to keep the workplace a fun environment, developing innovative products also drives them.

The groundbreaking device they’ve created is a phone that can send and receive emails. While this had been seemingly impossible,

the geniuses at RIM had a solution. And they were determined to sell their product to anyone who would listen.

Looking for a manufacturing partner, Mike and Doug pitch their idea to a roomful of execs. The presentation is a disaster, however it piques the interest of Jim Balsillie (Glenn Howerton), an employee who’s skating on thin ice. Jim is a ruthless, driven, Alpha male who sees the potential in the device. Negotiating behind the scenes, he cuts a deal with the young entrepreneurs.

The company is in serious financial trouble and is in a weak bargaining position. The three eventually agree that Jim will be a partner and become a Co-CEO with the company.

This is where the movie kicks into high gear. The pace is frenetic as they sell their newly named “BlackBerry” device to various telecommunication companies.

Having a BlackBerry in your hand becomes all the rage. Interestingly, their new smartphone



controlled an amazing 40 percent of the market at its peak.

It became fashionable to own one. There’s a quick series of shots with people using their BlackBerries while doing things as ridiculous as playing tennis! It’s pretty amusing.

One thing I noticed was the cinematography by Jared Raab. In the beginning of the movie, a majority of the camera-work included handheld shots—almost to the point of distraction.

As the film progressed, and the company developed and matured, the filming style seemed to become more buttoned down. I have a sneaking suspicion that this was intentional.

(Spoiler alert. If you don’t already know what happens next and want to be surprised, skip the following paragraph.)

The final third of the movie is pure tragedy. Jim’s inner raging shark emerges and he devolves into the greedy corporate creature he was destined to be. Mike ignores the writing on the wall, chiefly the introduction of Apple’s iPhone, and he’s reluctant to change with the times. And sadly, he and his longtime partner Doug part ways.

It’s all a wild ride and should be required viewing for MBA students.

If you enjoy “BlackBerry” may I suggest another excellent film — “Tetris.” It’s the

unbelievable story that details all the machinations a businessman and inventor went through to bring the popular video game out of the Soviet Union to the rest of the world. It plays out like a John le Carre spy novel.

Note to parents: The film is rated “R” mainly due to language. I’d probably give it a “PG-13.”

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy (with your library card). Also on Hulu, AMC+, and to rent on 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.

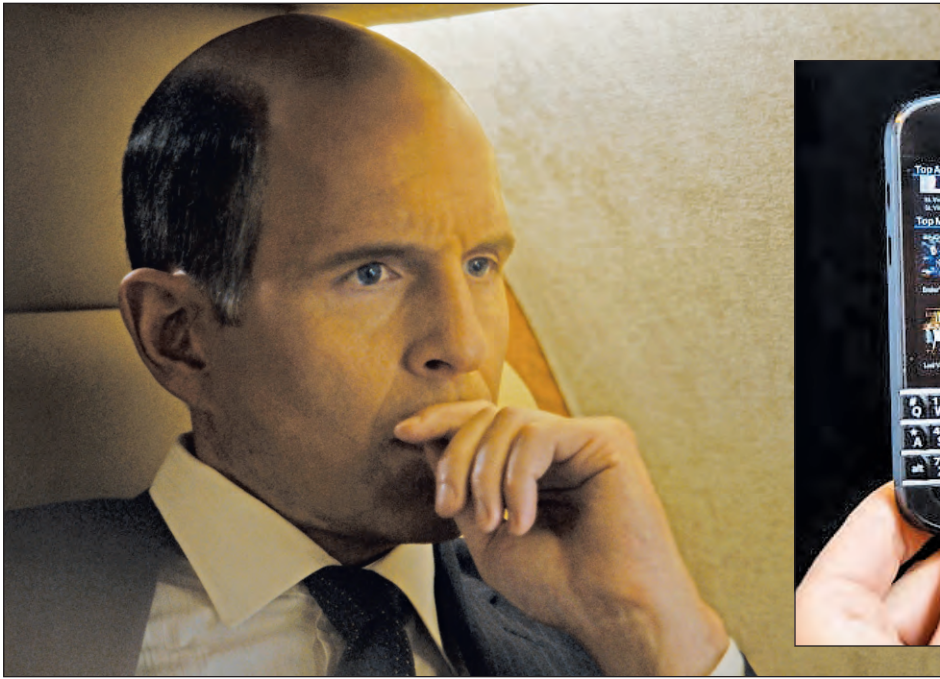


★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ 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.



A contemplative moment for Jim Balsillie, played by Glenn Howerton.



The cutting edge BlackBerry



Mike (Baruchel) and Jim (Howerton) get ready to make a pitch.



Free spirited Doug (Johnson) goofing off.



The RIM crew watch Steve Jobs introduce the iPhone.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 28, 2024:

You are independent, practical and often the center of attention. Your work gives you a sense of fulfillment. You're also generous. You have a wonderful, fun-loving year to look forward to. Let your hair down and enjoy yourself. However, don't lose sight of your goals.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Oh my. Be still my beating heart. This is a seriously romantic, passionate day for you. This includes secret love affairs, casual, hidden flirtations and full-blown expressions of adoration. Some of you will receive a gift as a token of someone else's love. Tonight: Secrets.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is an exciting day for you. For some of you, a friend might become a lover. (Or at least a hot flirtation.) Something about it will be a surprise, for sure. Others might meet a new friend -- nothing romantic, just warm and friendly. Tonight: Friendships.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is an interesting day. Some of you will develop a crush on your boss, or perhaps a romance will begin with someone in a position of authority. This person is probably related to your job. At a more modest level, people in authority will be kind to you. Tonight: You're attractive.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

A sudden opportunity to travel might fall in your lap today. How delightful! Others might get an unexpected chance to study, take a course or go to school. Meanwhile, romance with someone "different" will surprise many of you. (It's not a boring day.) Tonight: Explore!

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

You are a romantic sign, and today you will be glad to know that this is a romantic day. In fact, it's a passionate day for some of you. At the least, it's a flirtatious day for those who are timid but coquettish. A meaningful smile? A wink? A lingering look? Tonight: Financial advantage.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Relations with friends and partners will be warm and tender today. Some of you might feel romantic and passionate. Others will be taken by surprise for some reason. Basically, people feel friendly to each other because romantic vibes are in the air. Tonight: Enjoy.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is an excellent day for financial matters, because unexpected opportunities, especially related to your job, might boost your income or give you a financial advantage in some way. Ask for a loan or mortgage. Expect to be surprised. Tonight: Work.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with fair Venus, which is a lovely, romantic connection. Flirtations and promising titillations will occur for many of you. These could be fleeting

and it might stop you in your tracks and make your heart jump. Tonight: Socialize!

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Stock the fridge, because you might spontaneously entertain today. You might entertain a group or an individual. This person might be someone you feel attracted to. Certainly, this is the classic day for saucy flirtations and romance. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is the kind of day where a friend might become a lover, or a subtle flirtation might take place with a friend or a member of a group that neither of you acknowledges but you know it occurred. That "secret moment." (I'll never tell.) New people, new ideas and new places make this an interesting day! Tonight: Cocoon.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

People notice you today. This could be for a number of reasons, but definitely, one of these reasons might be because you're flirting with a boss. Or someone is attracted to you and others notice. This is also a favorable day to deal with real estate matters and shopping for home and family. Tonight: Conversations.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Flirtations and attractions to someone who is different are practically unavoidable today, unless you're living under a rock. Enjoy the company of others. Have some laughs. People are friendly today, and surprise attractions will catch many off guard. Tonight: Pleasant times.

BORN TODAY
Singer-songwriter, actress Lady Gaga (1986), country singer, actress Reba McEntire (1955), actress Julia Stiles (1981).

How Many Eggs Do You See



Find 7 Differences



Contract Bridge

HEADS I WIN, TAILS YOU LOSE

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH			
♠	K 7		
♥	7 4		
♦	A 3		
♣	A Q J 9 8 7 4		
WEST		EAST	
♠	A 9 8 6 4	♠	5 2
♥	K 5	♥	A 9 8 6 3 2
♦	J 10 4	♦	Q 9 8 2
♣	K 6 2	♣	10
SOUTH			
♠	Q J 10 3		
♥	Q J 10		
♦	K 7 6 5		
♣	5 3		

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

It is surely right to formulate a plan at the start of play, but one should always stand ready to alter that plan as new circumstances develop.

Consider this deal where South won the opening diamond lead with the king and led a club at trick two, successfully finessing the jack. Then, imbued with the notion that dummy's clubs were his primary source of tricks, and lacking the entry to his hand to repeat the finesse, South continued with the ace, hoping the king would fall.

When the king did not appear,

South played a third round of clubs to establish the suit. West won and led a diamond to dummy's ace and the contract went down one. Declarer finished with six clubs and two diamonds, while the defenders scored two aces, two diamonds and a club.

South would have fared better had he not put all his hopes on West's holding the K-x of clubs and focused more on the possibility of West's holding the K-x-x. South could have covered both possibilities by playing dummy's king of spades at trick three, abandoning clubs temporarily. Had he done that, he would have finished with at least nine tricks.

If West took the ace of spades and returned a diamond, South could make 12 tricks by cashing his spades and repeating the club finesse. If West did not take the first spade, South could then revert to clubs to finish with nine tricks.

While it is granted that the king-of-spades play at trick three is not easy to think of — considering the magnetic attraction of dummy's clubs — there can be no denying that it is the right play.

Left undiscussed here is the possibility that a wily East holding the doubleton king of clubs might not have taken the king to lure South into taking a second club finesse — but that's a subject for a whole other column.

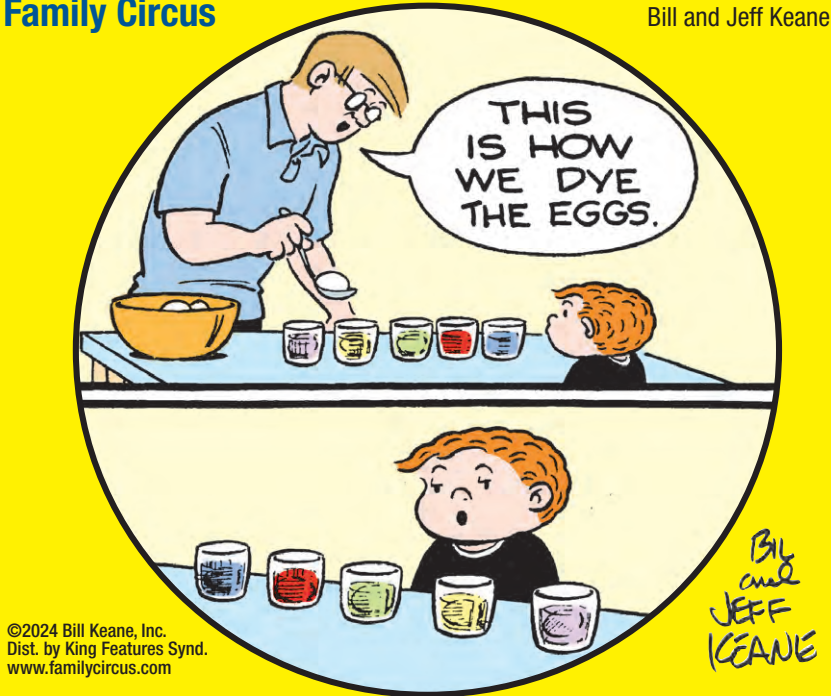
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane

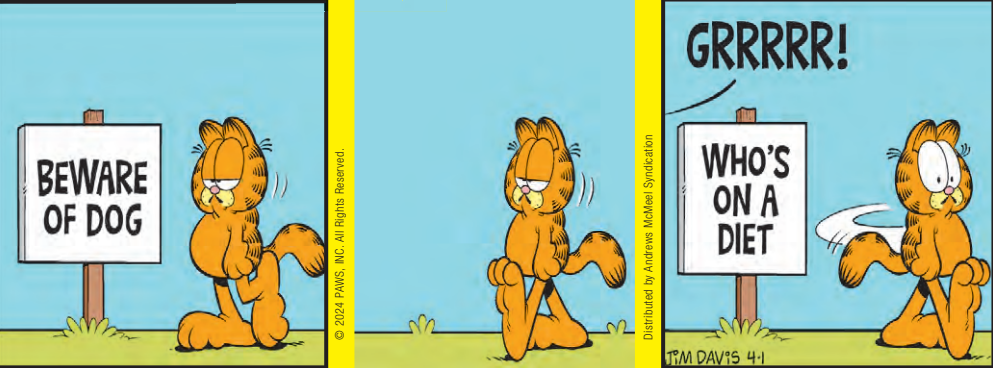


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“Are they dead yet?”

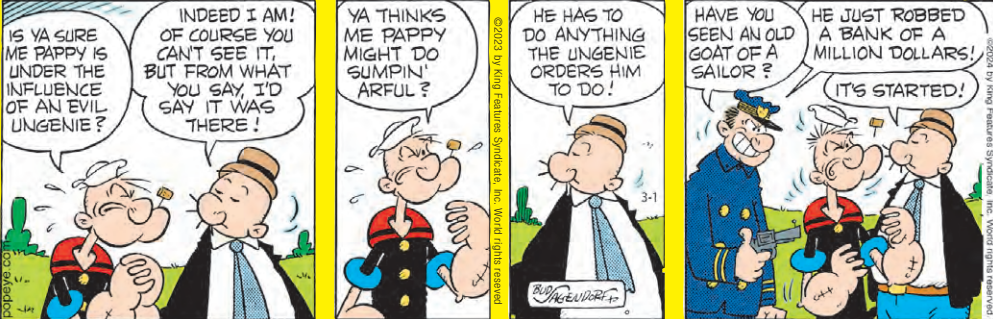
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



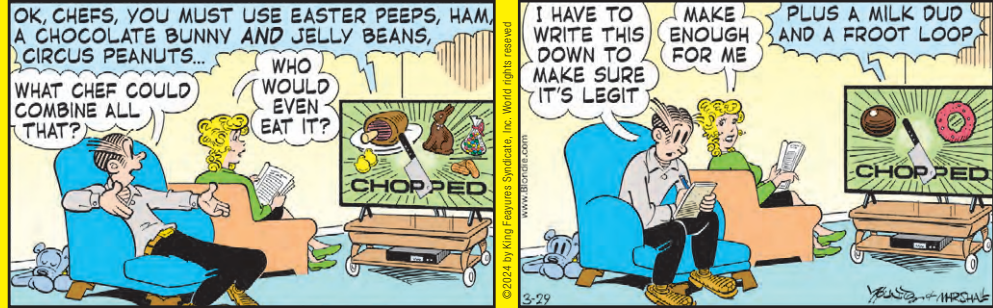
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



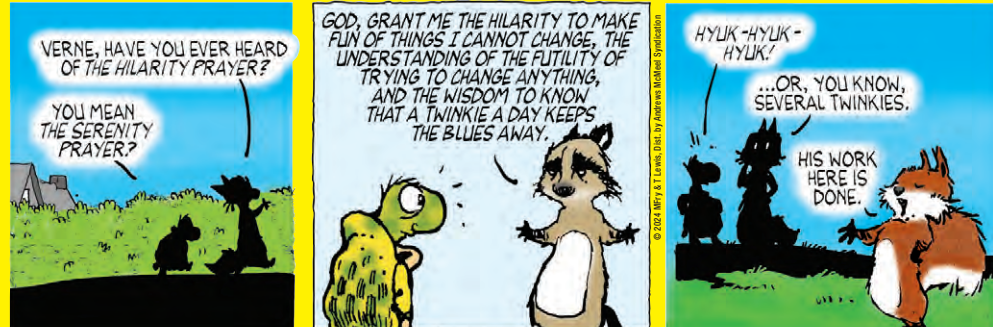
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



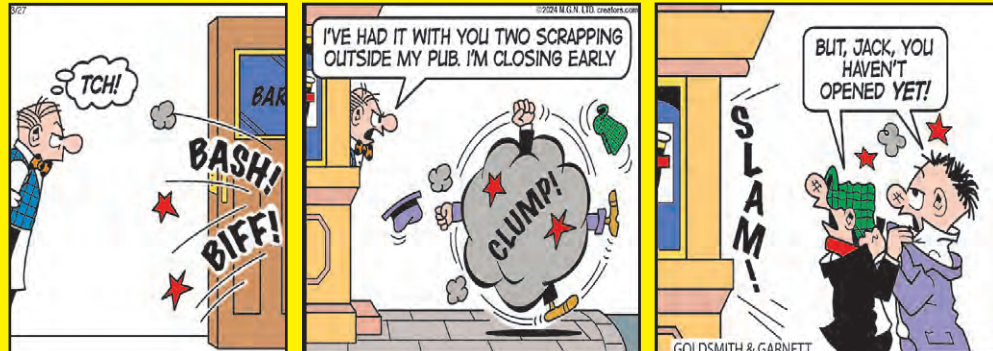
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



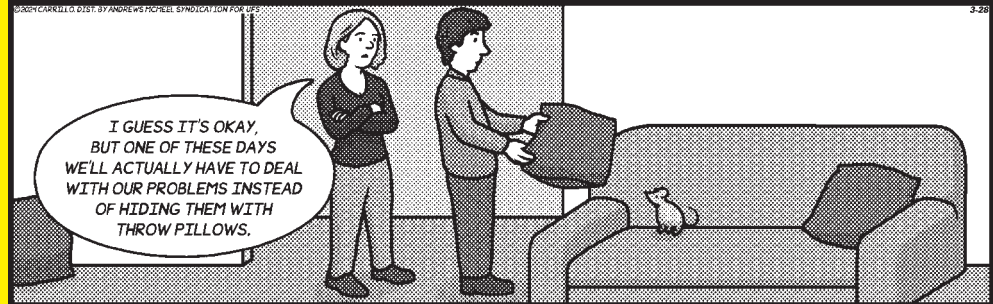
Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

	1	2	3	4				
	9							5
			9	6			2	1
	6			5		2		
			6	7	2			
		3		1			4	
2	3			9	7			
1							9	
				3	4	7	8	

2/28

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

3	4	7	9	2	1	5	6	8
9	8	1	4	5	6	2	7	3
6	5	2	3	7	8	9	1	4
5	1	8	6	4	2	7	3	9
2	9	4	7	8	3	1	5	6
7	6	3	5	1	9	4	8	2
1	7	6	8	9	4	3	2	5
4	3	5	2	6	7	8	9	1
8	2	9	1	3	5	6	4	7

3/21 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 28, 2024

ACROSS

- Copied
- Brought to light
- Springtime occurrence
- Business with a slicer
- In unison
- McEntire of country
- Treat company with a hidden agenda?
- In an unfocused manner
- It's not quite a nonet
- Landed
- Such a long time
- Medal spots
- Cleaning item that may be green and yellow
- Two after Sun.
- Large highway sights
- Round, chuck and others
- Import or export tax
- R&B star
- Lennox
- Suni Lee's Olympic team
- Alternative to "fair" and "good"
- Lightning bolt's sound
- Moment, briefly
- At the office, as an interview
- Longings

- Teaser ad
- Antiquated, quaintly
- Fictional sailor
- Talks back to "Dagnabbit!"
- Slightly
- Put a cap on
- Woeful interjection
- Video game cheating method with a hidden mic?
- It's often topped with a rooster
- Manage not to encounter
- Surface calculation
- Concludes
- Showed again
- Pebble-shaped piece of candy
- DOWN
- Type of committee
- Princess in Mario games
- Thrill
- Regularly sent summaries
- "Dapper" guy
- Beef-grading org.
- Objectives
- Decompress, as a file
- Italian sauce whose name means "pounded"
- Sort by urgency
- Outdoor attraction with a hidden gem?
- Having the wherewithal

- Routes
- Dramatic words from Caesar
- Took effect
- Letters indicating sensitive content
- Fifth
- Avenue
- Middle Eastern home of the Pink Mosque
- Tastes of wine
- Brink
- Possible source of feedback on an app
- Small food establishment with a hidden cost?
- Place to buy dehydrated food
- Zealous about
- Emotions, slangily

- Diving bird
- "That's within my abilities!"
- Shots that don't make it in
- Spanish artist who coined "nuclear mysticism"
- One may make muffins
- Too good for
- Algerian currency
- Treat made over an open flame
- Duck with soft down
- Place
- Talk wildly
- Ruck of "Succession"
- Proud proclamation
- Second-class citizens in Barbieland

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	I	S	T	H	E	M	A	L	A	S	N	O
O	N	P	A	R	A	D	E	C	A	C	H	E
S	O	A	K	I	N	G	T	H	E	B	L	U
A	N	T	I	E	A	U	O	U	T	D	O	
M	G	M		C	R	O	C	H	E	L	M	E
C	H	I		E	A	R	L	D	E	S	E	R
J	A	M	B	A	D	I	G	A	G	R	E	E
O	N	I	O	N	S		F	R	E	D	I	A
B	A	C	K	B	O	N	F	I	R	E		E
W	R	I	T	E		A	H	I		A	S	A
R	A	S	H	E	S	T	O	R	A	T	I	O
A	B	L	A	Z	E		H	O	M	E	R	U
P	E	E	W	E		O	N	C	E		P	E

3/21 Solution

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3/28

Hidden Meaning by Willa Angel Chen Miller

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20						21					22			
23					24		25				26			
			27			28				29		30	31	
32	33	34			35		36	37	38		39			
40					41						42			
43					44						45			
46					47			48	49					
		50				51	52	53		54		55	56	57
58	59				60			61		62				
63					64				65					
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

Comics

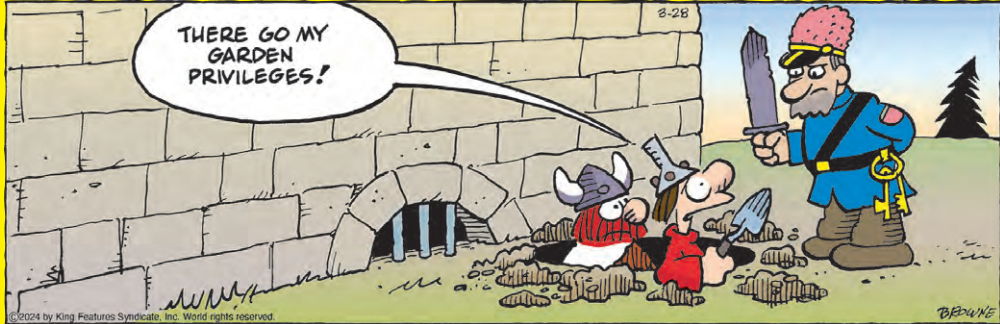
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



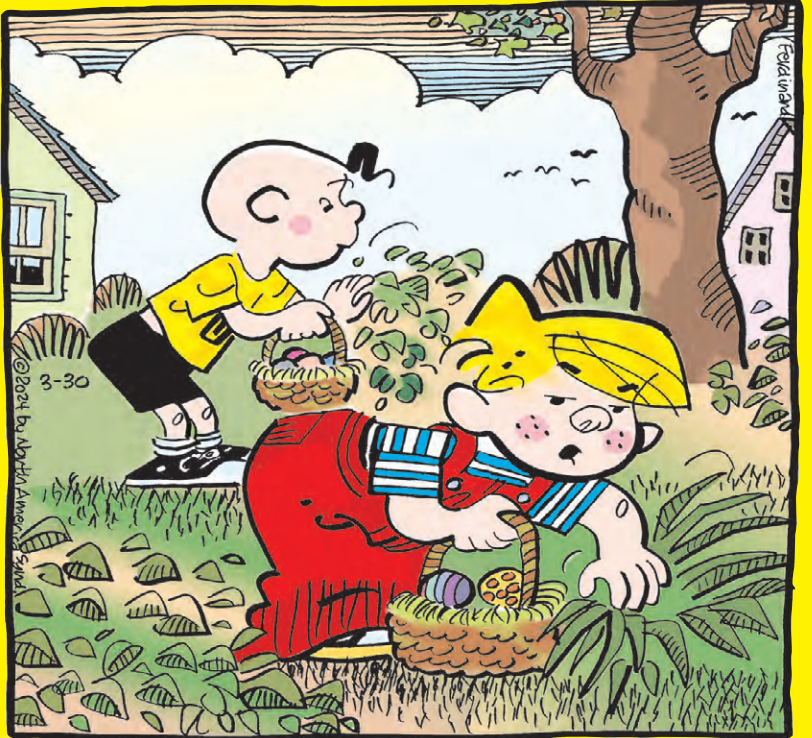
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



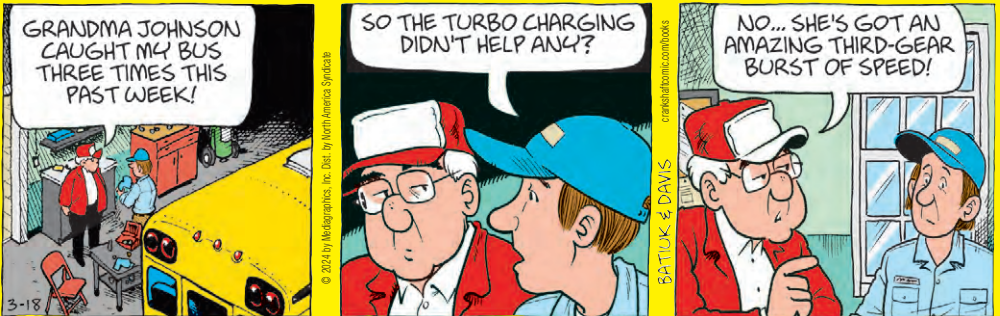
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



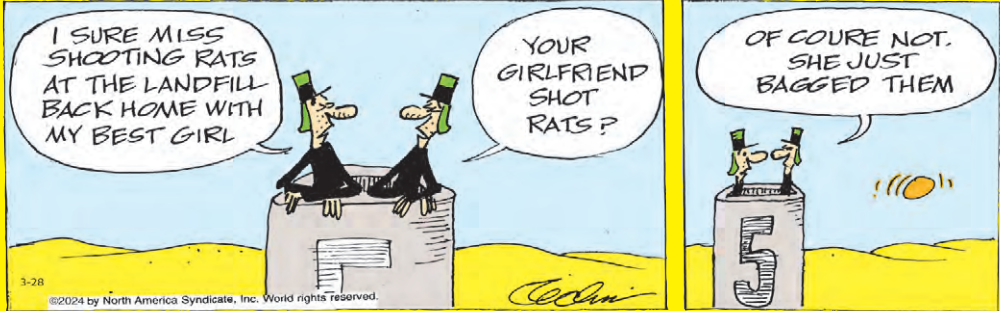
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



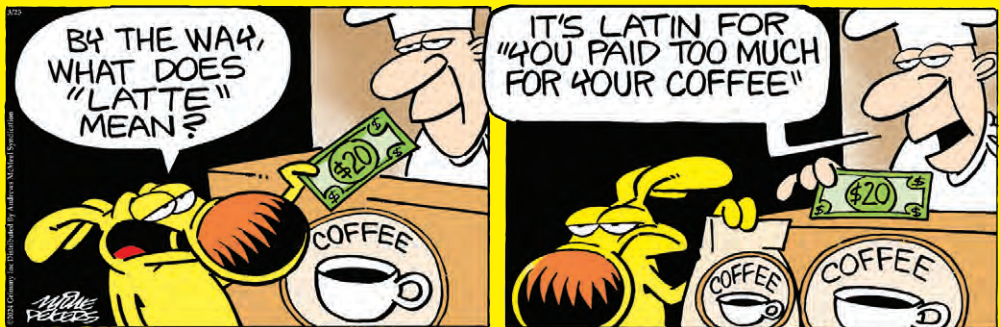
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



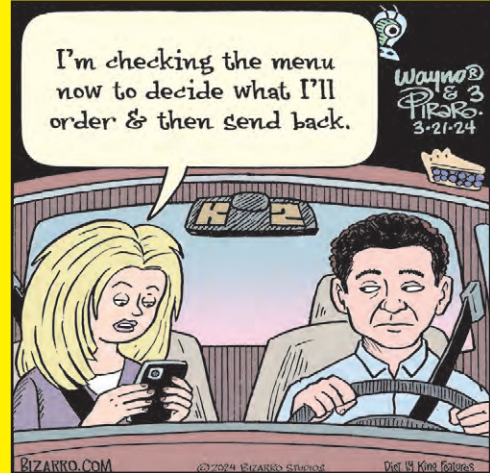
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



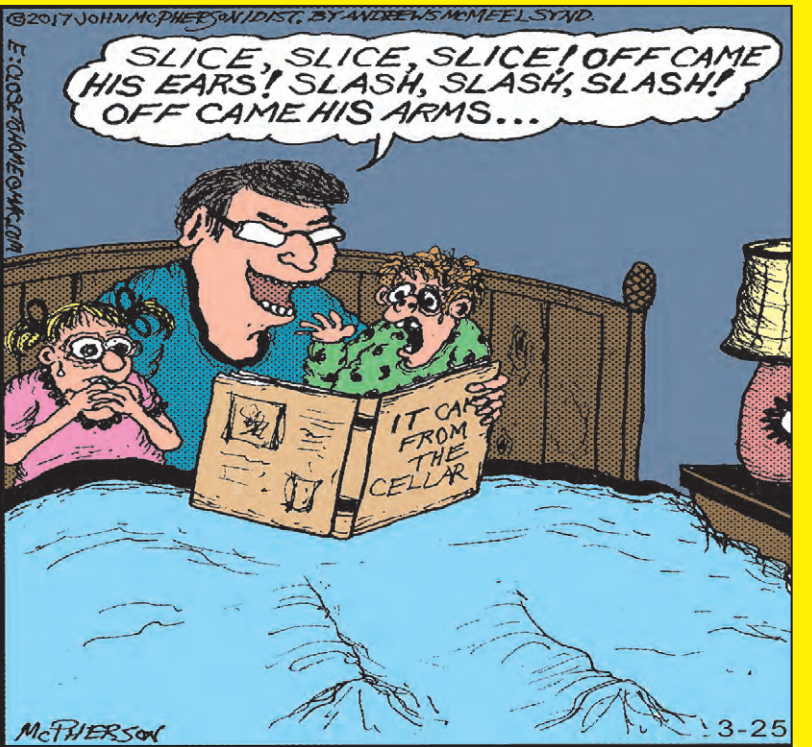
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



When Stephen King reads bedtime stories."

Marmaduke

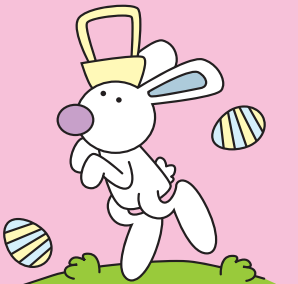
Paul & Brad Anderson



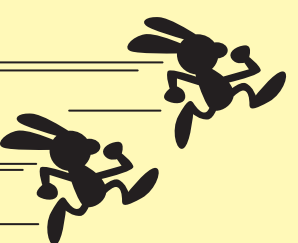
Eggs-ercises
These exercises use your muscles and imagination! Try them with your buddy.



Slow Melt
Pretend you are a chocolate bunny melting on a hot day. Start by standing nice and tall, then slowly ooze to the floor.



Basket Balance
Try balancing an empty Easter basket (or a plastic bowl) on your head as you walk across your yard.



Rabbit Racers
Give a younger buddy a head start and race across the park. Try racing three times. Is your younger buddy getting faster?

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

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Kid Scoo-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word SOLVE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

				S
			S	O
		S		L
	S			V
S				E

The Bunny Buddies' Puzzles & Punch Lines

WAIT! Don't do this page alone. If this page looks **TOO HARD**, find an older buddy to help you. If it looks **EASY**, find a younger buddy and help them!

BINGO **BIANCA** **BIXBY** **BEBE** **BABY BURT**

What is Long and Stylish and full of cats?

The code on Baby Burt's blocks reveals the answer to this riddle, but he's too little to figure it out. Can you help him before he starts to cry?

Legend: = A = D = E = H = P = R = S = T = U

Bunny Bathtime
While Bixby is enjoying his bubble bath, pop two bubbles at a time by crossing them out. Leave one letter, then cross the next two out. Keep going and you'll reveal the punch line to this riddle:

Who delivers Treats To ocean fish at Easter?

~~R~~ ~~T~~ ~~H~~ ~~J~~ ~~K~~ ~~E~~ ~~B~~ ~~N~~ ~~O~~ ~~V~~
~~Y~~ ~~H~~ ~~P~~ ~~S~~ ~~L~~ ~~K~~ ~~T~~ ~~F~~ ~~M~~ ~~E~~ ~~N~~ ~~C~~ ~~R~~ ~~K~~ ~~P~~
~~B~~ ~~G~~ ~~Y~~ ~~U~~ ~~P~~ ~~W~~ ~~N~~ ~~C~~ ~~V~~ ~~N~~ ~~M~~ ~~D~~ ~~Y~~

Bebe's Garden
Bebe planted some tasty veggies in her garden. But they grew so big that now she can't find her way through it! The letters on the correct path will solve this riddle:

How do you send a Letter To The Easter Bunny?

CLUES
1. A tasty baked dessert
2. To grow older
3. Something you chew
4. Fuel for a car
5. You can fry eggs in this
6. Sick, not well
7. A baseball player's hat
8. Metal food container
9. A gorilla is one kind
10. An animal in your home
11. Frozen water
12. How bunnies move
13. One more than nine

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Extra! Extra!

Say What?
Cut out a comic strip from the newspaper. Carefully remove the words from the word bubbles, and then paste the strip onto a sheet of paper. Write a new joke in the bubbles.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Hidden Egg Hunt
Bianca hid three egg designs all over this page. How many of each can you and your buddy find?

Me My Buddy

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Why do people dye Easter eggs?

+ cause - rabb **EZR**

Than + + - **K**

Them!

ANSWER: Because it's easier than wallpapering them.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

CHOCOLATE
DISAPPEAR
GORILLA
STYLISH
VEGGIES
BUBBLE
EASTER
TREATS
PUNCH
BUNNY
PAGE
WAIT
DYE
BEST
NINE

R	A	E	P	P	A	S	I	D	C
S	G	T	I	A	W	R	P	B	A
T	O	A	C	G	K	U	U	U	S
Y	R	L	N	E	P	B	N	N	T
L	I	O	I	Y	B	E	C	N	A
I	L	C	N	L	E	G	H	Y	E
S	L	O	E	A	S	T	E	R	R
H	A	H	R	O	T	E	Y	D	T
G	V	C	V	E	G	G	I	E	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Scrambled Headlines
Cut out a lot of newspaper headlines. Then cut the headlines into single words. Have a family game night and see who can best recreate the correct headline or make a silly headline of their own.

Standards Link: Grammar: Construct grammatically correct sentences.

Why did the Easter Bunny fire the duck?

ANSWER: He kept quacking all the eggs.

Write On!

Easter Bunny Spotted!

You are a reporter covering the news flash that someone has seen the Easter Bunny. Tell *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why*.

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2D-4D 2023-'24 WINTER SPORTS REWIND | 4-5D CLASSIFIED | 6D HITS & HIGHLIGHTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett’s varsity baseball team takes the field for warm-ups at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla. earlier last week as part of the team’s spring training trip.

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

March started out like a lamb but decided to go out like a lion late last week when accumulating snow made an appearance around

metro Detroit. Several games for spring sports at Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett were canceled or were moved indoors due to the un-springlike temps dipping into the 20s after sunset.



PHOTO BY ANDREW DILODOVICO

South pitcher Everett Kiehl takes the mound at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Fla.

South and Liggett’s varsity baseball teams were lucky enough to have spring training trips planned in Florida, giving the players a chance to shake off the winter chill and take in some vitamin “B” — for baseball that is. North baseball stayed local for spring break and played



through Michigan’s spring trifecta of snow, rain and some sunshine. Good fortune also came in the form of a warm, indoor track at Eastern Michigan University for the Blue Devils and Knights’ track and field teams, who competed there in relative comfort Saturday, March 23. South’s girls lacrosse teams also

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North baseball’s senior leaders Bobby Rhodes, left, and Brennan Hill, bundle up for practice on a drizzly Tuesday, March 26.

took advantage of the indoors when they played inside at Detroit Country Day, Thursday, March 21.

Whether Mother Nature chooses to cooperate or not, the spring

sports season will be in full swing Monday, April 1. Be sure to read all about your favorite high school teams in the 2024 spring sports preview in next week’s GP News.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Marvin Hartfield, left, and Santino Cicarella finished fourth and second respectively in the 60 meter final at the EMU Huron Relays Saturday, March 23.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

South star Spangler shoots for banner year in cross country, track and soccer

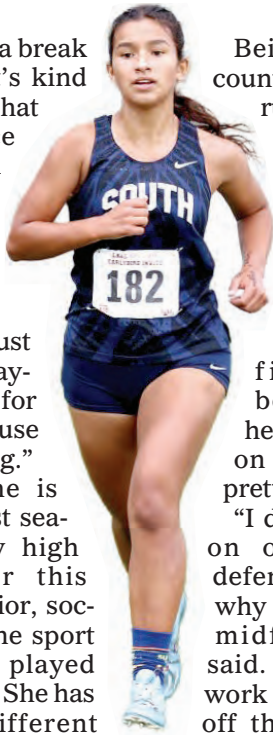
By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Some of the best athletes are the ones who can excel in just about anything that they try. Grosse Pointe South junior Savannah Spangler is in that conversation. A three-sport varsity athlete, Spangler shows that she can do it all by taking on two varsity sports in the same season this spring.

Spangler spends the fall season running cross country and will again be

part of South’s girls track and field team this spring. Also this spring, for the first time, she is playing varsity girls soccer for the Blue Devils. Playing three sports, especially two in the same season, can seem like a lot. However, Spangler has the drive and the mentality not only to manage all of that but to thrive as well. “One (thing) is like a break from the others,” she said. “When I’m at soccer practice, it’s a break from school. When

I’m at track it’s a break from soccer. It’s kind of nice to have that mental balance so I don’t feel stressed out about it...I keep my schoolwork pretty organized and I’m just excited to be playing both sports for my school because I love competing.” Although she is playing her first season of varsity high school soccer this spring as a junior, soccer has been the sport Spangler has played most of her life. She has played for different travel and club teams but decided to make the switch to playing for her high school team this season.



COURTESY PHOTO

South’s Savannah Spangler.

Being a cross-country and track runner as well, having speed certainly helps when it comes to soccer. However, Spangler plays midfield and believes that her style of play on the pitch is pretty balanced. “I do a good job on offense and defense so that’s why I play in the midfield,” she said. “I think my work ethic on and off the ball helps me out a lot. I do a good job at setting people up for goals so I get a lot of assists, but I think I

have a pretty good shot myself.” Before deciding to play varsity soccer, Spangler still wanted to have the experience of playing a sport for her school. So, a couple of years ago, she decided to give cross country a shot. “I still wanted to contribute to a sport at South to get the experience of playing a high school sport, so my freshman year a friend of mine convinced me to come to a cross country practice,” Spangler said. “...I went and everyone was nice and supportive because I had never really run (competitively) before

that. Coach Zaranek and all the girls were nice and welcoming, so I was excited to join the team then.” Giving cross country a try has definitely worked out for Spangler. She has spent three seasons on South’s varsity girls cross country team and has qualified for the state

See ATHLETE, page 6D

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Savannah Spangler

School: Grosse Pointe South

Sport: Track and field, soccer

Sponsored by Shana Sine Cameron
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Star Spangler

- Qualified for girls XC state finals in 3 consecutive seasons
- Made appearances at girls Track & Field state finals in 2022 & 2023
- Member of both the South girls varsity soccer and track & field teams this spring

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2D | 2023-24 WINTER SPORTS REWIND

2023-24 Winter Sports REWIND

RIVALRY WINS, CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES, NEW RECORDS AND CAREER MILESTONES BRING THRILLS AND CHILLS TO GP’S WINTER SPORTS SEASON

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Beating backyard rivals, reaching the 1,000 career-points mark, breaking school records and raising trophies for league, district and state championships illustrated how athletes and teams from throughout the Pointes had all the right stuff during the

2023-24 winter sports season. We’re taking a look at just some of the most notable and exciting moments we covered

for varsity teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School. While not every accomplishment is documented here, we congratulate all the athletes and teams for giving us thrills and chills during this great winter sports season.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

North’s Natalie Babcock, right, puts up a jumper against South in the team’s first matchup of the 2023-24 season. Babcock, a senior, went on to finish her Norsemen career with 1,033 total points.

Girls Basketball



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South basketball’s Maddy Benard was named first team All-MAC Red and tied South’s season scoring record of 440 points.

Top dogs

The 2023-23 winter sports season ended with:

- 1 team state championship — South girls varsity hockey
- 2 individual state champions — South’s Wyatt Hepner in boys wrestling and South’s Troy Liu in the 50 free for boys swim and dive
- 1 Miss Hockey — Sofie Ancona, University Liggett
- 2 new members of the 1,000 career-points club — Karter Richards, South boys basketball and Natalie Babcock, North girls basketball
- 2 girls basketball district championships — Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett
- 15 student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent in February to play at the college level.
- MAC Red MVP — Karter Richards, South
- MAC Red Coach of the Year — Steve Benard, South boys basketball
- MAC Red Coach of the Year — Gary Bennett, North girls basketball
- South’s Hepner and North’s Preston Auld each reached 100 career wrestling wins

Boys Basketball



PHOTO BY UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

University Liggett’s boys varsity basketball team hit the Detroit Pistons home court for a game in early January.



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

South’s Karter Richards (No. 11), celebrated reaching the 1,000 career mark with his family in a January game against L’Anse Creuse North. He also was named MAC Red MVP, broke two school records and earned first team All-MAC Red honors this season.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North boys hoops senior Rubin McBride-Williams helped his team reach the district round, where they lost a close one to defending state champ Cass Tech.

Members of Grosse Pointe South’s Devil’s Den student spirit group got pumped up for a Pink Out to help raise money for the American Cancer Society at the “Coaches vs. Cancer” event during the freshman, JV and varsity games against Dakota in January.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

North girls varsity basketball raised their third consecutive district trophy in March. Coach Gary Bennett, left, received Coach of the Year honors, while Natalie Babcock (No. 34) and Jenna Winowiecki, holding trophy at center, were named to first team All-MAC Red, along with teammate Eva Borowski, center front.



COURTESY PHOTO

ULS girls varsity basketball advanced to the regional final.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following ordinance amendment at its meeting held on Monday, March 18, 2024. The ordinance amendment was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and will become effective March 28, 2024, and is hereby published by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, CHAPTER 8, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE XI, STRUCTURES IN FRONT YARDS; SECTION 8-335, TO EXCLUDE ONE FREE MINI-LIBRARY LESS THAN FIVE (5) FEET IN HEIGHT AND NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) SQUARE FEET IN TOTAL AREA, PER RESIDENCE, FROM THE DEFINITION OF A STRUCTURE

The ordinance is available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwmn.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 3/28/24



South boys basketball won the MAC tournament championship for the second consecutive year.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Winter Athletes of the Week

Nineteen winter sports athletes were featured as a Grosse Pointe News Athlete of the Week from November through mid-March, including:

- Wyatt Hepner - South wrestling
- Jenna Winowiecki – North girls basketball
- Allie Roth - Liggett girls Hockey
- Troy Liu - South boys swim & dive
- Karter Richards - South boys basketball
- Preston Auld - North wrestling
- Maksim Johns - Liggett boys hockey
- Maddy Benard - South girls basketball
- Tommy Moreland - North boys swim & dive
- Sofie Ancona - Liggett girls hockey
- Drew Brady - South boys hockey
- Milania Rodriguez - South girls wrestling
- Ben Bryan - South boys swim & dive
- Allison Mattes - North gymnastics
- Rosie Smith - South girls hockey



Boys Wrestling

South's Wyatt Hepner, right, faces off with Sam Angello from Eisenhower in the Division 1 138-pound wrestling state final. Hepner won the match to become the Blue Devils' first-ever wrestling state champion.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North senior Preston Auld reached 100 career wrestling wins during this season, and he also qualified for the Division 2 state championships at Ford Field.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

South senior Milania Rodriguez made school history this winter as the school's first-ever female wrestler to qualify for the state finals.

Made to be broken

Several athletes in the 2023-24 winter sports season broke school records, including: 5 broken school records in boys swim and dive at the state final — Grosse Pointe North's set three new school records, while South broke two. They include:

- North's James Gusmano, who broke the school's oldest record from 1971 in the 50 Free in 21.61. The old record was 22.02 in the event.
- Tommy Moreland, who broke North's 100 butterfly record in 51.07.
- Gusmano, Tommy Moreland, Keegan Wettstein and Connor McMahon set North's new 200 free relay record in 1:27.93.
- South's Liu broke South's records in the 50 free in 20.77, breaking his own school record of 20.88 that he set earlier this season.
- Liu also broke another school record in the 100 free in 45.42, beating Jacob Montague's 2016 time of 45.67.

Brendan Beland set a new Liggett record in the 100 butterfly during a regular season meet in 54.66.

Girls varsity basketball set 3 new school records.

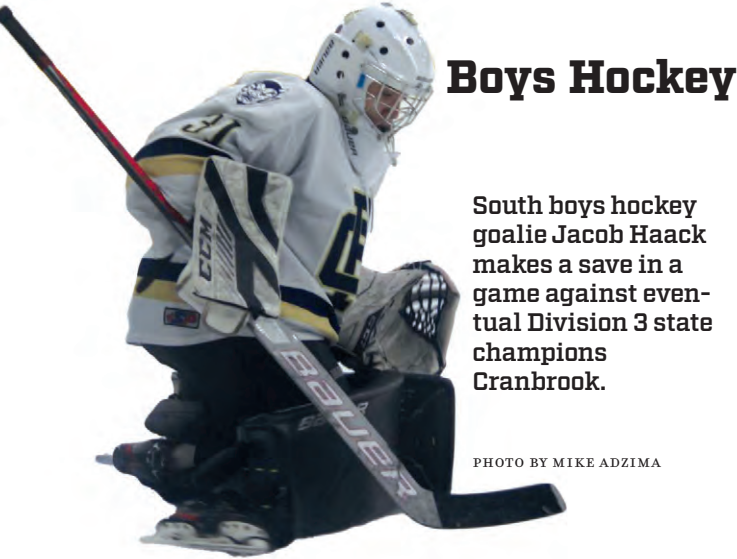
- South's Maddy Benard tied for most points scored in a single season at 440.
- North's Jenna Winowiecki broke her own record for most 3-pointers in a single season (60) and for most 3-pointers in a career (131).

South boys varsity basketball broke 4 new school records.

- Tory James broke 2 records including the most 3-pointers in a game and in a single season with 8 and 63 respectively.
- Karter Richards also broke 2, including most steals in a single season (80) and most two-point field goals made in a career (353).

Liggett's Sofie Ancona broke school records for most points (73 points) and most goals (48) in a season.

Liggett's girls varsity hockey reached 98 consecutive wins before the team's loss in this year's state championship.



South boys hockey goalie Jacob Haack makes a save in a game against eventual Division 3 state champions Cranbrook.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett's Gary Stacy lines up for a faceoff in the Division 3 hockey regional championship game against Cranbrook.



PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

Liggett boys varsity hockey won the Catholic High School League championship.

Girls Hockey



PHOTO BY RENA LAVERTY

Liggett's Sofie Ancona earned 2023-24's Miss Hockey, awarded to the state's best player.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

North girls varsity hockey team, pictured earlier this season in a game against Liggett, saw its season cut short in the playoffs by Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Boys Swim & Dive



COURTESY PHOTO

South's Troy Liu, pictured here Speedo Winter Junior Nationals meet in early December in Columbus, Ohio, won the 2023-24 Division 2 state championship in the 50 free, where he broke the school records in that event. He also broke the school record in 100 free at the state final, where he placed second overall.



PHOTO BY PETER GUSMANO

From left to right, Grosse Pointe North's record-breaking 200 free relay includes Keegan Wettstein, Tommy Moreland, Connor McMahon and James Gusmano.



PHOTO BY RENA LAVERTY

South girls hockey team celebrates Maeve Hix's third period goal in the state championship game.

4D | 2023-24 WINTER SPORTS REWIND

United Gymnastics



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE UNITED GYMNASTICS

Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics takes the top spot on the podium after winning the league championship on Valentine's Day.

Unified Coed Basketball



COURTESY PHOTO OF GROSSE POINTE ATHLETICS

South's unified basketball team strikes a pose before its showcase game at Little Caesars Arena in January.



PHOTO BY IAN DUVERNAY

North unified basketball players, partners and coaches celebrate during the team's showcase game at Little Caesars Arena March 17.

College Signings



PHOTO BY MOLLY LAU

From left to right, Rocco Cardinale, Ethan Bailey-Gonzalez and Marcus Robinson gathered on Grosse Pointe North's signing day in February, committing to play at their respective colleges. They were among 15 athletes from North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett who signed National Letters of Intent this winter moving on to play at the collegiate level.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Liggett senior Brynn Collins, center, commits to play women's lacrosse at Hope College with her parents, Brett and Darby and brother, Griffin, standing at her signing ceremony in February.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North unified basketball's Elie Shemmai brings the ball up the court for the Norsemen in a game against South.

Unified Figure Skating



PHOTO BY JENNIFER WENGEL

Grosse Pointe Unified Figure Skating finished fourth out of 12 teams at the Michigan High School Ice Skating state championship this month. The team includes from left to right, North's Luc Henri, South's Claire Wengel, North's Remy Henri and North's Abby Owczarek. Wengel also placed second out of 10 skaters in the individual state championship in the Intermediate Excel Plus Group.

South's Hunter Belanger is surrounded by his biggest fans in February as he signs the paperwork to play football at Northern Michigan next fall.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD



City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following zoning ordinance amendment at its meeting held on Monday, March 18, 2024. The zoning ordinance amendment was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and will become effective March 28, 2024, and is hereby published by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, CHAPTER 50 – ZONING, SECTION 50-5.3 OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING SIZE OF PARKING SPACES, TRAFFIC LANE MARKINGS, FLEXIBILITY IN OFF-STREET PARKING STANDARDS VIA SHARED PARKING AGREEMENTS AND PARKING WAIVERS, AND SECTION 50-5.5 RESIDENTIAL PARKING AND SEMICIRCULAR DRIVES TO REDUCE THE RADIUS OF SEMICIRCULAR DRIVES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance is available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwmi.us.

G.P.N.: 3/28/24

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
PUBLIC NOTICE
WEEDS, BRUSH AND GRASS
TO ALL OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF LAND IN THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that after May 1st of this year the provisions of Chapter 46, Vegetation, Article IV, Weeds, Brush and Grass will be enforced. This article requires the owner or occupant to cut, destroy or remove weeds, brush and grass that is six (6) inches high or more. In the case of noncompliance, the owner or occupant of the land shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the city in connection with such cutting or destruction plus a 30 percent administrative fee. If the charges are not paid within 30 days after billing, payment shall be deemed delinquent and shall be enforceable as a tax lien against the land.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of Article IV of Chapter 46 shall, in addition to the other obligations imposed thereby or by other applicable law, be responsible for a municipal civil infraction and subject to a civil fine.

G.P.N.: 03/28/2024

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

DESIGN BY JOHN PIGOTT

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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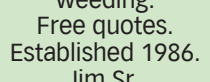

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HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Some bonus sports highlights from Pointers making headlines this month include:

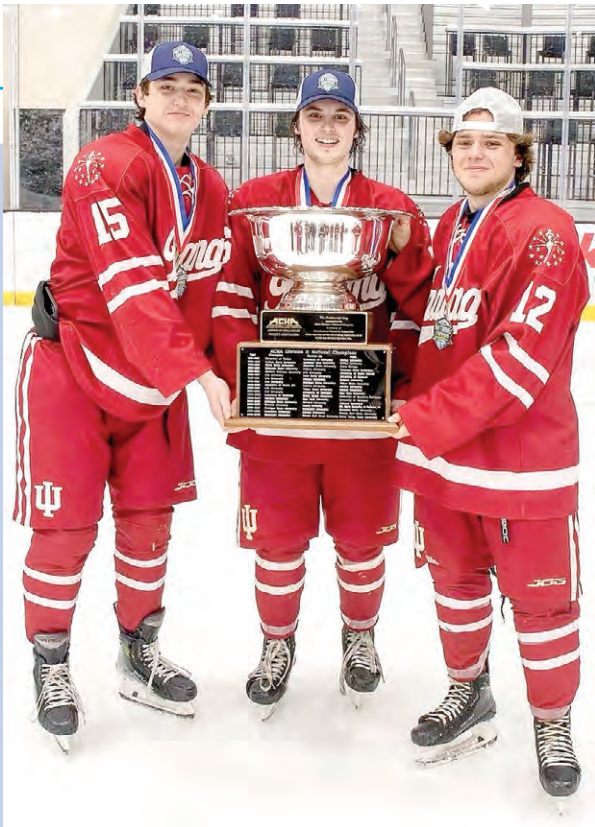
SAINTS HOCKEY

The 2010 St. Clair Shores Saints, with a roster that includes several Grosse Pointers, took home the hardware Sunday, March 17, thanks to winning the state championship after a thrilling come-from-behind victory. Down 3-0 after the first period, the Saints went on to score four unanswered goals to seal the comeback and championship win. Pointers include Owen Delisle, Brewer Puma and Peter Welch.



COLLEGE HOCKEY

University Liggett alum Stevie Wheatley, left, cradles the championship trophy with teammates from Indiana University after the Hoosiers won the American Collegiate Hockey Association's National Championship in Division II in St. Louis, Mo. earlier this month. The team beat Miami University 5-4 in overtime, giving the Hoosiers their first program championship in 55 years.



COURTESY PHOTO

Does your team have a newsworthy quick hit or highlight from the week to share? Send it along to mleonard@grossepointenews.com.

Farms native begins pro journey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Every hockey player grows up hoping one day they can make it to the NHL. Grosse Pointe Farms native Mac Welsher is now just a couple of steps away from realizing that dream after signing with the Adirondack Thunder of the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) and officially launching his professional hockey career.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Grosse Pointe Farms native Mac Welsher, pictured playing at Merrimack College, recently made his professional hockey debut with the Adirondack Thunder of the ECHL.

Welsher's final season of Division I college hockey at Merrimack College ended March 13, when his team lost in the Hockey East Conference tournament. The end of his college career left Welsher unsure of what the future would hold, but then made his ECHL debut just a week later March 20.

"You try not to think about it when your season ends in college and you have no more eligi-

bility left," Welsher said. "You put all this time into playing hockey and playing for your school and then it's time to make the jump to the pro level. ... I ended up getting a text from the head coach of Adirondack saying they were interested and wanted me to play on Wednesday ... so I got in the car and drove for three and a half hours to play my first pro game."

The end of his final college season was not the first time Welsher reached a critical juncture in his hockey career. He grew up playing youth hockey with the Grosse Pointe Bulldogs and eventually Triple-A with the Oakland Jr. Grizzlies and Belle Tire before leaping into junior hockey and the United States Hockey League (USHL).

Before his career in the USHL took off, however, Welsher was unsure he even wanted to continue seriously playing hockey. "When I graduated high school, there was a crossroads of whether I wanted to keep playing or not," he said. "My rights in the USHL got traded to Green Bay and I told my parents if I didn't make the roster in Green Bay,

then I'm just going to go to college and probably just enroll in Michigan State the next semester."

That ended up not being the case. Welsher played the 2017-18 season with the Green Bay Gamblers and the next season with the Des Moines Buccaneers before being offered a spot to play at Merrimack College. In four collegiate seasons with the Warriors, Welsher finished with 25 goals and 47 career points.

Welsher's ECHL debut with the Thunder came against the Worcester Railers and ended up a 5-2 win for his team. A few nights later Sunday, March 24, Welsher got his first professional goal in the ECHL in a game against the Norfolk Admirals and ended the game with two points after adding an assist.

The ECHL is essentially the hockey equivalent of the Double-A level in minor league baseball, with the Thunder being affiliated with the NHL's New Jersey Devils. Welsher hopes good, consistent performances in Adirondack will help him one day take the ice in the NHL. He also believes the experience



Welsher scored 25 career goals and 47 points over four college seasons at Merrimack. He scored his first professional goal in the ECHL Sunday, March 24, against the Norfolk Admirals.

he got playing at the highest level in college has him ready to take on any challenge in the professional ranks.

"Every night I would go out there and play against guys who were first-round draft picks in the NHL," Welsher said. "... I've played against some of the highest, elite-level players and I think the best thing that could've prepared me for this is playing so often against players whose skill levels were even above the ECHL."

Welsher has joined the Thunder with a couple of weeks left in the regular

season; however, the team currently is second in the ECHL Eastern Conference standings and has clinched a spot in the upcoming playoffs.

While he would like to keep putting his name on the stat sheet, Welsher knows helping his team win is the top priority and the best thing he can do to help himself stand out.

"I'm just really looking forward to making the playoffs with Adirondack and going on a run," he said. "Being regarded as a winning hockey player at any level is a trait you want to have next to your name."

ATHLETE:

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finals each year. Naturally, being on the cross country team led to trying out track and field in the spring, where Spangler has also found

success. In 2022, she qualified for states in the two-mile race as a freshman and went to states for the mile and the 4 x 800 relay in both 2022 and 2023.

Spangler has grown used to running in big races and being under

pressure. Being able to manage three sports and school is all about keeping everything in control, and that is the mindset that Spangler takes into every big race on the track or cross country course.

"My mom told me a quote when I was worried about a race, it's 'whether you can or can't do it, you're right either way,'" she said. "I kind of just take that attitude before a race of mentally preparing myself because I can control how my race goes. Even if it's a bad day, I can still control my attitude."

It is clear in all she does that Spangler is a naturally gifted runner and all-around athlete. However, she also knows that her success would not be possible without the help of some great coaching.

While running cross country and track for the Blue Devils, Spangler has been coached by longtime South staple Steve Zaranek, who has



COURTESY PHOTO

Spangler with her cross country and track and field coach, Steve Zaranek.

become one of her biggest mentors.

"I've had a lot of coaches for different sports, but he's on a different level from pretty much any coach I've had," Spangler said. "I know he's been doing this for a long time, but he comes with the attitude that we're going to be the best team even if we aren't the fastest because we're going to be the best teammates. He's really supportive as a coach."

The respect between athlete and coach is mutual when it comes to Spangler and Zaranek. Spangler's work ethic being able to manage three sports, schoolwork and more has shown everyone around her just how driven she is.

At the end of the day, whether it is cross country, track, or soccer, Spangler is hard-working and a team player. In the eyes of her coach, that makes her everything that a student-ath-

lete should be.

"Savannah is an amazing student-athlete," South girls cross country and track coach Steve Zaranek said. "She has the traits every coach looks for. The willingness to work extremely hard to reach her goals combined with the willingness to give all she has for her teammates. She's never selfish. Her first thoughts center on how she can best contribute to her team."

Nominate

To nominate an Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.



CITY OF HARPER WOODS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE
AUCTION OF
IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on **APRIL 03, 2024** at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2019 FORD FIESTA	3FADP4BJXKM152058
2013 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WF5E32D1222230
2014 JEEP CHEROKEE	1C4PJMB57EW173455
2009 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WB57N691189248
2008 PONTIAC G6	1G22G57B884277902
2003 FORD F-150	1FTRX18W23NB62916

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section
POSTED: March 19, 2024
PUBLISHED: March 28, 2024

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.