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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 15, 30 PAGES
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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Suit says center blocks sewer access

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Civil action against the group constructing a performing arts center straddling the Park-Detroit border demands a portion of the partially built, 49,000-square-foot struc-

ture be removed because it blocks access to a Wayne County storm drain as wide as the length of a mid-range jump shot.

Litigants allege the center, on Jefferson between Maryland and Alter, encroaches more than 80 percent into the

Fox Creek Drain's 100-foot easement.

"The building foundations severely limit access to perform maintenance and improvement to the Fox Creek Drain," according to a lawsuit filed in Wayne County Circuit Court and assigned to Judge Sheila

Gibson. "(The foundation) interferes with the operation of the drain, including but not limited to the ability to excavate, remove and replace a 15-foot diameter drain pipe and conduct other maintenance on the drain."

Listed as plaintiffs are

Wayne County and the Fox Creek Drainage District.

Defendants are the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, a charity formed in 2012 to raise funds for construction of the arts center; PCI/Dailey Industries, construction manager; and

CBRE, Inc. (Global Commercial Real Estate Services), listed in foundation documents as the owner's representative.

The PCI construction team disregarded written notice of the encroachment, itemized in an Aug.

See *SUIT*, page 2A

Where are all the students?

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — As the Grosse Pointe Public School System continues to grapple with falling enrollment, the question often arises as to where those students went.

In reviewing data from the Michigan

Department of Education, the Grosse Pointe News has learned that in the current school year, some 283 students living in the district attend public school elsewhere.

Of those, 154 attend one of 30 different charter public schools, either in person or online. The most popular choices among in-person charters are Chandler Park Academy and Discovery Creative Pathways, both in Harper Woods, where 19 Grosse Pointe students attend each school, with 11 at Oakland International Academy. Another seven go to University Prep Schools

See *STUDENTS*, page 9A



PHOTO BY JIM DORIAN

Colleges compete

In a sure sign of spring, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club hosted two collegiate sailing events last weekend under sunny skies, chilly temps and blustery conditions. Several universities from around the Midwest, including University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, University of Notre Dame and Northwestern University, participated in two races — the MSCA Team Qualifier Friday, April 5, and the MCS Open Fleet Race Saturday, April 6.

The race was sponsored by the Youth Nautical Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization of the GPYC that raises funds for youth sailing and nautical education. The race was made possible by the organization's donation of 20 new sailboats to support the program. For race results, head to page 6D in Sports.

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Every Week In
LIFE & LEISURE SECTION C

Playscape backers asked to step up

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Upkeep of the 30-year-old, wooden playscape at Patterson Park could become a nostalgia fest if petitioners to save the structure match their words with action.

"In the next couple of months, we'll be organizing a volunteer event for the cleaning and sealing," said James Ceuninck, head of the recreation commission's playscape subcommittee.

Commissioners are banking on petitioners — who early last year began a successful campaign to

preserve the deteriorating but stable structure, built largely by volunteers — following through by helping perform minor maintenance.

"We have a list of hundreds of people who signed the petition to save it," Commissioner Howard Bouton said. "We're also trying to seek all of those who participated in the original build so we can broaden the appeal to preserve their original investment. Kind of treat it like a reunion."

Although parts of the

See *BACKERS*, page 4A

Farms PS offers free smoke alarms, installation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Farms Fire Inspector Kris Desmadryl found it surprising how many residents don't have smoke alarms or don't keep them in working condition.

"Without educating people and pointing it out, a lot of people we found — especially that have been in their homes for 20 to 30 years — are like, 'Oh yeah, it's the original when we moved in' or 'It was already here,'" he said. "They look up and see smoke alarms in their house and don't think twice sometimes about the fact that it's past the 10-year point and they need to be replaced or (whether they've) changed the batteries and ... had them tested and inspected recently."

As part of a statewide push to have working smoke alarms — with an emphasis on the word "working," Desmadryl said — in every residence, the Farms public safety department secured a grant through MI Prevention to offer, free to Farms residents, 224 10-year lithium-ion photoelectric smoke alarms and 24 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

"They're not the traditional nine-volt battery alarms where you have to remember to change the batteries every six months or so," Desmadryl said. "... By having the 10-year seal, they should be good for about 10 years (so you don't) have to worry about changing batteries and then forgetting."

Home installation, location recom-

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Pointer of INTEREST



Pete Loch
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Pointer makes transition from student-athlete to teacher and coach

See story, page 4A



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'Trees are what everyone needs'

Commission hosts Pointe-wide tree sale

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — While its urban forestry commission planted 89 trees along public easements in the City of Grosse Pointe last year, the July 26 storm took down 32 others.

"We still netted 57," said Rick Whitney, commission chair, who now is organizing a Grosse Pointe Tree Sale in hopes of getting more trees on private properties at wholesale prices.

"It's all part of the broader initiative that is really — this is going to be a total pun — but it's really taking root across all of the Pointes, as we're really trying to just restore the canopy," Whitney said of the effort alongside City of Grosse Pointe Councilman Seth Krupp and Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation Trustee Ed Gotfredson.

To preorder from

among five species from Willoway Nurseries in Ohio, all Pointers have until Thursday, April 25; although, the sale is capped at 100 trees.

At time of purchase, trees will be 5- to 6-foot tall and available for pickup from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore.

Species are:

- ◆ eastern redbud, \$100, easily recognizable by its purple/pink flowers during spring and well-paired with evergreens to shelter it from intense sunlight;

- ◆ red sunset maple, \$100, equally colorful with its crimson/orange foliage in fall;

- ◆ tuliptree, \$100, named for its bright green leaves which resemble tulips, as well as tulip-shaped flower blooms in summer and a yellow color in the fall;

- ◆ bur oak, \$100, which can exceed 100 feet in height, has a massive

trunk and commonly lives 200 to 300 years;

- ◆ and London plane-tree, \$20, which features peeling bark that exposes green, gray and cream hues.

London planetree is less expensive than the others as it is far thinner and comes in a pot half the size.

"It's still tall," Whitney said. "... Those are pretty widely planted around here. It's a great, great tree.

"All of these are really good species adapted for the area."

While Grosse Pointe Park has been known to host a city-sponsored tree sale, this is the first organized by volunteers in the City and Farms and is open to all Grosse Pointe residents.

"There are no proceeds," said Whitney, who hopes to make it an annual sale. "No one is making any profit on this. It is simply wholesale

2024 Spring Seminar

A lecture on residential tree selection and proper maintenance takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in the Pier Park community building, 350 Lakeshore.

Open to all Grosse Pointe residents, the seminar will feature Brian Colter, city forester for the City, Farms and Park. It is hosted by the Grosse Pointe Beautification Advisory Commission.

"Recently, I have noticed more people are removing trees from their property, because they are messy or concerned about storm damage," said Suzy Berschback, a Pointer involved in the effort, via email. "That is fine, but I would kindly ask them to consider planting a new tree in its place. Each city has recommended trees listed on their websites by local arborists that can help. In addition to beauty, there are so many benefits to a community with a thriving tree canopy."

These include:

- ◆ mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen,
- ◆ reducing the risk of flooding by absorbing excess rainwater,
- ◆ increasing property values and attracting potential homebuyers by enhancing the visual appeal of the community,
- ◆ reducing cooling costs in the summer by their shade
- ◆ and lowering heating costs in the winter by their windbreak effect.

trees."

To preorder, fill out the form at grossepointefarms.org/news_detail_T2_R109.php, make checks payable to "City of Grosse Pointe Farms"

and deliver to Farms city hall at 90 Kerby by Thursday, April 25.

Anyone with further questions may reach Whitney at (313) 820-2964.

Street parties not canned, just being repackaged

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Summertime street fairs on Kercheval and Charlevoix aren't being canceled.

Although no street parties appear on the city's online calendar of upcoming events, they are supposed to kick off as usual in June, according to city officials.

It is the planning of the parties that city officials want to change.

They intend to shift organizing the events from the parks and recreation department to a professional promoter. The objective is to afford Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig and his staff more time to focus on core duties of smoothly and efficiently operating facilities and programs at the city's two municipal parks.

"Going to a third party frees up a lot of time for Chad to focus on parks and recreation instead of being a party planner," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, newly appointed liaison to the recreation commission.

In recent years the city organized three Kercheval After 6 family-oriented events — in June, July and August — in the Kercheval Avenue business district. Attractions included carnival rides, petting zoos, concerts and specialty food trucks. A more adult or date-oriented event in the Charlevoix business district, the Charlevoix Street Party, took place last year in September. All were well-attended.

Such public events not only offer activities to residents of the Park and other Grosse Pointes, but also provide an opportunity to promote the Park's retail and restaurant offerings, plus the community at large.

"Obviously, residents and visitors benefit from it," Caulfield said. "Our own businesses do."

"It's great exposure for the restaurants," said Joe Hebeke, founder and president of the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association.

"They take hundreds of hours in planning, logistics, getting sponsorships and making phone calls," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "It's a tall task to manage while also running a recreation department. Let's look for someone who does this for a living."

Another reason for subcontracting party management is based on funding.

"Most of them have been funded through the Tax Increment Finance Authority," Caulfield said.

"Labor comes from the city's general fund," Sizeland said.

Meanwhile, TIFA board members are putting aside money to pay for multimillion-dollar streetscape improvements planned for Charlevoix and Kercheval.

"There are also (TIFA) allocations in the TIFA district for building

City plans to circumvent future budget shortages

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "When people complain about the state of the city and maintenance and upkeep and all of that, I think we have a ready answer here, that it looks probably a lot better than it ought to, given what we've had to work with," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said, following a March city budget review and financial forecast.

Recent budget cycles have highlighted a repeating tale, where city officials sound the alarm on dwindling finances

and impending, costly infrastructure projects, as administration continually manages to make the numbers break even, seemingly by the skin of their teeth.

Since the 2010-2011 fiscal year — the city hit its lowest taxable value following the recession in 2012 — each year has seen the city faced with a financial outlook that anticipates expenses exceeding revenues.

"Your general fund really was projected to go in the tank going forward," City Manager Joe Valentine told council. "Well, obviously, that didn't happen and there

were things that happened along the way to change that."

Specifically:

- ◆ between 2007 and 2023, staffing was reduced by 21 full-time employees, or 26 percent;

- ◆ some cost of living adjustments for active employees were eliminated;

- ◆ retiree healthcare for active employees was eliminated;

- ◆ pensions for new hires were eliminated;

- ◆ employee raises in some years were eliminated;

- ◆ health savings account contributions were decreased from 75

percent to 50 percent; ◆ the city switched to a high-deductible health-care plan;

- ◆ and public safety dispatch services were contracted out to Grosse Pointe Park.

The City additionally raised parks and recreation fees in 2022, and came close to discontinuing its rear-yard rubbish collection service last year, though council rescinded the plans to do so following resident outcry.

"It's very interesting to see how much we have been doing with so little," Tomkowiak said, "and that we've kind of been

doing it off the backs of employees."

As the City's five-year forecast continues to predict its expenses will exceed revenue, Valentine noted past methods to balance the budget won't continue to be sustainable.

To address this, city administration will begin by implementing for the first time a three-year budget next fiscal year.

"The longer-term perspective you take gives you more time and opportunity to make changes along the way," Valentine explained. "It's been utilized in other communities with relative success in trying to forecast a little bit further, especially in situations like this where we do have certain limitations."

Additional measures may include reviewing fees, such as for parks and harbor, to ensure the city is covering its costs for services it's providing; exploring opportunities for service and equipment sharing arrangements with neighboring communities to reduce expenses; reviewing project estimates to ensure they're not understated; and exploring opportunities to reduce the reliance on the city's operating levy, which is the majority funding source for the city's general fund.

"The problem is this levy is subject to rollbacks under Headlee (a Michigan amendment)," Valentine explained, "so even though our taxable value is creeping up slowly, we're still getting rollbacks under Headlee, so we're not capturing as much as we can."

"With that structure in place, we're never going to get ahead and be able to provide everything that we need to provide, because we're really limited on what our tax growth is."

Exploring the implementation of dedicated millages for operating costs, he added, is one potential route to address the concern.

"I completely concur

SUIT:

Continued from page 1A

29, 2023, letter from the county's public services department to the company stating, in part, "No permanent structures are permitted within the drain easements," according to the suit.

Plaintiffs were even polite about it at the time: "Please remove these structures, including the

building, outside of the easement."

As work continued without proper permitting, according to the suit, a follow-up letter foreshadowed consequences.

"On Nov. 13, 2023, (Wayne County) Department of Public Service sent correspondence to PCI (that) warned PCI that continuing construction activities without a Wayne

County construction permit would be at PCI's own risk," the suit continues. "The defendants moved 'full speed ahead' without a construction permit from Wayne County."

The 18-page suit seeks injunctions ordering the defendants to:

- ◆ "remove the foundation constructed by defendants within the Fox Creek Drain easement;"

- ◆ "modify their construction plans in conformance with the requirements set forth in the Aug. 29, 2023, letter from the Wayne County Department of Public Services until DPS issues final approval and a construction permit for the project" and

- ◆ "an award of all expenses attendant upon removal of the encroach-

ment, including but not limited to all attorney fees" and so on.

Jaime Rae Turnbull, the center's executive director, declined comment, citing the matter being in litigation.

She indicated surprise about the alleged lack of construction permits and encroachment, plus said she didn't know about the suit when interviewed last week by the Grosse Pointe News for a project status report.

A representative of CBRE didn't respond to a request for comment. Neither did one for the county. Nor attorneys employed by the firm retained by the county and drainage district.

The only one talking on the record was a representative of PCI/Dailey. He said, "I cannot comment."

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See BUDGET, page 8A

See PARTIES, page 8A

Home at last Terrier missing eight months from San Diego surfaces in Harper Woods

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Liz and Mehrad Houman waited more than two weeks before telling their 4-year-old daughter, Lilly, their family dog Mishka was missing last July, likely taken from outside the mechanic shop in San Diego where Mehrad works.

"We told her for two weeks that Mishka was at the vet, because we just didn't have the heart to tell her she was missing," Liz Houman said. "She talked about Mishka every single day since she left. She would say, 'I miss Mishka. Someone took her. Why did they take her?'"

Family members flew to California to help actively search for the 3-year-old terrier mix and in the weeks that followed, the Houmans put up more than 1,000 fliers in the area. For eight months, Liz Houman carried Mishka's leash with her, "in case I found her and I had to jump out and get her," she said.

And then, Thursday, March 28, the Houmans received a call from the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. Mishka had been found on a street in Harper Woods and identified by her microchip.

"I was floored," Liz Houman said. "I was flabbergasted. I just sobbed on the phone for like 10 minutes."

"I was just so in shock when she was found and when they had said, 'We're in Harper Woods,' I was like, 'OK, where's Harper Woods?' assuming it was in California, and she's like, 'We're outside of Detroit, Michigan,' and my jaw dropped."

There was similar shock on the other end of the line.

"We learned that the owner was registered in California, San Diego," said Corinne Martin, executive director of GPAAS, "so we thought they probably moved from California to Michigan and we still figured it was probably a local person. But when we contacted them directly, they were still in California."

As luck would have it, the Houmans were catching a flight to Minneapolis that day to visit family for Easter. They landed around 1 a.m. EST, just a 10-hour drive from Harper Woods.

"My husband couldn't wait," Liz Houman said. "He just took off driving in the middle of the night. He drove on adrenaline and energy drinks."

"When he came driving back, Mishka was in the backseat sleeping on his jacket and (when) she heard us yelling, 'Mishka!', my daughter and I, she jumped into the front seat and then tried to jump out the window to get into our arms. So she definitely remembered us."

While it's likely the Houmans will never know exactly what



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY
Mehrad Houman drove 10 hours to reunite with Mishka at the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society Friday, March 29.

Mishka was up to during her eight-month, 2,349-mile journey, there are running theories.

The mechanic shop from which she disappeared is in an area with a heavy homeless population. Mishka may have gotten loose looking for Liz Houman, who was on vacation at the time, and been stolen to be sold.

From there, perhaps the temporary owner moved cross-country to the Great Lakes State, or Mishka experienced the country's highways alongside a trucker, Liz Houman theorized.

"We don't know if there was a stop along the way, if she was sold again," Martin said. "What we do know is she never in those eight months was (on a plane), in an animal shelter or to a veterinarian, because the chip would have been discovered."

The terrier was declared, "absolutely fine," she added, after a checkup at Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital.

Now back home in San Diego, Mishka is enjoying her celebrity status during school drop-off and being spoiled with, "whatever she wants," Liz Houman said.

"She's great," she added, "but she's definitely suffering from PTSD. Yesterday, I went to go get some Mexican food and she was crying and whining. She has severe separation anxiety from me since she got

back, so I've been with her all day.

"She's still the same, but she's frazzled. She's definitely tired and she's lost some weight."

Her recent journey isn't the first grand adventure Mishka has taken in her short life. She was brought across the border from Tecate, Mexico, to be rescued by the Houmans on New Year's Day 2022.

"She only knew Spanish, so we taught her English," Liz Houman recalled. "There's a lot of Spanish-speaking people in San Diego, so she



Mishka gets some rest on her flight home to San Diego.

would run up to anyone Spanish-speaking and she does this little jump. She's still drawn to people that speak Spanish."

The little Mexican dog was given a Russian name, meaning "little bear."

"She is the sweetest dog probably in the entire world," Liz Houman said. "We have a now 5-year-old and she is a terror to Mishka. She pulls her tail, picks her up. Mishka, she's never growled, never nipped at her. She's just the calmest, sweetest, most snuggly, loving dog."

In the near future, the stay-at-home mom hopes to get Mishka certified as a therapy dog, so she can share her love at children's hospitals and nursing homes.

"I cannot thank Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society enough," she said. "That team has been

incredible. We're still in contact with them. They provided Mishka with a leash, a collar, food, a carrier. They got her set up with a vet immediately to get checked out and then they got her papers to fly back to San Diego and we cannot express our gratitude

(enough). "We made a donation, we've had other friends and families make donations and we encourage anybody if they want to give, to give back to them."

Donations to GPAAS may be made on its website, gpaas.org.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, APRIL 15

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Communities United in Diversity meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole, sitting as the Finance Committee, meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Compensation and Evaluation Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities and Finance Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Hazardous Waste Day, residents only, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DPW yard, 1200 Parkway Dr.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIZ HOUMAN

After eight months apart, Mishka is back home in San Diego with her family, including Liz Houman and her 5-year-old daughter, Lilly.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Pointer returns home to follow teaching, coaching dreams

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

There is a popular saying that one should never meet their hero. However, Pete Loch knows when it comes to Grosse Pointe, that could not be further from the truth.

Loch grew up loving baseball and following his brother to baseball camps led by legendary coach Dan Griesbaum Sr., at Grosse Pointe South High School.

"I would go to the camps when I was even

too young to participate, but (Griesbaum) knew me and knew that I loved baseball," Loch said. "That's really where it started."

Now, Loch has gone from a little kid going to South baseball camps to being part of the Blue Devils' varsity baseball coaching staff as an assistant.

Loch did not attend South, but instead went to University of Detroit Jesuit High School, where he played varsity baseball. He then pitched for four years at

Albion College. After graduating from Albion, he was hired as a social studies teacher at South, beginning his young teaching career just a few months ago. As soon as he joined the faculty at South, Loch received what he believed was a tremendous show of respect from one of his baseball heroes.

"I always looked up to Coach Griesbaum," he said. "I went to U of D (Jesuit) because that's where everyone in my family had gone and the only downside of that was that I never got to play for Coach Griesbaum, only against him. ... When I told him that I was applying for a job at South, he told me that if I got hired then I would be on his staff and it was surreal. It was a huge honor for me just to have him ask me to be part of his coaching staff. ... He's what every coach wants to be like."

Not long ago, Loch was a student-athlete and now his next phase as a teacher and coach is underway. Just like baseball was a family tradition, the same could be said for education and how he was inspired to become a teacher.

"Education has always been part of my family and I was always naturally drawn to it," Loch said. "... Going to college, I knew what I wanted to do and that I wanted to be a history teacher. History, I think of it as storytelling and

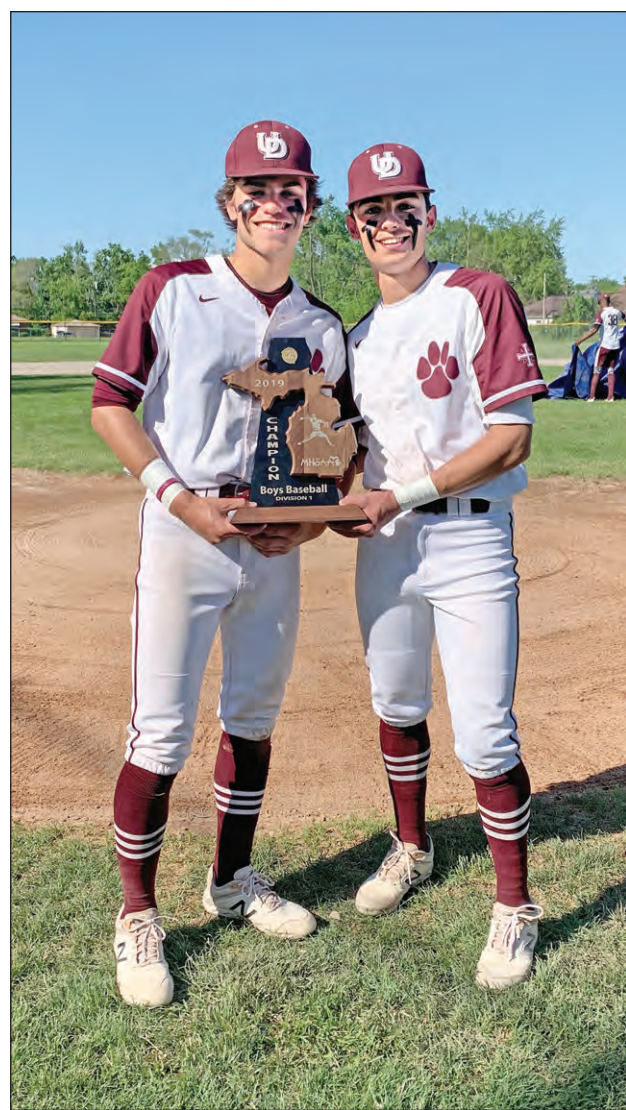
I like telling stories and following them, so it all came really naturally to me and I was just extremely fortunate to get the job at Grosse Pointe South and be able to come back to Grosse Pointe."

Getting that first full-time teaching job in one's hometown might seem a bit intimidating, but Loch has had no trouble at all hitting the ground running, even being brought on in the middle of the school year. He credits the warm welcome he's received since his first day on the job.

"Everyone, from the administration all the way down to my students, has been super supportive and helpful and made the transition super seamless," he said. "I have a really great mentor, Chris Booth, in the social studies department and I love being able to work with him and learn from him. Teaching at South I think has made me a much better teacher already."

Loch is fully settled into his new role now with a few months on the job under his belt. With high school baseball season underway as well, his life as a teacher and coach is in full swing.

After spending years as a student-athlete, the busy schedule of teaching and coaching is nothing new. Being able to use the same lessons he learned as a student-athlete also has been a tremendous help.



COURTESY PHOTO

Loch, right, played varsity baseball at U of D Jesuit High School before going on to play four years of college baseball at Albion.



COURTESY OF MEG LEONARD

Loch, left, traveled to Cuba with the Grosse Pointe Avengers baseball club in 2017.

BACKERS:

Continued from page 1A

playscape are raggedy, the structure itself has, as restorers say, good bones.

"Some short-term items need to be addressed," Ceuninck said. "One of those is

cleaning and sealing it."

Park Director Chad Craig is seeking advice about which sealants are appropriate to the task.

"We're going to get with Chad's team to see what we need to do to prepare and organize some volunteering and get help cleaning and sealing the playground

equipment," Ceuninck said. "We were also talking about adding pea gravel and some safety surfacing. I'll work with Chad to see what resources are needed. We'll break it down to see what's needed and where and how we project manage this."

Construction of the

playscape predates enactment of federal Americans With Disabilities Act accessibility standards. Hence another reason members of the Grosse Pointe Park Improvement Foundation intended to privately fund a modern, metal, ADA-compliant replacement.

"The current playscape has been a beloved part of our community for over 30 years and is a symbol of the community spirit and the value we place on nature and the environment," according to the petition. "We understand that the

current structure is not ADA-compliant and needs maintenance, but we strongly believe that it is worth preserving."

Foundation members, the city council and administration got the message. Construction of the foundation playscape shifted to Windmill Pointe Park, where it became a hit despite winter weather.

The focus at Patterson remains preservation.

"There is eventually an end-date on this structure, as much as we love it," Bouton said. "Hopefully, we can do tasks now to preserve it for 10 more years or something. I spoke to the city manager about ideas for fundraising and a long-term view of where we're going to end up at Patterson Park. We're off to a great start."

The ADA aspect may require some work-

side his mentors both on and off the field is everything Loch could have asked for in his young career. Being in the dugout alongside Griesbaum and others feels like a rewarding experience in itself, but the real reward is seeing the impact he already has made with so many of his students and athletes.

"I kind of had this idea that it would be great to help kids and prepare them for life," he said, "but when you're actually doing it and seeing the results, it's better than anything I could've dreamed of."

"Replacing a board is no problem; replacing the slide, no problem," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, council liaison to the commission. "If you determine that a section needs to be removed and rebuilt, the whole thing's got to come into ADA compliance, because then it will be a teardown."

"What you might have to do is replace (an) area with plastic lumber material and not completely replace," Craig said.

City administrators will discuss tactics with the municipal attorney. "So far," Bouton said, "we're talking about replacing things like broken boards. We're going to walk before we try to run."

resident what they need."

To schedule an appointment for free alarm installation, call (313) 640-1608.

"We're fortunate to work in a very educated community," Desmadryl said, "but be able to still provide additional education for something that a lot of people just don't think very much about until there's unfortunately a tragedy."

As of the end of March, the state has seen 44 deaths in 42 fires, according to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society.

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ALARM:

Continued from page 1A

mendation and education also are provided by Desmadryl or Fire Marshall Ray Krause.

The alarms are offered on a first-come, first-served basis to residents who do not have any or who have alarms that are 10 years or older.

"If we have residents that are hearing or vision impaired, we do have options for them like bed shakers," Desmadryl added. "We can work with the state to get the

Youth B-ball & empowerment camps

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A one-day basketball clinic for Park youths in third through eighth grade is scheduled next month at the Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park.

From 2 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, instructors from the Junior Pistons will direct skill-

building drills.

Tickets cost \$60. Attendance is limited.

The event is hosted by the Park recreation department and is for Park residents only.

The Junior Pistons is a youth basketball organization affiliated with the professional basketball team.

“Clinics are designed for everyone from beginner to advanced players,”

according to the organization’s website, pistonsacademy.com. “Sessions are directed by experienced professional instructors who understand what makes each jam session fun, impactful, constructive, memorable and a positive experience.”

For more information and to register, call (313) 559-2371 or visit the city website, grossepointe

park.org.

This is the first time the city is hosting the event.

“We’re excited to see how it goes,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

Youth clinics are separate from the adult basketball activities being planned for later this year.

“We’re looking to add summer drop-ins for men’s and women’s,”

Craig said.

Recent recreation events were well-attended.

Although bad weather forced a nearly weeklong postponement of the annual Easter holiday helicopter marshmallow drop at Patterson Park, things ended well.

“The helicopter did a practice lap and couldn’t have done a more beautiful job,” Craig said.

Also last month, Dan the Creature Man lived up to billing by present-

ing an alligator, various types of snakes, birds and exotic reptiles to 82 attendees at the Windmill Pointe Park Tompkins Community Center.

“I wanted to have something extra for spring break week,” Craig said. “Participation was great.”

Creator ‘N’ Me

Another first-time activity is Creator ‘N’ Me, a one-day workshop

See CAMPS, page 10A

City of Grosse Pointe

Severance pay

An ex-employee was identified as the suspect who stole \$227 worth of groceries from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval Friday, March 8.

An investigation into the 45-year-old Detroit woman is ongoing.

Fair trade

After accelerating away from a traffic stop at a high rate of speed in late March, with a small child in the backseat, a 21-year-old Detroit man turned himself in for child endangerment last week, because officers had impounded the suspect’s car and wouldn’t return it until he did so.

Suspended

A 28-year-old Detroit woman was cited for driving with a suspended license after being pulled over at Mack and Cadieux for an expired license plate tab at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26.

Flat tire

A 36-year-old Harper Woods man was found to be intoxicated after driving on Mack with a flat tire and front-end damage to his vehicle at 2:20 a.m. Friday, April 5.

Intoxicated accident

The at-fault driver — a 32-year-old Lansing woman — in an accident at Jefferson and Lakeland at 3:40 p.m. Sunday, April 7, was found to be intoxicated and was arrested.

Bank fraud

Six suspicious transactions totaling \$1,314 were sent to PayPal from a Grosse Pointe man’s Citizens Bank savings account Sunday, April 7.

— Laurel Kraus

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Expired rainbow

After being pulled over at Moross and Chandler Park because his license plate displayed several expired tabs of different colors, a 19-year-old Harper Woods man was cited for driving without ever having obtained a driver’s license and for not having proof of insurance at 8:28 p.m. Monday, April 1.

Betrayal

A Farms couple suspects their housekeeper of 10 years is responsible for at least 12 personal checks being fraudulently cashed through their Comerica Bank checking account.

True to word

Four days after he verbally threatened to damage the vehicle, the ex-husband of a 52-year-old Eastpointe woman is suspected of sideswiping her car while it was parked on Touraine between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, April 4.

Child endangerment

A 33-year-old Macomb woman was arrested for child endangerment at 12:23 p.m. Thursday, April 4, when she was pulled over at Mack and Opal and her 9-year-old daughter was discovered in the front seat. While telling the officer she was retrieving her concealed carry permit, the woman then placed a gun on the

center console within reach of and facing the child.

Upon her arrest, the child was turned over to her godmother.

The woman initially was pulled over for proceeding straight through a “right lane must turn right” lane, as well as for illegally tinted windows.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Suspended

Driving with defective headlights and tail lights rated a 20-year-old woman from Canton a roadside investigation on Cadieux near the intersection of Charlevoix at 4 a.m. Thursday, April 4.

An officer arrested her for violating a suspended operator’s license.

Vehicle theft

Overnight Friday, April 5, someone stole a black 2023 Ford Explorer parked in the driveway of a residence in the 900

block of Berkshire. The ignition key fob was in the vehicle at the time.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Amateur artist

A Roslyn resident reported Saturday, March 30, that a crude drawing was etched in freshly poured concrete in front of his house the previous day. Officers are attempting to obtain doorbell camera footage from two neighbors.

Long way from home

A 42-year-old California woman was arrested for drunken driving after being pulled over for speeding around 3 a.m. Saturday, April 6, on eastbound Lakeshore near Fontana.

She was cited for speeding, as well as expired insurance and refusal to take a Breathalyzer. The

woman was lodged in the Grosse Pointe Woods jail and her 2018 red Tesla Model S was impounded.

— Ted O’Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Fraud fest

Officers handled no fewer than four complaints regarding fraud last week involving bank accounts and credit/debit cards.

◆ A resident in the 1900 block of Brys reported Saturday, March 30, that she received a phone call from her bank advising fraudulent activity. When she visited the bank in person she found out \$1,000 was withdrawn from her account. She canceled her debit card and the bank is investigating.

◆ A resident in the 1700 block of Anita reported Thursday, April 4, she received a text message about a purchase made in Tennessee,

to which she replied she did not make it. The suspect then called and asked for her bank account username and password. She told officers it seemed legitimate because the person knew her Social Security number, address and the last three digits of her account number.

She then received an email from her bank indicating a wire transfer of nearly \$16,000 to a person she does not know.

◆ A resident in the 2000 block of Kenmore reported Friday, April 5, his business credit card was used to make a purchase of \$2,171 at an auto parts store in Pennsylvania. Neither he nor his business partner made the purchase.

◆ A resident in the 600 block of Briarcliff reported Friday, April 5, she received notice from her credit union that a \$20,000 line of credit was opened in her name. She closed her account and the credit union is investigating.

— Ted O’Neil

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

‘Right to disconnect’: Does striking a work/life balance conflict with job commitment?

Those of us from a particular generation remember the old Bugs Bunny cartoons when Sam Sheepdog spent his entire workday guarding his herd and sabotaging Ralph the coyote’s endless attempts to enter his pasture.

But their shenanigans stopped the second the work whistle blew. Each would grab their lunch pails and exchange pleasantries as they punched their time cards, saying, “See you tomorrow, Sam,” and “See you tomorrow, Ralph.”

Unbeknownst to us at the time, our favorite Saturday morning cartoons showed us a glimpse of the “right to disconnect” from work concept.

But today, that idea might be dictated by a proposed bill in California, which aims to protect American workers from persistent after-hours emails and calls from their bosses.

That’s thanks to Assembly Bill 2751, introduced in February by assembly member Matt Haney of San Francisco, which would give employees the “right to disconnect” from the office during non-working hours, according to an April 2 story in USA Today.

If passed, California would be the first state to create legislation of this nature.

Should this news make you feel like Americans are lazy, fear not — similar laws exist in 13 countries, including Australia, Argentina, Belgium, France, Italy, Mexico, Portugal and Spain.

We asked Grosse Pointe News readers how they felt about it. In a small sampling, 79 percent said they agree with the idea, citing a law like this helps strike a good work/life balance. Just 21 percent said no, the commitment doesn’t end at 5 p.m. (See poll at right)

So what does the fine print say in California’s bill?

It defines the “right to disconnect” as an employee’s legal right to ignore work-related communications during off hours “except for an emergency or for scheduling.”

However, what’s defined as a work emergency is open to interpretation, so the bill also states that companies must establish parameters through a written agreement of what’s considered fair game to contact an employee about after hours.

If the bill becomes law, it would allow employees to file a complaint with the California Labor Commissioner if there’s a pattern of violations to the agreement.

If a boss or company breaks those rules, it would be punishable by a fine.

Lawmaker Haney claims there is a “murkiness and gray area” in the workplace that leads people “to feel that they need to be on 24/7.” He also said the overarching goal of it is to avoid employee burnout.

We get that. But fewer and fewer jobs are 9 to 5 only. We’re all journalists, so we know a few things about inconvenient timing. Like how the ideal time to make a major announcement of any kind — a celebrity divorce, the firing of a head coach or massive layoffs is around 5 p.m. the Friday of a holiday weekend.

Companies must delight in watching reporters scramble to get interviews while attempting to pack up for a family vacation or have to leave a wedding or dinner party to get the story. It happens, but hey — we also signed up for this life.

But imagine an obstetrician saying you need to wait to deliver your baby until they are back at the hospital at 9 a.m. Or a meteorologist waiting until morning to warn people about a tornado. And most



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAELIN MICKS

A sight to behold

Caelin Micks, a fourth-grade teacher at Maire Elementary School, couldn’t resist sharing this shot of her students safely glimpsing Monday afternoon’s solar eclipse. Read guest writer Brian Owen’s take on his own experience on page B3.

of us know the panicked feeling of scrambling for an available dentist, orthodontist or veterinarian after 5 p.m.

So while the right to disconnect concept applies to some employees, to many it can never apply to their line of work. Is that enough to ask the government to intervene? Or is it another case of government overreach?

Anyone in the workplace will concede that work norms have changed dramatically since the pandemic. Remote work, which used to be called “telecommuting” in the stone ages (circa the 1990s), is now commonplace. The good news is technologies have advanced to help employees stay connected to their managers and colleagues whether people are working remotely or from the office.

The bad news is those connections that give employees the ability to work remotely are also the same ones that keep them reachable by their employer around the clock.

According to a 2023 survey from Pew Research Center, more than half of employees said they respond to work messages outside of their normal hours. To help strike a better balance for workers, some advocacy groups and lawmakers are exploring the benefits of four-day work weeks.

But that won’t be an easy switch. The Washington Post reported last May the five-day workweek has been part of U.S. law for more than 80 years. At Ford Motor Co., in 1926, Henry Ford first standardized five-day work weeks down from six in response to the labor movement. In 1940, an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act mandated overtime pay for any time worked beyond 40 hours per week.

But not much has changed since then, experts say, and argue that any future changes will require a combination of politics, labor unions and corporate leadership.

Haney emphasized that the real villains in the debate are not bosses, but technology and smartphones that keep people connected 24/7. He also pointed out that current laws do not “reflect that reality.”

Other proponents say giving employees more protections may combat “quiet quitting” or doing the bare minimum at work, and would only require companies to be more transparent about their expectations for working hours.

On the other hand, opponents of the bill say it doesn’t take into account the current state laws that protect workers and that the

bill’s language is too restrictive for employers. The ability to file complaints against employers also could become a legal nightmare and infringe on how employees work, they said.

For employers who may be riled up about the bill, keep in mind that less than half of all bills introduced in California become law. And if it were to pass, employers would still have the freedom to dictate their policy, which could include that employees be available around-the-clock.

We’re big fans of getting the job done. But there certainly are times when an issue can wait until morning, when everyone has a fresh set of eyes. Just ask Sam and Ralph.

Grosse Pointe News **Based on a proposed California bill, should employees have a “Right to Disconnect” from work?**

POINTER POLL

YES – IT’S CALLED BALANCE 79%

NO – IT’S CALLED COMMITMENT 21%

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

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the editor may be emailed to editor@grossepointenews.com.

Back on track

To the Editor:
The April 4 “Our View: Wise Move for GPPSS to Look at Transfer Policy” emphasizes the importance of data-driven decisions.

While I agree with this position, it’s unfortunate a year’s worth of data was lost because the administration, at the direction of the BoE’s Community Engagement Committee, didn’t move forward with the community survey that was conducted in the past, per board policy. In fact, that committee would have benefited from two years’ worth of benchmarking data, as community surveys were conducted in 2021 and 2022. (There was no 2020 survey due to COVID.)

Also, according to the 2021 summary (data for the 2022 survey was not publicly available), participation was strong and

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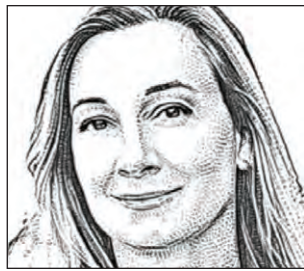
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90%	80%	0%	40%	0%	50%	40%
SUNRISE 6:56 am	SUNRISE 6:55 am	SUNRISE 6:53 am	SUNRISE 6:51 am	SUNRISE 6:50 am	SUNRISE 6:48 am	SUNRISE 6:47 am
SUNSET 8:09 pm	SUNSET 8:11 pm	SUNSET 8:12 pm	SUNSET 8:13 pm	SUNSET 8:14 pm	SUNSET 8:15 pm	SUNSET 8:16 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia

Is having a pet worth the heartbreak?



This past November, I came across a Facebook post that, unlike most, piqued my interest. A neighbor found a clearly not-made-for-the-outdoors French lop bunny freezing outside in the snow. Now, normally I don't consider myself a sensitive person, but my heart instantaneously melted and I had to take him home when no one claimed him (their loss). The enthusiasm for keeping this little guy was surprisingly similar with the rest of the family. We named him George and he subsequently lived life being carried around like an infant, munching on carrots and hay, playing with all four kids and being curiously sniffed at by our bernedoodle. Often I'd come home to find George and my husband chilling on the couch watching sports.

The family engine was humming; he was part of our daily life. He was an absolute disaster and we couldn't even be mad at him. His cage was a

mess five minutes after cleaning it. He somehow could escape fencing and zip ties to jump over and get into things and make even more of a mess. The plan of him and our other bunny, Benji, being best friends was a complete fail. They were like a WWE smack-down match — fur flying, bleeding ears and body slams. So naturally we bought him his own separate bunny mansion and life was good. George was so fun and cute nobody cared; he could do no wrong. Incidentally, unlike dogs, you can teach an old bunny new tricks. He learned the ropes pretty quickly.

It was a total shock to learn that George had become lethargic and essentially paralyzed while we were on our way home from spring break in Florida. Two days later he was gone. I'm thankful we made it home in time to hold him and make him as comfortable as possible for his last days.

One of the worst parts of losing a pet is the irrational guilt and thinking about what you could have done differently. What if we didn't go on spring break? Would he not have gotten sick? Should I have fed him something else? Let him out of his cage more or less often? Taken him to a vet sooner? Played

with him more during the four months we got to have him? I hope the true answer is that we did everything we could.

Conversely, maybe the bright spot of something so sad is that it can bring out the best in people. When all of this was going on, one of my children painstakingly made homemade apple sauce to feed George with a syringe. Others helped with Pedialyte and cleaning up after him and, most of all, giving him all the hugs and time in their arms to show him how much he was loved. My physician husband even administered a saline IV as a last ditch effort to save George. It was a group effort, when all of the usual bickering subsided and everyone came together in a crisis. It restored my faith in humanity (and teenagers).

All of this said, is it worth it to endure the heartbreak and loss and loneliness after you lose a treasured pet? Is it worth being gutted over a little ball of fur? It all seems totally ridiculous until you fall in love with one. When I look back on all of the photos and smiles and happiness they bring, I reluctantly suggest that the answer is yes. But as Queen Elizabeth put it, "Grief is the price we pay for love." I will miss our sweet George.



Unlike most bunnies, his favorite holiday was Christmas. George was the best gift of all.

PHOTO BY ANNE GRYZENIA

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

there was "a significant increase in participation of community members without children currently in the school system. ... Of the respondents, 82 percent were parents with school-aged children. Of the respondents with school-aged children, 84 percent have them in the GPPSS, 7 percent in GPPSS and another school, 9 percent in a private or parochial school or homeschooling."

The Our View states: "Unlike prior years the district is aiming to reach a much broader audience with this survey, including families with students enrolled elsewhere, those with children too young for school and residents without students."

Contrary to this assertion, the past community survey sought to reach

that broader audience — and succeeded. While it's good news this board is back on track, it's a shame they delayed an important part of the school improvement process for over a year, impeding future data-driven decision-making.

STEFANIE WATKINS
Grosse Pointe Farms

Great accomplishment

To the Editor:

My fulsome congratulations to Dr. Paul Schaap, Richard and Jane Manoogian, our Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges, our City Manager Nick Sizeland and the project dynamo Jaime Rae Turnbull. The Schaap Center is happening! The challenges, and yes, abuse, these folks have suffered would have crushed lesser folk.

This reminds me of the

screaming that occurred in the 1980s when the ophthalmologists worked to close Nottingham. You would think we had moved to expedite the Cuban missile crisis over Lake St. Clair. Within a few years the Nottingham home values escalated and residents who were the biggest naysayers were taking credit for the idea of dead-ending it.

So, too, with this performing arts center — under discussion and planning since 2006. Soon the biggest negativists will be inviting their cousins from Nebraska to visit at a time when they can see the Grosse Pointe Theater performing in its spectacular new home.

Great accomplishment, Grosse Pointe Park, and these magnificent philanthropists and civic leaders.

PHILIP C. HESSBURG, M.D.
Grosse Pointe

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Gouache on Canvas, 1925
"Lady Under Sun Umbrella"



Diego Rivera | Mexican, 1886-1957
Charcoal & Pastel on Paper, 1926
"Mother & Child"



Guy Carleton Wiggins
American, 1883-1962
Oil on Artist Board
"Manhattan Snowstorm"



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No more concession concessions

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK —Nearly a half-decade of inconsistent, hit-or-miss, is-it-open-or-not, do-you-feel-lucky food stand operations at Windmill Pointe Park is over, short of closing shop.

Either that or chuck the whole mess.

“We’ve had four years of terrible results at that place,” said Councilman Tom Caulfield, new council liaison to the recreation commission. “Consistency — that’s where the frustration with our residents lies.”

“If we have another season full of no communication, unclear expectations and frustration, my recommendation will be a perfectly consistent no concession stand,” Commissioner Howard Bouton said.

Commissioners on April 4 began greater oversight of the recreation department’s planning and operations of the concession stand’s upcoming summer season.

As can be imagined of residents volunteering their time to provide community recreation opportunities, commission meetings are usually upbeat affairs. The one April 4 was all business.

“I recommend we have this conversation earlier in the year next year,” Bouton said.

“Exactly,” Caulfield said.

“Over the last couple of years, we’ve had vendors switch (and) not show up,” Chairman Michael Hindelang said.

Last year, at least three food truck operators having divergent bills of fare came and went on irregular, sometimes impromptu,

schedules. One, contracted with the Park on and off since 2000, was booted just before the July 4 weekend due to behavior prompting

‘If we have another season full of no communication, unclear expectations and frustration, my recommendation will be a perfectly consistent no concession stand.’

COMMISSIONER HOWARD BOUTON
Grosse Pointe Park

police intervention.

“There was obviously an incident,” Chad Craig, park director, told commissioners.

“We’ve had four years of troubles,” Hindelang told Craig. “I encourage you to look for a vendor who understands the mission of lunch and dinner six days a week.”

“Our problem in the past has been no one knows what’s going to be there,” Caulfield said.

“Consistency is something the right vendor is going to facilitate,” Hindelang said.

“To echo Mike’s comment about consistency,

They soon learn business isn’t always busy. There’s down time on chilly and rainy days, during traditional vacation periods when fami-

summer at Windmill. Not all are willing to commit to daily operations.

“I have a local food truck who kind of did it last year and said they’d love to come back every Monday,” Craig said. “We’re exploring different options.”

He wrote in a memo to the commission, “A recommendation to city administration will be made in the near future that will best meet the needs of our residents and the park hours (of operation).”

“If we had the stand open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week and a vendor could reliably assure us if someone’s hungry they can get something to eat, I’m going to be happy for 2024,” Hindelang told Craig, adding to the commission, “Our recommendation to Chad is everything you’ve heard.”

Not in perpetuum

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In an almost unheard of contradiction of bureaucratic immortality, a government board has been dissolved because its members have nothing left to do.

“You fixed everything,” Michael Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission, told now-former chairman of the building subcommittee Roy Edmonds. “In all seriousness, Roy, you guys raised a number of

issues early on and it was very helpful.”

Hindelang disbanded the subcommittee April 4. He intends to distribute its members elsewhere as the commission notches tasks and moves on to new projects.

“This is a restructure because we want to take on a new challenge and there are only so many of us and only so much time,” he said.

“It makes sense to me,” Edmonds said.

Hindelang’s recreation colleagues elected him chairman two years ago. He soon established the

building subcommittee to oversee the condition and maintenance of long-term assets, such as activity centers, lavatories and a gazebo at the city’s two municipal parks, Patterson and Windmill Pointe.

He also established separate subcommittees for each park.

“There might be adjustments,” Hindelang said at the time. “We may discover that Patterson is twice the workload of one of the others or half the workload.”

This month,

Hindelang, Councilman Tom Caulfield as the newly appointed council liaison to the recreation commission, and Parks Director Chad Craig figured the building subcommittee ran its course.

“Chad, Tom and I have thoughts on how to make the subcommittees more effective,” Hindelang said. “First, we think the building subcommittee can be handled by the Patterson and Windmill Pointe committees. We thought the Patterson folks could take on the gazebo and restrooms and the Windmill folks could take on the Lavins (Activity Center) and Tompkins (Center) as part of their reporting.

Most of those are longer-term fixes.”

“It will beef up the Patterson and Windmill subcommittees,” Craig said.

The anecdotal assurance that bureaucratic organizations perpetuate acknowledges the common-sense observation that members of such bodies are anointed with otherwise unobtainable authority in which they have self-interest preserving and expanding.

Yet, most government agencies have lifespans. “Of the 426 agencies created since 1946, over half were terminated prior to 1997,” according to “The Politics of Agency Termination,” by

David E. Lewis of the College of William and Mary, printed in the February 2022 “The Journal of Politics.”

The main reason for agency termination was political turnover, Lewis found, not improved efficiency.

Hindelang expects subcommittees to meet at least once between the commission’s increased schedule of bi-monthly sessions. Commissioners had met quarterly.

“It doesn’t have to be a second full-time job for anyone, but we want progress made,” Hindelang told commissioners. “I want subcommittees to be active. There is an expectation of participation.”

PARTIES:

Continued from page 2A

improvements,” Caulfield said.

Caulfield also chairs the city council finance committee.

“We’ve been asking for profit-and-loss statements (for street parties),” he said. “They’re bringing a lot of awareness to the city, but what do they really cost us?”

Researching the management switch has barely begun. No decisions have been reached.

“We’ve built these massively successful series of parties,” said Michael Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission. “How do we make sure we are devoting the right resources in the right way?”

“I think we need to engage resident feedback before we can weigh in,” Commissioner Howard Bouton said.

“I don’t know if there’s time to do formal community engagement on this,” Hindelang said. “I’d like a subcommittee

formed to deal with that.”

“I highly encourage the subcommittee to get a meeting with Joe Hebeke and the business association,” Caulfield said. “That would be a great group to get energy from. It’s going to encourage a lot of local businesses to get involved more. Instead of putting up a taco truck in front of (a restaurant), maybe (restaurant) will do it and contract through that third party.”

“I think we have a great selection and variety of restaurants in the Park

that should always be the first choice and a priority when having these events,” Hebeke said. “Supporting local is huge, not that outside vendors don’t add a special extra touch when needed or necessary.”

“We want to work with our business association to spread the word and gain more interest to seek their involvement,” Sizeland said. “That’s what these events are all about — advocating for our businesses in Grosse Pointe Park, not only for Pointe-area residents to

visit, but also for people from outside the Pointes to see what we have to offer.”

“I would love to have a voice in the planning of it,” said Lisa Brancato, co-owner of Sprout House Market on Kercheval. “I know what it does for my business.”

Brancato worked for The Parade Company, which stages the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade and more. She has experience putting on special events.

“I’m well aware of the logistics that go into

organizing these (street party) events,” she said. “You’re all working toward the main goal, which is a seamless, well-run, successful event. You have to have an idea, a logistical plan and the people to make it happen.”

She likes the Kercheval After 6 practice of combining specialty food trucks with participation by neighborhood restaurants.

“It gives guests options,” Brancato said. “The biggest complaint before I was a business owner was I’d go to that event and have to wait forever to get something to eat. There’s a lot of work for a restaurant to set up operations outdoors. Some are equipped for that, some not.”

BUDGET:

Continued from page 2A

with your thought process here that we squeeze the lemon for all the juice that we can get,” longtime Councilman Chris Walsh said. “And now we have to start really considering some more dramatic measures that will be beneficial for the community and sustainability of the budget process. “... I think we’ve done what we can do and now we have to become more proactive instead of reactive.”

Grosse Pointe News



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Brownell student wins national contest

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In deciding to enter an essay contest for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Bella Maldonado took a unique approach.

"I wanted to make it inspiring instead of just repeating what happened," the eighth grader at Brownell Middle School said.

The contest was titled "Sparkling in the Stars with the 50th Anniversary of the NASA Space Shuttle Program" in the DAR Junior American Citizens Creative Arts Contest.

Maldonado chose to write about Space Shuttle Columbia, which exploded Feb. 1, 2003, upon re-entering Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts on board. It was damaged during takeoff two weeks earlier, but NASA leaders didn't think it was serious enough to prevent a safe return.

Maldonado wrote her essay from the viewpoint of a former NASA engineer telling their grandchildren about the event.

"They wrestled with a lot of things," she said. "Should they tell them or not? Should they try a rescue attempt? Should they just let it play out?"

She ended up winning at the local and state levels and last month was named the national winner.

"It's really exciting and a big honor," Maldonado said.

It's not the only thing she's won recently. She's one of 500 students nationwide to receive an Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Junior Honor Society. That comes with a \$500 college scholarship and Maldonado already knows where she wants to spend it.

"Harvard has been my dream college since I was about 5 years old," she laughed. "I'm not sure though if I want to study biomedical engineering or pre-law."

Maldonado said she enjoys all of her classes at Brownell, but pointed specifically to math, orchestra and English as her favorites. She also started rowing last year with the Detroit Boat Club.

"It's a fun sport with



COURTESY PHOTO

Bella Maldonado stands with Peggy Scully, left, and Jane Turnbull, right, after being named local essay contest winner by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

fun people," she said. "I'm not the same person I was a year ago."

Holli McNally, Brownell's assistant principal, called Maldonado "unstoppa-

ble."

"It's great to see her put herself out there," she said. "She's a dedicated student who loves to learn and is very kind."

Kindergarten registration deadline May 1

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System has set a May 1 deadline for kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year.

Parents who register incoming kindergarteners by then are assured their student will attend their "home" school, meaning the one closest to where they live. Those registering after the deadline could be placed in another school, depending on the number of seats available.

Meeting the deadline was important for Meghan Westphal, who has a son in fourth grade and a daughter in kindergarten, both at Maire Elementary School. She taught at Barnes Early Childhood Center before moving to Texas for 10 years with her husband.

"We wanted to be in

metro Detroit since we both grew up in the area," she said. "We wanted walkability and the best schools possible, so it basically came down to Birmingham or Grosse Pointe."

The walkability factor comes into play as that was the district's focus when locating its elementary schools.

Anne McGarvah, a kindergarten teacher at Maire, said she frequently has students in her class who should be attending a different school.

"It does pose a bit of a problem," she said. "We really emphasize that deadline during our kindergarten information nights."

Despite overall declining enrollment in the district, the number of kindergarten registrations has been climbing. The last four years saw

See ENROLL, page 10A

STUDENTS:

Continued from page 1A

in Detroit.

For online charters, six students each attend Michigan Connections Academy, based near Lansing, Highpoint Virtual Academy, based near Traverse City and Lighthouse Connections Academy, based in Southfield.

Board of Education President Sean Cotton said the district's upcoming community outreach survey should provide more detail.

Cotton owns the Grosse Pointe News.

"We're going to ask a lot of questions about why people left," he said. "Was it the response to COVID? Moving fifth grade to the middle schools? We also want to know if they would come back if they could choose what school they want."

"The answers will help us make data-driven decisions about what the barriers to re-entry are," he added. "What do we need to overcome to get them back?"

Some 129 students attend a conventional public school district, with the bulk of those going to Harper Woods Public Schools (61) and Detroit Public Schools (40).

The rest are scattered among 17 other districts as close as Lakeview Public Schools and Lake Shore Public Schools in neighboring St. Clair Shores and as far away as Oxford Community Schools north of Troy and River Rouge and Taylor downriver.

Aside from the 2022-23 school year, the numbers have been trending upward since the pandemic hit.

The numbers don't surprise Murray Sales, president of the founders board for The Hill Pointe School, a charter school that has been trying to find space to operate for two years.

"If you look at states all around us, they're increasing school choice laws with vouchers and more charters because parents want choice," he said. "But local school boards want to protect the current status quo in opposition to what parents want."

The GPPSS Board of Education has been adamant about not selling or leasing the closed Trombly and Poupard elementary schools to the group and the district is waiting to finalize the sale of Poupard to a developer that plans to build 70 single-family homes, duplexes and townhouses on the site.

"It really began with COVID," Sales said. "It wasn't just dissatisfaction with how schools were handling it, but parents realized each student learns differently, whether that's online, homeschooling or a charter with a specific focus. Students need different approaches to learning models to thrive, not just survive."

Cotton disagrees. "As far as the claim that the reason Trombly Elementary School has not been sold or leased to a charter school is because of the fear of competition, that is just not the case," he said. "It was a mistake to close Trombly and Poupard. However, the bad decisions of the past should not be compounded by further bad decisions."

"Once property is sold it is lost forever as an option for the future," he continued. "Our schools are prestigious, rigorous and focused on academic excellence. Our students graduate from our amazing high schools and go on to attend the top undergraduate schools in the country, but it all starts with our walkable elementary school system, the cornerstone of our district."

During the 2019-20 school year, before COVID hit, there were

214 students in Grosse Pointe attending public school elsewhere, including 98 spread across 28 charter schools. Of the remaining 116, Detroit (38) and Harper Woods (51) accounted for 89 of them.

The following year, a total of 243 students left the district, with 110 attending one of 27 charter schools either in person or online. Some 96 chose Detroit (55) or Harper Woods (41).

The numbers dipped in 2022-23, when 229 students left the district, including 120 in 32 various charter schools. Of the other 109, 42 went to Harper Woods and 41 to Detroit.

It is unclear why a few dozen students each year choose to attend a different conventional school district aside from Harper Woods and

Detroit. It could be due to a parent teaching there and it makes sense logistically or they may have started school there and wanted to stay after their family moved to the Pointes.

Because students don't need to seek permission from their home district

to participate in schools of choice, GPPSS doesn't know their reasons.

"I would like to know the answer," said Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent of educational services. "Unfortunately, we don't know who these families are, so we can't even contact them."

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10A | SCHOOLS

University Liggett School offers at-home bidding for Liggett Knight auction items

The ballroom at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club is set to come alive as University Liggett School gears up for its annual Liggett Knight gala and auction.

Scheduled Friday, April 19, at the yacht club, this highly anticipated event promises an evening of generosity and community spirit; and this year those who are not in attendance can bid on silent auction items from home.

Director of Development and Alumni Relations Cressie Boggs expressed her excitement for this year's gala.

"We strive to make each Liggett Knight unique and memorable," she said, "and this year is no exception."

The silent auction features almost 200 items in categories ranging from autographed memorabilia to culinary delights, health and beauty, and travel excursions. Anyone with a bidder number can participate in the silent auction, whether at Liggett Knight or comfortably at home the night of the gala.

"The Liggett Knight committee worked hard to secure great silent auction items this year," Boggs said. "And our community is generous with their donations; it's incredibly exciting."

Up for grabs during this year's silent auction are signed Detroit Red Wings jerseys from Lucas Raymond and Michael Rasmussen; a Spencer

Torkelson signed baseball bat; a hockey stick signed by Moritz Seider; a Detroit Grand Prix weekend experience; four tickets to the Kenny Chesney and Zac Brown Band concert at Ford Field on Aug. 10; a five-night stay at the Island Vista Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and more.

Visit liggett-knight.cbo.io to preview all of the exciting auction items.

"We would like to express our thanks to our Liggett Knight co-chairs, Alda and Daniel Stahl, '01, and to all of our volunteers who have worked so hard to make Liggett Knight successful this year," Boggs said. "We are also grateful for our donors and sponsors, whose generosity we know will make Liggett Knight 2024 an exceptionally rewarding event."

Anyone is welcome to participate in the silent auction from the comfort of home. Visit liggett-knight.cbo.io to set up a bidder number.

Silent auction bidding opens at noon Thursday, April 18. Bidding for the silent auction closes at 10 p.m. Friday, April 19. All won items will be available for pickup at University Liggett School from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, April 22.

For more information about Liggett Knight and instructions for bidding at home, visit uls.org/liggett-knight.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AHMED ISMAIL

Spring Fling

The Grosse Pointe South Choirs' annual fundraiser, Spring Fling 2024, took place Friday, April 5, at Blossom Heath Inn in St. Clair Shores. In addition to dinner and a silent auction, the evening included wonderful performances by the choir students. After their performances, each performer received a surprise tip in the form of a \$2 bill, compliments of Ahmed and Mary Ann Ismail of The Portrait Place, the platinum sponsors of the evening.



COURTESY PHOTO

Off to worlds

The Gearheads, the combined robotics team from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, will be in Houston next week for the FIRST Robotics world championship.

The team's alliance finished tied for fifth place at the Michigan championships last weekend in Saginaw. This is the second consecutive trip for the Gearheads to the world championship.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Dylan Miller of Grosse Pointe Farms is one of eight Lebanon Valley College student-athletes named to the Middle Atlantic Conference Winter All-Sportsmanship Team. Miller competed on the men's ice hockey team during the winter season, skating in 24 games and recording five points — three goals and two assists — while taking 29 shots. He was 2-2 in the face-off circle and blocked

seven shots. A graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, Miller is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in digital communications.

◆◆◆
Caroline Miller of the City of Grosse Pointe, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, recently was initiated into the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

ENROLL:

Continued from page 9A

421, 439, 441 and 447 new kindergarteners.

"Kindergarten registration is a crucial process that plays a significant role in schools," said Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent of educational services. "It contributes to the effectiveness of the

educational process and the overall functioning of the school or district. Enrolling in kindergarten offers several essential benefits for young children, including establishing a firm foundation for their educational journey and personal development."

Plante Moran, which does enrollment projections for the district,

expects 435 kindergarten students next year with 426 and 418 the following two years.

Several documents are required to enroll a child in GPPSS, including parent identification, proof of residency, address verification, student's birth certificate, immunization records and more. A checklist can be found at shorter.me/Q3M9F.

CAMPS:

Continued from page 5A

intended to "empower and inspire young individuals through a comprehensive education initiative."

"We'll basically focus on youth mental health and fitness," said Stedman Taylor, the city's recreation specialist.

Activities 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, are instructed by Troy-based mental health professional Uni Falero and an assistant.

"Combining creative outlets, mind-

fulness practices and skill-building activities, the program prioritizes mental well-being and personal growth," according to Falero's website, sacredwalksbyuni.com.

"They'll practice meditation for the first hour and some type of organized activity, a craft or photography," Taylor said. "It's a way for kids to get active."

At least five but no more than 10 children must be registered for the program to go off as scheduled.

If attendance warrants, Creator 'N' Me could become an ongoing program, according to Taylor.



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Grosse Pointe News

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2&6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-5B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES

Successful LAUNCH Program provides training, career exploration for young adults with special needs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Griffin Wright knows his way around a hospital.

He spends Mondays and Tuesdays with the central processing department, Thursdays with surgical patients and Fridays doing patient transport.

His responsibilities are as vast as his interests, but no matter the day or department, he knows patient safety comes first.

Wright, a young man with autism, is a participant in Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital's LAUNCH program, which enables young adults with special needs to receive training and career exploration while volunteering in various areas of the hospital.

"I've been the director of volunteers for close to 20 years here," said Betsy Schulte, who founded LAUNCH, which stands for Learning, Advocate, Understanding, Nurture, Coaching and Hope. "I've always brought in young adults with special needs, but last year I decided to formalize it. This gives them the opportunity to learn new skills and gain possible future employment."

Wright is one of 12 young adults in the program, which allows participants to choose the area in which they'd like to work. Each candidate is given a tour by Volunteer Coordinator Clay Vandenbussche, who also serves as a LAUNCH mentor.

"Clay doesn't do a drive-thru tour; this is not a tour in an hour," said Regan Wright, Griffin's mother. "He spends time and helps educate. It's amazing how many departments are here. ... It's important to understand all the players that make a hospital run."

"Each student is different," Vandenbussche added. "They get a tour of the whole hospital to find out what they like. They're all good workers and do the best they can."

While one participant knew right away he wanted to volunteer in food services, another has found joy putting away stock, not just on designated days, but "whenever he sees it," Vandenbussche said. Another participant decided he'd like to make popcorn and a fourth was so enamored with the massive dishwashing machine in the cafeteria, he took on



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Griffin Wright makes the beds on the gurney to hospital standards with clean sheets, a hospital gown, slippers and a hairnet.

that job and loves it.

Wright's duties in central processing include preparing surgical carts with the necessary equipment for the following day's surgeries. In the surgical department, he checks all patients coming in or leaving the operating

room. As a patient escort, he makes sure discharged patients are transported safely to their cars.

"I really enjoy seeing new people," Wright said, "and learning how the hospital runs and what departments are the best fit for me."

A personal journey

LAUNCH has been a godsend to Regan Wright, who, with her husband, Rob, adopted Griffin from Russia when he was 7 months old. They knew he had a club foot, but their journey with Corewell — then named Beaumont — began soon after.

"When he was around age 1, we learned he had a texture defense," she said, explaining the family spent three and a half years with the health system teaching their son how to chew. "That was when he was first diagnosed with special needs."

Wright went to elementary school at Eaton Academy, then attended Grosse Pointe South High School. While at South, he began volunteering at the hospital as a patient escort.

"A year ago he was accepted to Kent State University, which has the oldest non-college degree

program for different learners," Regan Wright said.

Excited to see their son off to college, the Wrights, who live in Grosse Pointe Farms, then faced the difficult news that the program was being put on hold.

Their outlook brightened with an email from Schulte.

"Betsy said he could come back for patient transport, but also volunteer in radiology," Regan Wright said. "I'm a big believer in things happening for a reason. I could never have imagined this."

"Special needs parents are in constant fear," she explained. "We look at the world differently and can't breathe. But since last June, I can breathe. I can see the future."

Every day when she drops off her son at the hospital — he takes the bus home himself — she lets him know she believes in him.

"And now I have a whole hospital who believes in him, too," she added. "Corewell is the utmost pioneer in this program. Other people need to do it. Griffin has special needs, but I'm not fond of that term. His needs are no different than mine. ... I like to say he's a different learner. Clay has the ability to zone in and let them find what they want."

During his initial tour, Wright checked out the maternity ward — "No, I don't like crying babies," he said — as well as the kitchen: "There's too much going on."

With his hands now in several departments, he's found his lane, which is one of the goals for each LAUNCH participant.

"The goals are to build self-esteem, learn skills and provide an opportunity for employment," Schulte said.

Wright has his sights

See LAUNCH, page 2B



From left, Betsy Schulte, director of volunteer services; Griffin Wright, a member of the LAUNCH team; and Clay Vandenbussche, administrative coordinator and LAUNCH mentor.



From left, Griffin Wright and Clay Vandenbussche greet Stanley Christmas and John Wagner with the Care for the Care Giver cart. Vandenbussche and Wright take the cart throughout the hospital and hand out treats and other items to show support and appreciation for the hardworking staff at Corewell. The Grosse Pointe hospital has a focus group of the same name, Care for the Care Givers, which meets monthly to come up with ways to show appreciation to staff, for example by hosting events and activities that help with team building.

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2B | FEATURES

‘Hold Onto Your Memories’ is featured April exhibit at Posterity Gallery

Posterity Gallery, 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts the work of artist Birgit Huttemann Holz during the month of April.

“Hold Onto Your Memories” features the artist’s energetic works, which show a lush world where nature is in constant celebration. Her lyrical abstractions reflect an intense relationship with the surrounding landscape, an intimate experience of wilderness which mirrors the alluring and alarming self.

Huttemann Holz has exhibited nationally and internationally and has won multiple awards nationwide. She was awarded the Female



A sample of Birgit Huttemann Holz's work.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Art Comes Alive at the ADC Fine Art Gallery in Cincinnati. In 2022, she was selected for the NG Art Creative Residency in Provence,

France.

An opening reception with the artist takes place 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Posterity Gallery. For more information, visit posterityartgallery.com.

LAUNCH:

Continued from page 1B

set on becoming a radiology technician assistant.

“Radiology is my passion,” he said. “I like to learn the different body parts they scan, how the machines work.”

Added his mother, “It’s amazing that at age 20, he’s found his happy place.”

She discovered just how well-loved her son is when she passed out homemade peppermint bark to staff during the holidays.

“To have people welcome my son so much makes me speechless,” she said. “In radiology, they had a tabletop Christmas tree with Griffin’s face on it. ... I was floating. There’s this warm blanket around not me, but around my son.”

“I have gratitude for every person and connection at this hospital,” she added. “Rob, (our son) Austin and myself thank our lucky stars. God made these two (Schulte and Vandebussche) completely change Griffin’s trajectory. It’s just amazing. As a special needs parent, you worry about the future. Now Griffin has a future. I was losing sleep; now I don’t.”

Strong support

Regan Wright has been

vocal about her appreciation of LAUNCH and how much it’s helped her son. She shared the sentiment with Schulte and Vandebussche in a heartfelt letter, which helped persuade the Grosse Pointe team to formalize the program.

“Because of Regan’s letter, this opened our eyes, not just for Griffin, but to grow and help as many young adults explore possibilities,” Schulte said, noting other LAUNCH parents have expressed their thanks as well. “One mom said, ‘I feel like I’m in the middle of the ocean and you threw me a life jacket.’”

As word has gotten out about LAUNCH, Schulte has been getting calls and emails asking to get more young adults involved. Additionally, one supporter donated \$50,000 to the program.

Though LAUNCH is maxed out for the time being, Schulte said she hopes to accept more applicants in the fall.

Wright plans to stay with the program indefinitely; other participants serve as long as they are able — for a summer, for example. The number of days they work also is up to them.

“As long as we’re enriching lives and it’s a benefit for us, it could be one day, two days, four days,” Schulte said. “We are the only hospital

doing this program in Grosse Pointe. I’m hoping it does get to be a regional program.”

Schulte expressed thanks to the many partners at Corewell who are involved.

“We can’t do this without partners in this hospital,” she said. “This gives departments camaraderie and joy, doing something beyond work. Literally, a culture is growing from it. The only problem is we have more interested partners than we can serve.”

“... I can’t tell you how many physicians have allowed Griffin to be part of whatever they’re doing that day,” she added. “It’s so inspiring. They never say no.”

The experience has put Wright in a bit of a leadership role, as LAUNCH’s first participant.

“Griffin is now helping with new participants in LAUNCH,” Schulte said. “They shadow Griffin. They’re starting as volunteers, but they’ll also look at areas where they can get jobs.”

LAUNCH has partnered with Corewell’s human resources department to put participants at the top of the list when opportunities for employment arise.

Anyone with questions about LAUNCH may contact Schulte via email, betsy.schulte@corewellhealth.org.

Garden Fun Day is April 13

Grosse Pointe Garden Center’s second annual Family Garden Fun Day takes place 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13, at Kerby Elementary School, 285 Kerby, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Members of Grosse Pointe Garden Center will provide a fun and interesting morning for children and their parents. Kids will have a chance to do many activities, such as building a fairy garden and learning how to attract butterflies, how to grow green beans and how native flowers help the environment.

For adults, several experts will be

on hand to give short table talks on horticulture topics, which range from composting as a family and integrating native plants into the family garden to selecting the best foundation plant and creating garden projects with kids.

There will be time reserved at each talk for attendees to ask individual gardening questions.

Registration is requested in advance. Admission is \$20 per family.

For more information about Family Garden Fun Day or to register, visit gpgardencenters.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Jardinieres

Madeleine Phillips will host the “season opener” of La Societe des Jardinieres at her home at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 11. The speaker will be Mildred Hurley, known locally as “The Southern Gardener.” She will offer remarks about the Moross Greenway Project. The organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit partnership of the Eastside Detroit community, civic and religious groups working collaboratively to re-landscape the seven median islands on Moross Road between Ascension St. John Hospital and the I-94 service drive. Lunch will be provided.

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club Inc., hosts its next meeting at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen will introduce speaker Tim Mautz, chief of emergency preparedness, response and support for Wayne County. He will speak about emergency responses to medical events or potential crises such as a hazmat spill, commercial airplane crash or COVID-19. Admission is free and guests are welcome. For more information, call President John Bates at (313) 881-4125.

Kids on the Go

Kids on the Go presents its ninth annual golf outing, “FORE” the Kids, Thursday, May 9, at Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township. The event, which begins with a 9 a.m. shotgun start, includes 18 holes with cart, coffee and breakfast bites, a boxed lunch, dinner, open driving range and putting green practice and more. The event sells out quickly; sponsorship opportunities also are available. Visit kidsonthegocamp.com to sign up.

Family Center

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

◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, through April 30. Registration is required.

◆ Mental Health First Aid Training by Corewell Health, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 12, at the

Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ Mental Health Matters series, 7 p.m. Mondays. Topics include “Why is everyone driving me crazy?!!” with Susie Rohde on April 15; “The Neurodivergent Brain” with Sarah Kost-Cox on April 22; “Understanding Trauma’s Presence in the Body” with Gabrielle Deschaine on April 29; and “The Gifts of Grief” with Frank Wilberding on May 6.

◆ Resilient Child Parent Seminar, in collaboration with The Grosse Pointe Academy, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at The Academy, 171 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Community Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. A panel of experts will discuss the parenting information featured in “14 Talks By Age 14,” by Michelle Icard.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, April 12, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Mary Lloyd speaks. Cost of the breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

Library

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

◆ Teen Laser Cut Bookmarks, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Classes, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Craft to Go, all day Monday, April 15, at all three branches.

◆ Dream Lab Adult Swim, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ The History of the Junior League of Detroit Designers’ Show House, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at St Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier,

Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Perler Bead Art, 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 18, via Zoom.

◆ Readers’ Choice Book Discussion Group, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 20, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Cardboard Challenge, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Helm

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

◆ Drums Alive with Rosa, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays in April, with Rosa Hunter. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ The movie “A Perfect Pairing” is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 12. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Village Grill. Guests are responsible for the cost of their own meal. Bus fare is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers; those driving on their own should meet at the restaurant at 12:30 p.m. Registration is required for all attendees.

◆ Holy Family Catholic Church Tour and Lunch, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. Cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers.

◆ Spring Serenade, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, featuring Detroit Opera. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ Getting Started with eBay, 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 25, with instructor David Maas.

◆ The movie “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society” is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 26. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Demystify Balance and Posture, 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, April 29, with instructor Paul Clark.

◆ Let’s Get Artsy, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 30, with instructor Linda Boyle. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers.

GPA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers

See EVENTS, page 6B

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VIOLET
Female, 9 years old, Shitzu, Black/White, 5 lbs.

PEANUT
Male, 7 years old, Shitzu, Black, 5 lbs.

Vanna and Violet are bonded and must be adopted together.

WOW!

PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN FREITAG

Opportunity of a lifetime

By Brian Owen
Guest Writer

To say it was the most beautiful spectacle I have ever witnessed would not be an exaggeration. To say I would travel to the other side of the globe to witness it again tomorrow would not be an overstatement. Monday's total solar eclipse was absolutely incredible and it moved me to tears.

On March 25, I started noticing articles about the total solar eclipse. As I read more I learned some of the differences between a 99 percent eclipse and a 100 percent eclipse and naturally had to see for myself.

My dad is a bit of a star chaser so I sent him a text and asked him if he wanted to go to Ohio to watch the total eclipse. He responded with a "Ha!" and proceeded to inform me he already booked a room near Luna Pier, which would be in the path of totality for about 19 seconds.

Sunday night, Dad and I made our way to Erie, Mich., to get ahead of the Monday morning traffic. This proved to be a brilliant idea as hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people flooded I-75 South to witness the eclipse in the path of totality.

We checked into a motel and immediately left and went to Hollywood Casino in Toledo to enjoy a night out together. The motel was a complete dump. We had already decided we were not staying and it wasn't even worth it to go back for a refund. Besides, Dad made up for his losses and then some playing the penny slots over the next several hours.

While Dad played slots I did more research about the eclipse. I came across a video clip where PBS Newshour Science Correspondent Miles O'Brien interviews Neil DeGrasse Tyson just three days before the cosmic event and their excitement was contagious. Tyson explains that the light coming from the little sliver of the sun that remains during a 99 percent eclipse is equivalent to the light of 10,000 full moons. "If you're not in totality, you're not in totality," he emphasizes.

Upon hearing that, I knew we had to drive further south to maximize our time in the path of

totality. NASA published a map of the U.S. with the path and Findlay, Ohio, seemed to be the best spot for us to go. It was only an hour of additional driving and the eclipse would have an estimated totality of three minutes and 40 seconds, increasing our totality by three minutes and 21 seconds.

We arrived in Findlay just after 2:30 a.m. There was only one place left with rooms available and we quickly learned why. Our \$380/night room had a few additional occupants, so Dad immediately got a refund and we slept in his truck.

On the drive down I noticed there was an Ohio state park nearby and suggested we watch there. Breakfast at the Cracker Barrel was buzzing with locals and visitors and everyone was talking about the eclipse. Dad struck up a conversation with the table behind him, as he is known to do. They made the drive from Kalamazoo and were all wearing eclipse T-shirts. One of the ladies in the group willed up when she shared her story about witnessing the total eclipse in 2017, and I started to sense I was not fully prepared for what I would be witnessing in a few hours.

We stopped by the Findlay Walmart for some snacks and water and noticed a few RVs were parked toward the back of the parking lot and a few people were sleeping in their cars. It seemed a bit busier than a small-town Walmart should be at that hour. As we made our way around the store I overheard two employees talking about the number of people that would be ascending on their town and it sounded like estimates ranged anywhere from 700,000 to 1 million people.

I was starting to feel a sense of urgency to stake our claim at the state park and rushed Dad out of the store. I saw several aerial photos of the Michigan-Ohio border and the traffic was insane. The park was already filling up when we got there, but there was still plenty of parking available. I was relieved. We made it and could relax and enjoy the lead up to the eclipse.

Minutes after we arrived, a car with Texas plates squeezed into the space next to us and, natu-

rally, Dad was the welcome wagon greeting total strangers upon their arrival. Turns out it was a rental. They were from San Diego, Calif., went to Texas to watch and didn't like the weather outlook so they booked a flight to Cleveland, rented a car and made their way to Findlay. Brothers Dan and Emilio Borgia made the trek on their father's recommendation. He had been to the 2017 total eclipse and urged them to go.

"To see this with my brother is something I'll never forget," Dan said. "I was present in the moment because my father had advised me that when the time comes to just watch it in all its glory and let NASA handle the pictures, but I still couldn't help but take a photo with my brother."

The anticipation was mounting and Dad and I kept close track of the time. At precisely 1:55 p.m. the eclipse began. Dad pressed his viewing glasses to his eyes and let out a boisterous laugh of amazement! "Do you see it? Do you see it?" he repeated. He continued that pattern of laughs and question for the next hour as the moon slowly made its way in front of the sun. His excitement was not unique amongst the crowd. Everyone was in awe.

Over the next hour the light from the sun slowly dimmed and the air temperature became cooler and cooler. Some people seemed to watch the entire spectacle while others took breaks and chatted or walked around the park. Dan and Emilio made their way to a spot by the lake they had scouted out earlier to watch and I assume FaceTime with their dad.

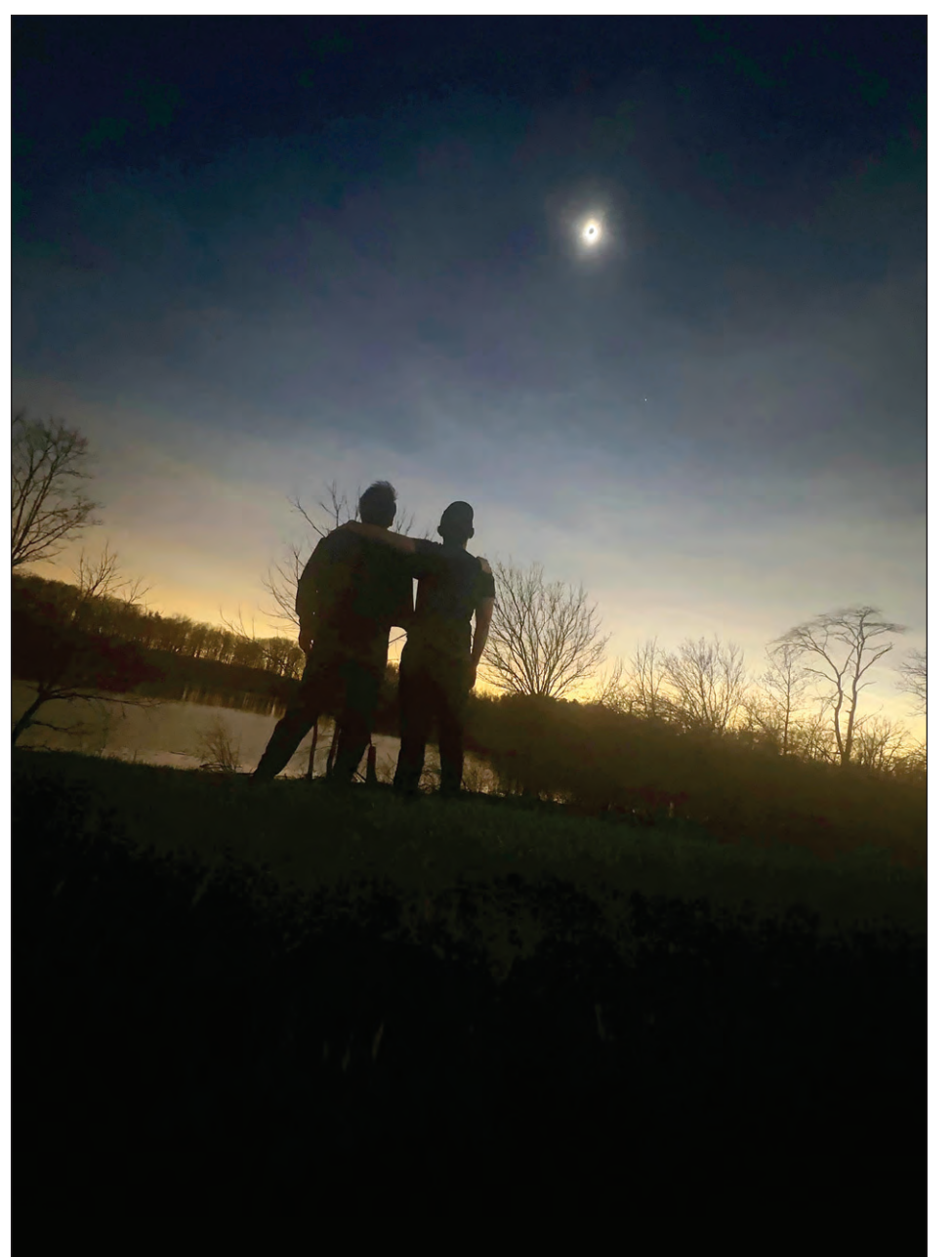


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN OWEN

Dan and Emilio Borgia, brothers from San Diego, share a special moment during the total solar eclipse in Findlay, Ohio.

At 3:10 p.m. I could no longer see the eclipse through the viewers. When I removed them from my eyes it was dark outside. Not dim, dark. You could see stars in the sky. The eclipse was in totality and I was completely surprised and confused by what I was seeing and not seeing. It took my brain a couple moments to fully grasp everything that was happening. Dad and I were laughing in amazement and even disbelief for the next few minutes.

Then something magical happened that I will

never forget. As the totality of the eclipse came to an end the light from the sun beamed around the moon and it was the brightest and whitest flash of light I have ever seen. My immediate reaction was to flinch and I felt a moment of fear where I thought that beam of light was heading straight for me. As quickly as that fear came it was gone and I was filled with laughter and then overcome by tears and emotions and a rush of adrenaline like nothing else I have ever experienced.

The park was full of families and groups of friends of all ages and interests, as well as park personnel, police and Ohio DNR officers. Wyatt McQueen, a naturalist from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was passing out free cookies and viewing glasses and even brought along a toad named Duane to observe any impact the eclipse may have on another species. Wyatt firmly stated that the eclipse didn't affect Duane at all.

See WOW, page 6B

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4B | 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.

Dr. Gary J. Gagliardi

Dr. Gary J. Gagliardi, 65, of Greenwood, Ind., passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 26, 2024, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Gagliardi was born in Detroit to Anthony and Eleanor Gagliardi and grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods. At a young age, he knew he wanted to become a physician. He attended Austin Catholic High School and continued his education at the University of Chicago, where he received his undergraduate degree. Following his dream, he attended medical school at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1985. He moved to Indianapolis to complete his residency in internal medicine at Indiana University.

He loved Indiana and decided to make it his home. He worked at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Ind., then continued his career at Richard L. Roudebush Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis.

"Dr. G," as his patients called him, dedicated his life to his work. He believed in the "old school" approach to medicine, taking ample time with all of his patients and focusing solely on the patient during examinations. His approach often kept him in the office for long hours, but he would not compromise when it came to his patients' care.

Besides his passion for work, he loved classic cars, history and photography. He also got immense pleasure watching his nieces and nephews grow, sharing with them his own childhood interests and hobbies.

He is survived by his mother, Eleanor Gagliardi; sisters, Carol Shea and Gayle Kowalchick (Edmund); and nieces and nephews, Jacqueline Shea, Anthony Kowalchick, Peter Shea, Nicole Hill (Ben), Stephanie Shea and Christina Shea.

Memorial Services will be held at noon Friday, April 19, at Our Lady of the Greenwood in Greenwood, Ind.

Memorial contributions may be made for pancreatic cancer research via the Lustgarten Foundation, 415 Crossways Park Dr., Suite D, Woodbury, NY 11797, or lustgarten.org/?form=give.

William "Bill" Thomas Trombly

William "Bill" Thomas Trombly, 68, passed away surrounded by family Tuesday, April 2, 2024, after a two-year battle with cancer. He was a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Bill was born Aug. 25, 1955, in Grosse Pointe. He was predeceased by his father, Edgar Frank Trombly. He is survived by his wife, Galina Gornaya; and stepson, Sergey Gorny. He was the beloved son of Mary Lou (nee Gouin) Trombly; beloved brother of Mark Edgar Trombly, Robert Matthew Trombly and Julie Marie Trombly; beloved brother-in-law of Barbara (Stone) Trombly, Colleen (nee Clune) Trombly and David Alan Fischer; and beloved uncle of Keri, David, Kristi, Lindsay, Brysen, Kira, James, Ryan and Nic.

Bill graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1973. He received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Wayne State University. He retired from a 25-year career in the Comerica Securities division of Comerica Bank, where he served first as a retail broker, followed by work in financial operations and compliance.

Bill was an avid sports fan and horse-racing enthusiast. He also enjoyed running and completed two Detroit Free Press Marathons. He had an affinity for numbers, as well as a sharp intellect and memory skills that made him an expert across numerous topics.

Bill was kind, conscientious, thoughtful, smart and generous with his time, with a wide circle of family and close friends.

Visitation and a celebration of life were held at Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Lymphoma Research Foundation, bit.ly/4ctQkaq, or the Belle Isle Conservancy, belleisleconservancy.org/donate.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Muriel Elaine Brock

Muriel Elaine Brock, 94, passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at her home with her dog, Daisy, by her side.

She was born Aug. 9, 1929, in New Haven, Conn., to C. Raymond and Elsie Blakeslee Brock.

Muriel was a 1947 graduate of the Day School in New Haven and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Bouvé-Boston School of Physical Education, a division of Tufts University. After college, she moved to Grosse Pointe, where she worked in many capacities at University Liggett School for 37 years. The impact she had on all who knew her was immeasurable. Her greatest pride was coaching girls in field hockey, tennis, lacrosse and ice hockey. She started the girls' lacrosse team at Liggett and the high school girls ice hockey program in the state of Michigan.

Muriel received many accolades throughout her career, including Michigan High School Coaches Field Hockey Hall of Fame, Michigan High School Lacrosse Hall of Fame and University Liggett School's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, but watching her students and athletes understand commitment and teamwork brought her the most joy. She also started the University Liggett Day Camp, where she served as director for 25 years.

Spending as much time as possible outdoors was important to Muriel. She could be found walking her dogs, playing golf or competing on the tennis, paddle or pickleball court.

Muriel immersed herself fully in her community. She was a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and, accompanied by her beloved dogs, volunteered many hours at the Children's Home of Detroit, nursing homes and reading programs for children.

She was predeceased



Dr. Gary J. Gagliardi



William T. Trombly



Muriel Elaine Brock

by her parents; brother; sister; and numerous dogs. She is survived by her sister, Thelma Bonnar of Canton, Conn.; as well as many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16, Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, followed immediately by a reception at the Boll Campus Center at University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to University Liggett School, uls.org/giving/, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, onrealm.org/GrossePointeMem/-/form/give/GPMC or Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org/donate.

Franklin M. Walker Jr.

Franklin M. Walker Jr., 81, of Camden, Maine, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family after a long battle with cancer.

Franklin was born and raised in Grosse Pointe. He attended Grosse Pointe University School, where he was president of his junior class, lettered in football and track and was captain of the track team, setting four school track records. His youth was filled with adventure, including traveling throughout Europe and running with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Michigan College of Engineering. He earned his private pilot's license during his second year at U of M.

After two years of studying engineering, he decided it was not his strong suit. He transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder, which proved to be a great experience. He enjoyed rock climbing, skiing and exploring the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. Upon graduation in 1967, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. His first duty station was aboard the USS Theodore Chandler (DD-717) homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. He served as the ship's gunnery officer and also qualified as an officer of the deck underway. The Chandler saw extensive combat operations off the coast of North Vietnam, including tak-



Franklin M. Walker Jr.



Velma F. Kasza

ing hostile shore fire, for which the ship was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. While homeported in Japan, he traveled extensively throughout the country and summited Mt. Fuji. He also visited numerous other Asian countries.

His second tour was as a naval gunfire liaison officer with the 2nd Marine Division, 10th Marines, stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. While stationed with the Marines, he made several deployments and graduated from the U.S. Army Jungle Warfare School at Fort Sherman in Panama. After completing his service, Franklin attended Boston University Law School and subsequently practiced at Choate, Hall & Stewart, one of Boston's oldest and largest law firms. He later fulfilled his lifelong dream of moving his family to Maine, where he had spent summers as a child. There he started his own law practice, which he ran for the next 30 years.

Franklin had an early love of the Detroit Red Wings and hockey. He later enjoyed squash, sailing and more recently, fly fishing. He was the proud owner of four wooden Herreshoff sailboats and enjoyed cruising the coast of Maine. He also had an extensive library of hundreds of books on travel, sailing, boat design, history, fly fishing, geography and politics. He had a passion for travel, visiting 28 countries over his lifetime. Franklin was a member of the Camden Yacht Club, Rockport Boat Club and Megunticook Golf Club and former member of the Union Boat Club of Boston, Tennis and Racquet Club of Boston and Hillsboro Club of Pompano Beach, Fla.

He was predeceased by his parents, Franklin and Jane Walker of Grosse Pointe and Naples, Fla.; and his brother, Bruce Walker of San Francisco, Calif. He is survived by his beloved wife, Missie Walker of Camden,

Maine; daughter, Missie B.; son, Nathaniel; daughters by a previous marriage, Alison and Elizabeth; and several grandchildren. Franklin dearly loved his family, including his dog, Hunter, more than anything in the world. He was a kind and inquisitive man, a lover of learning and nature and a great dad and husband.

A private family service will be held in the future. Per his request, his ashes are to be scattered in his beloved Penobscot Bay.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center in Camden, Maine, bit.ly/4aseUac.

Velma F. Kasza

Velma F. Kasza, 95, passed away Saturday, April 6, 2024.

She was the beloved wife of 67 years to the late George, who passed away in 2015; loving mother of Sandra Grant (David), Gordon Kasza (Julie Bach), Julianne Cusumano (Frank Jr.) and George Kasza (Kathryn); proud grandmother of Aimee Osantoski (Evan), Gabrielle Grant, Melissa Sharpe, Steven Kay, Alex Gulino, Gordon Kasza Jr., Roma Cusumano, Francesca Cusumano, Giovanna Cusumano, Giuliana Cusumano and Robert Kasza; and great-grandmother of Arthur Osantoski. She was predeceased by her adored grandson, Jack Grant; and her 12 beloved siblings.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 11, with a 6 p.m. funeral service, followed by a sharing of memories service at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, 36900 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights.

Interment will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Share memories with the family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcaterra.com.

See OBITS, page 5B

Lucia "LouAnne" Wattrick

We are profoundly heartbroken to share that our beloved Lucia "LouAnne" Wattrick left this earth Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, and her bright light is now shining amongst the stars. Lucia's untimely and sudden death has shocked and devastated all who knew and loved this beautiful woman. Lucia passed away peacefully at Roper St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, S.C., surrounded by her son Kyle, husband Harley and sisters Paula and Elizabeth.



Lucia leaves behind husband Harley Wattrick; son Kyle Flanagan, daughter-in-law Chiara Ciarletta and adored grandson Ollie; sisters Paula Tullio (Dan), Elizabeth Pizzinato (Richard Paquet) and her

dearly loved extended family, nieces Marla Tullio Spyridis (Nick), Jessica Lee (Chadd) and Helina Tullio (Alec Mackrell) and all of their children.

The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life for Lucia from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at The Windsor Club, 2072 Riverside Dr. E, Windsor, Ontario, Canada. For more information, visit luciawattrick.blogspot.com.

Gilda's Big Night Out is April 18

Gilda's Club presents its annual fundraiser, Gilda's Big Night Out, Thursday, April 18, at Garden Theater, 3929 Woodward, Detroit.

This year in particular, Gilda's Big Night Out celebrates the uniqueness of its homegrown community and the people and

pieces that helped build it.

Gilda's has been centered in metro Detroit for 30 years. The city and its surrounding communities are resilient and talented; fighters and deeply protective. From cars to chips to soda, the area makes excellence

that lasts generations.

That same excellence is in Gilda's service to the cancer community. Some of the top cancer centers and specialists are in metro Detroit and when it comes to the whole family, the whole time, Gilda's is there.

This year's Gilda's Big

Night Out will celebrate the threads that bind its hometown — and the heroes who make it profound.

Guests are invited to boogie to Bluewater Kings Band, performing Motown hits, while help-

See GILDA, page 5A

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Lisa Marie Zimmermann

Lisa Marie Zimmermann, 57, of Mount Lebanon, Pa., passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 2, 2024. She was surrounded by her husband and loving children.

Lisa was born Nov. 29, 1966, in Kansas City, Kan., to Dr. Wallace Cox and Mildred Cox. She graduated from Sumner Academy High School in 1985, and then attended Texas Christian University. She received Bachelor of Science and Registered Nursing degrees in 1989.

Lisa met her husband, Erich Zimmermann, D.D.S., in Fort Myers, Fla., in 1994. They married Oct. 5, 1996, and had three beautiful children, Meghan Marie, Zachary Alan and Katie Ann. Lisa and Erich resided in Naples, Fla., for several years and enjoyed boating, fishing and golfing. Then a move brought them to Denver, where they enjoyed the mountains, skiing, hiking and exploring nature.

In 2018, the family



Lisa Marie Zimmermann

moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., where Lisa began her five-year ovarian cancer battle at several Pittsburgh hospitals. She fought bravely while continuing to be a friend to many, an amazing mother and an incredible wife during her chemotherapy treatments, which never brought her down.

Lisa was a strong Christian woman who regularly attended Bible studies and was a true living example of living out her faith in Jesus Christ.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Beinhauers, McMurray.

A Celebration of Life service has occurred.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, bit.ly/49uvvsB, or South Hills Bible Chapel, 300 Gallery Dr., McMurray, PA 15317.

GOP Senate hopeful Pensler to address Republicans

Sandy Pensler, attorney, businessman and U.S. Senate candidate, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, to the Eastside Republican Club at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Pensler is campaigning for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination. Winner of the Aug. 6 primary will compete in the Nov. 5 general election.

"Sandy Pensler is described as a 'turn-around specialist' and wants to contribute to the country's turnaround," said club chairman Mike Vethacke in a statement in advance of the meeting.

"The American experiment is in big trouble; it's burning," Pensler said in a campaign announcement. "I believe we can turn it around, but we need to apply basic morals, take responsibility and fight like hell."

The forum will provide



Sandy Pensler

an opportunity for audience questions and is open to the public at no charge.

Pensler was born and raised on Detroit's west side, but commuted to University Liggett School, where he was valedictorian.

Working his way through Yale in four years, Pensler earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemical engineering, as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in economics. Following graduation, he founded a

business importing sweaters, eventually selling it to help pay for his Harvard law degree.

Working as a financial advisor, Pensler developed and taught several courses as a member of the Yale economics faculty. He also taught undergraduate economics courses at Harvard.

After obtaining a law degree, Pensler served as a clerk for U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Patrick Higginbotham.

Pensler later reentered the business world, becoming a private investor and financial advisor to some of the country's largest corporations, including Chrysler, Sprint, Scholastic, Time Warner, TJX, General Electric and Navistar/International Harvester. In this role, he worked to restructure and grow companies, putting them on secure financial footing.

His classroom and practical experience led him to found Pensler Capital and start numerous businesses. Currently, Pensler owns and operates four manufacturing plants, including the Korex Corp. plant in Wixom, which employs more than 100 people. After acquiring his Chicago plant, which had been scheduled to close, the enterprise was saved and is now profitable, debt free and growing.

Pensler resides in Grosse Pointe Park with his wife, Anita; son, Jonathan; and daughter, Natasha.

The Eastside Republican Club forum meets monthly, September through May, at The War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Stay up to date at EastsideRepublican.Club and "follow" the ERC on Facebook and X.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn program at noon Thursday, April 18. Kelly Tallon Franklin, founder and executive director of Courage for Freedom, will speak about her work in preventing human trafficking. The lunch and program are open to everyone; a free-will offering will be collected at the door. Call the church office at (313) 884-4820 to reserve a seat. The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 16.

Dr. Paul Thomas, Plum Health addresses Optimist Club

Dr. Paul Thomas, family medicine physician and founder of Plum Health, was a guest speaker at the Lakeshore Optimist Club. He provided an overview of how he started Plum Health, a direct primary care practice headquartered in the Corktown area of Detroit. Direct primary care, or DPC, is monthly membership that provides unlimited access to a doctor without copays, deductibles or the need to carry insurance. The model affords the physician more time with the patients at office visits.

Plum Health members call, text, email or visit their pro-

vider anytime to get primary care services like physicals, preventive care, urgent care, chronic disease management and mental healthcare, without worry about hidden fees. DPC is a choice Thomas made to increase his time caring for patients rather than on cumbersome paperwork.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets at 7:30 a.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome. Visit gpointimists.com for locations, dates and times each month or follow the club on Facebook at facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists



COURTESY PHOTO

Nancy Grose of the Lakeshore Optimist Club and Dr. Paul Thomas, founder of Plum Health.

GILDA:

Continued from page 4B

ing ensure Gilda's Club is financially strong as it continues to show that the community is stronger than cancer.

Doors open to guests at 6 p.m. for music, a strolling dinner and drinks. A program — featuring inspirational speakers, honors, an auction and a paddle raise — begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by an afterglow, featuring music and dessert, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Food vendors include Alpino Detroit, Brine Oyster House, Downtown Charlie's, Kristina's Catering, Sedona Taphouse, Victual & Vine and Whiskey

Taco Foxtrot.

Dessert vendors include Cookies by Design, Culinary Combo Bakery, Le Detroit Macaron and Sweet Bree's Bakeshop.

Benefactor tickets are \$500 each and include a VIP reception before the event, as well as printed program and collateral recognition. Patron tickets are \$250 each and include printed program and collateral recognition. General admission is \$150 each.

All levels include food, music and the program.

For more information, or to purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.gildasclubdetroit.org/Support-Our-Work/GildasBigNightOut

Celebrate sustainability with the Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo is leading the charge for sustainability with its GreenFest and E-Recycling events, both taking place Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21.

These events serve as a beacon of environmental stewardship, inspiring action and fostering a culture of eco-consciousness within the community.

GreenFest, presented by Consumers Energy, takes place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days and features an immersive experience with live music, green food trucks, an eco-friendly marketplace, hands-on activities and encounters with the animals who call the zoo

home.

GreenFest is free with zoo admission and free for members. As a bonus, the first 250 groups on each event date will receive a two-gallon bucket of Zoo Poo compost.

"Consumers Energy is thrilled to partner with the Detroit Zoo and share our mission to protect the planet," said Tonya Berry, Consumers Energy senior vice president. "We're excited to present GreenFest and give the next generation the tools and inspiration to do their part."

See ZOO, page 6B

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230-1302

Masses

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

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



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

April 14 ~ The Third Sunday of Easter
The Earth is Full of the Mercy of God

Sunday Worship at 10 am
followed by Coffee Hour in the parish hall

20475 Sunningdale Park
Grosse Pointe Woods
313.884.4820
stmichaelsgpw.org

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

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

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

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

Grosse Pointe
Congregational
Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday
at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

6B | FEATURES

Visit Ford House for free April 21, Community Appreciation Day

Ford House recently announced Community Appreciation Day, an event dedicated to celebrating the vibrant community that surrounds the historic estate. Sunday, April 21, Ford House invites its neighbors for a day of exploration, connection and fun with free admission.

Community Appreciation Day is Ford House's way of expressing gratitude to the indi-

viduals and families who make up the community. It's an opportunity for neighbors to come together, enjoy the beauty of the National Historic Landmark and forge new connections.

During this event, visitors can explore the Ford House grounds, take leisurely strolls through its picturesque gardens and immerse themselves in the rich history of the estate. Guests are invited



to visit The Shop to discover unique gifts, as well as explore the exhibitions in the Visitor Center. Current exhibits include "The Ford Family Story" and "Making It Work," a celebration of the staff who cared for the family and the home.

"We are delighted to invite our neighbors to Ford House for Community Appreciation Day," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "One of our core values is love. Eleanor Ford truly loved Detroit and its people and

this event is our way to express our love for our community. It is a celebration of the remarkable people that exist here and we look forward to welcoming our community for a day of exploration, connection and camaraderie."

Admission to Community Appreciation Day is free, but registration is recommended to ensure a seamless experience for all guests. Visitors can choose either a free House & Grounds Pass, which grants admission to the property and a self-



paced exploration of the grounds and gardens. Guests can visit fordhouse.org/communityappreciationday to register.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN OWEN

Wyatt McQueen, naturalist from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, observed the effects of the total solar eclipse on various species, including Duane the toad.

WOW:

Continued from page 3B

After the total eclipse was over I said goodbye to Wyatt; an elderly couple did the same. Wyatt said it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and the woman quickly stated it wasn't for her as she had seen the 2017 edition. Wyatt laughed and said he hopes she can see the next one. The woman replied with a big smile on her face and said she probably won't be alive. Her words stopped me in my tracks.

For her to say that reminded me just how special that eclipse was for everyone there. If

you're lucky, you might see one. She knew how lucky she was to see two of them. She graciously accepted the fact she may never see one again and said, "but I hope you get to see another one, Wyatt."

That rush of adrenaline lasted the entire four-hour car ride home and was stoked again several times while sharing the experience with my family and even writing this article. To reiterate what Neil DeGrasse Tyson says about a total eclipse versus a 99 percent eclipse, "If you're not in totality, you're not in totality."

If you ever have the opportunity to be in totality, I highly recommend you jump at it.

ZOO:

Continued from page 5B

Simultaneously, E-Recycling, presented by Suburban Subaru of Troy, takes place 9 a.m. to noon and offers an opportunity for the community to contribute to waste reduction efforts. This event takes place in the zoo's parking lot and is free for anyone to attend. Participants can responsibly dispose of electronic waste and, in return, receive one zoo admission ticket or two for large loads.

"The Detroit Zoo's E-Recycling events aim to provide a service to the community," said Andy McDowell, sustainability manager for the Detroit Zoological Society. "We want to help you recycle materials that can be diverted from the landfill. In turn, we can work together to create a more circular economy that benefits habitats and our homes."

For more information, visit detroitzoo.org/events



EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Deconstructed and Collaged Watercolor Workshop with Nancy Philo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

◆ Watercolor with Marilynn Thomas, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21.

◆ Experienced wood-block artists are invited to reuse their boards to make new art with Nobuko Yamasaki, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays, April 28 and May 5.

◆ Intermediate Watercolor with Paula

Fiebich, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, May 1 to 29.

◆ Life Drawing with Anne Garavaglia, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, May 1 to 29.

◆ Color Theory with Tracey Ladd, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, May 6.

◆ White Line Prints: A Workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Registration deadline is April 24.

Ford House

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

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

◆ Bird Walk, 7:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 13 and 27. Cost is \$8 for mem-

bers, \$10 for nonmembers.

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

◆ Explorers Earth Day, for ages 6 to 10, 11 a.m. Saturday, April 20. Cost is \$7 per child.

◆ Coffee with Collections, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, April 25 and Dec. 5, for members only.

◆ Native Plant Talk, 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ Bird Walk, 7 a.m. Friday through Sunday, May 3 to 5. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Explorers Bird Walk, for ages 6 to 10, 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4. Cost is \$7 per child.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, The Shores Church, 24905 Manhattan, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, Jefferson Masonic Lodge, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m., Thursday, April 18, St. Basil Church, 22851 Lexington, Eastpointe.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, April 19, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, April 19, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, Holy Innocents Church, 26000 Ridgemont, Roseville.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Theatre member Bob Montgomery speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For informa-

tion on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Growing Gourmets Kids' Cooking Class: Sushi and Miso Soup, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27, for children in second through sixth grade. Deadline to register is Friday, April 19.

◆ Nourish & Savor Cooking Class with Chef Bommarito: Streetside Fajitas, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Deadline to register is Friday, April 19.

Ceramic sale

A pop-up ceramics sale, featuring the pottery of local Grosse Pointe artists, takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at 1405 Buckingham, Grosse Pointe Park. The one-day event includes a live working ceramic studio, live demonstrations, snacks and beverages.

LIFE & LEISURE



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Third annual 'A Taste of Soup & Art' is April 17

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Full Circle Foundation's Purple in the Pointes initiative is well underway.

Purple porch lights, tree ribbons, pins and other props are celebrating throughout the month people with special needs.

To further highlight the effort — bringing the community together to acknowledge and honor people who have unique challenges — Full Circle is hosting its third annual "A Taste of Soup & Art" event from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"Soup & Art is an event we're hosting for Full Circle," event chair Jill Campbell said. "We want to include the community and teach them about our special needs population. Soup & Art is very family friendly and has an affordable price point. And it's a way for everyone to come together and support individuals in Grosse Pointe who have special needs."

As the name says, Soup & Art will feature soups from 10 local restaurants. Ticket holders will be treated to samples of each.

"There are a number of restaurants who are going to be providing five gallons of soup

each," said Patty Sunisloe, a member of the Full Circle board and Purple in the Pointes chair. "They'll vote on which they like the best, so there will be a winner at the end of the night."

A panel of judges also will vote for their favorite soup and announce a winner.

A variety of soups will be provided by Cabbage Patch Saloon, Country Club of Detroit, Dragon Meade, Gathering Pointe, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Lunchbox Deli, SideStreet Diner, The War Memorial, Village Grille and Mack Avenue Diner.

To show her own personal support, Sunisloe will be making a batch

of purple cauliflower soup as well.

While guests sip their soups, they are free to stroll through the room, which will feature the artwork of several Full Circle participants.

"Full Circle students have been working on art," Campbell said. "Some of them have been painting through a new program we've started. We hired an art therapist to help them express themselves. Some will be selling jewelry they've made, too. People can look and see what they've created."

In addition, guests will be invited to participate in tin can and 50/50 raffles. They'll also be treated to a performance

by the Full Circle choir, decked out in their newly acquired purple choir robes.

"Realtor Beline Obeid purchased those choir robes," Sunisloe said, noting the choir will be fresh off an April 14 performance at her church, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church. "The robes are purple because they'll be singing at churches in April for Purple in the Pointes. They feel real official now because they're not in T-shirts anymore, but in actual choir robes."

Soup & Art tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and \$50 for Souper Star supporters. Souper Stars receive a ceramic soup bowl and

spoon for their donation.

"There are people with special needs in the community and they are not often seen and heard," Campbell said. "They have a lot to offer, a lot of special talents. They might not be in your family, but maybe they're your neighbor or friend. Most of us have someone in our lives with special needs. This is a great way to get involved — a chance to embrace and educate, which is what Purple in the Pointes is all about."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit fullcircledfn.org/soup-art or call (313) 469-6660.

Stratford Festival 2024: A world elsewhere

This year's Stratford Festival explores "A World Elsewhere" through a dozen scintillating productions and 200 special events. Visitors will be transported to Illyria, Verona, London, Saint-Tropez and even Neverland in such plays as "Twelfth Night," "Romeo and Juliet," "Wendy and Peter Pan" and the musicals "Something Rotten!" and "La Cage aux Folles."

"To go to the theater is to go on a journey: to enter an imagined world, resembling our own or fantastically different from it, where we can see anew and gain fresh perspectives on our lives," Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino said. "For this season's productions, I have brought together extraordinary artists who

will offer journeys from which you will return invigorated, full of hope

and joy and eager to embark on your next great adventure."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED BELTON
Vanessa Sears performs in "Romeo and Juliet" in this season's Stratford Festival lineup.

This season, Detroit's Sam White, founding artistic and executive director of Shakespeare in Detroit, returns to Stratford to direct one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays, "Romeo and Juliet."

White had her Stratford directorial debut last season with a production of "Alice Childress's Wedding Band."

White's production of Romeo and Juliet — the

famous tale of star-crossed lovers — runs Monday, May 6, to Saturday, Oct. 26.

"I'm over the moon to direct 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Stratford Festival this year," White said. "It was one of the first plays I read as a kid when my mom introduced me to Shakespeare at 8 years old. Shakespeare became a passport to worlds beyond my city block and I feel so honored to share the gift that was given to me this season with an exuberant, vibrant pro-

duction that leans into the romance of not only lovers but music, art, fashion and friendship. I hope my fellow Michiganders will join me, just a car ride away, for a production that will fill your hearts and remind us all that there is still beauty in the world."

Michigan visitors make up the greatest portion of American theatergoers in Stratford, which attracts tens of thousands year after year.

For a full season schedule or to purchase tickets, visit stratfordfestival.ca.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHACE WAKEFIELD

From left, John Moran, Chace Wakefield, Dallas Kitchen and Will Conway, at a previous golf outing.

Dallas Kitchen outing June 3

Though it may not feel like it some days this April, golf season has arrived.

On this first day of The Masters, the Grosse Pointe Lions Club announces its annual Dallas Kitchen Golf outing, which will take place Monday, June 3, at Sycamore Hills Golf Club.

The four-person scramble starts at noon. Highlights include lunch, raffles, an open bar, door prizes and a steak dinner — all for \$150 per person.

Dallas Kitchen is a longstanding Grosse Pointe Lions Club member who truly represents the "We Serve" motto. A recipient of the prestigious Melvin

Jones Award, among other accolades, he has dedicated countless hours helping the less fortunate and particularly those with vision issues and who are similarly disabled. Having lost two of his own children to cystic fibrosis, he understands and is committed to making the world a better place for those in need. To this day, Dallas continues to be the inspirational leader of the club.

For more information or to buy tickets, visit gplionsgolf2024.eventbrite.com/ or contact Chace Wakefield at (313) 549-2401 or chacewakefield@yahoo.com

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY



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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Reclaiming your patio by clearing an overgrown garden paradise



Dear Gabby: My outdoor patio is the pits. I don't even know where to start and everything seems so expensive. Is there something I'm not considering? It seems like everyone around town has the nicest backyards.

— Overgrown in the Woods

Dear Overgrown,

As you probably know, we have some fantastic landscape companies in town. However, sometimes a plan and some sweat equity can go a long way.

First, you need to decide what needs to be weeded, removed, power washed, raked, mulched and so on.

If it's something you can tackle over the course of a few days or weeks, write down the tasks at hand and cross them off as you go (is there anything more satisfying?)

If you feel you are unable to do this your-

self, consider posting an "in search of" notice on the local mom swap pages or asking a young neighbor if they'd like to make a few bucks helping you out.

If you need tools, remember that our amazing libraries have a ton of them and you can check them out like a book.

When that portion of the job is complete, visit a local garden store or peruse images online for what you love, what matches the sunlight you have in the yard and what level of maintenance it takes vs. what you are willing to do.

Pro tip: If you love flowers but hate watering, be sure you have a sprinkler system or purchase a drip irrigation kit. Pay a visit to your local home and garden store or amazon.com.

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

Respecting boundaries and bridging gaps

DEAR ANNIE: We have neighbors who reside in a cul-de-sac that is at the rear of our property. Our property is located on a U-shaped half-mile neighborhood, which is ideal for walking.

Over time, these neighbors have chosen to repeatedly cut through our property on an almost daily basis to facilitate their walking routine. It's gotten to the point where these neighbors act as if they are "entitled" to treat our



property as a public gateway from their neighborhood to ours.

I would note that there was a time when we had friendly interactions with these neighbors; but today, they cut through our property and avoid any acknowledgement of us, even when we are outside doing work on our property.

Please give us direction as to how we can politely convey that our property is not a public walkway. — NOT A CUT THROUGH



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR NOT A CUT THROUGH: The real issue here is that they are not asking for your permission to walk on your property. Besides being rude, there is always the possibility that if they are on your property and something happens to them, you could be held liable.

The best way to stop

them from walking on your property is to ask them politely not to walk through.

You could also do some gardening and plant some nice spring flowers and say you don't want them messed up with foot traffic.

Had they asked in the

See ANNIE, page 3C

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I've never seen the point of investing in great luggage. I had the same carry-on suitcase for years and it was great.

Originally, I borrowed said carry-on suitcase from my dear friend, Angela, and never returned it. I claimed it for years and used it as my own (sorry, Angela!) and then the zipper broke. I apologized to my friend, who just accepted at this

point that the suitcase was a goner, and then realized I should probably buy my own suitcase.

I had a birthday coming up and knew I would ask my family for a new carry-on suitcase. I avoid checking bags at all costs, so if I can't pack it in a carry-on bag, I'm most likely not going. I did some research online, scrolled TikTok for the latest and greatest products and

landed on some solid options.

There are a few travel brands that have become popular across the depths of the internet. The first brand is Away and the second is Beis.

The products and branding for both of these companies are similar. So similar, in fact, that there are dozens of YouTube videos comparing the carry-on suitcases and

checked bags from each of these companies to help customers figure out which product to buy.

After watching way too much YouTube for my own good, I chose the Away Carry-On for a few reasons.

It's stylish. The Away suitcases come in a variety of colors. I was able to get my suitcase in light pink with my initials on it so it's easy to spot in any

airport. It is sleek, minimal and appeals to anyone who is looking for a modern and sophisticated luggage option.



It's durable. The Away Original Carry-On is constructed from a thick polycarbonate shell, which makes it resistant to cracks and scratches. This ensures it can withstand the rigors of travel, including being tossed around by baggage handlers.

It has an incredibly smart design. The Away Carry-On bag is thoughtfully designed with compression straps and multiple compartments, allowing for efficient packing and organization. It has 360-degree spinner

wheels as well, which provide effortless maneuverability through crowded airports and busy streets. It's so easy and fun to use.

Finally, it has a great warranty. Away offers a lifetime warranty on its suitcases and customer support is known for being responsive and super helpful, providing assistance in case of any issues with its products.

I have been thoroughly impressed with my Away suitcase so far and would definitely recommend this item to anyone and everyone. I love all of its products and would repurchase this bag any day. I am giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators because it is just that awesome.

Away luggage can be found at awaytravel.com.

We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.

5 Out Of 5



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Parcells Middle School - 20600 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe Woods

Lunchtime

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I've been wanting to make this dish for some time now. It was well worth the wait. This salad was made popular by Wolfgang Puck and just screams satisfaction at lunchtime.

I made a few tweaks to the recipe but the result was fantastic. Crunchy vegetables and fresh herbs are added to thinly sliced Napa cabbage.

You can add diced cucumbers and shredded carrots to give it an extra boost.

The mint and cilantro pair perfectly with this. It's fresh and can sit in the fridge for a few days when you need a go-to lunch for the week.

It's savory and a bit

sweet and the crunch from the cabbage and sunflower seeds just hit every wonderful note.

Don't walk, run to this one. Oh, and I made mine with rotisserie chicken.

Cheers, Mombeau

Mandarin Crunch Salad

2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken

1 small Napa cabbage, sliced thinly

(about 3-4 cups)

4 chopped scallions

¼ cup chopped mint

¼ cup chopped cilantro

2 cans mandarin oranges

¼ cup sunflower seeds

1 pkg of crumbled, dry ramen noodles

Dressing

¼ cup soy sauce

2 tbsp honey

1 tbsp Sriracha

¼ cup rice wine vinegar

1 tbsp fresh ginger

Juice of 1 lime

2 tbsp sesame oil

Whisk or shake all dressing ingredients



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

together. I love to use an old glass mustard container. Drain the

oranges and add all other salad items to a large bowl.

Toss with the dressing and sit and freak out because it's that good.

Buying from the internet

Most people buy wine conventionally: They go to a supermarket or a package store and peruse the shelves, lifting bottles, looking at labels, seeing what's new and then making a choice.

Some people are a lot faster at it: They just walk to a shelf, grab a wine with a brand they know and head for the checkout counter.

Increasingly, however, we are seeing buyers sitting at the computer, searching websites that sell wine. The lure is The Bargain that everyone seems excited about—though once other factors enter the picture (taxes and shipping costs among them), there may not be much of a saving.

Moreover, the people

who do most of the internet shopping for wine are those seeking expensive wines at discounts that are deeper than they can get at their local vinous emporia—such as a \$70 bottle that a deep-discount wine shop has for \$49.99.

If you wanted six bottles, you could save roughly \$120, which should make up for shipping costs.

It could get even better. Assume you are looking for a case of 2005 Chateau Lynch-Bages, and your local store has the wine for \$300 a bottle. But an internet search shows that this wine is available from a distant shop for just \$245 a bottle. Buying from the net saves \$660, less the ship-

ping cost.

Then, you may ask, why isn't this being done more than it is?

There are several answers, many of which are complex and include this: It is being done a lot, and savvy buyers are the beneficiaries.

But there are wine collectors who have declined to save money since they're never sure what shape the wines they order will be in.

Buying wine from internet sources calls for a thorough analysis, and some of the research may result in a wake-up call.

Some examples of the issues buyers face:

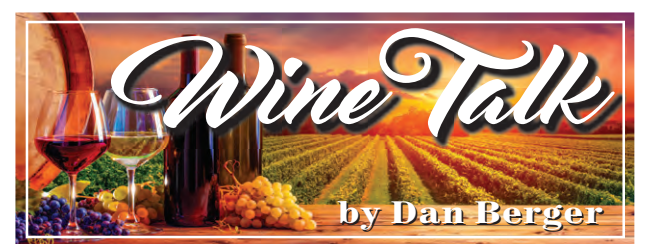
Provenance: How was the wine stored in the remote shipper from which you are buying?

In your local store, you can pick up the bottle and see if the cork has moved in or out of the bottle, indicating temperature variation, or whether the bottle has leaked a bit. You can't do this with an internet buy.

Also, if the store you buy from has fluorescent lighting and the bottles are clear glass and were exposed to that light, the wine might have been affected. (Case purchases are safe; there's no threat of light damage.)

Moreover, shipping wine great distances is tricky, especially in hot weather. The wine could be harmed by days in a truck. (Air freight is best, but it's a lot more expensive.)

The correct wine: If you order a wine, can you be absolutely certain it's exactly the wine you want? There



are a number of wines from France with the name Bel Air (or Belair or Bel-Air). What if the wine that arrives isn't what you wanted?

The right vintage: It doesn't happen often, but I have occasionally gotten the wrong vintage when I have ordered via the net.

Do you know the wine? One good strategy before you buy more from a distant purveyor is to go to your local shop, buy a bottle and try it to see if you like it. Someone else's recommendation might not suit your palate.

There are other issues that can make ordering wine from distant locations tricky. I have had a lot of wine shipped to me

from as far away as Australia and rarely had problems.

Embarking on such a strategy takes careful planning.

Wine of the Week:

2021 Bonny Doon Le Cigare Volant, Central Coast (\$18) — What a delightful find this is! It is a light red wine made in the style of a Cotes du Rhone with 65 percent grenache. It is medium-bodied, has excellent fruit and is best served slightly chilled.

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

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With an estimated 11 percent of the population buying wine online, e-commerce revenues in the U.S. wine industry more than doubled in recent years, increasing from a mere \$1.4 billion U.S. in 2017 to some \$3.5 billion in 2023.

DEAR ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

first place, you probably would have been neighborly, but their sense of entitlement makes you not want to. If they ignore your requests, then you should consult an attorney.

DEAR ANNIE: I am a grandma, mammaw and granny to six amazing grandchildren. Two of my three sons have these children. My sons are constantly ignoring me. They treat me like I do

not exist.

I raised them by myself after their father tragically passed away. I did my best to give them a great life. They all mean the world to me. I just need a little advice from you on how to find a way to see my grandchildren. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. — HEARTBROKEN MAMMAW

DEAR MAMMAW: Be patient and continue to reach out to your sons and find out what their needs are. Do they need help with the kids, or are

there sporting events you could attend? Tell your sons how much you desire a relationship with your grandchildren. Grandparents can be a very positive influence on grandchildren's lives, but the parents have to allow it. Grandparents tend to be more patient and have a little more life experience than parents who are with their children every day.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARTIMAGE ENTERTAINMENT AND AUGUST POINT PRODUCTIONS

Sinqua Walls as John Colter, dealing with his demons from the 2022 film "Mending the Line," directed by Joshua Caldwell.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Mending the Line"
2022 - Rated R
2 hr 2 min
★★★★☆

Reading the description of this film, you could easily write it off as a superficial "Hallmark" drama. However, several factors make this a special movie going experience. "Mending the Line" deals with military veter-

ans recovering from PTSD by participating in a therapeutic experience like fly-fishing.

It features the superb filmmaking of director Joshua Caldwell, who's an avid fisherman. Stephan Camelio, a regular contributor to "Field and Stream" magazine, wrote it. Additionally, the superb cast helps elevate the film above other similarly themed movies.

Sinqua Walls ("White Men Can't Jump") stars as John Colter, a young officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Brian Cox plays his usual role as a grizzly old recluse, which he does here to perfection. And rounding out the leads is Native American actor Wes Studi, known for memorable performances in films like "The Last of the Mohicans," "Dances with Wolves," and the recent "A Love Song."

The film opens with Colter hanging out with his fellow soldiers on duty in Afghanistan. Their spirits are high because their tour of duty is almost over, and they're about to be shipped back home.

One of the men is soon to be married and they're all looking forward to

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



attending the big event.

In spite of this, Colter accepts one last mission, even though their replacements could handle the task. As expected, their venture doesn't go well, and all his men are killed in battle except Colter.

This tragic event triggers his long road to recovery.

Colter ends up at the V.A. hospital in Livingston, Mont. There he undergoes both physical and mental rehabilitation. He seems to be rock solid and well on his way to recovery. However, the flashbacks of his horrific experiences, and the remorse for the loss of his men take their toll on him.

We witness him lashing out during a group therapy session and at Dr. Burke (Patricia Heaton), who's in charge of him. It soon becomes apparent that his desire to return to active duty isn't going to be fulfilled anytime soon.

At Dr. Burke's suggestion, Colter meets with Ike Fletcher. Ike is a Vietnam veteran and a recovering alcoholic who lives by himself. He's a grumpy loner and it's apparent that his life is devoted to fly-fishing — his form of therapy.

Colter has been hitting the bottle heavily and when he shows up at Fletcher's home, he's met with, "You've been drinking," and a door slamming in his face.

Eventually, Ike agrees to take him under his wing, but not before he does some reading up on the sport of fishing, and

apprenticing at the local fishing shop, owned by Harrison (Studi). Harrison is a gregarious, funny guy who plays off Ike's grumpy personality nicely.

To fulfill his reading assignment, he pays a visit to the town library. There he meets Lucy (Perry Mattfeld) who recommends he read Hemmingway's "The Sun Also Rises." After the couple realizes why it's probably not the best choice of reading material, she offers him a stack of more appropriate books on the subject.

John and Lucy strike up a casual friendship, and it's eventually revealed that she has some demons of her own.

Eventually, Ike takes John out on the river to introduce him to the finer points of fly-fishing. Ike has been warned not to fish on his own, due to fainting spells brought on by PTSD. So it makes perfect sense for the two of them to spend time outdoors together.

John quickly masters the fine art of angling — he seems a natural.

I must say, the cinematography, not only of the scenery, but especially the close-ups of netting the fish are stunning. You get the sense you're right there fishing with them.

When John asks Ike why he releases the fish, he's told it's his way of choosing not to kill. A subtle but poignant sentiment.

Unlike my two brothers, I'm not into fishing. But after seeing this marvelous film, I could see

myself fly-fishing on some secluded stretch of river up north. Just watching the fishing scenes had a meditative and calming effect on me. If you enjoy this movie and would like to see more like it, I highly recommend Robert Redford's magnificent "A River Runs Through It," and the entertaining "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen."

Note to parents: Although the film is rated "R" due to language and combat scenes, I'd probably rate it "PG-13."

Currently streaming on Netflix. And to rent on Prime Video.

About this column:

My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition.

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

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

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

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

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



Brian Cox as Ike Fletcher, fly-fishing.



John Colter (Walls) in group therapy.



Ike (Cox) instructing Colter (Walls).



Dr. Burke played by Patricia Heaton.



Left, Lucy (Perry Mattfeld) reading to an appreciative vet.



Left, Harrison (Studi) and Colter (Walls) hanging at the shop.



Colter (Walls) working a beautiful Montana stream.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. EDT today (3 a.m. to 6 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Taurus into Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 11, 2024:

You are warmhearted. You're an optimist with excellent people skills who is good at problem-solving and mediating with others. This is a year of exciting change! Stay flexible so you can explore new avenues, which might give you increased personal freedom this year. Travel is likely.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Your efforts to do anything, which might include trying to persuade others to do something, will be successful today, because you will speak with confidence in a convincing style. It's the perfect day to finish old business or to contact colleagues and experts from your past. Tonight: Conversations!

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

You'll have no trouble convincing people in authority to listen to you today. You will be persuasive -- no question. This is also an excellent day to tackle big ideas, big projects and behind-the-scenes business that is bubbling on the back burner. You might see ways to improve things. Tonight: Many ideas.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with big daddy Pluto, which heightens your intentions and makes you almost obsessive about achieving your goals. You will be intense. And you will get results! Tonight: Socialize!

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Today you have a quiet determination about wanting to achieve something. Fortunately, with the Sun at the top of your chart, you look good to everyone. In fact, parents, bosses and people you haven't seen in a while might help you. (Take everything you can get.) Tonight: Privacy.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Travel for pleasure or a chance to do something different that will enrich your life or make things more exciting is what you want today. Because of this, you might end up in an intense conversation with a friend or a member of a group. Tread carefully. Tonight: Friendships.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. In fact, some people seem to know personal details about your private life. In discussions about how to share something, you'll get your way. Tonight: You're admired.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Admit it. Today you want to shake things up a little. Of course, travel would be ideal, even a short trip. This might allow you to talk to people who are different, who can bring something interesting to the table. Meanwhile, romance is unusually passionate. Tonight: Explore!

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a productive day for you. If you have to jockey for your share of something, if you need an extension or increase to your budget, or if you need more equipment, you will likely get it. You

can argue in a convincing way for your best interests. Tonight: Check your finances.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Expect an intense conversation with a partner or close friend today, mainly because each party wants to get their own way. This is why compromise or some kind of a consensus will be difficult, especially because the vibes are a bit obsessive today. Naturally, this will promote compulsive behavior in everyone. Tonight: Cooperation.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might have ambitious ideas today about how to improve your health or perhaps how to improve your job. Home repairs and redecorating projects are also still on the menu. Do what you can to introduce reforms and improvements around you. Tonight: Work romance?

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Romance will be intense today. Actually, this is a poor day for important romantic discussions because people won't be flexible. Likewise, parents will find that dealings with their kids will also be challenging. Therefore, lighten up! Tonight: Socialize!

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Family discussions will be intense today because somebody (perhaps everyone) wants their own way. Quite likely, finances and expenditures are an important topic. Keep in mind that with fiery Mars in your sign, you might be coming on like gangbusters. Tonight: Entertain.

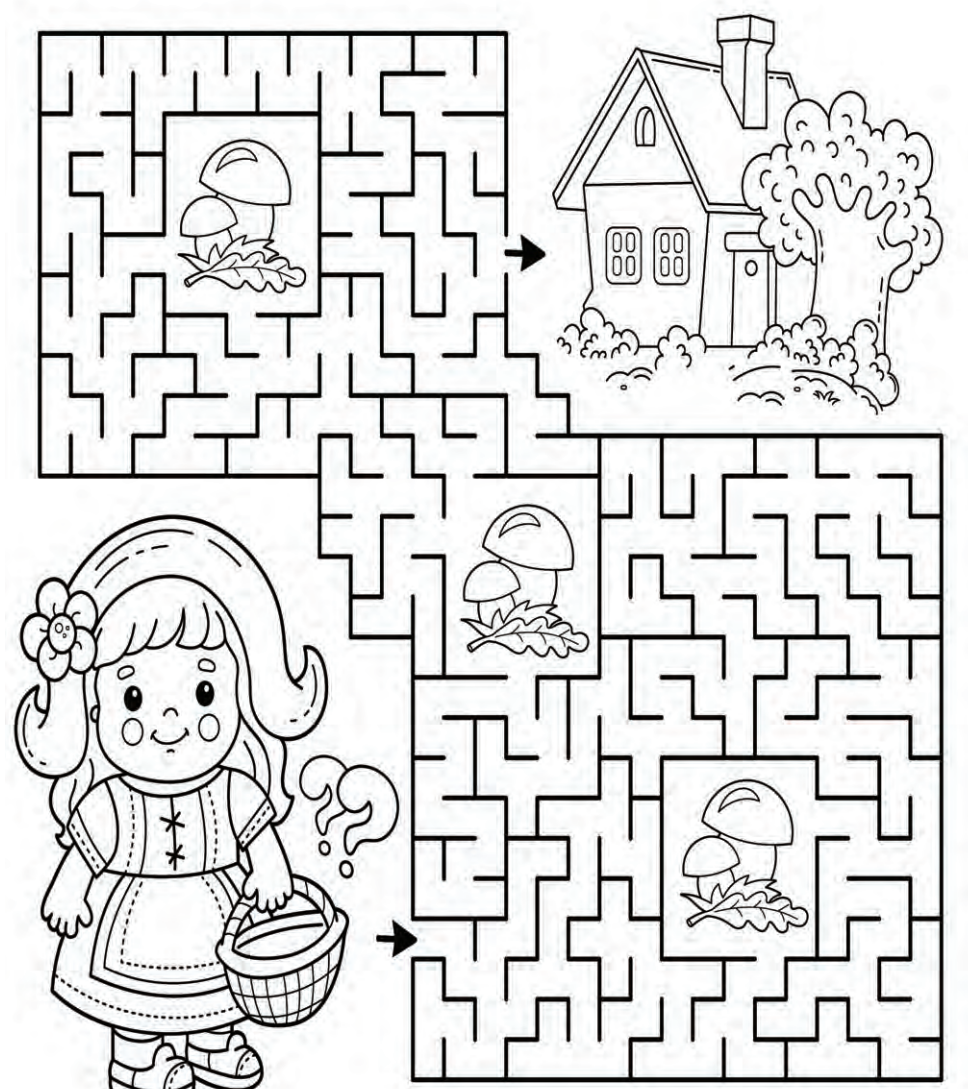
BORN TODAY

Actress Jennifer Esposito (1973), actress Tricia Helfer (1974), TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson (1960).

Find 10 Differences



Go through the Maze, collecting all the Mushrooms.



Contract Bridge

HASTE MAKES WASTE

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ K 8 3
- ♥ Q 9 5 4
- ♦ J 10 7
- ♣ 6 5 2

WEST

- ♠ 7 4 2
- ♥ K 10 7 3
- ♦ A K 5 2
- ♣ 10 9

EAST

- ♠ 9 6
- ♥ J 8 6
- ♦ Q 8 6 4
- ♣ J 8 7 3

SOUTH

- ♠ A Q J 10 5
- ♥ A 2
- ♦ 9 3
- ♣ A K Q 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Before playing to the first trick, declarer should take the time to identify all of his assets. Failure to do so might easily cost declarer a contract that could have been made.

Consider this simple case from a team contest. At both tables, South got to four spades and both Wests led the K-A and another diamond. Both declarers ruffed and had to decide how to proceed.

At one table, South drew trump and

cashied the A-K-Q of clubs, hoping for a 3-3 division in the suit. When West showed out on the third round, declarer could not avoid losing a club and a heart and so went down one.

The trouble with South's approach was that he played the hand as if dummy did not have the queen of hearts. That card, which offered a 50% chance of taking a trick, was never put to any use, and it wound up withering on the vine. The declarer at the other table, a much more introspective type, did not make the same mistake. After ruffing the third diamond, he cashied the A-Q of spades, then played the ace and another heart.

West could do no better than take the king and shift to the ten of clubs, but South was now in full control. He won, crossed to the king of spades and discarded the four of clubs on the heart queen to finish with 10 tricks.

The second declarer gave himself two chances instead of just one to get home safely. He kept the 36% chance of a 3-3 club division in reserve while exploring the 50% chance of West's holding the king of hearts, giving him a combined chance of about 68% to make the contract. This was a significant improvement over South's effort at the first table, and it paid an appropriate dividend.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"How big does a stone hafta grow before it becomes a rock?"

Garfield

Jim Davis



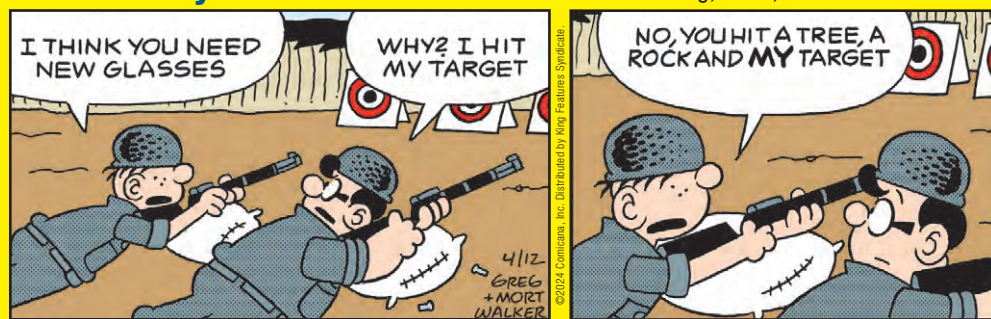
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



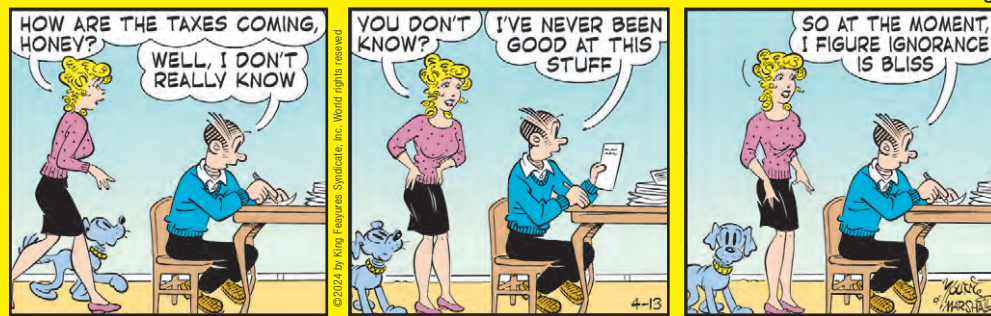
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



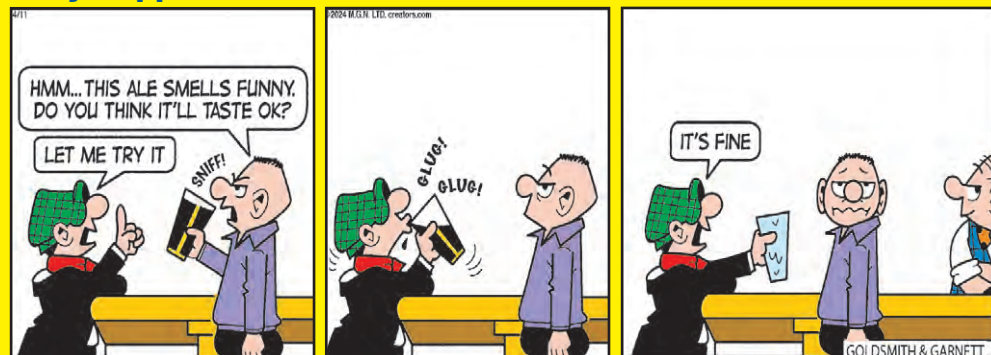
Over The Hedge

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

4/11 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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4/4 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 11, 2024

ACROSS

- 1 Adhesive used with wrapping paper
- 5 Quick haircut
- 9 Center of activity
- 12 Frog sounds
- 14 Car with a four-ring logo
- 15 "Eureka!"
- 16 Without vegetation
- 17 Crowd doing a sudden performance
- 19 Location
- 20 Poker stake
- 22 Like lox, but not locks
- 23 One with excellent powers of deduction?
- 25 Small branch
- 27 "Dancing Queen" singer, 2018
- 28 Relative of bedhead
- 32 Toyed with, as a cat would
- 35 Get together
- 37 Liu who played a Ken
- 38 Russian river
- 39 Split up
- 40 "You're not wrong"
- 41 Took a tumble
- 42 High-fat diet
- 43 Quick inhalations
- 44 Forges a signature, maybe
- 46 Hot box?
- 48 Hawaiian goose

- 49 Not too often
- 52 Some spring flowers
- 55 Becomes compost
- 57 Songwriter
- 59 Green flecks on a tart pie
- 61 Porch _____ (package thief)
- 63 Imitate
- 64 Dressing ingredient whose last letter stands for "oil"
- 65 "Do I ever!"
- 66 Writing implement
- 67 Reasonable
- 68 Russian ruler, formerly

DOWN

- 1 Characteristic
- 2 Blood line?
- 3 Better than all the rest
- 4 Apt rhyme for "squeak"
- 5 Only president to be a Supreme Court justice
- 6 Be in charge
- 7 Investigative journalist
- 8 Square peg in a round hole
- 9 Scene stealers
- 10 "Yipes!"
- 11 Newborn
- 12 "The Price Is Right" network
- 13 Drum kit component

- 18 What perfectionists have, or the tops of 3-, 6- and 21-Down?
- 21 "Cheers" character played by George
- 24 Degree after an M.A.
- 26 Unit of power
- 29 Put on _____ (act superior)
- 30 "No need to wake me!"
- 31 Wants to forget, maybe
- 32 Magic dragon of kid's music
- 33 Neighborhood
- 34 Stroll
- 36 Have a meal
- 39 Comparable (to)

- 43 Mousse alternative
- 45 Grabs
- 47 Scooter whose name is Italian for "wasp"
- 50 Poker variety, or a Nebraska city
- 51 Power structure?
- 52 Give a round of applause
- 53 Like a yellow banana
- 54 Foreboding sign
- 56 Central Plains people
- 58 Use a needle and thread
- 60 Actress Noblezada or Longoria
- 62 QB's error

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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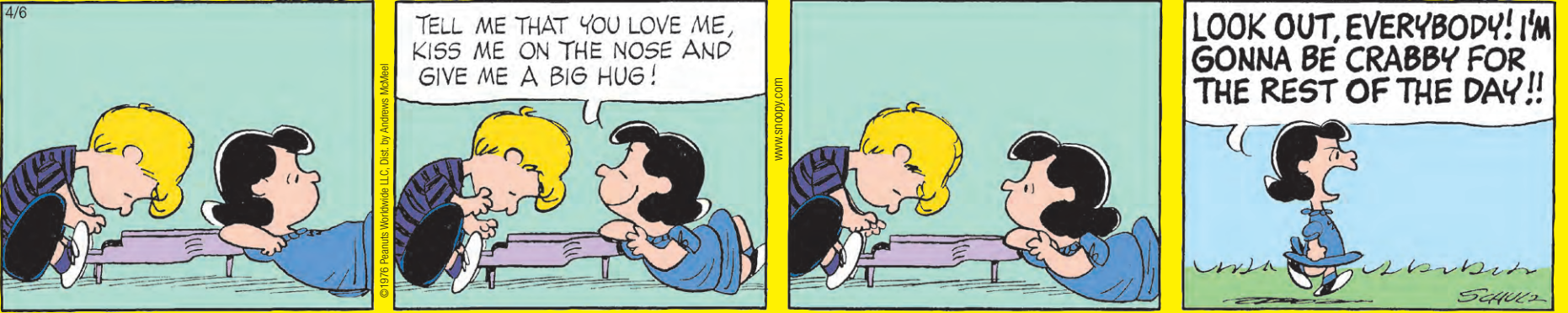
Above Average by Rebecca Goldstein

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		

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



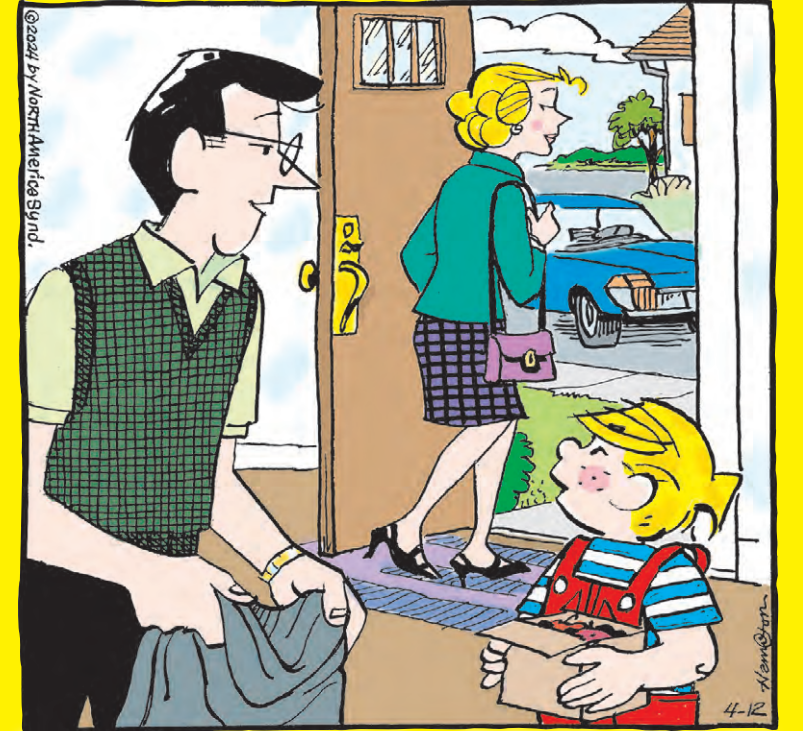
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



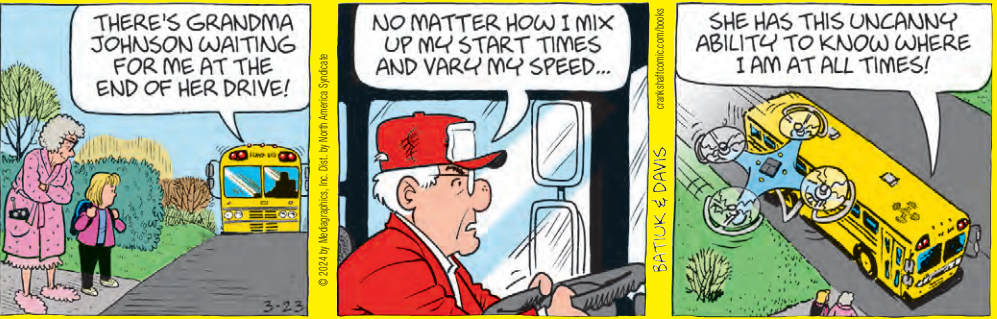
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



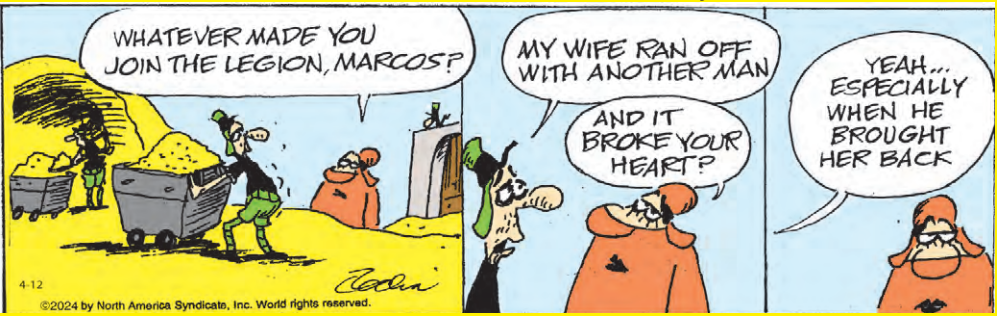
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



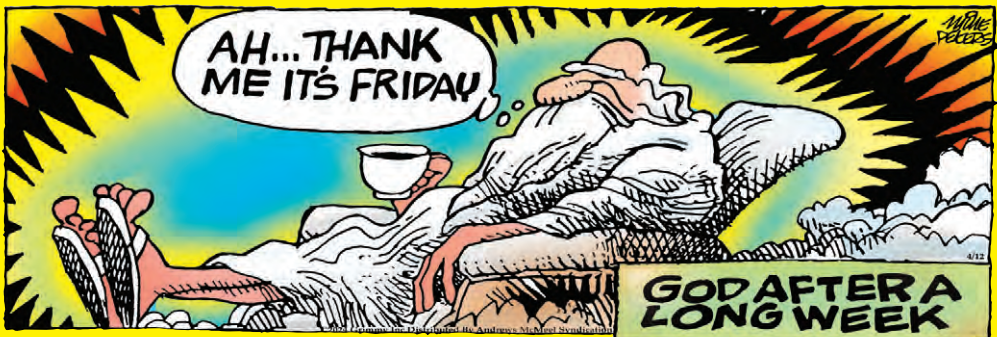
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



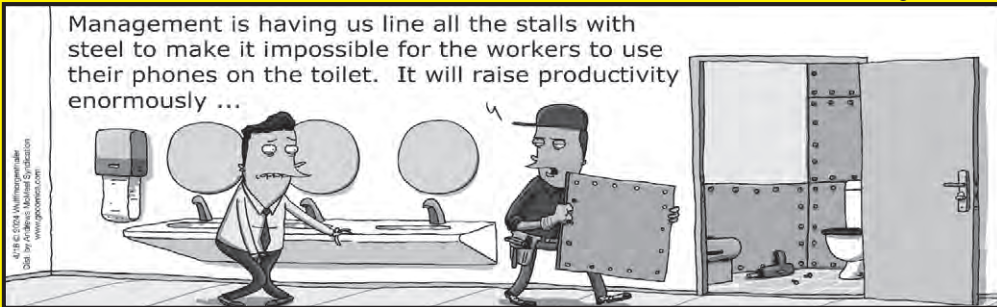
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



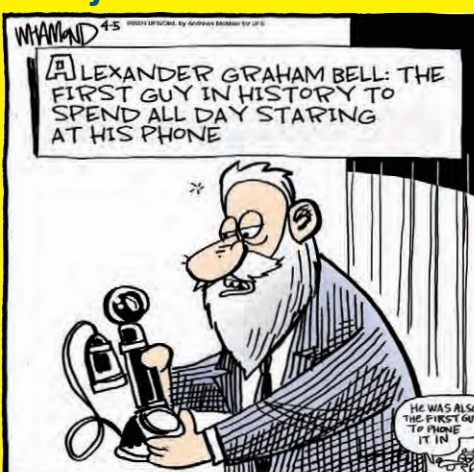
Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



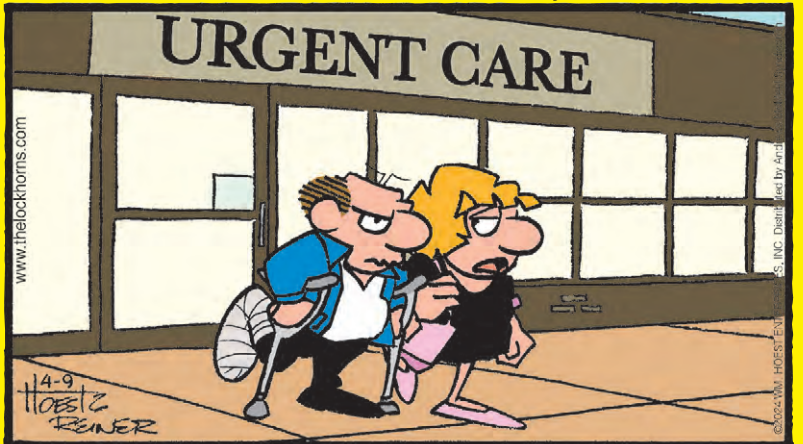
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



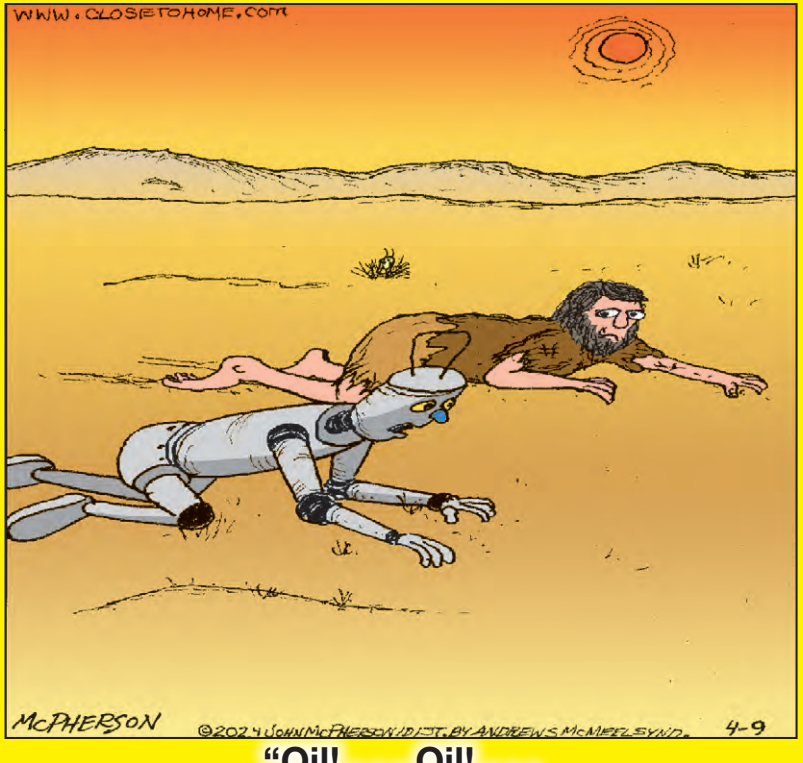
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



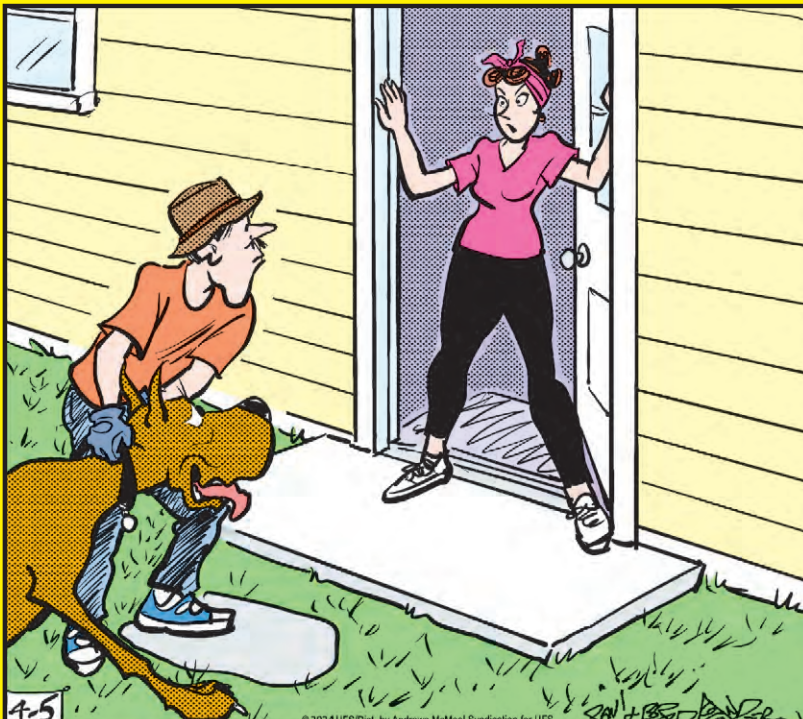
Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

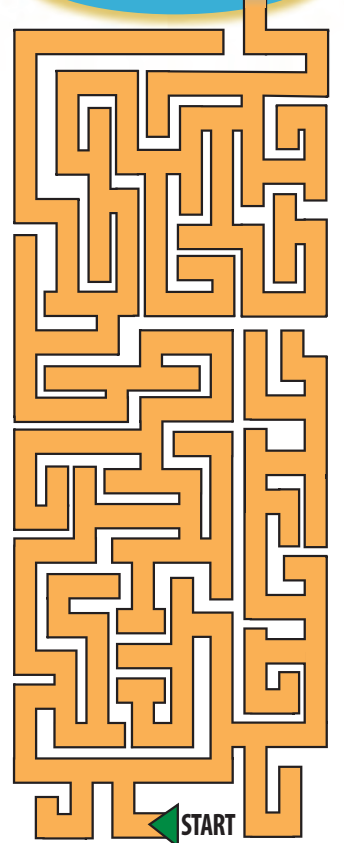
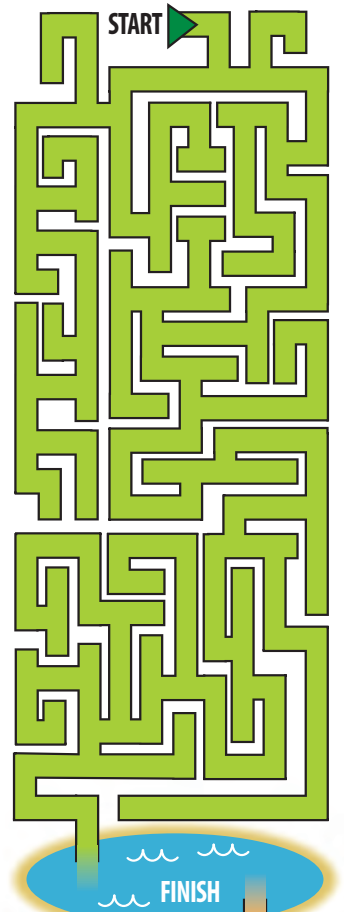
Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Kid Scoop Together

Water Maze

Race against a family member to see who can reach the water first.



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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **WELL**

The noun **well** means a hole dug in the ground to reach water below the surface.

I used a bucket on a rope to pull up water from the **well** at my aunt's farm.

Try to use the word **well** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Clean Water for the World

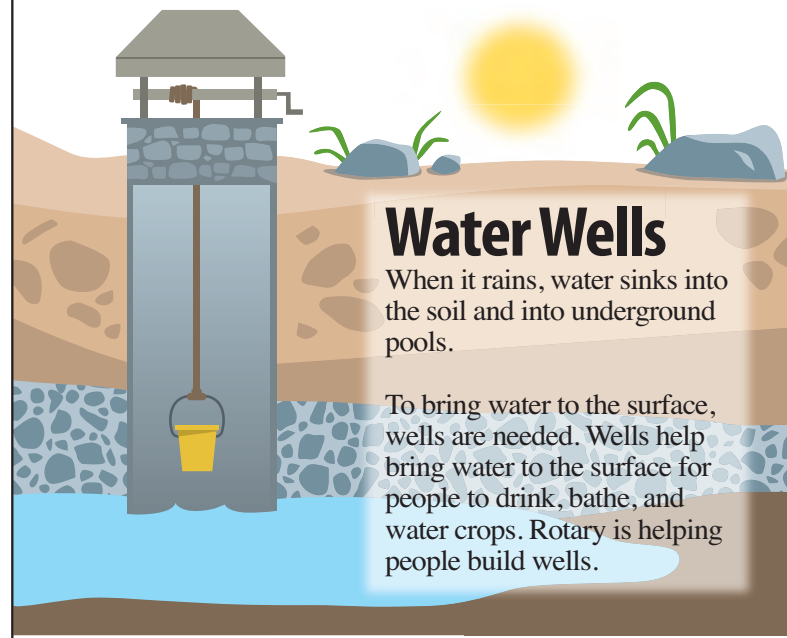
Replace the missing words.

SHORTAGES CLEAR HEAVY FIND DRINK

Clean, _____ drinking water is something every person needs. Clean water keeps our bodies and homes clean. In parts of the world, people struggle to _____ clean water to keep their families healthy.

Droughts (long periods of time with very little rain) cause water _____. In some places, people must walk several miles a day carrying _____ containers to bring water home. Often this water is dirty and unhealthy to _____.

Only 3% of the water on Earth is drinkable, fresh water. The rest is mostly ocean water and glaciers.



Water Wells

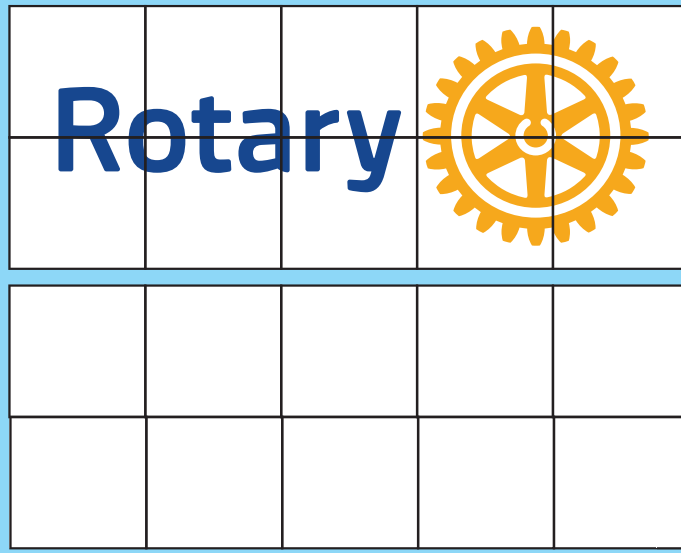
When it rains, water sinks into the soil and into underground pools.

To bring water to the surface, wells are needed. Wells help bring water to the surface for people to drink, bathe, and water crops. Rotary is helping people build wells.

Rotary to the Rescue

Rotary International is an organization with 1.4 million members around the world. Rotary members, called Rotarians, volunteer their time and raise money to help solve many problems in the world. And one of the biggest problems in the world is the need for clean drinking water.

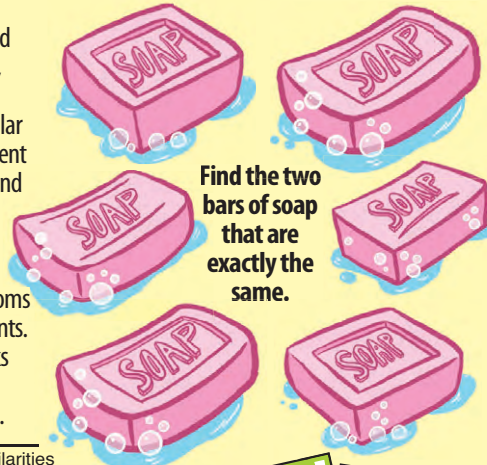
In the lower grid, draw what you see in each space on the upper grid to draw the Rotary logo.



Clean Hands Prevent Disease

When clean water and soap are available, people don't get sick as often. That's because regular hand-washing helps prevent germs from hanging around to cause trouble.

In some places, schools don't have enough restrooms and clean water for students. Rotary International works hard to build restrooms in schools in many countries.



Find the two bars of soap that are exactly the same.

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Extra! Extra!

Clean Water Poster

Look through the newspaper for photos of things that require clean water. Look for photos of people, fruits and vegetables, animals, etc. Cut them out and paste them on a large sheet of paper to create a poster. Write "CLEAN WATER MAKES A BETTER WORLD" at the top of your poster.

Standards Link: Life Science: Illustrate the importance of water in humans, agriculture, and wildlife.

Bubbles Take Away Troubles

Washing your hands with warm soap and water several times a day helps keep you healthy. Sing the "Happy Birthday" song as you wet your hands with warm water, lather them with soap, and rinse the soap away. Be sure to dry them completely.



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



Standards Link: Health: Understand the importance of regular hand-washing to prevent illness.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Dry Desert Danger

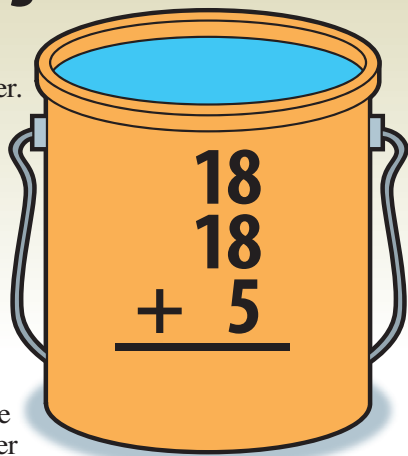
This is a five-gallon pail. Do the math to see how much it weighs when filled with water.

5 gallons of water weighs _____ pounds!

Can you lift this much? Do you weigh more or less than this bucket of water?

Children in some dry desert areas must spend a lot of time helping carry buckets of water home for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. It's not at all easy, especially under the hot desert sun.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences below 100.



Double Double Word Search

- BATHE
- BUILD
- CLEAN
- DRY
- HEALTHY
- HELP
- HOME
- PAIL
- POOLS
- RAIN
- ROTARY
- SOAP
- WATER
- WELLS
- WET

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Community Heroes

Rotarians are community heroes. Look through the newspaper for stories about people in your community who are helping others. Make a list of the kinds of problems they are helping solve. Share the list with a family member.

Standards Link: Write to express an opinion.



How do shellfish get to the hospital?

ANSWER: In a dam-balance!

Write On!

Kids Care About the Earth

What are ways you and your friends take care of our planet?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.

Your Neighborhood

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Sweet victory! South's Griesbaum earns 900th career win

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Dan Griesbaum Sr. entered his 41st season as head coach of Grosse Pointe South's varsity baseball team knowing another career milestone was just two wins away — and his latest roster ensured he reached it just two games into the 2024 season, giving him his 900th career win in an 11-1 mercy at home over St. Clair High school Thursday, April 4.

"Obviously, I wish it would have happened at the end of last year, but, you know, that didn't occur," Griesbaum said of those two additional wins that would have advanced last year's team into the state championship game.

Instead, his 900th win with the Blue Devils came in the first week of the new season. His players marked the moment by giving their head coach an ice cold post-game Gatorade shower before coming together for a team picture.

The celebration came courtesy of South orchestrating a nearly perfect performance against the Saints.

South jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning, only to add six more runs to their lead in the bottom of the third. Steady pitching from starter Adam Czarnik and lefty reliever Hayden Vinyard kept the Blue



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South head varsity baseball coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. gets doused with a celebratory Gatorade shower after capturing his 900th career win last Thursday.

Devils in control throughout the game.

The Saints scored an unearned run in the top of the second to avoid the shutout. Czarnik surrendered only two hits over three innings and had three strikeouts. Vinyard tossed two innings of shutout ball, and gave up two hits, while striking out two batters and walking one.

Joey Michelotti, Jake Koziel and Henry Domzalski each had two hits on the day.

The Blue Devils are 4-1 on the young season, winning 15-5 over Fraser to open the regular season Tuesday, April 2. South went on to give Griesbaum win Nos. 901 and 902 over the weekend, sweeping Roseville

at home in a double header. South took Game 1 with a 5-0 shutout win, and beat the Panthers 12-3 in Game 2.

The Blue Devils four-game win streak came to a halt Monday, April 8, when they hosted Brother Rice. The Warriors senior-heavy lineup, loaded with Division I college commits, overpowered South 14-2 in a five inning mercy.

Immediately following win No. 900 last Thursday, Griesbaum soaked in the moment, but stressed South's program is about more than just personal achievements. He expressed gratitude for the community's support, and emphasized how the focus is not solely on

wins but on player development, playing a tough schedule and doing things the right way with all homegrown players.

Griesbaum noted that not shying away from a tough schedule year after year has also landed him in the loss column. He estimates he has nearly 500 or so, but said he has no regrets for how he runs his program, especially carrying larger rosters and giving more opportunities for playing time than other programs might.

He also was quick to share his success with his litany of players over four decades and his longtime assistant coaches.

See 900, page 2D

GP's new Stanley cup

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Hockey teams have duked it out for Lord Stanley's cup since 1892, making it the oldest trophy in North American professional sports.

But starting next fall, boys varsity hockey teams from Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School will compete for their own version of the trophy, made from a historical Stanley product from World War II when the teams face off in an inaugural rivalry game Wednesday, Nov. 27, at East Side Hockey Arena.

Coined The War Memorial Classic, South will be the first host of the new series, The new War Memorial Classic trophy, which is set to take place the Wednesday before Thanksgiving on high school hockey's rivalry

night.

While the teams already have enough fire in their bellies when they face off against each other, next season will provide extra motivation to fuel them, thanks to the brainchild of South head coach Alan Korolewicz.

Korolewicz designed the new trophy from a military jug produced by the Stanley Company between the mid-1920s to late 1930s, inspired by a donation from The War



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The War Memorial Classic trophy is believed to have been a jug used by the U.S. military to haul and store water for troops. It was donated to The War Memorial as a World War II artifact sometime in the mid-1930s.

See TROPHY, page 2D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

North's Babcock savoring final seasons

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Natalie Babcock has been a mainstay on the softball diamond and



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Babcock is one of North softball's senior captains this spring season.

basketball court at Grosse Pointe North for the past four years. Now, as a senior, Babcock is making the most of every moment in her final games as a Norseman.

Babcock's final high school hoops season wrapped up in March when North's girls basketball team was eliminated in the regional round of the playoffs. However, Babcock still sees her final season on the hardwood as a success, as it resulted in a MAC tournament championship, another district championship and her

surpassing the 1,000 career points mark.

"It was definitely a great last season and I'm thankful for it," Babcock said. "We all loved each other so much and it was a great group to be around. Obviously, it was sad when it was over but we made so many great memories this year."

Now, for the last time in her high school career, Babcock has switched her basketball sneakers for softball cleats. She once again is taking her post as captain of the infield, starting at short-

stop for the Norsemen.

Along with being the hypothetical captain of the infield, Babcock is one of North's official team captains this season. She received the honor of captain alongside fellow senior Addie Molitor, as the two look to be the leaders both on and off the field that North is looking for to lead the team to success.

"Being able to take a step up in leadership has been really good," Babcock said. "We've been here for a while and we know what's expected of us and to be able to help out some of the younger players with that has been really

nice." Last spring, the Norsemen had one of their most successful softball seasons in decades. The team won both district and regional championships and came up just one game shy of making it to the Division 1 final four in East Lansing.

While plenty has See ATHLETE, page 4D

Grosse Pointe News



Natalie Babcock

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Softball

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2D | SPORTS

Norsemen and Knights search for early wins as baseball season begins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Baseball season finally returned to Grosse Pointe last week with teams taking the diamond to begin the new spring campaign. Both Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School started their seasons last



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North pitcher Brady Beers makes a look over to first base against Brother Rice last Thursday, April 4.

week in search of early wins to get the momentum rolling.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen's opening game of the season against Romeo on Wednesday, April 3, was a close one. Tied 7-7 in the seventh inning, North emerged with an 8-7 win on a bases-loaded, walk-off walk. With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, North's Brady Beers drew a walk that brought Rocco Cardinale home from third base to score the winning run.

Along with those heroics from Beers, Shane Armbruster had the biggest day at the plate for North. The senior had two hits and four RBI for the Norsemen in the season-opening win. Senior first baseman Bobby Rhodes had two RBI as well.

North had its biggest early-season test on Thursday, April 4, when it hosted Brother Rice. The Norsemen ended up being no match for the Warriors, as Brother Rice left Grosse Pointe Woods with a 14-4 win. Senior Brennan Hill had the lone RBI for North in the loss.

To end the first week of the new season, North hosted Saline on Friday, April 5. North had four different players, Charlie Rocho, Caleb Butler,

Max Praet and Brandon Keyes, all bring in runs with their bats. However, the Norsemen still dropped a second consecutive game, falling to the Hornets 8-4.

North traveled to Henry Ford II on Tuesday, April 9, after press time for its first road game of the season. The Norsemen also hosted Lakeview on Wednesday, April 10, also after press time. The team takes on Dakota on the road on at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

University Liggett
The Knights' season began last Friday, April 5, with a doubleheader against No. 5-ranked North Branch. Liggett would end up splitting the pair of games, the first two games for the program under new head coach Jay Ricci.

Game 1 of the doubleheader was a 9-5 loss for Liggett. The Knights went down early 1-0 in the top of the first inning but would rally in the bottom half of the inning to take a 4-1 lead, thanks in large part to a three-run double by Zach Hill. However, that would be the only large offensive explosion that Liggett would see in that game, scoring just one more run in the fourth inning when Preston Barr scored on a passed ball.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett varsity baseball coach Jay Ricci, coaching his first game at the helm of the Knights last Friday, April 5, has a conference at the mound with pitcher Jackson Fetter and catcher Cam Veitengruber.

The Knights bounced back in Game 2 of the doubleheader. A first-inning RBI by Andrew Stalker gave Liggett an early lead. North Branch tied the game 1-1 in the third inning before the Knights broke out in the bottom of the fourth. Andrew Johnson put the Knights back in front with an RBI single that was then shortly followed by a two-run double by Hill that helped Liggett eventually go on to secure its first win of the new season 4-1.

Liggett hosted another home doubleheader on Monday, April 8, against Ann Arbor Greenhills. This time, the Knights were able to sweep both games, winning 9-3 and 11-1.

Stalker and Barr showed off the power in their bats during Game 1 of the doubleheader with a pair of home runs. Stalker also helped lead the team with two RBI, and Javion Gray brought in a pair of runs as well.

The Knights' bats were even more explosive in

Game 2 on Monday. Hill and Gary Stacy each had a pair of RBI as Liggett built a big lead. In the fourth inning, catcher Ben Wehrmann helped to cap things off with a three-run blast to left field.

Liggett visited Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Wednesday, April 10, after press time. The Knights host St. Mary's for a doubleheader in Grosse Pointe Woods on Saturday, April 13, with the first game beginning at 1 p.m.

TROPHY:

Continued from page 1D

1950s.
"I was very happy to get The War Memorial involved in what we are hoping will be an annual event," Kololewicz said. "Since South and Liggett both have long hockey histories, it was important to get a place with historical and cultural significance to our area involved. This trophy will now serve a new purpose for our two schools and the community."

The winning team will earn a plaque each season, which will be attached to the trophy with the team roster. The winning team also will display the trophy at their school until the following year's rivalry game.

The trophy also includes another plaque describing its origins that reads:

"This U.S. Military Stanley Field Water Jug is generously donated by the historic Grosse Pointe War Memorial.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

This 1950s hood ornament, an American eagle, was bolted on top of the trophy.

As it once served our brave soldiers during World War II, let it now serve our community in the spirit of competition

and victory."
Korolewicz said once he had the jug refurbished, he felt it needed something additional on top. He found a 1950s hood ornament on eBay, an eagle, which is now bolted to the top of the trophy.

For the last three seasons, the Blue Devils and Knights only played in a scrimmage, not an official game, to raise money for the Connelly family, whose two young boys died in a house fire on Fisher Road in October 2019. Korolewicz and Liggett's head coach Colin Smith pushed for it to become a regular season game and now have an event with even more special meaning and significance.

"The annual game against Liggett is very



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South's boys varsity hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz, left, and Liggett boys varsity hockey head coach Colin Smith hold up the new War Memorial Classic rivalry trophy.

important to the players and coaches from both schools," Korolewicz said. "It's an event that they already looked forward to every year, but

now brings on even greater significance given the trophy and its new date being rivalry night.

"We hope this lays the

foundation for a tradition which carries on for decades to come."

Renee Landuyt contributed to this report.

900:

Continued from page 1D

"I've been blessed to be here. As I said...I didn't do any hitting, I didn't do any fielding. It's (because of) great kids over the years and great assistants, and it's all about the kids. I've just been fortunate to be able to be here for 900 wins."

Assistant coaches, Matt Reno, John Hackett and son Dan Griesbaum Jr., have been by the

head coach's side for most of those victories.

"Nobody has three assistants who have been around for (a total of) 76 years as I have," he said.

The best news of the day may have come when Griesbaum confirmed he is willing to give a genuine run at reaching 1,000 wins, a special benchmark also earned by his friend and former Grosse Pointe North varsity baseball coach Frank Sumner.

"I hope so," Griesbaum responded when asked if he had 100 more wins in him.

"One year at a time.

"...Maybe it could be a thousand or more (wins) but that's not what it's about," he said. "It's cliché but it's not about me. It's about the program and the kids and the community and so on."

South played Anchor Bay at home Tuesday after press time, and will host Marysville at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

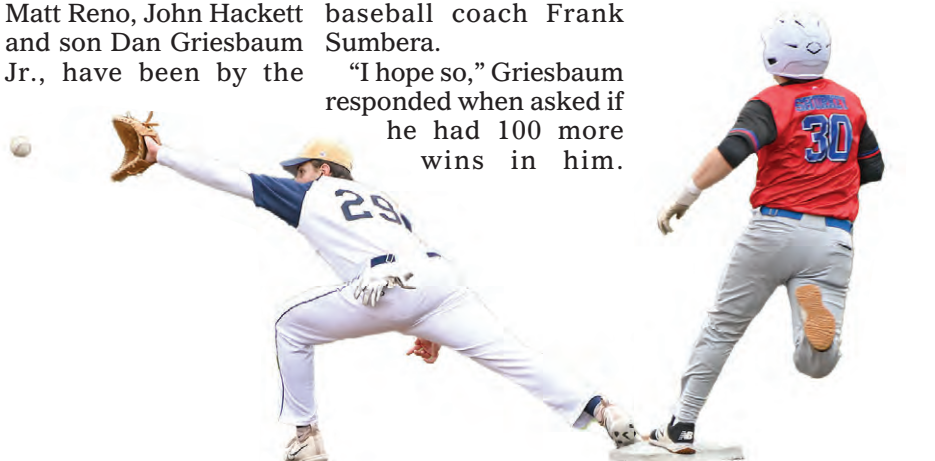


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

A Saints batter legs out a run to first, despite Steven Zimec's long stretch.

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Blue Devils get out to hot start, Norsemen stumble in first week of softball season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

High school softball season began last week in Grosse Pointe and all around Michigan. Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North began their seasons looking for early spring success. The Blue Devils had an outstanding opening week with some big wins thanks in large part to terrific pitching performances. The Norsemen will look to put the season's first few games behind them and move on.

Grosse Pointe South

South could not have asked for a much better first week to begin the softball season. The Blue Devils played five games during the opening week and won all five, including three shutout victories.

The Blue Devils opened the season last Wednesday, April 3, with a home game against Detroit Western. South won in dominant fashion, needing just three innings to seal a 19-0

win, highlighted by three perfect innings on the mound from junior pitcher Murphy Russell. Avery Harris and Avery Bellish led the offense with three RBI each in the opening victory.

South was back on the diamond the next day, April 4, to take on Dearborn Heights Annapolis. It was another blowout win for the Blue Devils, taking the game 15-0 in just three innings once again. It was another day of dominant pitching for South too, with sophomore Viviana Ostrowski allowing just one hit in three shutout innings.

"Our pitching is going to be a real strength," South varsity softball head coach Bill Fleming said. "We had three different pitchers start our first five games and they all performed really well. ... We've been doing a really good job not giving up walks and when teams do hit the ball we've been playing really well defensively."

Friday, April 5, South went on the road for the

first time in the young season. Heading to Stevenson, the Blue Devils earned a lopsided victory again, taking down the Titans 10-0. Russell took the mound once again in the win, allowing four hits this time, but no runs. Luna Agosta and Addison Waller helped lead the offense with a pair of RBI each.

"I was most impressed with our game against Stevenson because obviously they're a larger school with a great softball program and we played really well on basically a winter day where it was snowing at the beginning of the game," Fleming said.

South returned home for a Saturday doubleheader against Royal Oak. Waller had three RBI in the first game, a 12-2 victory for the Blue Devils. Game two was the closest game of the season yet for South, but was still an 8-4 win. Waller, Bellish and Kate Dixon had two RBI each, leading the offense in that win.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Murphy Russell pitched three perfect innings in a dominant 19-0 win over Detroit Western.

The Blue Devils hosted Fraser Tuesday, April 9, after press time. They travel to Port Huron Northern Thursday, April 11, for a game starting at 4:30 p.m. South

found themselves stumbling out of the gate, dropping all four games during their opening week.

The first was a matchup with L'Anse Creuse North Wednesday, April 3, which was an 11-1 loss for the Norsemen. Sophomore Eva Borowski brought in North's lone run with an RBI in the loss.

The next day, North hosted the St. Clair Saints and fell 8-2. Boworski had another RBI in the loss while Addie Wakefield brought in the other run for the Norsemen.

Saturday, April 6, the Norsemen traveled to Livonia Franklin for a doubleheader. Both games were close contests, but both ultimately resulted in more losses for North. Wakefield had two more RBI in Game 1 of the doubleheader, a 9-7 loss, while Charlotte Julien had a pair as well.

North nearly captured its first win of the season in Game 2 of Saturday's doubleheader.

The game was tied 5-5 after seven innings and the Norsemen had an 8-6 lead going into the ninth inning. However, Franklin rallied back to win 9-8 in the bottom of the ninth. Wakefield once again led the

offense with three RBI in another loss.

North hosted Utica Tuesday, April 9, after press time and visited Regina Wednesday, April 10, also after press time. The Norsemen are home Saturday, April 13, hosting Algonac at 10 a.m.

University Liggett

The Knights began their season on Monday, April 8, hosting a doubleheader against Bishop Foley. The doubleheader meant two wins to begin the campaign, as Liggett emerged victorious 8-5 and 9-5.

Jasmine Maxwell shined in game one of the doubleheader bringing in five RBI with two home runs. Tori Nugent had a home run as well with two RBI to help lead the Knights to a season-opening win.

Maxwell had a pair of RBI in game two of the doubleheader also. Margaret Weiss brought in three runs with her bat as Liggett's offense had no trouble out of the gate to begin the spring.

Liggett hosted St. Catherine of Siena on Tuesday, April 9, after press time. The team travels to Notre Dame Academy on Thursday, April 11, for a game at 4 p.m.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Mackenzie Simon swings away at the plate during the Blue Devils' win over Detroit Western.

2024 Spring Sports Preview

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

The GP News sports staff spoke to head coaches from the Pointe's high school spring sports teams to get the inside scoop on what fans can expect from some of their favorite squads this season. This week, we have a preview for Grosse Pointe South's coed varsity sailing team:

Coed Varsity Sailing

HEAD COACH: **CHRISTINA NOLAND**
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 1st place in Michigan, 4th place in Great Lakes region for Coed Team Racing (3-boat format)

1st place in Michigan, 4th place in Great Lakes region, 19th at National Championship for Co-ed Fleet Racing (2-boat format)
2nd place in Great Lakes region for Keelboat Racing (1-boat format)
19th place at Girls National Championship

2024 season goals:

Qualify for national championships

Sailors to watch:

Key upperclassmen: Eric Brieden, Evelyn Young, Gavin Webster and Jack Riley

Up and coming

underclassmen:

Ana Kozak and Peter Horst

Team roster:

Henry Berschback, Eric Brieden, Bobby Cooper, Teddy Gmeiner, Ana Kozak, Elsa Leal, Evan McNanny, Vincent Maffesoli, Ryan Ridgeway, Jack Riley, Gavin Webster and Evelyn Young



COURTESY PHOTO

2024 Grosse Pointe South Coed Varsity Sailing Team

What fans can

expect/look forward to from the team this season:

South is hosting three key regattas this spring at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, according to South's head varsity sailing coach, Christina Noland. Anyone can watch for free from the Marine Activities Center (MAC) at the harbor entrance. Regattas will take place at GPYC April 12 and 13 (Team Racing Regional Qualifier), April 13 and 14 (Fleet Racing Regional Qualifier) and April 27 and 28 (Fleet Racing National Qualifier).

then hosts its first "round robin" weekend of the spring beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, with games against Westland John Glenn, West Bloomfield and Warren Woods-Tower.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen began the season last week with four games that they likely will look to put behind them quickly. The defending district and regional champions

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 1, 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 18, 2024 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on January 18, 2024 and the Board of Review meeting held on March 11, 2024.
- 2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 129626 through 129742 in the amount of \$637,994.58 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,080.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of April 2024. (3) . approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$13,294.34 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of and for IT support services for all departments.
- 2) to approve the Notice of Intent Resolution for the 2024 Capital Improvement Bond, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00 for the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, and further to direct the City Clerk to publish the notice in accordance with the requirements set forth by loan program.
- 3) to appoint Patrick McGow of the Miller Canfield firm as counsel for the potential issuance of bonds to finance the Lead Service Line Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00, and further authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents.
- To approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$92,456.70 with Insituform Technologies USA, LLC for the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by FCIPP project, #180-339.
- 4) To accept the lowest responsible bid submitted by Duke's Root Control, Inc. of Elgin, Illinois in the amount of \$94,010.00 for the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Investigation project.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

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4D | SPORTS

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

changed from last year's team, Babcock and the Norsemen still believe they have plenty of talent to get them back to where they were last year and beyond. For Babcock, last spring seemed to set a standard for North that she is determined to reach once again.

"The whole season is really just preparing us for playoffs," she said. "We want to go as far as we can and we know what it takes to get there so that's really what's motivating us."

However far the Norsemen make it in this year's postseason, it will not mean the end of Babcock's softball career. After finishing up her senior year, she will go on to play Division I college softball at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Babcock knows there is still plenty she wants to work on improving before heading to the college ranks. She already knows there are areas of her game that



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Teammates and coaches from North's varsity girls basketball team celebrate with Natalie Babcock after she surpassed 1,000 career points during her senior season.

have gotten better from last spring to now. All that is left is to continue to sharpen those up before she goes from being a Norseman to a Titan.

"I've really improved

my communication and leadership skills but also just my IQ when it comes to baserunning situations or fielding situations," Babcock said. "I kind of know what to do with the ball in certain

situations or if I'm running the bases I know where to go and can be more aggressive."

Many who know Babcock and have seen her play are confident that she is ready to com-

pete this year and beyond. For people like her coaches, they recognize that Babcock's skills and leadership abilities are going to help her have success in her senior high school season as well as at the Division I collegiate level.

"She started with us as a freshman and has never relinquished that position in four years," North softball head coach Ron Smith said. "She's outstanding in her play both at the plate and in the field and her range at shortstop is arguably one of the best in the state... From a leadership perspective, as a captain this year, she truly gets the title to go along with what she's been doing and that's being a leader on and off the field."



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

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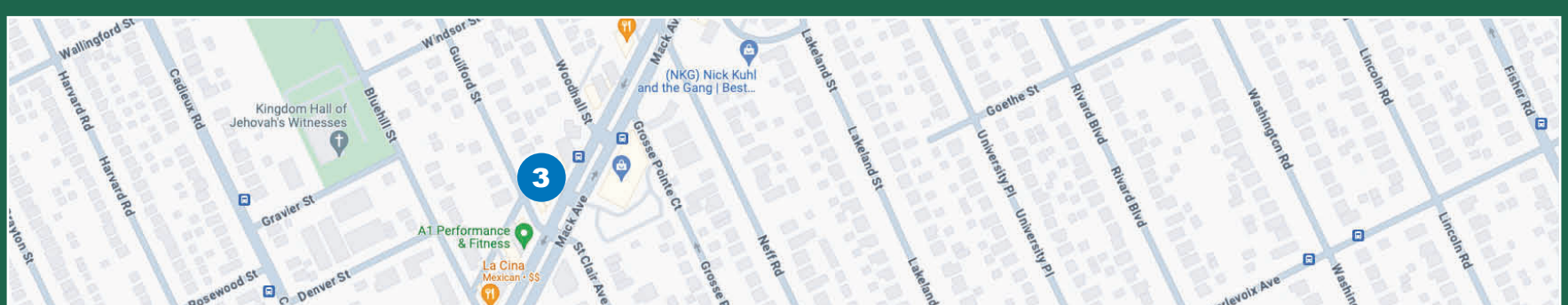
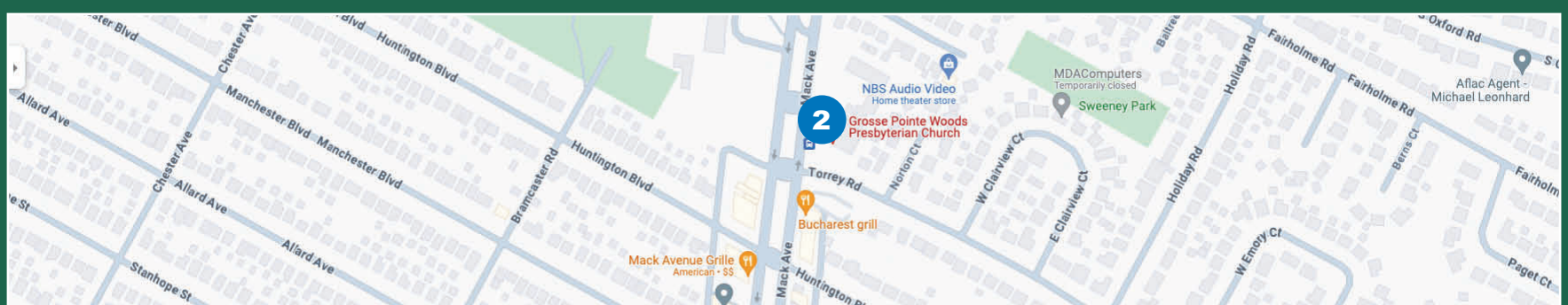
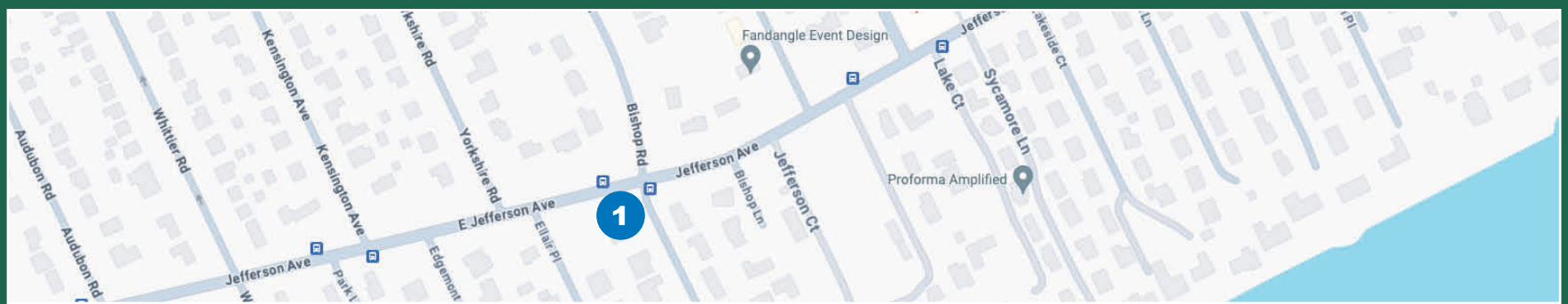
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See Classifieds for more details

6D | SPORTS

GPS girls track & field triumphs

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Though Mother Nature decided to keep the weather more winter-like the first week of April, Grosse Pointe South girls track and field didn't let chilly temperatures prevent their hot start to the season, beginning with a quad meet win Thursday, April 4, in the team's 2024 season opener.

South placed first among four teams including Warren Mott, Algonac and University Liggett School. Several notable performances in field competition helped the Blue Devils seize the victory, highlighted by the 112-foot discus throw by junior Olivia Barba. Her teammate Malvina Lubanski placed second in the event with a throw of more than 82 feet.

South gained additional first-place points thanks to sophomore Evelyn Wodzisz clearing 7 feet, 6 inches in the pole vault, while teammate Morgan Duff leaped 16 feet, 1 inch to win the long jump.

On the track, South dominated the distance races with Savannah Spangler running to a first-place finish in the 1600, Morgan Deenik

winning the 3200 run and the 3200 relay team of Deenik, Spangler, Lorelei Carr and Calisse Budek taking another first place in 11:15. Freshman Morgan Costello added second-place points in the 800 run.

Liggett won two events on the track. The first came from Colette Peabody, who won the 200 meter dash in 28.47. The second came from Kelsey Beckett, who took first place in the 800 meter in 2:55.10.

South competed in the Livonia Franklin Patriot Relays Saturday, April 6, placing fourth out of nine teams.

"This was a very good first invitational for our team," said Blue Devils head coach Steve Zaranek. "Our goal was to use our depth to place in all events and we were successful in doing so. We are a very well-balanced team covering all 17 events with multiple, hard-working athletes."

The South shuttle hurdle relay team of Hannah Przybylski, Ella Hugh, Riley Burgess and Adelina Parikh placed first overall in 1:17.6. This race followed the second-place finish of the 4x1600 distance relay team of Spangler,

Deenik, Sarah Koval and Chloe Caulfield.

The Blue Devils sprinters had a good day as Anne Wayman, Molly Reynolds, Grace Campbell, Jaimison Diamond, Evie Wodzisz and Morgan Duff teamed up to medal in both the 400 and 800 sprint relays.

South received additional distance points from Rylee Piornack, Emily Przybylski and Carr.

In the field, both the pole vault and long jump teams of Duff, Diamond, Wodzisz, Wayman and Maya Walker took runner-up honors. South high jumpers Audrey Reynolds, Burgess and Catherine Pattie placed fourth, with throwers Malvina Lubanski, Kloie Roy, Samo Kamman and Katie Hamilton also medaling.

South traveled down Lakeshore to face rival Grosse Pointe North Wednesday after press time in the Norsemen's first meet of the season.

Liggett also hit the road Wednesday against Bishop Foley after press time. The Knights also will face North this week in a dual meet at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, on the Norsemen's home track.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH ATHLETICS

South's girls varsity track and field team medaled in all 17 events at the Patriot Relays April 6.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the week's bonus highlights from around the Pointes:

COLLEGE BASEBALL

2022 Grosse Pointe North alum Bryan Carney, now pitching for The University of Olivet, was selected as the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association's (MIAA) Baseball Pitcher of the Week March 18.

Carney earned the honor by throwing 115 pitches over eight innings to lead the Comets over 9-3 University of Hartford (Conn.) March 12, at the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He gave up one earned run on six hits and three walks.

Carney also struck out 15 batters, which is the most by an Olivet pitcher since 2003. The only run he allowed was scored on a wild pitch in the sixth inning.

During his freshman year, Carney was named Olivet's male Rookie of the Year winner among all men's athletic teams.



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North's Andrew Schaden winds up for a shot on goal in the Norsemen's 10-7 loss to St. Clair last Thursday, April 4.

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

The University Liggett boys lacrosse team started the new season off hot last week

with three wins in its first three games. The first was a 16-2 win against Ann Arbor Greenhills on Thursday, April 4, with four goals by Nick Gould and three from Luke Slanec.

Liggett was again victorious over St. Clair on Saturday, April 6. Slanec, Gould and Griffin Marchal all had three goals apiece in the 13-10 win. On Monday, April 8, Liggett won a low-scoring battle 6-4 against Anchor Bay, with Marchal scoring three goals once again.

South runners rock as Knights' Stefanides rolls

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South boys varsity track and field earned 113 points to take first place and overpower Warren Mott, University Liggett School and Algonac in its first big competition of the season Thursday, April 4, in a quad meet hosted by the Blue Devils.

Mott finished second with 92 points, Liggett took third with 40 points, while Algonac finished fourth with five points.

South had several first-place finishes in multiple events, including:

◆ Jet Miller, 1600 meter race, (5:05)

◆ Edmund Shall, 110 meter high hurdles, (16.20)

◆ Sean DeGrand, 300 meter hurdles, (43.88)

◆ Ethan Beard, pole vault, (9 feet)

◆ Conrad Squitieri, long jump, (19 feet 6 inches)

◆ Josh Sonnenberg, Tommy Caulfield, Tethyan McKenzie, Jack Martin, 4x800 relay, (9:06)

◆ Noah Hart, Ben Braithwaite, Evan Hathaway and Onction Zape, 4x200 relay, (1:38)

For Liggett, Marvin Hartfield took second in the 100 meter dash in 11.51 and second in the 200 meter dash in 24.14. Michael Darlington finished second in the 1600 meter race in 5:07.66. He took the top spot on the



PHOTO BY MARK SONNENBERG

It's a true family affair this season for boys and girls track and field at Grosse Pointe South, as freshman Leah Sonnenberg, left, competed in her first home meet last week while older brother Joshua Sonnenberg, right, warmed up for the boys team. Dad Mark Sonnenberg is head coach for the Blue Devils boys squad.

3200 meter in 11:24.97, beating out South's Sonnenberg, who finished second in 11:48.16.

Hartfield, Nicos Davis, James McCullough and Santino Cicarella set a personal record in the 4x100 relay, taking second place in 48.51.

In field competition, Liggett senior Jordan Stefanides won the shot put with a throw of 45 feet, 6 inches, setting a personal record. He set another personal record winning the discus with a throw of 124 feet.

The Blue Devils wrapped up the week by finishing ninth among 22 teams at the Lincoln

Indoor Classic Saturday, April 6. Shall took third place in the 300 meter hurdles, while Sean DeGrand placed fifth in the 60 meter high hurdles.

South traveled down Lakeshore to face rival Grosse Pointe North Wednesday after press time in the Norsemen's first meet of the season.

Liggett also competed on the road Wednesday against Bishop Foley after press time. The Knights also will face backyard rival North this week in a dual meet at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, on the Norsemen's home track.



PHOTO BY JIM DORIAN

COLLEGE SAILING

Several colleges clashed on the shores of Lake St. Clair last weekend when the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club hosted two collegiate sailing events this past weekend.

Universities from around the midwest raced under sunny skies, but cold and windy conditions, beginning with the first event Friday, April 5, in the MSCA Team Qualifier. University of Wisconsin took first place, followed by the University of Michigan and University of Notre Dame in second and third place respectively. The event involves team racing, which is a specific one-on-one race.

Conditions grew more moderate Saturday, April 6, for the MCS Open Fleet Race where Wisconsin grabbed the top spot again, followed by Northwestern University and U of M. This event will provide qualification for national competition later in the spring.

The races are considered Tier One races. The GPYC's new fleet and sailing center made for perfect conditions to begin the collegiate sailing season, according to Jim Morrow, president of the Youth Nautical Education Foundation, which sponsored the race. YNEF is a 501c3 organization of the GPYC that raises funds for youth sailing and nautical education. YNEF donated 20 new sailboats, which helped make a collegiate race like last weekend's event possible, Morrow said.

SAINTS HOCKEY

Saint Clair Shores U18 Tier II hockey team overcame a three-goal deficit and took the lead with just 36 seconds left in regulation to win the U.S.A. National Championship 4-3 over New York's Cheektowaga Warriors in Delmont, Penn., Sunday, April 7.

The Saints entered the third period of the championship down 3-1. Grosse Pointe Farms native Anderson Tigges tied things up with five minutes remaining in third period, then scored the game-winner with 36 seconds left.

The team lost its opening round game in the tournament, then rattled off five straight wins to capture the title. The Saints qualified for the national tournament by winning the state title last month.

In addition to Tigges, several Grosse Pointers contributed in the championship game, including Maksim Johns, a goalie from University Liggett, who stopped 38 of 41 shots. A.J. Zaccagni, a forward from De La Salle, added two assists. The team also includes Forward Brenden Polek and Defenseman Drew Brady, both from Grosse Pointe South.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, Grosse Pointers Anderson Tigges (forward), A.J. Zaccagni (forward), Maksim Johns (goalie), Brenden Polek (forward) and Drew Brady (defenseman) celebrate their national championship win last week with the Saint Clair Shores U18 Tier II hockey team.