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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 10, 34 PAGES  
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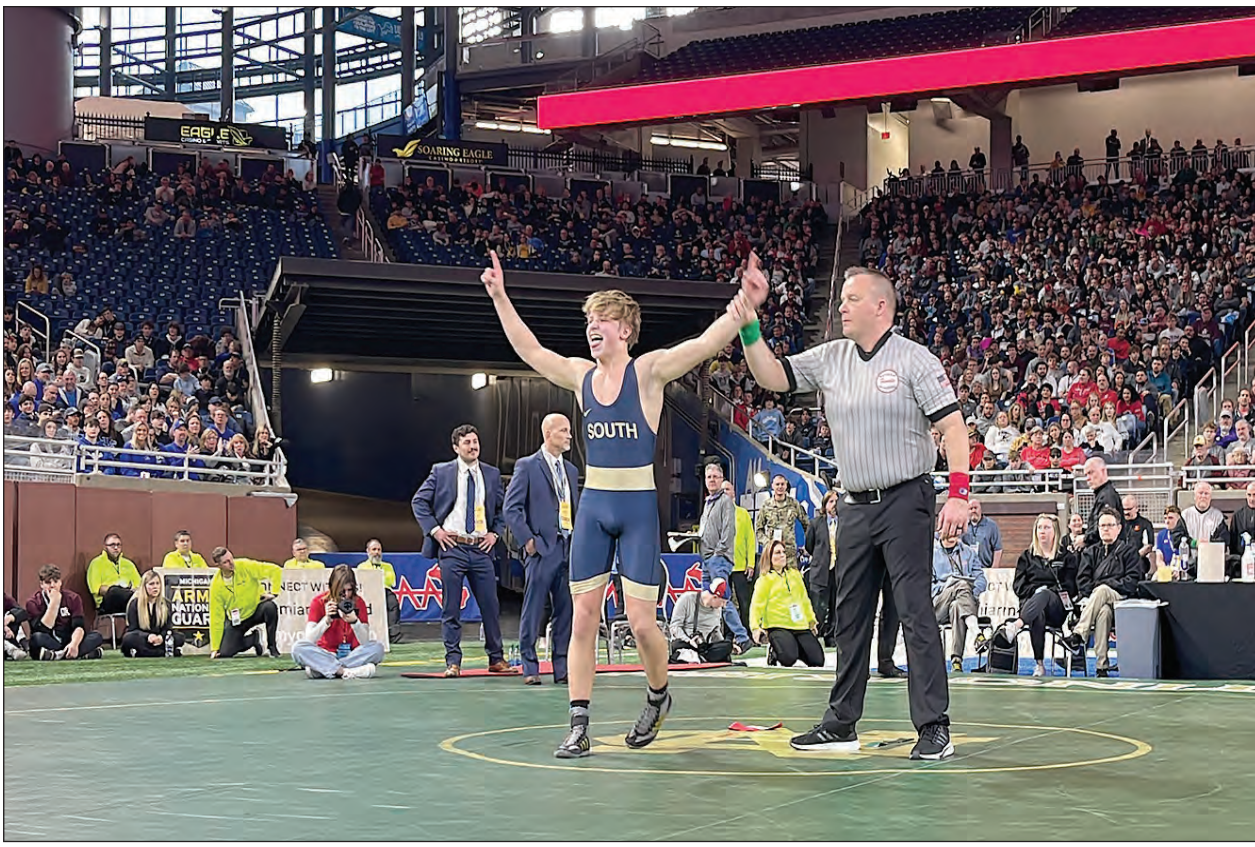


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

## State champ!

Wyatt Hepner gets his hand raised in victory after winning the Division 1, 138-pound wrestling state championship, becoming Grosse Pointe South's first wrestling champion in school history. Read more details on page 1D.

## HR complaints dominate BoE meeting

### FOIA request filed

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Discussion of human resources complaints against a trustee and the ensuing investigation were the focal point of a Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27, that saw two audience members nearly come to blows.

The issue first came to light at the board's meeting Tuesday, Feb. 6, when Trustee Valarie St. John said a sitting board member had made "racist and sexist comments and engaged in retaliatory behavior against some of our administrators and we're not doing anything about it."

She was talking about HR complaints filed against then-President Ahmed Ismail, who is now the board vice president. The Grosse Pointe News has filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the district to obtain a report stemming from an investigation into those

See HR, page 9A



**GREEN Party!**

Tables, decor and food to inspire your celebration

See Section C

## Feb. primary in the books

By Laurel Kraus and Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writers

**GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS, SHORES & WOODS** — Alongside the state-required nine days of early voting, Farms residents experienced an additional first this election with all Election Day precincts consolidated at The War Memorial, which offered the city a significantly discounted price for use of its new ballroom space.

"Approximately 900 voters visited The War Memorial on Election Day and the feedback was positive," said Derrick Kozicki, Farms assistant city manager/city clerk. "And it was mutually beneficial for The War Memorial, because a good portion of those voters had not seen the Fred Alger Center."

Among the 31.53 percent of Farms voters who cast a ballot in the presidential primary, absentee remained the most popular avenue for 1,685 residents. An additional

See PRIMARY, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

## Close call

Smoke could be seen billowing from the roof of Jerry's Club Party Store, 381 Kercheval, at 5:50 p.m. Monday afternoon, after heat tape — meant to prevent ice build-up on pipes — ignited and spread to roof tar and shingles.

Farms officers were able to put out the small fire with extinguishers, Deputy Director Andy Rogers reported.

"We're operating as normal," owner Jerry Stocking said Tuesday morning.

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## Preordained primaries

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Temperatures the day of the presidential primary hit 74 degrees, breaking the February high of 70 Fahrenheit set in 2017, thus producing the only exceptional event of the day.

Voting stations closed Tuesday, Feb. 27, with pre-ordained findings.

The only Democrat candidate of consequence, incumbent President Joe Biden, won his party's election with 77.08 percent of the vote.

In second place came "Uncommitted," which during Israel's current counterattack against Hamas terrorists is regarded as a protest vote advocating the United States back Palestinians.

On the Republican side, the party base's unequivocal choice, former President Donald Trump, came out on top but not by much.

Trump maintained a monopoly on primary outcomes with a slight internecine victory in the Park over former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, designated a Democrat surrogate four days before Election Day by Democrat California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Also endorsing Haley was the national political action committee PrimaryPivot, involving Republicans dead set against Trump, which encouraged Democrat voters in the Michigan and other primaries to cross party lines and undermine the Republican front-runner.

It was easy last week for voters

See PARK, page 2A

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Obituaries . . . . . 4B  
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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Tom Fraser**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
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# EERV is on the way

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Few things are more captivating than a construction site.

“Everyone is driving by to look,” said Ryan Neddermeyer, site foreman of storm valve installation near the entrance to Patterson Park on Essex Drive. “It’s been constant traffic for the last week.”

Work that was suspended during winter resumed recently and is almost finished.

“All major excavation, the (laying of) pipes and everything are done,” said Councilman Max Wiener, an engineer and chairman of the infrastructure committee. “Now, they are just

threading in the connections.”

The final piece to install is the first piece ordered for the project, a sluice gate.

“The sluice gate was the component that took the longest by a country mile,” Wiener said. “It is custom built. It took over a year and a half to get it built.”

The gate is an oversized portal from the storm sewer system to an outflow off the park.

Intentions are to open the valve only when overwhelming volumes of stormwater threaten to backup into basements, as happened to thousands of properties during summer 2021.

Hence the valve’s official designation as an “extreme emergency”

relief valve.

Water will be diverted to an underground holding tank in Patterson Park, where it will be mixed with chlorine and drained into Lake St. Clair.

“We are just waiting for the valve to come in,” Neddermeyer said.

“It’s coming from out of state,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Upon delivery, Neddermeyer’s crew from L. D’Agostino and Sons construction company will settle the gate into a rectangular, below-ground chamber topped currently and thereafter by a one-foot-thick concrete slab.

“You will never be able to see it,” Neddermeyer said. “There will be a handle sticking out of the



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**A concrete-topped, rectangular, underground chamber awaits delivery of the extreme emergency relief valve at Patterson Park.**

ground for manual operation. That is about it.”

Electricians also will install controls.

“The game plan is probably the first or second week of April we are

going to fire it up for seal testing,” Wiener said.

“We are going to open the gate and see how it works.”

Residents in the vicinity are scheduled to be

alerted beforehand, he said.

“We will be ready to chlorinate (the water) and track it,” Wiener said.

See EERV, page 4A

## PRIMARY:

Continued from page 1A

tional 926 voted in person on Election Day Tuesday, Feb. 27, and 324 tried their hand at early voting.

Of these, 1,067 residents voted via the Democratic ballot versus 1,868 residents selecting the Republican ballot.

President Joseph Biden took 874, or 82.14 percent, of Democratic votes, with 150, or 14.10 percent, of residents selecting uncommitted.

Former President Donald Trump saw 979, or 52.52 percent, of

Republican votes, compared to Nikki Haley receiving 803, or 43.08 percent.

In the City of Grosse Pointe, 30.23 percent of registered voters took part in the election, with 936 people voting absentee and 541 showing up to the polls on Election Day.

Eighty-four City residents chose to take part in the nine days of early voting, offered for the first time this election.

“I can see the potential of elevating the overwhelming amount of Election Day voters we get for elections such as the presidential,” said

Chris Hardenbrook, City of Grosse Pointe assistant city manager/city clerk. “Unfortunately for a presidential primary, it was slow, but I’m sure that’s due to multiple reasons. One, it being new and unfamiliar to voters and the low turnout and low percentage that presidential primaries usually attract.”

The City saw 687 voters select a Democratic ballot, compared to 874 voters who selected a Republican ballot.

Biden received 578, or 84.50 percent, of the Democratic votes. The next highest percentage of voters, 10.82 percent,

selected uncommitted.

The Republican ticket was more evenly split between two candidates.

Trump received 428, or 48.97 percent, of the votes, while Haley received 415, or 47.48 percent.

Grosse Pointe Woods saw 4,620 total ballots cast, including 252 during early voting.

“It went really well,” Clerk Paul Antolin said of the new process. “We had more people use it than I expected and we expect even more in August and November.

We got a lot of compliments and those people will probably spread the

word.”

Some 2,741 people voted in the Republican primary, with Trump getting 1,564 votes, or 58 percent. Haley received 1,019, or 38 percent. The rest was split between uncommitted and candidates who have suspended their campaigns or dropped out.

On the Democratic side, 1,879 voters cast ballots, with 1,545, or 82 percent, going for Biden. Another 226 chose uncommitted, or 13 percent.

In Grosse Pointe Shores, 144 out of 167 Democratic voters chose Biden, or 87 percent.

The other 13 percent chose uncommitted.

Of Republicans, Trump received 358 of the 564 votes, or 64 percent. Haley got 194 votes, good for 34 percent.

Early voting accounted for 79 votes, with just two days in double digits.

“We had a decent turnout, but it went well, considering the size of our community,” Deputy Clerk Courtney Delmege said. “But we’ll be looking for more volunteers to handle early voting for the August primary and November general election.”

## PARK:

Continued from page 1A

to temporarily switch allegiance.

“They had to declare what party they wanted to vote for,” City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler said.

“This is not considered a declaration of party affiliation and has no bearing on how a voter may vote in future primary elections,” according to a section on PrimaryPivot’s website, [primarypivot.org](http://primarypivot.org),

instructing Michigan voters how to make the switch.

Haley maintained her record of nothing-but-losses this election season by receiving 610 (46.32 percent) votes in the Park compared to Trump’s 632 (47.99 percent).

Of 2,709 total votes cast in the city during the primary, 1,392 favored Democrat candidates, 1,317 Republican.

This was the first election in the Park for Bowdler, hired in October

2023, but not the first during her four-year career.

“It’s a good opportunity to get everybody geared up and trained in preparation for the other elections,” Bowdler said. “This one started a little slower. I anticipate it being busier in the August and November elections.”

Some 165 votes — just over 6 percent of the total and split almost equally among the two parties (GOP 83, Dems 82) — were cast during the state’s inaugural nine-day early voting period.

“That was more than I anticipated,” Bowdler

said. “I was thinking there’d be about 100 people. We had some older residents who didn’t want to deal with crowds on Election Day. We also had early voters who were going on vacation and wanted to see their vote tabulated.”

“It was very quick and easy to get in and out,” said William Brown, an election inspector during early voting. He was back for more during the day of the election, working at the Precinct 7 station located in the Lavins Center gymnasium at Windmill Pointe Park.

More primary votes

were cast by absentee ballot than on Election Day itself.

Democrat absentees totaled 804, Republican 618.

The number of votes cast on Election Day were Republican, 616, Democrat, 506.

“One million people in Michigan have already cast their ballots, whether absentee or during the nine-day early voting period,” said Francine Pegues, an election inspector for Precinct 4, also at Lavins. “I’m pleasantly surprised.”

She tallied 72 votes by 2 p.m.

Nearby at another voting station, John Rizzo, chairperson of Precinct 4, accounted for 75 voters so far.

“It’s been steady,” Rizzo said.

Back at the Precinct 7 station, representing residents living between Yorkshire and parts of Kensington to Cadieux between Jefferson and Mack Avenue, Inspector

Brown tallied 91 voters by mid-afternoon.

“This precinct has the most voters so far, I think,” he said. “I noticed that during early voting, also.”

Brown spent most of his time during the last two weeks working the election.

“I want to make sure everybody gets a fair shake and everybody gets the correct vote,” he said. “I’m a procedural person. I like to go by the book and make sure it gets done.”

Bowdler, commuting between voting headquarters at city hall and the precinct stations, enjoyed the turnout.

“We’ve had 484 people to the polls so far today,” Bowdler said around 2:30 p.m. “We had 1,065 absentee ballots turned in, which is giving us 83 percent of absentee ballots returned so far. I’m proud of our residents. They’re doing a good job.”

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# Home invasion suspect scoped out obituaries

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE CITY, FARMS & WOODS** — Families of the recently deceased can rest a little easier knowing a 44-year-old Detroit man, who thus far has confessed to 12 home invasions throughout metro Detroit by zeroing in on obituary and estate sale notices, now is off the streets as the result of an intensive undercover operation spearheaded by the City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Woods departments.

Jerry Ashley was arraigned before Woods Judge Ted Metry Friday, March 1, for three counts of breaking and entering homes in the Woods, as well as one count of breaking and entering a home in the Farms. He is expected to be arraigned Thursday on two home invasion charges out of the City.

Because he is being charged as a habitual fourth offender, Ashley faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

“With the heavy, heavy punishment that may be coming his way, we do believe he’s a flight risk,” Metry said, before setting total bond for the



**Jerry Ashley**

four Woods and Farms counts at \$700,000.

Ashley also is connected to home invasions of the recently deceased in Shelby Township, Novi, Troy, Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills and Canton, beginning mid-December.

Yet it was detectives in the City who began to piece together a common M.O. when the Rivard home of deceased Wayne County Judge James Callahan was targeted Jan. 19.

“A B&E is unusual in its own (right) in Grosse Pointe City and then the fact that there was an obituary tied to it immediately raises red flags for us,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said.

Of the Pointes, the Woods was hit next in February, placing the



COURTESY PHOTOS

The City’s public safety department put its new drone in the air for its first operation as the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team arrested Ashley at his Detroit home Tuesday, Feb. 27.

departments on alert.

“During that time I ran everybody in (local obituaries) to see if I can match an address up to them just by Google search,” Detective Sgt. Joe Adams said, “and there was one lady in Novi. ... Sure enough, there was a report (of suspicious circumstances at the home) two days after the obit came out.”

As video and digital evidence began to piece

together a suspect targeting items for quick resale, such as sterling silver and jewelry, the Pointes put a plan in motion that culminated in Ashley’s uneventful arrest in his Detroit home Tuesday, Feb. 27.

“We had a meeting, came up with a plan and then for the next six days we worked undercover surveillance (with multiple people 24 hours a day,” Alcorn said. “In fact, the operation got so

big that initially Grosse Pointe City and Grosse Pointe Woods partnered up to handle it and we had so much manpower invested, we reached out and Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Farms joined us.

“Literally the four departments worked on this 24 hours a day for six days in a row.”

Because Ashley was meticulous in leaving homes the way he found them and detectives even struggled at first to figure out how he entered the Rivard house — “It was a very clean job to a point where he pushed the chair out and put the chair back,” Adams said — they believe he is responsible for additional home invasions yet to be identified or reported.

Anyone who notices something out of place or missing from the home

See SCOPED, page 4A

## War Memorial invites community input

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — As The War Memorial celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, the organization is inviting patrons to participate in a community survey to relay the best parts of the community and veteran center, opportunities for improvement and ideas for additional services that could be offered.

The survey was created using feedback from community listening sessions held earlier this year, internal programs and partner input. Responses will feed into a War Memorial initiative

to develop a comprehensive strategic plan.

“I’m excited to receive input from others about The War Memorial: its strengths, challenges and opportunities,” President and CEO Maria Miller said in a statement. “This organization has been around for 75 years and my goal is for it to be a beneficial and impactful organization for another 75 years and more. It is through thoughtful feedback that we can continue to evolve and serve the community, program by program and event by event.”

Alongside recent initia-

tives such as bi-monthly veteran educational seminars, The War Memorial plans to continue expanding its offerings.

“The aim of this survey is to gain valuable insights into how we can enhance our support and services for our regional community,” said Brett Pulte, director of marketing and communications, via email. “... We’re eager to align our efforts more effectively with the needs and preferences of our patrons and partners. By gathering feedback, we can shape future experiences to better serve those who stand to ben-

efit from them.”

Access the survey via [strategiz.com/polls/index.php/956439?lang=en](http://strategiz.com/polls/index.php/956439?lang=en) or by using the QR code below.

The organization will continue collecting responses through Monday, March 18.

— Laurel Kraus



## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, MARCH 11

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation annual meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

## Trickle down to water-sewer hike

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — The regional water authority’s rate hike for the upcoming fiscal year will trickle down to individual customers.

“We’ll have to adjust our rates to coincide with theirs,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

The Park is among 128 Southeast Michigan communities in eight counties buying drinking water from the Great Lakes Water

Authority (GLWA), which last week announced a 3.25 percent water rate increase starting July 1. Grosse Pointe Farms and City are not affected, as the Farms has its own purification plant of which the City is a customer.

GLWA also announced a 3 percent rate increase to handle wastewater for its 75 member jurisdictions,

See HIKE, page 5A

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# Born to sail

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

When Tom Fraser was around 7 years old, his father let him and his brother of similar age sail an 11-foot boat unsupervised on Lake St. Clair.

There was one condition: They had to stay close to shore.

Anyone who knows anything about 7-year-old boys knows how that worked out.

“We had this little, tiny boat called a Snark. That was the manufacturer,” Fraser said.

Snarks are comparable in size and rigging to single-sail Sailfish dinghies.

“But the difference was a Sailfish had a flat deck,” Fraser said. “The Snark had a little cutout where two little guys could sit inside.”

Think of a surfboard with a cockpit and single mast.

Fraser’s father was a Grosse Pointe Park police officer. The family lived in the City of Grosse Pointe close to Mack Avenue.

“At the foot of Lakeland, there used to be a ramp,” Fraser said. “My brother, Jim, and I built a little trailer out of a wagon that we could hook to our bike and go down to Lakeland and launch the boat.”

The boys learned how to sail from their father.

“He taught us the basics — how to sail on the wind, off the wind, what we should and shouldn’t do, how to ease sails, how to trim sales,” Fraser said.

Among shouldn’t-dos was going too far offshore.

“He told us to stay in the little bay between the City (Neff) Park and the Park (Windmill Pointe) Park,” Fraser said. “There’s a beautiful little bay that’s pretty well sheltered.”

Fraser remembers he and his brother obeying orders for a week or two.

“Then, we wanted to explore,” he said.

Fraser, now a Grosse Pointe Woods resident, grew up to be a first-rate sailor. He’ll enter his 26th Port Huron to Mackinac race this year. He’s ferried boats through the Great Lakes and down to Florida. In 2006, he served a term as commodore of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club based at Windmill Pointe Park and, in 2022, was elected commodore of the Detroit Regional Yacht Racing Association, which coordinates races for 17 clubs from Toledo to Port Huron.

Fraser currently works part time as the Windmill Pointe Park harbor master and serves on the Park municipal recreation committee.

He built familiarity in the region as decades-long skipper of C.F. Pickle, a 22-foot green-hulled 1964 Pearson Ensign one-design racer and day sailer, meaning it lacked sleeping accommodations below deck.

The boat’s name honored its original owners, a Grosse Pointe family including 26-year-old Chuck France.

“Chuck was murdered in 1978,” Fraser said. “He was driving a cab at night to help pay for medical school at Wayne State University. A 16-year-old shot him for \$20. His best friend, Hank Schmidt, bought the boat. He’d been sailing with Chuck all through high school and named the boat after him.”

“Pickle” also is an inside joke.

“Pickle’ means the last boat in a fleet to finish a race,” Fraser said. “It’s the ‘pickle boat.’ With a crew of kids, she was always the last to finish.”

Fraser owned C.F. Pickle more than 30 years.

“I’d had a lot of experience racing by that time,” Fraser said. “We were never the pickle boat. I



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Tom Fraser in his part-time role as harbormaster of the Grosse Pointe Park marina at Windmill Pointe Park.

sold it last year and regret it every day.”

One of the things that impresses Fraser about being on the lake is its role as a portal to the past. Winds and currents of today are fundamentally unchanged from the summer of 1679, when Father Louis Hennepin and the crew of Le Griffon passed through the region seeking a Northwest Passage.

Each time Fraser casts off, he enters a setting shared by mariners of every era.

“When I step on the boat, everything changes,” said Fraser, retired four years ago as an auto dealer sales manager. “In the car business all those years, sometimes there were 40 people working for me. It was stressful. But I can step on the boat and it all goes away.”

Numerous elements make for a good day under sail.

“I like to take my boat out by myself, but it’s always more fun with

another person,” Fraser said.

He and his wife of 50 years, Mary Patricia, have three daughters: Stacy, married with two children and living in Vermont; Mary Catherine, married with three children; and Claire, married with three children.

Fraser said, “Going out, putting up the jib, the main, having a pizza and beer. Sometimes, just listening to a ballgame on the radio. I love listening to baseball on the radio and having a beer, a Pabst Blue Ribbon. My wife calls it ‘crack your teeth cold.’ It’s the camaraderie; my wife, my daughters and now my grandkids.”

His adult musings mingle with Byron’s Child Harold succumbing to the lure of Lake Leman: “This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing to waft me from distraction.”

But, as a 7-year-old, Fraser’s ambitions were in an adventurous key; in

the style attributed to Christopher Columbus: “You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

“Here are two little kids on a Snark and we sailed across the freighter channel to Peche Island,” Fraser said. “We got onto the backside of the island and started to explore. We’d sail over there two or three times per week. My dad didn’t know.”

If 71-year-old Fraser’s timeline is accurate, these escapades happened in roughly 1960. Freighter traffic at that time dwarfed current levels.

Thousand-footers, which carry the load of four or five traditional-size lakers, were two decades in the making. The Edmund Fitzgerald had been launched in Ecorse only two years earlier. American steel mills and related industry along the lakes boomed. Every day during the shipping season, domes-

tic freighters trading in raw materials, plus fleets of international vessels that today are supplanted by containerized methods of transportation, virtually crammed the 800-foot-wide channel.

Adding to the risk of playing dodgeball with commercial traffic was, and still is, the navigation hazard of minimum 1.5-knot currents funneling downstream into the upper Detroit River.

“So, one day, we came out of Peche and the wind died,” Fraser said. “We tried to get back to Lakeland but couldn’t. We ended up calling my dad from Bayview Yacht Club.”

Fraser interrupted himself to laugh.

“Of course, we had to fess up,” he said. “We got grounded. The boat sat in the driveway for about a month before we were allowed to use it again. Ever since then, I’ve been hooked on this water.”

He’ll be back at it again this year with his new, old boat, a Cal 29 named Sunkist.

As with Pickle, Sunkist has a roomy cockpit for passengers or crew.

“When racing a sailboat, it’s teamwork; it’s the guy at the helm having a steady, calming voice,” Fraser said. “There were plenty of boats when I was younger that I would not race on again because of the skipper — his yelling and screaming and throwing stuff at you because you didn’t trim right or do something proper with the outhaul or didn’t get the spinnaker up quickly enough or didn’t go through a jibe quickly enough.”

Among his favorite passengers and potential future crew are his eight grandchildren.

“They love to sail,” Fraser said. “They love the tiller on the new boat. They have to stand up when driving the boat to see over the cabin top. But, I taught them how to steer. They know if you pull the tiller this way, the boat’s going that way.”

## EERV:

Continued from page 2A

Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation donated \$130,000 last year to buy valve components.

L. D’Agostino and Sons won the installation job with a \$2,935,100 bid.

Most funding comes

from proceeds of a 10-year, 2.5-millage rate increase Park voters in November 2022 approved by a 62 percent to 37 percent majority. Receipts generate \$1.7 million annually for a total of \$17 million during its duration.

The increase represents an additional \$425 in property taxes per year for the owner of property

having a taxable value of \$170,000.

Ballot language stated the 2.5-mill hike is “for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, replacing and enhancing water and sewer systems and related infrastructure in the city.”

Restoration of park landscaping in the construction site is scheduled for spring.

## Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

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## SCOPED:

Continued from page 3A

of a recently deceased person should contact the local police department.

Targeting obituaries is not a new type of crime, Alcorn noted. He recommends residents in the Pointes contact their public safety department if they know the home of a deceased family member is going to be vacant, so it can be put on special watch, similar to the service the departments offer for those going out of town for a period of time.

Additional preventive measures include ensuring doors are locked, adding lighting and home security cameras and looking out for neighbors.

Those involved in Ashley’s arrest, including Alcorn, Adams, City Detective Mike Narduzzi, Woods Detective Lt. Keith Waszak and Woods Detective Miles Adams, say it’s not an exaggeration the investigation consumed their lives.

While Ashley allegedly stole items of especially substantial worth from the home in Ann Arbor — a city which employs north of 150 officers — it was the diligent efforts of the Pointe departments that led to the recovery of the entire collection.

“It was a collaborative effort from the Grosse Pointe police departments all teaming up to use all our resources to get this culture out of the community,” Alcorn said. “Because that’s what he is. He’s picking from the dead.”

# Grosse Pointe News

## THE NOSH

NEW MONTHLY FEATURE SHOWCASING WHAT’S NEW AT LOCAL EATERIES

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ONE ON MARCH 28!

The Grosse Pointes and surrounding areas have some of the BEST dining options in the nation. From ethnic entrees to French pastries...Gourmet delights to top-notch smashburgers...Custom cocktail concoctions to amazing seafood and sushi...Our area has it all and it’s really something to celebrate!

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Every last Thursday of the month, we'll feature a list of local dining establishments, historic and specialty food items to help you plan for date nights, family get-togethers, upcoming celebrations and weekend fun. Try exciting new dishes, meet some chefs and taste what's new. Save life here by visiting these great local eateries!

**THE NOSH**  
HOT THIS WEEK AT YOUR GREAT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

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**Grosse Pointe Park**

**Ram stolen**

A black 2021 Dodge Ram was stolen while parked overnight Monday, March 3, in the driveway of a house in the 1000 block of Bishop.

Eastpointe police spotted the truck being driven in their jurisdiction.

“(They) attempted to stop the vehicle, but it fled and escaped,” reported a Park officer.

**Vehicle damaged**

A resident of the 1100 block of Beaconsfield told police someone damaged his vehicle’s driver-side door lock while parked between 11:15 p.m. Saturday, March 2, and noon Monday, March 4.

**Hits parked cars**

A 20-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for drunken driving during an investigation last week of numerous parked vehicles on Whittier being hit by a wrong-way driver.

At 11:02 p.m. Sunday, March 3, police arrived on scene.

“The (woman’s) vehicle had been traveling the wrong way down a one-way street (Whittier),” police said. “The driver (was) intoxicated.”

**No lights**

Police arrested a 19-year-old Detroit man for drunken driving at 3:19 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, near the intersection of Somerset and St. Paul.

A detective said the man was operating a vehicle without head-

# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

lights.

“A short, slow pursuit ensued,” police said. “The driver eventually stopped. Investigation revealed he was intoxicated.”

—Brad Lindberg

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

**City of Grosse Pointe**

**Tide thief**

A man was seen stealing at least six Tide detergent packs, valued at \$13.49 each, from a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 4:22 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29.

He is described as a tall, black man, wearing a royal blue jacket and black pants.

**Hospital assault**

A 27-year-old Detroit man assaulted a staff member at a local hospital while being processed at 1:50 p.m. Friday, March 1.

While the man — later identified as Tyrone Reynolds Jr. — fled the scene, he was arrested shortly after on a Smart Bus at Kercheval and Notre Dame.

Charged through the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, he was arraigned before City Judge David Draper.

**Plate fraud**

After being pulled over

for a fraudulent license plate at Charlevoix and St. Clair, a 26-year-old Detroit man was given a citation at 3:50 p.m. Saturday, March 2. His vehicle was impounded.

—Laurel Kraus

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

**Grosse Pointe Farms**

**Flat**

A 36-year-old Detroit man said he was driving to visit his mother in a local hospital when he was pulled over for illegal window tint and a completely flat rear tire at Kerby and Mack at 1:27 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26.

license plate and after driving through a red light at Mack and Kerby at 4:40 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Because of a lack of passport and documentation, U.S. Border Patrol was contacted, which confirmed she had a court date, along with her passenger.

She was cited for not acquiring a license and the vehicle was impounded.

Border Patrol again was called at 9:20 p.m. Friday, March 1, when an 18-year-old man and woman were pulled over at Kerby and Webster for a defective headlight. The driver only could provide Venezuelan identification, but Border Patrol confirmed both individuals had immigration court dates set.

tal for his level of intoxication. A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.24 percent.

**Bank fraud**

After flagging a fraudulent attempt to transfer \$5,000 from a 74-year-old Farms man’s Capital One account Thursday, Feb. 29, a bank teller discovered 62 fraudulent transactions in his account history, totalling \$7,200.

—Laurel Kraus

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

**Grosse Pointe Shores**

**Still won’t work**

A 26-year-old Sterling Heights woman was arrested on felony fraud charges at the public safety department around 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 26, after using a fake insurance card when trying to get her vehicle out of the impound lot.

A 22-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man was arrested on the same charge two days earlier after he was pulled over for speeding while driving the 2017 Chevy Traverse and gave officers a fake insurance card.

**Warranted**

A 33-year-old Detroit man was turned over to Eastpointe police on a

felony warrant after the vehicle he was riding in was stopped on northbound Lakeshore near Vernier around 12:45 p.m. Sunday, March 3, for not having a license plate

The vehicle caught the eye of patrol officers as it was driving with hazard lights on. The driver, a 34-year-old Detroit woman, was cited for a suspended license and no registration.

—Ted O’Neil

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

**Grosse Pointe Woods**

**Keys inside**

A resident in the 1000 block of Renaud reported his Chevy Tahoe was stolen from the driveway of his house sometime overnight into Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The key fob was in the vehicle. It was found undamaged in Detroit later that day.

**Clean getaway**

A white female in her 50s wearing blue jeans and a black hoodie stole four containers of Tide pods worth \$133 from a business in the 20400 of Mack around noon Sunday, March 3.

—Ted O’Neil

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



He was cited for driving while license suspended and the vehicle was impounded.

**Alcohol theft**

After being cited for stealing \$56.96 worth of alcohol from a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 9:41 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, a 36-year-old homeless man was given a courtesy ride to a local hospi-

**Border Patrol**

A 48-year-old woman with only a Venezuelan driver’s license was pulled over for an expired

**HIKE:**

*Continued from page 3A*

among which are all the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Park officials are in the midst of citywide water and sewer system improvements. Funding is by water sales, a voter-approved 10-year 2.5-millage and donations from the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

“We have some capital improvements on the water-sewer side we need to work on,” Sizeland said. “This isn’t just maintenance. It’s actual infrastructure improvements,

including meter replacements and more.”

Authority officials stressed the increases are less than the 4 percent maximum they promised not to exceed.

GLWA’s rates for next year would have been even higher if it weren’t for investment earnings being used to match a 4 percent budget increase.

“By far the biggest challenge in preparing this year’s budget is continuing to absorb cost increases over many years that exceeded revenue increases,” said Nicolette N. Bateson,

GLWA chief financial officer and treasurer, in a news release.

She cited the “significant rise” in the cost of chemicals used in vari-

ous treatment processes plus building materials, such as iron, steel, cement and electrical equipment.

“The main force guid-

ing our budget and charge development has been our promise to do everything within our power to balance the regional system’s

budgetary needs with overall affordability concerns,” GLWA CEO Suzanne Coffey said.

—Brad Lindberg



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---

Through March 31

In 2023, we served nearly 26,000 meal - 26% more than 2022 - to homebound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves. As our population ages, the need grows.

Every \$5 donated provides one meal.



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AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER



The Helm 2024 March for Meals is in partnership with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

# POINTES OF VIEW

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

## Grosse Pointe News

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### OUR VIEW

## Our beef with surge pricing

In a famous, omnipresent '80s fast-food commercial, Wendy's once posed the question, "Where's the beef?"

But based on recent news that Wendy's might be considering bringing "dynamic pricing" to its restaurants next year, fast-food fans are likely the ones with beef over the new way Wendy's might start charging them for their Dave's Single and Frosty.

According to The Detroit News, Wendy's CEO and President Kirk Tanner told analysts in a mid-February conference call "beginning as early as 2025, we will begin testing more enhanced features like dynamic pricing and daypart offerings, along with AI-enabled menu changes and suggestive selling."

But after the story spread like french fries at the bottom of a takeout bag last week, the company quickly went into full crisis management mode, declaring that any features it decides to test in the future "would be designed to benefit our customers and restaurant crew members."

Then Wendy's doubled down. "Wendy's will not implement surge pricing, which is the practice of raising prices when demand is highest. We didn't use that phrase, nor do we plan to implement that practice," the company said in an email to The Associated Press last Wednesday.

Fair enough, but we think the news got out before the company was ready to lunch it, er ... launch it.

The concept of dynamic or surge pricing isn't new. Anyone trying to get home from a sporting event in a big city, or airport on a holiday, by using ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft already knows what various forms of middle class extortion look like. Concertgoers know, too, as they witness price gouging a la Ticketmaster when demand is high (read: Swifties!).

For any fast-food chain, this business model would allow individual restaurants or franchisees to have the ability to increase the price of items based on location, demand and time of day — at will and without notice.

When the company clarified its stance on how it will approach pricing last week, Wendy's claimed it has no plans to increase prices during the busiest times at its restaurants.

Why don't we believe you, Wendy's? Well, it might have something to do with the company's attempt to think outside the bun and invest \$20 million in new digital menu boards. The plan is to roll out the swanky boards next year. Mr. Tanner said it will allow the restaurant to change pricing on the fly and help encourage upsales on orders.

Wendy's digital menu boards "could allow us to change the menu offerings at different times of day and offer discounts and value offers to our customers more easily, particularly in the slower times of day," he said.

Unfortunately we suspect fast-food competitors will jump on this price gouging bandwagon. Where the dollar menu giveth, the double cheeseburger meal taketh away.

Fast-food chains now enter the world of mattresses and jewelry, where one really never knows their true cost or value. We imagine dynamic pricing will encourage people to try to outguess when the surges will happen and buy the burgers at the cheaper price. That ironically may trigger the demand and subsequent price increase for the rest of us at a different time of day.

Sigh. To think all we wanted when we walked in were some fries to dip into our Frosty.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Woods honors volunteers

Grosse Pointe Woods recently held a luncheon to recognize volunteers of the city's various commissions, boards and committees. Pictured from left: Councilmember Michael Koester, Councilmember Angela Coletti Brown, Councilmember Todd McConaghy, Mayor Arthur Bryant, Dan Curis (25 years on the Local Officers' Compensation Commission), Giles Wilborn (10 years on the Historical Commission), Michael Fuller (15 years on the Planning Commission), Councilmember Thomas Vaughn, Councilmember Victoria Granger and Councilmember Kenneth Gafa. Not pictured: Jennifer Boettcher (10 years on the Community Events Committee), Al Dickinson (10 years on the Building Authority Committee) and Sandra Nelson (15 years on the Board of Review).

## 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.

**Editor's Note: Additional letters we received regarding last week's Board of Education meeting can be found on our website under the tab "Online exclusives."**

### Righting the ship

To the Editor:

Based on recent GPPSS Board of Education meetings, there seem to be residents who never accepted there was a school board election in November 2022 that brought us new board members. These people, not liking the result of the election, seem to want to make every board meeting as chaotic and inefficient as possible. What those people don't realize is we've already tried it their way. For well over a decade the board was dominated by people quite different from the current majority. What did that get us?

Year after year, our enrollment dropped more than peer districts, faster than state average and way faster than birthrate. We had frequent deficits, even as state revenue per pupil increased way faster than inflation. Fund equity was declining and we had to close build-

ings and cut programs. Now the same people who created that mess just keep blaming the new board members who are busy righting the ship. These critics are like the homeowner who blames firefighters for his house being on fire.

RENEE STROBL  
Grosse Pointe Shores

### Retaliatory behavior

To the Editor:

Trustees Worden and St. John had a lot to say at the last two Board of Education meetings about alleged retaliatory comments Mr. Ismail made about Grosse Pointe North employees. I still haven't seen how the alleged victims were actually victimized. Trustees Worden and St. John's arguments about retaliatory behavior prompt further questions. For example, would it be considered "retaliatory behavior" to destroy Ismail's career and reputation for daring to vote against one of your pet projects? This is a key question, since Ismail's accusers clearly wanted taxpayers to spend \$1M on the clinic at North and Ismail voted against it. Also, would it be considered "retaliatory behavior" when Worden, in the February meeting, publicly accuses the superintendent of being involved in a "kickback" scheme because he decided to use a vendor she doesn't like? Ms. Worden and Ms. St. John seem to only obstruct, not working to resolve problems but create them. What I've seen at any meeting is that Mr. Ismail has patience and comports himself with the highest integrity. He truly cares about the schools and GP community.

E. DAVID SCHUMACHER  
Grosse Pointe Woods

### Early voting

To the Editor:

This was the first statewide election in Michigan's history in which voters had the option to cast a ballot in person at an early voting site. At least nine consecutive days of in-person early voting for state and federal elections — including two weekends — is now a constitutional requirement following the 2022 passage of Proposal 2. Early voting is a great new option for Michiganders. Working parents with young children, medical staff serving 12-hour shifts and many others can now cast their vote without schedule conflicts.

Early voting represents a significant challenge for election officials, including implementing new procedures, setting up accessible early voting sites, acquiring and using new equipment, assembling sufficient staff, notifying voters and checking them into early voting sites.

The League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe sincerely appreciates the tireless efforts of our local clerks, election inspectors (poll workers) and others who made our first early voting period extraordinarily successful. Early voting will continue for the Aug. 6 Primary and Nov. 5 General Election. Our clerks keep our local governments in good working order. They earn our respect every day. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work in running fair and secure elections.

LYNNE PIERCE  
President, League of Women Voters  
Grosse Pointe

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### GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

March 7 - 13



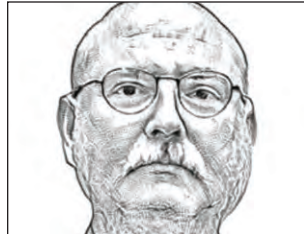
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
50° 36°	54° 45°	48° 31°	42° 29°	51° 31°	57° 39°	62° 45°
Partly Cloudy	PM Rain	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
0%	70%	80%	0%	0%	0%	10%

SUNRISE	SUNRISE	SUNRISE	SUNRISE	SUNRISE	SUNRISE	SUNRISE
6:56 am	6:55 am	6:53 am	7:51 am	7:50 am	7:48 am	7:46 am
SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET	SUNSET
6:30 pm	6:31 pm	6:32 pm	7:33 pm	7:35 pm	7:36 pm	7:37 pm

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

I SAY By Ted O'Neil

# Spring: A most glorious time of year



h h h h , spring! Winter is coming to an end, the air smells sweeter and a young man's fancy — or in this case an old man's — turns to ... basketball!

Yes, I'm talking about March Madness. Coupled with tournament conferences and Selection Sunday, the spectacle takes over nearly every fiber of my being for the month. From the First Four play-in games right through the title game, I absorb everything I can. Watching games and highlights, filling out brackets, staying up too late to watch West Coast games in the early rounds.

And watching games has never been easier. When I was growing up pre-cable, a lot of games were shown on tape delay. That started to change with the success of the 1979 title game between Michigan State and Indiana State, which remains the highest rated final of all time.

As a Spartan alum, I'm certainly proud of that win and State's 2000 crown, but as a kid in junior high just getting into basketball, I was pulling for Larry Bird over Magic Johnson. I started following Bird after reading a cover story about him in Sports Illustrated. That then translated into a new fan of the Boston Celtics when Larry Legend played for them.

The Celtics actually sold stock from 1986 to 2003, so the first year my mom bought me two shares for my birthday. I still have the certificate somewhere.

But back to March Madness. There are no fewer than six channels that will show men's games and five will be showing the women's tournament. Given the scoring ability of Iowa's Caitlin Clark and her team's epic final game against LSU last year, I'll definitely be watching a lot of her games.

The best part of so many channels covering games, particularly in the first round, is there are very few gaps between games and often there are three or four on at once from noon to midnight. Much better than when CBS would show two or three games in the afternoon and another

two or three in the evening.

You also can watch online at CBS.com. If you're stuck at work Thursday and Friday for the first round, CBS has you covered. Somewhere on the screen they feature a "Boss Button." One year the screen changed to a flow chart. Another year it was a spreadsheet. Not very helpful working in a newsroom, but it always makes me chuckle.

As for filling out my bracket, it's almost like every game is a coin flip as there really are no dominant teams this year. It seems like the AP's No. 1 team loses every other week, leading to a carousel in the rankings.

But it's always fun to guess which 12-seed will beat a 5-seed, since it seems to happen at least once every year, or if a 16-seed will beat a 1-seed, since that's only happened twice in 152 such games.

And if you're like me, you probably fill out two brackets, picking one with your head and one with your heart. Neither tend to work out very well, but it's always amazing on ESPN there seems to be one perfect bracket out of millions of entries each year. Happy hooping!

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1949

75 years ago this week

**NEW COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEARS COMPLETION:** A new block of stores will soon be opened at Mack and Moross to serve the fastest growing section of the Pointe community in the western section of the Woods and northern portion of the Farms. A new Kinsel drugstore will occupy the corner store, with a Boston Shoe branch next door. The large new F. W. Woolworth store is flanked by two smaller shops.

important issue since the 1954 school integration decision.

**WOODS STUDYING LIAISON PROPOSAL OF NH STUDENT:** A North High School freshman who's very interested in politics wrote the Woods council to propose the appointment of a non-voting North student representative to the council as a "liaison person." Freshman Timothy Mucciante, 14, will have to wait for the council's decision as the solons unanimously referred his proposal to the Committee of the Whole for further study, with a report back to the council.

ber of sitdown restaurants in the city. Currently all 11 slots have been taken and Starbucks needed a variance to open.

### 2014

10 years ago this week

**CONNIE'S CELEBRATES 60 YEARS:** Almost anyone who has lived in the St. Clair Shores area knows about Connie's Children's Shop. Its loyalty, combined with customer service and merchandise has been part of the formula that has kept Connie's in business for decades. The shop is celebrating 60 years in business this year and owner Denise Kort has seen the business evolve since her parents, Maxine and Sidney Kort, opened the doors March 4, 1954.

**NEW K-9 WOULD BE ALL-GP:** A police K-9 unit is so costly that, if it is established, it would likely be structured as an asset of all the Grosse Pointes, not of a single department, as in the past. In any event, replacing the police dog, which died of illness last November, depends on joint municipal funding and, most likely, outside support.

### 1974

50 years ago this week

**BUSING CASE IS SUBMITTED:** The legal case which will shape education in Grosse Pointe for decades to come was heard in the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 27. All nine justices were present for oral arguments on the Detroit Desegregation Case which has been termed by the NAACP as the most

### 1999

25 years ago this week

**WOODS COUNCIL OKS STARBUCKS AT ALLARD/MACK:** The Grosse Pointe Woods City Council approved a plan that would replace the Speedway gas station in the 19700 block of Mack with a Starbucks coffeehouse. Starbucks representatives asked the council for a hardship variance from city regulations that limit the num-

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## Featuring These Items and More in the March 14th & 15th Auctions



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Robert Hopkin (American, 1832-1909)  
"Sailing Vessel in Choppy Seas"



Two Lots of Josef Albers (1888-1976)  
Screenprints on Paper 1972  
"Formulation: Articulation I & II"



Fine Estate Jewelry  
Over 50 Lots



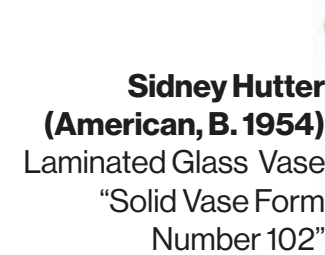
Two Lots of Tiffany Studios  
Zodiac Motif Bronze Desk Sets



Georg Jensen (Danish)  
'Acorn' Sterling Silver Flatware  
142 pcs, Service for 12



Marshall Fredericks (American, 1908-1998)  
Bronze Sculpture Mouse



Sidney Hutter (American, B. 1954)  
Laminated Glass Vase  
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# Marina maintenance begins at Windmill

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Comprehensive maintenance of the municipal marina, which began last Friday, won't displace plans to renovate some of the wells.

Maintenance scheduled to conclude before the boating season consists of removing wood dock risers, replacing rub rails, replacing the marina-wide dockside non-potable water distribution system and repainting the inside of the outer breakwall above the walkway.

Dock risers, installed a few years ago in response to cyclical above-average water levels of Lake St. Clair, no longer are needed because the lake has gone down and is forecast by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to stay that way through at least 2024.

Rub rails, which are equivalent to nautical

bumpers on pilings and finger docks, are mostly worn out from years of use and exposure to the elements.

The water system, used by boaters to wash their vessels and more, was installed, like dock risers, in temporary response to high lake levels. Lake water had inundated the marina's original setup, ruining metal pipes.

The first round of replacement plastic piping, which is translucent and allows algae growth within, is being replaced with a stouter product. The new system also was redesigned to increase flow and was restrung below walkways to eliminate tripping hazards.

Painting inside the main, outer breakwall above the concrete and asphalt walkway is intended to both protect the underlying metal structure and freshen appearances.

Members of the city council last month



**Dock risers that helped everyone keep their feet dry during high levels of Lake St. Clair are being removed from Windmill Pointe Park marina in Grosse Pointe Park. Risers, no longer needed due to current low water, have thereby become tripping hazards.**

PHOTO BY TOM FRASER

approved nearly \$100,000 worth of maintenance agreements with four contractors, the combined cost of which is drawn from the marina fund and marina reserves, both generated by boat fees, not general property tax receipts.

"Boaters are paying for a product," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the Parks and Recreation

Committee. "We want to deliver as best we can. Dock risers and rub rails are essential aspects to any marina subject to fluctuating water levels."

"We're replacing 400 damaged rub rails in the harbor that aren't safe," said Tom Fraser, the Park's part-time harbor-master and a longtime boater. "People hit them with their boats. People tie their boats to the rub

rails, which they're not supposed to do because they're rub rails, not tie downs."

The new water system is being looped — no dead-ends — to increase flow and circulation. Also, forthcoming pipes are opaque, not transparent as now, which fostered algae growth.

"There were a lot of complaints about the water lines last year,"

Caulfield said. "The original layout was done quickly, because they had a problem, and done quickly to supply basic water needs. A lot of lines were laid on top of risers and were trip hazards."

"I'm adding a lot of spigots as well, so there'll be more access to water for our customers," Fraser said.

Safety is key to Fraser, who 20 years ago received a rescue medal from U.S. Sailing for helping rescue floundering fishermen just outside the breakwall.

"We're adding a lot of ladders in the marina this year," he said. "We have them at the end of each dock. I'm going to put in at least two more on each pier as well as on the inside wall."

Another round of maintenance is planned for dock pilings.

"Divers are going to investigate the structure itself," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

## GP Shores opposes water legislation

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — City council is the latest to oppose a plan for the state to add a \$2 monthly surcharge to every water bill intended to help customers who fall behind on their payments.

Council voted 6-0 at its February meeting, with Donn Schroder absent, on a resolution objecting to what is being called "water affordability legislation."

The package of bills

introduced in the Michigan House and Senate last fall would add \$24 annually to every water meter in the state regardless of water usage or a customer's income level. It would raise some \$70 million per year.

"Water is a very sensitive issue in our city," Mayor Ted Kedzierski said. "I never get phone calls when property tax bills go out, but I get a lot of calls about water bills."

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller is leading

the fight against the idea.

"This legislation must allow counties across Michigan the option to opt out," she said in a press release when the bills were introduced. "We'll let leaders in Oakland, Wayne and all the other counties speak for themselves, but Macomb County wants the option to opt out."

Miller pointed to an existing plan called the Water Residential Assistance Program already available to customers of the Great Lakes

Water Authority. GLWA provides water to the Shores and a majority of customers in Macomb County.

WRAP provides qualifying customers with help paying current and past-due water bills. Eligible customers receive an income-based monthly credit of up to \$100 toward current water bills. Participants also are eligible to receive a bill credit of up to \$1,200 per year toward past due amounts and up to \$2,000 for minor

plumbing repairs intended to conserve water.

Proponents of the state-run plan point out WRAP customers can only be in the program for two years, while one run by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services would be ongoing.

Those in the state program would see their water bills capped at no more than 3 percent of household income for families at or below 200 percent of the poverty

level. They also would have outstanding balances below \$1,500 forgiven. Those with bills above that amount would see the balance forgiven if they made timely payments for two years. They also could receive \$2,500 for plumbing repairs.

Some 20 municipalities in Macomb County, as well as the board of commissioners, have passed the same resolution objecting to the bills.

"This is not the right thing to do," Kedzierski said of the legislation. "We may not be able to stop it, but we want to communicate our disagreement."

## Valade embezzlement case heading toward jury trial

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The jury trial

for a Farms attorney accused of embezzling at least \$15 million from the Gretchen C. Valade Irrevocable Living Trust

— while acting as trustee and by investing the funds into his own entities — is expected to last two weeks, should it move forward.

David Sutherland has until his final pretrial date, April 4, to accept or reject a plea deal, should the Michigan Attorney General's Office choose to offer one.

The AG's office, toward the beginning of litigation, attempted to engage in plea negotiations for a global resolution to the two

embezzlement cases facing Sutherland — Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dan Gunderson informed Wayne County Judge Paul Cusick during a pretrial date for both cases last week — but was met with no interest by the defense.

If the case's trajectory remains, Sutherland will face a jury Monday, May 13, for two counts of embezzlement of \$100,000 or more; one count of embezzlement from a vulnerable adult of \$100,000 or more; and one count of con-

ducting a criminal enterprise.

A second case against Sutherland, which the AG's office says suggests a common scheme, alleges the attorney embezzled more than \$1.4 million from the William Cardinal Living Trust, out of which funds go toward the St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School Educational Trust.

As part of the combined pretrial hearing, Cusick denied a defense motion to suppress testimony from a local attorney, once affiliated

with Sutherland's office and the Cardinal trust, on the basis of an attorney-client relationship, which the judge determined did not exist.

Cusick also denied a defense motion to quash the Cardinal case — made on the claim there has been an attempt to pay back the funds — meaning a second jury trial remains scheduled to begin July 29.

"Repayment of funds does not negate embezzlement," Cusick said, adding the law deals with intent.

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# Brownell AP wins state award

By Ted O'Neil  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Brownell Middle School Assistant Principal Holli McNally won't have to go very far to pick up a statewide award she recently won.

McNally was named Administrator of the Year by the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators and the group's annual conference just happens to be at Brownell this Saturday, March 9.

"I don't do well with attention," McNally said. "I like to be in the background, but the big takeaway is that this is a team effort. I can't do my job in isolation. I appreciate everyone

congratulating me, but this is as much their award as it is mine."

Brownell Principal Rodger Hunwick nominated McNally.

"The No. 1 thing is she brings an empathetic, caring quality to everything," he said. "She's a relationship builder. She's also a wizard with scheduling and data."

Hunwick said McNally handled scheduling for the entire district during COVID, "when we had some students coming back to class and others continuing remotely."

McNally taught math and science at Parcels Middle School for 10 years before assuming her current position in

2016. Originally from Traverse City, she knew she wanted to be a teacher early on.

"I was inspired by my third and fourth grade teachers specifically," she said. "In third grade I loved how students could choose how to complete assignments. My fourth grade teacher really took me under her wing and gave me opportunities to shine in class."

From then on, she was a keen observer.

"Every teacher I had, I would think about things I might do differently from them or things I loved about how they taught," she recalled. "I had my heart set on teaching early on."

McNally started work toward her bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University. After two years her husband, Patrick, graduated from the University of Michigan and got a job in Fort Wayne, Ind. She finished her degree at Indiana University and taught two years at New Haven Middle School, just outside Fort Wayne.

"We're Michigan people, so when we had a chance to move back we happily did," she said.

After moving back north, McNally earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University and an education specialist degree in school administration

and leadership from the Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership.

Hunwick said she continues to work with Galileo in preparing teachers for leadership positions.

"Holli also does the scheduling for our administrator retreats and team-building activities, in addition to being in charge of the middle school math program for the whole district," he said. "As I always say, she is the best of us."

Saturday's day-long conference will draw middle school teachers and administrators from across the state. Aside from a keynote address on social/emotional learning, it will include breakout sessions on



Holli McNally

topics ranging from grant writing to graphing calculators to tips on making math more fun.

"We're excited to bring this to our district so everyone can see the great things we're doing," McNally said. "We might even get some interest from the college students who will be attending because the teacher shortage is on everyone's radar."

## HR:

Continued from page 1A

complaints. The Grosse Pointe News had not received a response by press time.

Board President Sean Cotton laid out a timeline at the beginning of last week's meeting to more fully explain what transpired.

### Aug. 25, 2023

The board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at Grosse Pointe South High School, requesting the athletic fields at Grosse Pointe North High School be named in honor of Frank Sumner. He coached baseball and football at North for 49 years and is in the coaching hall of fame for both sports.

It was co-signed by Gary Bennett, North boys basketball coach; Tim Brandon, former South football coach; Russ Hepner, former South football coach; Chad Hepner, South football coach; Steve Zaranek, South cross country/track coach; Gary Spicer, attorney; and Bill Babcock, former North baseball player.

### Aug. 27, 2023

The district received a formal complaint from "staff member A."

### Aug. 28, 2023

The district received a formal complaint from "staff member B."

Cotton said both indicated they felt their jobs were being threatened by members of the board and referenced both the cancellation of the proposed health clinic at North and articles in the Grosse Pointe News about Sumner over the past six years.

An independent investigator would eventually use the phrase "terminated" in regard to Sumner, but the district in 2018 said in a statement he retired.

Through comments from Trustee Colleen Worden and those speaking during public comment, Kathryn Murray and Michelle Davis, principal and athletic director/assistant principal at North, respectively, were identified as the complainants.

### Sept. 12, 2023

The board held a closed session with

Clark Hill, the district's attorneys, about the matter. Clark Hill recommended the board empower Interim Superintendent Chris Fenton to hire an independent investigator, which was the Miller Johnson law firm.

### Sept. 14, 2023

Miller Johnson began interviewing eight people, including Ismail on Nov. 15, 2023.

### Oct. 29, 2023

Then-Vice President Lisa Papas in an email to all board members said she asked board attorneys Collins and Blaha to be present while Miller Johnson interviewed Ismail. She indicated she did this on the advice of Collins and Blaha to protect the board's interests and that board policy allowed her to assume the powers of the president as Ismail could not make such a decision given his involvement.

St. John and Worden have both expressed they think this was an improper use of taxpayer dollars. St. John at the board meeting Feb. 6, also said she was not aware of the involvement of Collins and Blaha until she saw an invoice from the firm.

"At no time was Ahmed Ismail represented personally by the legal counsel of the board of education," Cotton said. "They didn't give him any advice."

### Jan. 4, 2024

Miller Johnson provided its findings to Fenton in a 27-page report.

### Jan. 16, 2024

Fenton provided the board with Miller Johnson's two-page executive summary and his three-page determination letter. Cotton said it was the advice of Fenton and Clark Hill not to make the full report public.

"It contains the names of the interviewees, which could chill future investigations," he said. "That could breach expectations of confidentiality in such important matters."

Cotton also said the district spent \$33,511 in legal fees on the matter. That included \$15,675 to Miller Johnson; \$12,910 to Clark Hill; and \$4,926 to Collins and Blaha.

According to Miller Johnson, Ismail made the comment that the board had plans to "push out" Murray and Davis while talking to an unnamed administrator who no longer is with the district. The summary indicated Ismail and the administrator were talking "as that employee was contemplating a job offer to leave GPPSS."

Miller Johnson also said Ismail and that employee were the only two present during the conversation. Ismail has since said he was talking with an assistant principal about taking a

new job and encouraged him to stay as there could be room for advancement in GPPSS due to possible retirements.

Miller Johnson also determined neither Ismail nor the board had "taken any actions relative to complainants indicating an attempt to terminate" the employment of the complainants, but that Ismail had engaged in "retaliatory behavior toward the complainants."

Fenton, however, disagreed there was any retaliation.

Writing in his determination, Fenton said, "In support, he (the Miller Johnson investigator) cited two instances — one with respect to each complainant — that could be explained as retaliatory conduct, but could also be explained as simple communications failure. (The investigator's) explanation for his conclusion is not well-documented or persuasive."

Miller Johnson also determined Ismail's comment was not "sexist," saying there was no evidence of "gender bias/harassment against the complainants." The executive summary

made no mention of racist comments.

As quoted in the Feb. 15, 2024, issue of the Grosse Pointe News, St. John responded to questions about her earlier statements.

"You are correct that the executive summary does not mention the allegations of racism," she said in an email. "The complainants did not have grounds to bring that particular matter to HR, even though it was one of their concerns."

St. John said at last week's meeting that is because the board is not considered direct employers of district employees.

Fenton further recommended Ismail, Murray and Davis engage in "restorative justice efforts" in a facilitated meeting with a third party. Cotton said Ismail reached out to Fenton and expressed interest in such an effort, but was unsure if Murray or Davis had done so.

"First and foremost I want to express my deepest apologies to the staff members who thought it necessary to file the complaint in the first place," Ismail said after Cotton's timeline.

"Please understand that I have the highest regard for you and the entire North team. I sincerely apologize to these two staff members ... for the angst my misinterpreted comments have brought to them personally and to the North community."

St. John and Worden, along with a majority of those speaking during public comments, continued to urge the board to release the full Miller Johnson report. Some three dozen staff members from North, decked out in green, were present to support Murray and Davis.

The final person to speak during public comment used a good portion of her allotted three minutes to chant, "Release the report" more than 40 times and was joined by several attendees.

Toward the end of the meeting, two speakers on opposite sides of the issue — including a 2022 board candidate — began yelling and approaching each other, needing to be physically separated as they stood nose to nose.

(Editor's note: Cotton owns the Grosse Pointe News.)

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10A | SCHOOLS

# North takes on the Bard with 'The Tempest'

Grosse Pointe North High School students present the school's first Shakespeare production, "The Tempest," at 7 p.m. Friday, March 8, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the school, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

"I have wanted to stage this particular play for over 20 years now, from when I first taught it to my very first class of freshmen," director Anna Fleury said. "I love the comical idea of different groups of villains traipsing around an island but never able to find the others because they are all going in the same direction, at the same speed. I love the idea of staging a storm at sea with sailors tottering all over the decks — again, comical but with somber repercussions. I love the idea that the island itself is magical. This opens many opportunities not only for staging but also



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Students at Grosse Pointe North High School will perform "The Tempest" on March 8 and 9.

for exploring meaning behind our relationship to our environment. In the end, we cannot escape it and it is best to treat it kindly. I hope (people) see this in the characters of Prospero, Ariel and especially Caliban."

Fleury decided to center the production around the concept of confine-

ment, specifically the cages people build themselves in their relationship with society. "Cages come in all different shapes: the literal shape of a deserted island, the social responsibilities of those in positions of 'power,' the fear of losing control, parental control, our own stupidity, addiction — not

only to physical substances but to revenge or popularity, and the reactions to trauma," she explained. "In these last two, the characters of Caliban and Ariel showcase contrasting responses to trauma and the different restraints each creates."

Fleury said she greatly enjoyed not only direct-

ing students in "The Tempest," but discussing with them the nuances and motivations to each character. "In giving them some ownership of their characters and the staging, I have watched them grow not only in their theatrical craftsmanship but also in their understanding of human nature,

which is Shakespeare's real genius," she said. "As a teacher-director, I firmly believe that high school programs should tackle Shakespeare every four years. Nothing teaches students the fundamentals of acting more than performing the Bard and truly nothing is so full of meaning as his timeless explorations of what it means to be fully human — even if you're a spirit living on a desert island."

Tickets to "The Tempest" are \$7 for students, \$15 for adults, and may be purchased online at [gpndramaclub.seatyourself.biz](http://gpndramaclub.seatyourself.biz) or by scanning the QR code.



# University Liggett School Players present 'Big Fish' March 7-10

The University Liggett School Players' production of "Big Fish" is coming to the school's main stage March 7 to 10.

Under the direction of Creative and Performing Arts Department Chairman and Director Dr. Phillip Moss, "Big Fish" will be a largely student-led production. Upper School students direct the show's choreography, costuming, scenic design and younger players, as well as per-

form the role of assistant director.

"Every show is an opportunity to learn and grow, but once again our young artists have reached deep to create music, choreography, scenic elements and costumes in a strong effort to bring excellence to our stage," Moss said.

In the primary roles are seniors Gio Thams and Olivia Johnson. Joining them are seniors Mark Saigh and Jordan

Stefanides-Cartenga, and juniors Madison Reeves and Alexa Kalyvas.

The show features nearly 80 students in various aspects of the production, including technical and design roles, as well as the pit orchestra. Thams and Johnson also have been key in the creative team. Thams has been supporting the vocal music for the show and Johnson is the choreographer.

Backstage leadership

has been handled by senior Mallory Childs and the technical director for the show is senior Luke Yoshida.

"Big Fish" is a rollicking fantasy set in the American South that centers on the charismatic Edward Bloom, whose impossible stories of his life's epic adventures frustrate his son, Will. With Edward on his deathbed, Will must embark on his own journey to find out who his father really is, unraveling the man from the myth, the truth from the tall tales.

The musical is based on the book by John August, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lipka.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett School students perform "Big Fish" March 7-10.

Saturday, March 7 to 9; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The Sunday matinee performance will feature the rose cer-

emony, honoring seniors, before the performance. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased online at [uls.seatyourself.biz](http://uls.seatyourself.biz).

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## Couple extends open invitation to 'Love Letters' Dinner theater performance is March 15, 16

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The list of famous actors — many of them couples — who've performed A. R. Gurney's "Love Letters" since its debut in the late 1980s is vast.

Grosse Pointe Woods couple Elizabeth and Charlie McQuillen soon will join the likes of real-life couples Robert Wagner and Jill St. John, Katharine Ross and Sam Elliott, and Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks, as well as onscreen couples Ali McGraw and Ryan O'Neal ("Love Story"), Meredith Baxter and Michael Gross ("Family Ties") and Larry Hagman and Linda Gray ("Dallas") when they take the stage to perform "Love Letters."

The two-night dinner theater performances take place Friday, March 15, and Saturday, March 16, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"I did 'Love Letters' for another production company probably around 10 years ago," Elizabeth McQuillen said. "I had the tremendous good fortune to do the show with one of my dearest friends and was directed by my best friend."

A handful of years later, she met Charlie McQuillen. The couple connected in 2015 via Facebook at the urging of mutual friends. A few "coffee dates" in early 2016 eventually led to a proposal later that year. They were married in 2017.

"I've been wanting to produce this with Charlie since I met him," Elizabeth McQuillen said.

With a partner secured, the only things missing were a location and pro-



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

**Elizabeth and Charlie McQuillen present "Love Letters," a readers theater performance, March 15-16, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church.**

duction team.

Enter Grosse Pointe Congregational and the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver.

"I was looking for a new church home," Elizabeth McQuillen said, "and I was cast in a show here with Charlie."

The church, its pastor and the congregation welcomed her with open arms and she quickly felt at home. She's been a member just more than a year.

"It was a case of finding the right circumstances, the right theater, the right group to produce," she said. "And what's better than the church I found

later in my life, where I finally feel at home? Bringing Charlie in to do this play, surrounded by my family here, is an extraordinary opportunity and I'm incredibly grateful for it."

"I'm pretty excited," Charlie McQuillen added. "We're going to have a lot of fun."

Set in the 1930s, "Love Letters" details a relationship spanning 40 years through a series of letters.

"It's two individuals who met as young children," Elizabeth McQuillen said. "Melissa, my character, is from a very wealthy, but very dysfunctional family.

Andrew is from a not as well-to-do family, but it's much more functional. It details a relationship that has a basis in love, but between two individuals who could never get past their family function or dysfunction or their own insecurities. You might call it a star-crossed love story, but the end reveals how deep and true this love has always been."

"It starts when they're very young," Charlie McQuillen added. "It's more notes back and forth and some letters. ... The writing is beautiful. They're polar opposites, but they are each other's touchstones throughout

their lives."

What sets "Love Letters" apart is its lack of set, costumes and movement. It's a readers theater performance, meaning the actors will not memorize their lines. They will sit side by side, facing front, and read their "love letters" to each other.

"The goal is the interpretation of the words before you," Elizabeth McQuillen said. "This is a reading. If we do it well enough, when they go home, people will swear they saw a set, they saw movements, they saw costumes. The play comes alive as we perform it."

Because they won't memorize the script, there's not a lot of prep work involved, Charlie McQuillen said, though they've gone through the script a few times during the last month or so.

"We want to keep a certain degree of freshness," Elizabeth McQuillen said, regarding the infrequency of rehearsals. "We want to give the audience the best we can deliver."

"It's really nice that we don't have to do a big set or blocking," Charlie McQuillen said. "All it is is two actors, facing forward. I can't wait."

The couple said they're both looking forward to working with dear friend and director, Arlene Pollock.

"We're not facing each other, so the director tells us how something is landing, how the other character is responding," Elizabeth McQuillen said. "I can't see him, so I can't read off of (his reaction). She'll be highlighting important parts and how to respond to each other when we can't do it visually."

The McQuillens said the play is deep and intense, but also a com-

edy.

"Even though we never look at each other or touch each other, we can work off our own chemistry with meaning that needs to be there," said Elizabeth McQuillen, an associate professor of business statistics at the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business.

"What's nice about this particular production is ... this will be the first time I'm doing it with someone I actually have a love relationship with," she added. "It will be interesting to separate myself from my role and work with his role, to define those characters and their dynamics. It'll be fun navigating that with Charlie."

An actor since age 11, Elizabeth McQuillen is a longtime member of Grosse Pointe Theatre and has appeared onstage throughout southeast Michigan and beyond.

Charlie McQuillen, a technical sales representative for Progressive Plumbing Supply, was bit by the acting bug around 10 years ago and got his start with the Actors Loft in Royal Oak. He also has taken the stage locally and beyond.

Doors for "Love Letters" open at 6 p.m. Dinner — catered by Olive Garden — begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the performance at 7 p.m.

"We'll have dinner, then during intermission they'll have access to our art gallery," said Yeager-Stiver, adding that the exhibition features the work of Grosse Pointe Woods resident Bette Prudden. "Then for the second act, there will be fresh-baked cookies."

Tickets are \$35 general admission, \$30 for students and seniors. Reserve seats online at [gpcong.org](http://gpcong.org) or by emailing office@[gpcong.org](mailto:gpcong.org).

## Prudden solo exhibition March 10 to May 12

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

A selection of artwork created by lifelong artist Bette Prudden is featured in the upcoming Grosse Pointe Congregational Church Arts Ministry exhibition, "People, Places & Things, a Life in Art: Works by Bette Prudden."

The show opens Sunday, March 10, and runs through Sunday, May 12, at the church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"What we're doing is honoring creative people who've devoted their entire lives to artmaking," said Lori Zurvalec, chair of the arts ministry committee. "Honoring them seems really appropriate for an arts ministry to do."

Prudden's solo exhibition follows those of 89-year-old

Charmaine Kaptur last fall and 93-year-old Carol LaChiusa in January. Prudden is 95.

Half of the 26 pieces Prudden will exhibit are pastels — a challenging medium, according to Zurvalec — while the other half includes watercolor and oil paintings.

Prudden, who has lived in Grosse Pointe Woods since 1963, has taught classes in the metro area just as long.

"The thing about Bette is she was a teacher — still is a teacher," Zurvalec said. "She has two students now who come to her home for lessons."

Prudden has been an active artist for decades, working mainly in watercolor, pastel oil and acrylic. The award-winning artist has exhibited her work locally, nationally and internationally.

One of her main interests is portraits. She has created commissioned portraits for retiring principals of Grosse Pointe North High School, as well as retired judge George Montgomery and countless children.

"There are probably many portraits of children in homes throughout Grosse Pointe," Zurvalec said. "She used pastels because they capture the softness of a child's cheeks."

For more than 40 years, Prudden conducted demonstrations at art fairs, painting portraits on the spot.

"She was good at capturing people's likeness immediately," Zurvalec said. "... At one point, she was not entering portraits in juried exhibitions anymore, so



COURTESY PHOTO

**Bette Prudden's work will be displayed through May 12.**

See SOLO, page 2B

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Foxcreek Questers have been raising funds to preserve and restore the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Provençal-Weir House.

# Honoring the women of the Fox Creek Questers

The community is invited to tea and cookies Saturday, March 9, to celebrate International Women's Day and the accomplishments of the Fox Creek Questers, led by President Lynn Detwiler.

During the past year, the Fox Creek Questers have worked with curator Leslie Wagner raising money every second Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and through larger fundraising

events, all to benefit the preservation of the Provençal-Weir House.

Docents will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to show guests how a \$5,000 state grant the Questers were awarded has changed life inside the historic house/museum — from refinished floors and vintage light fixtures to painted walls, doors, ceilings and porches, to a whole new vintage store.

"Bring your best friend or a special woman in your life and have some tea and stroll this lovely home," said Wagner, immediate past president of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. "Bring your pocketbook because everything in the vintage store is priced just \$10 unless otherwise marked. Heck, bring something to donate. We appreciate everything we get from the community."

For more information, call (313) 884-7010.

## SOLO:

Continued from page 1B

then she started doing more landscapes and still lifes."

Prudden is affiliated with the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, Detroit Society of Women Painters & Sculptors, Michigan Watercolor Society, Great Lakes Pastel Society, Scarab Club of Detroit and Portrait Society of America. She is a founding member of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church's Pointe Studio 10, of which Zurvalec also is a member.

Prudden also owned The Art Studio on Mack, where she taught oil, pastel, watercolor and acrylic painting. The Kansas City native also taught figure drawing, oil painting and watercolor classes at The War Memorial.

An opening reception for "People, Places &



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Bette Prudden's "Maine View"

Things" takes place 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 10. Light refreshments will be available. The public is welcome.

Regular show hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. The exhibition also will be open during March 15 and 16 perform-

ances of "Love Letters" in the church's lower level.

"During intermission, the art gallery will be open, so people can come in, have dinner, see the first half of the show, then mingle in the art gallery during

intermission before seeing the rest of the show," the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver said.

Prudden's work also will be available to view by appointment by calling (313) 884-3075.

For more information, email arts@gpcong.org.

# AREA ACTIVITIES

## The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents Vet-to-Vet, a free event for veterans to connect with fellow veterans and share stories, from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, March 7. Register at warmemorial.org.

## Reunion

Grosse Pointe North High School's Class of 1984 seeks classmates for its 40th reunion, which takes place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, 23722 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. The reunion includes a cash bar, light appetizers and live '80s music by Lunar Sessions. For those in town early, a casual gathering at Rustic Cabins in Grosse Pointe Park takes place Friday, Aug. 23. Cost for the reunion is \$40; Venmo @amytrederholland. For information, contact Amy Treder Holland at amytr Holland@live.com or call (313) 790-9667, or Marla Ruhana at (586) 801-4701.

## Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◆ Girls Reading, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Paper People Kids Workshop, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Teen Creativity Circle: Yarn-Wrapped Letters, 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Discovering Stained Glass of Metro Detroit, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Yard Up Knitting and Crochet Club, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Ewald, 15175 E.

Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Coding a Sports Game, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Saturday Drop-In Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

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

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 25, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Register at redcross blood.org.

## Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Stephen Ahles, the Rotarian instrumental in getting the new safe drug disposal box installed at Grosse Pointe Woods city hall, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

## The Helm

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

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

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

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

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

- ◆ St. Patrick's Day Lunch & Karaoke, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 15. Cost is \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers.

- ◆ AARP Smart Driver Tek, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, with instructor Roger Doster.

- ◆ Out-to-Breakfast Bunch, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

See EVENTS, page 4B

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City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

### BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024  
From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
and  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024  
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
and  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd.



## Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

### One — it's just a number

I was an only child. I hated it and lambasted my parents throughout my childhood for this deplorable condition they put me in. I was outnumbered, two to one, for every harebrained scheme I proposed.

"When do I get my own car?"

Mom: "Never."

Dad: "When you can pay for it yourself."

"Can I backpack this summer in Europe with (insert name of boyfriend

of the month)?"

Mom: "Absolutely not."

Dad: "No. And that's final."

Back then, arguments were settled quickly.

I had nobody to blame things on; nobody to divert my parents' attention from my misdeeds; nobody to bicker with just for the hell of it. I had nobody to keep me company in the back seat of the car on tiresome family outings such as funerals, educational trips and

visits to extremely old relatives who smelled like mothballs and lived in gloomy apartments full of antimacassars and fringed lampshades and scary taxidermy displays.

I never learned the give and take of living with a brother or a sister. Never experienced sibling rivalry until I had children of my own, when I got to witness it firsthand, in triplicate. At high volume. Daily. For years and years and years.

When I was little, I prayed for a baby brother or sister. When I reached my teens, I changed my mind and prayed for an older brother who would invite his friends to our house. I would even have settled for an older sister if she could have been counted on to invite some older boys to our house.

After hearing about the bitter family squabbles that grown-up siblings experience while settling their parents' estates, I have reconsidered my prayers. When my parents died, I inherited everything. Their house.

Their bank account. Their portfolio. Their insurance policies. An antique or two.

I also got an attic crammed with knick knacks, questionable treasures and extensive collections put aside by two people who lived through the Great Depression. I inherited balls of saved string, boxes of disintegrated rubber bands, dozens of empty jelly jars and plastic containers and enough 1970s-style clothing to fill a Goodwill truck.

I got some nice art, but I also got my grandmother's paint-by-number masterpieces and my aunt's hand-painted ceramic ashtrays. I inherited framed photos of unknown people, some messy scrapbooks and lots of cheap, broken furniture.

I got everything — the

good, the bad, the ugly and the broken. But at least I got to pick through the stuff and decide for myself whether to keep it, sell it, give it to somebody or throw it away.

One of my friends is still bickering with her brother over their deceased father's collection of gold coins. Instead of the coins she was promised, she inherited her mother's collection of holy cards. "Hundreds of holy cards," she says. "What am I supposed to do with hundreds of holy cards?"

These are not baseball cards, she points out, which at least are worth something on eBay. She has shoeboxes filled with pictures of saints, the Holy Mother in dozens of dramatic situations, bad reproductions of

See ONE, page 4B

## March for Meals supports Helm's Meals on Wheels

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The first known Meals on Wheels delivery in the United States took place 70 years ago in Philadelphia, with the goal of helping seniors extend their independence and health as they age.

Since then, the program has grown into one of the largest and most effective social movements in the country, with 251 million meals served to 2.2 million seniors each year.

Apart from providing seniors an opportunity to socialize, according to mealsonwheelsamerica.

org, 92 percent of recipients say the meals help them live independently, 85 percent say the meals help them feel more secure and 77 percent say the meals improve their health.

Locally, The Helm at the Boll Life Center began offering Meals on Wheels services in 1978.

The program serves residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods who are age 60 or older, homebound and unable to safely prepare meals for themselves.

In 2023, nearly 26,000 meals were delivered through The Helm's Meals on Wheels program — a 26 percent



increase over the prior year.

"We can attribute that to a couple things," said Krista Siddall, executive director of The Helm, first noting the aging population. "We're approaching a time when

there will be more people over 60 than there will be kids under 17. We can also attribute it to need. There is a greater need in our community among homebound people or people who can't get out and shop or who need

additional assistance to stay in their homes. Twenty-six percent is a significant increase."

Meals on Wheels eases the challenges faced by some seniors of accessing healthy food and cooking nutritious meals. While 10 million older adults in America face hunger every day, the risk of malnutrition increases with age due to factors like decreased appetite, limited mobility and dietary restrictions.

Food is supplied to The Helm by TRIO Community Meals of Detroit. Clients have the option to receive five frozen meals each Monday or one hot meal daily,

Monday through Friday. Each meal consists of a protein, starch, vegetable, fruit and carton of milk.

Nutrition isn't the only benefit of receiving a meal. A social component also exists, as volunteers have the opportunity to interact with the recipient and build relationships.

"We know now the importance of socialization," Siddall said. "Having a social connection as we age has more of an impact on health than quitting smoking and obesity."

"... There are a lot of

See MARCH, page 4B

## Winter on Lake St. Clair



Winter on Lake St. Clair ca. 1920

G. Russell French at the tiller of "French Boy" — a Class A Champion ice boat. "French Boy" featured 450 square feet of sail and 9 foot runners, and was owned by G. Russell French and John H. French Jr.



**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
development@gphistorical.org  
(313) 884-7010

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to find out more.



Scan the blue code for information on research requests and donations.

Do you like history? Would you like to volunteer? Scan to learn more!



Join us for a Shred Event.

### You're invited.

Do you have old documents that you'd like to dispose of safely and securely? We're hosting a shredding party on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

**Bring your friends and family to our office! We'll provide the shredding truck and refreshments.** We're looking forward to seeing you there.

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Shredding Party**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Grosse Pointe Branch  
20879 Mack Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236  
[schwab.com/grossepointe](http://schwab.com/grossepointe)

Please RSVP by March 29 to Jackie Piper at 313-743-0433 or [jackie.piper@schwab.com](mailto:jackie.piper@schwab.com).

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# Assumption Cultural Center announces spring activities

A variety of fitness and self-improvement classes and events that educate, excite and entertain are available this spring at Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

Assumption's new Spring Cultural Series includes a class Monday, March 11, during which guests learn to make — and bake on-site — Greek butter cookies.

The series also features a four-hands piano performance Thursday, April 4, by the Sisters Stojanovska, with music selections by Kapustin, Liszt, Dvorzak, Khachaturian, Colin Payne and more. The sisters are Marina Stojanovska, currently on faculty at Oakland University, and Natasha Stojanovska, on faculty at the University of New

Mexico.

Grosse Pointe North High School's annual Great Works Concert takes place at Assumption Church Thursday, March 14.

Assumption Nursery School & Toddler Center will begin accepting registrations for its 2024 Summer Camp on Monday, March 11. "Camp Imagination" offers two creativity-inspiring day camps: Early Childhood Camp for ages 1 to 6, and a Youth Camp for ages 7 to 10. The nursery school also presents its annual Spring Auction Friday, May 10. "Denim & Diamonds Auction Gala" will be an evening of hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, auction items, raffles and more.

Those interested in fitness are invited to Assumption's KALOSOMATICS exercise program, which begins Monday, April 8, and runs through Friday, June 7. KALOSOMATICS offers women's and co-ed classes with cardiovascular emphasis

incorporating aerobics, yoga and Pilates-like mat work. Beginner, intermediate and senior classes are offered, day and evening. Students may alternate classes and times to accommodate their personal schedules, new students may attend any class free for one week and seniors receive a 25 percent discount. Students may join class at any time during the session and registration fees will be pro-rated from the time of registration.

Assumption also offers two yoga classes: Gentle Mat Yoga and Yin Yoga. In Gentle Mat, students are guided through gentle postures that link breath with movement while increasing strength and improving flexibility. In Yin Yoga, students hold postures that move into deeper connective tissue. By the end of class, students feel as though they just had a deep tissue massage.

For those who prefer team sports, check out Assumption's pickleball program. Various clinics

teach beginners how to play and help advanced beginners learn skills to improve their game. Group Pickleball Play also is available where participants are sorted by skill level. Courts are available for private rentals, including new 7 to 9 a.m. court rentals, Monday through Friday, for Early Bird pickleball players.

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

Travel with Assumption features two trips. The first is a motor-coach trip to Montreal and Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, May 18 to 24. The second trip is a visit to Greece, Sept. 10 to 24. To learn more about these trips, Assumption is hosting Travel Night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7.

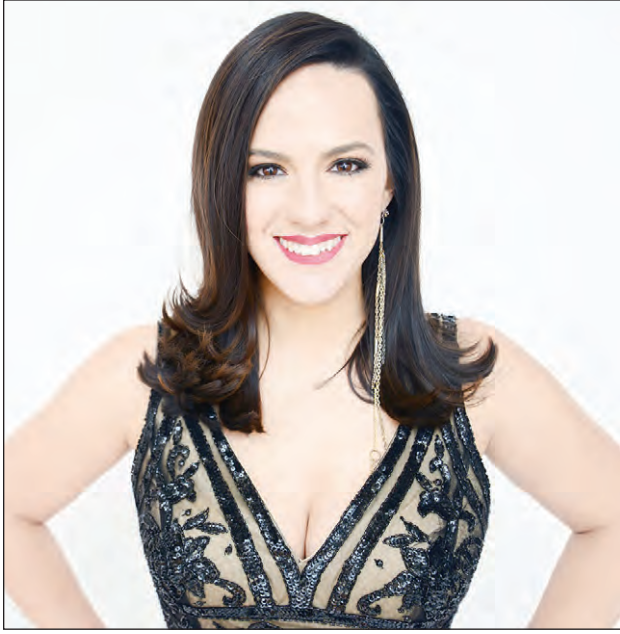
Other opportunities for self-improvement include French language classes taught by

Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe and Greek language classes for beginners and teens, advanced beginners and intermediates.

Other events at Assumption this spring include an American Red Cross blood drive Friday, March 29, and Assumption's 14th annual Giant Garage Sale Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15.

Marchiori Catering at Assumption provides food and service for a variety of events, from weddings large and small, to conferences, business meetings and organization gatherings, with many function rooms available to accommodate events of any size. Marchiori also offers Lenten seafood buffets, a Mother's Day gourmet brunch and soups to go year-round.

For more information or to register for events, call Assumption Cultural Center at (586) 779-6111 or view the Spring/Summer 2024 brochure at [assumptionculturalcenter.org](http://assumptionculturalcenter.org).



Daniela Mack

## Music at Memorial March 15 concert features Daniela Mack

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a special recital by Argentine mezzo Daniela Mack at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 15.

The rising mezzo-soprano has been hailed as "a purringly elegant BMW of a singer."

She will be in the

Detroit area preparing for an April recital with Keun-A Lee, collaborative pianist and wife of Wei Yu, principal cellist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

This will be their only performance in the area. For more information, call (313) 882-5330.

## CHURCH EVENT

### St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Grosse Pointe Woods hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn event noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 21. The Lenten fish fry, prepared by Chef Steuart Graham, includes fish, clam chowder, potato chips, coleslaw, buns and butter and hush puppies. Reservations are recommended. Call (313) 884-4820. A free-will offering will be collected at the door.

## March highlights at The Helm

### Safety on the road

Seniors are invited to learn about the safety technology available in vehicles during the AARP Smart Driver Tek workshop 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, at The Helm.

This popular course teaches the latest vehicle safety technologies and how to use them to help enhance driving safety and extend safe driving years. Some of those features — technology-lane departure systems, smart headlights and blind-spot detection systems, for example — can improve driver and driving safety. Attendees leave with a vehicle technology checklist, which offers guidance on desired technologies

when shopping for a new car or what features may already be in their car.

### Understanding addiction

According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, more than half of the United States

population older than age 12 have illicitly used drugs in their lifetime. Brooke Wakeford, a preventionist with CARE of Southeastern

the situation. In addition to teaching ways to identify an addiction, Wakeford will explain the stages of addiction, the impact addiction plays on the family and ways to address substance abuse within the family.

### A great escape

Former Grosse Pointe social studies teacher Rufus McGaugh will regale guests with tales of his travels around the globe, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at The Helm. His stories — and the way he tells them — captivate and entertain audience members.

McGaugh, a Vietnam veteran, has visited every country in the world. Some of his experiences are amusing, some dangerous, some poignant, but his engaging storytelling style will keep guests interested and maybe even make them feel like they've been there, too.

Attendance for all three of these programs is free for members and future members; however registration is required. Register at [helmlife.org](http://helmlife.org) or by calling (313) 882-9600.



Michigan, will be at

The Helm from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 13, for "Addiction: Understanding and Helping Others."

Not every use of an illicit drug or alcohol leads to addiction; however, recognizing the signs is the first step in being able to address

# Worship Service



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Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.  
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☞ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**  
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March 10 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent  
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Sunday Worship at 10 am  
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**SUNDAY**  
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Sunday School - During Service

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

**Randy S. Boelter, Pastor**  
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**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

6B | FEATURES

# Chamber honors small businesses, young entrepreneurs at yearly meeting

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosted its 18th annual meeting — its first as a breakfast — Thursday, Feb. 29, at The War Memorial.

Chamber members were thanked for their commitment to the chamber, which currently boasts more than 600 members. Brief remarks from Board of Directors Chairman Mark Heppner and Chamber President and Executive Director Jenny Boettcher were followed by a program that highlighted several small businesses and young entrepreneurs.

Five small business owners pitched their companies in a quest to receive grants from the chamber foundation. Presenters were voted on by members in attendance and the winning business was announced at the end of the program; all five contenders received varying monetary awards.

Taking the top spot and winning a \$500 grant was Part of Your World Princess Co., a business started by Sofia Kirkman. The 22-year-old thanked the chamber for its ongoing support of the business, which hosts princess parties.

“The chamber was one of the earliest champions of my endeavors ... always offering support at every turn,” she said.

Kirkman said she intends to use the grant to establish the Pixie Dust Fund, a nonprofit fund that will allow her to offer hospital and school visits free of charge “to children and families who most deserve it,” as



well as expand her services.

Placing second in voting was Nia Omowale and her business, Building Better Learners. She said she would use the grant to establish a website and buy supplies.

“This is not just a place where kids have fun, but an essential part of the Grosse Pointe community,” she said, noting a focus on social, emotional and academic success among students.

Back to You and Dr. John Putnam placed third in the voting. His facility is staffed with physical therapy doctors, craniosacral and occupational therapists and rehabilitation specialists. The Grosse Pointe Woods clinic opened during the pandemic and grew 80 percent last year, he said.

Putnam said he would spend grant money to broadcast his services and recruit more doctors, among other efforts.

Placing fourth was Grosse Pointe Moving and Storage. Office administrator Gretchen White noted in her pitch

that 76 percent of shoppers check business websites.

“Regardless of our longevity or reputation and involvement in the community ... we are obliged to have a digital presence,” she said, noting a grant would be put toward digital advertising to increase the company’s reach.

The fifth spot went to Dan LaLonde of LaLonde Jewelers and Gemologists on The Hill. The site of the longest continuous jewelry story in the Pointes — it was established more than 75 years ago as Pongracz Jewelers — LaLonde has been serving the community in that location for 25 years. He said a grant would help him and his wife, Cynthia, beautify the front of the store.

The second half of the program featured pitches from young entrepreneurs — some with established businesses, others with business ideas.

The Young Entrepreneur Scholarship program was launched by the chamber last year, when three students earned

money for their endeavors. This year, thanks to increased support, four students received scholarship funds.

University Liggett School senior Helen Wujek was unable to attend the breakfast; Abigail Turnbull, the chamber’s membership and events coordinator, spoke on Wujek’s behalf.

In 2019, she started her business, Butter & Stuff, “based on her love for baking and craving unique things,” Turnbull said.

In a prerecorded video, Wujek said it started as a hobby to make dog treats that turned into a business making human treats. She said it taught her to be innovative and develop a strong work ethic, and she hopes it evolves more once she heads off to college.

Grosse Pointe North High School junior Troy Lipscomb presented about Lipscomb Landscaping, his all-electric, environmentally friendly landscaping business.

“It was something I was able to incorporate at such a young age,” he



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 31 & UP MEDIA

Above, the small business grant top winner was Sofia Kirkman, founder of Part of Your World Princess Co. Left, from left, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chairman Mark Heppner, Young Entrepreneur scholarship winners Avery Slanec, Aakash Nagori and Troy Lipscomb, Chamber Membership and Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull and Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher.

said. “... There have been highs and lows, but it’s had a big impact on my life. It’s changed me and my family in great ways.”

Liggett senior Avery Slanec presented two businesses — the established Hunters Service Society Inc., and her plan for Home Base Real Estate.

The former covers processing fees for hunters who wish to donate their harvests to food banks and people in need.

“Hunters who harvest white-tailed deer bring it to approved processors, free of charge, who then deliver it to shelters who need protein,” Slanec said. “Last year we donated 1.5 tons of protein,” to agencies such as Gleaner’s Food Bank and Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Slanec, who is working on getting her real estate license, also pitched Home Base Real Estate, a business that would take the guesswork out of moving when profes-

sional athletes are traded to new cities.

“My goal is to have properties around the world near sports stadiums in major cities,” she said, “... so athletes can come and relocate for their duration in the city.”

The top prize, a \$1,500 scholarship, was awarded to North senior Aakash Nagori, who pitched his idea for Employ Connect. The mobile app will be designed to match high school-age candidates with suitable job opportunities.

Similar to a dating app, Employ Connect will allow location-based matching, where candidates can swipe to like jobs and filter searches based on job type, experience level and salary range. Employers can see resumes, candidates can see job openings and employers and candidates can message each other directly, Nagori said.



## Full house

More than 300 guests attended the Special Needs Resource Fair Feb. 28, at The War Memorial. The event was hosted by The Family Center, The Arc of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, Kids on the Go, Full Circle Foundation, Lumen Pediatric Therapy and the Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Special Education Transitional Services.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAMILY CENTER

## LWVGP program looks at book bans

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe is sponsoring the program, “The Battle for Ideas: Inside Schools and Libraries’ Response to Book Bans.”

It takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the Wayne County Community College Mary Ellen Stempfle Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods.

Book bans are becoming increasingly common in the U.S., but what’s happening close to home? The program will explore the impact book bans have in local communities, as well as challenges faced by local libraries and how they have prepared to address future demands from those who want to ban books.

The panel of experts includes:

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library Director Jessica Keyser
- ◆ Harper Woods Library Director Kristen Valyi-Hax
- ◆ Harper Woods School District Superintendent Steven McGhee

To register for the program, visit [LWV-Prgm-Book\\_Bans.eventbrite.com](http://LWV-Prgm-Book_Bans.eventbrite.com)

For more information, email Dawn Drozd at [lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com](mailto:lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com).

Clockwise from top left, Regan Wright, a coordinator of the Full Circle Foundation’s TEAM 26 program, staffed the table offering dog treats, baked by members of TEAM 26; from left, Diane Strickler, Jennifer Bingaman and Ted Everingham represented The Family Center at the event, which featured 60 vendors; Katie Kravitz, left and Jeri Barnum, representatives of Lumen Pediatric Therapy, one of the sponsors of the fair, are all smiles at their table; and The Arc of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, represented by Deb Moffatt, Hailee Witt and Caryn Witt, were among several event hosts.





# LIFE & LEISURE



2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 6C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 8C & 9C COMICS

## Black Bottom, I-375 topics for March 10 lecture

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The federal government is embarking on a grant program designed to reconnect communities that were affected by interstate projects in the 1950s and '60s, when the John C. Lodge freeway plowed through Corktown, I-96 devastated parts of northwest Detroit and I-375 wiped out the historic Black Bottom and Paradise Valley neighborhoods.

Detroit Free Press columnist John Gallagher and Michigan Advance author Ken Coleman will take a closer look specifically at the I-375 proposal, as well as the history of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, during the next Your Old Mansion lecture, presented by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Both speakers are looking forward to the presentation, but more so the conversation with guests afterward.

"What I'd like to present is not only a history of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, but how government is responding to this 2.0 version of I-375," Coleman said. "I'm always interested in not only presenting, but having a conversation."

Coleman and Gallagher will take a look at the Michigan Department of Transportation's current plans for I-375, dubbed the Reconnecting Communities Project, which will "convert the depressed I-375 freeway in Detroit to a street-level boulevard," according to michigan.gov.

"It will be a conversation around how to recreate the I-375 thoroughfare, the federal interstate that runs out of downtown Detroit and is one of the sturtest in America at 1.1 miles, part of the I-75 footprint," Coleman said, "... instead of a conversation on how



COURTESY RENDERING

The I-375 proposal would change the roadway from a sunken expressway to a surface-level boulevard.

to redress a community that was negatively impacted by one of the most notorious urban renewal projects in American history."

Gallagher said he'll talk a bit about the history of I-375 and, "How America went all in for expressways in the mid-20th century," he said, "never knowing the damage it would bring to the area."

"... Fifty years later, you wonder, why did it go down like that?" he added. "Why did people think this was the way to go back then? It's a much different world today."

The problem with the I-375 plan is, Gallagher said, "it's an expressway in all but name. It's a surface street that will be three lanes in each direction with turning lanes. There's no way a pedestrian can safely cross. The pitch is reconnecting community, a nod to what happened with the destruction of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley. I don't see how this reconnects community at all."

He said he'd rather see the roadway narrowed — at most, two lanes in each direction — as well as more attention to traffic-calming devices and pedestrian walkability. He said developers should be thoughtful



John Gallagher, left, and Ken Coleman will present the history of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley and plans for I-375 during the March 10 lecture.

about the redevelopment of 30 acres of land the project will free up.

"We know what we want to do," he said. "We see it in Midtown, in Capital Park — urban walkability. You don't get that from MDOT's original plan."

Coleman said he largely agrees with Gallagher's assessment. "I think this is an opportunity to marry two very important ideas," Coleman said. "A new roadway that replaces I-375 as we know it, marry it with the ... greenspace that a lot of people in that neighborhood want to see. I'm interested in expanded greenway space in that section of city, more than the reimagining of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley."

"... We can end up with a neighborhood on



could live with," he added.

Both men cited additional issues with the proposal and look forward to hearing others' opinions at the March 10 lecture.

Coleman said discussions about the city's rebirth — a combination of its rebound from bankruptcy, a better economy and more interest in Detroit — and the I-375 project in particular, should not be ignored.

"This I-375 2.0 conversation and redevelopment is the most important conversation and effort that down-

town, the city and the rest of the state will have party to as potential participants," he said. "These conversations are very important. I want as many people at the table as possible."

Gallagher said the target audience for the lecture is, "Anyone who takes an active interest in the life of the city."

Added Coleman, "As much as conversation about a new I-375 has some resonance in my heart as a Detroit resident and researcher, as much as I write about and care about black life in Detroit ... I also recognize whatever is the final result of the new I-375, it is going to affect all of us as Michiganders," he said. "Anybody and everybody who has a stake in this area (should attend). Residents, but also people who work there, have a stake in the game."

This is the fourth lecture in the five-part Your Old Mansion series. Tickets are \$25 for GPAA members, \$30 for non-members. All proceeds support GPAA's free programming for senior citizens, veterans and students in art programs at local high schools.

For more information or to register, visit [grossepointeartcenter.org](http://grossepointeartcenter.org) or call (313) 881-3454.

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Carlyle Center

## Next steps after autism diagnosis

**Q: My child received an autism diagnosis. What's next?**

**A:** You are not alone in this process. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics and National Institutes of Health recommend interventions start early, are intense and involve the family. Treatments can be broken down in the categories of behavioral, developmental, educational and psychological.

Why is parent involvement so important?

Parent involvement is integral to the child's success. Not only can parents and caregivers support the process, development and expansion of skills within their child, but research also tells us that parent training can lead to parents feeling less stress in their daily life and overall family well-being can be improved as well. So, not only does parent involvement help the child who is receiving intervention, but it also helps the parents themselves and the family as a whole (Koegel, Bimbela & Schreibman, 1996).

Where can I find support?  
We are fortunate to have several

local organizations and providers in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods to turn to. One new, free resource from the Carlyle Center ([carlyle.com](http://carlyle.com)) is Chandler&. Chandler& is a podcast, Youtube channel, website and overall resource for parents and caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder. Chandler& provides parents and caregivers with easy, accessible parenting tools to navigate the ups and downs of parenting a child with ASD. You can expect weekly videos, worksheets and updates from the team. For more information, visit [chandlerand.com/](http://chandlerand.com/)

Carlyle Center is an in-home ABA therapy provider, working with families throughout the Grosse Pointe area. For more information and support, reach Carlyle Center at [kyle.steiner@carlylecenter.com](mailto:kyle.steiner@carlylecenter.com) or by calling (313) 580-9716.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org).

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# Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

## Helping elderly parents when their forgetfulness increases

**Dear Gabby:** My mother is really having a hard time with her memory and she seems to be in limbo. She mostly seems to be fine alone, but is constantly losing her phone, wallet, etc.

The other day she got lost doing errands and a wonderful neighbor drove her home.

The thought of committing her to a memory care unit seems extreme but I worry about her safety at this point, along with the loneliness.

How do you know when the right time is to make the move? — Lost in the Woods

**Dear Lost in the Woods**

We have asked a local expert from Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Woods to help you with your problem:

I feel for you, and the safety of your loved one is of the utmost importance. Thank goodness you had a neighbor that knew your mom and brought her back home.

Wandering, losing items and loneliness are common signs of the beginning stages of dementia/Alzheimer's.

In my experience participating in support groups with others who face the same challenges

you face can be helpful. We offer a support group at Sunrise on Vernier, an all memory care community, in a non-judgement zone where you will hear from others who have faced similar challenges as you are facing.

We understand that all individuals living with Alzheimer's will not be able to be alone at some point. We also recommend that they are not left alone for long periods of time.

Before placing a loved one in memory care, you could start with hiring in-home care, to provide the family peace of mind that their loved one is

being cared for or you could also investigate taking her to an adult day center.

This would not only help with safety, but also loneliness. Adult day centers offer a variety of activities and provide an opportunity for socialization.

It can be a difficult decision to know when it is time to move your loved one to a memory care community. To be honest, everyone is different, and it all depends on the family's situation, and what they are willing or able to take on.

I understand a lot of people may feel like they are giving up on



their loved one when they move them to a memory care setting, but they can be very beneficial for seniors, and their families. Especially if it's the right place — safety, peace of mind, socialization, activities — all of which are also beneficial for brain health.

Sunrise Senior Living have been serving seniors and the community for over 40 years and have 300 plus communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Sunrise on Vernier and Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Woods Campus pride ourselves on being a resource for our community! My name is Mary Jo Fresard and would be happy to help you navigate this difficult journey. I can be reached at 313.642.2000 or by email at Mary.Fresard@sunrise-seniorliving.com.

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

## We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Many readers may empathize with the situation I've put myself in — procrastination has gotten me to the point where spring break is three weeks away and the beach body I was hoping to have is still trapped under some winter cushion. So here we are. It's go time. What extra workouts or tricks can I pull out of a hat to speed up results?

A few months ago, I purchased a sauna tank top. It

sat in a drawer until last week, when things really got desperate. It essentially looks like a regular black tank top with thicker sort of straps, but the inside is almost a thin layer of rubber or plastic. According to Amazon, it's a polymer fabric. The shirt is actually very nice to wear (before you start moving around) because it's sticky texture helps it stay in place. It doesn't move at all, which is really

nice. No worrying about your belly being exposed during push ups!

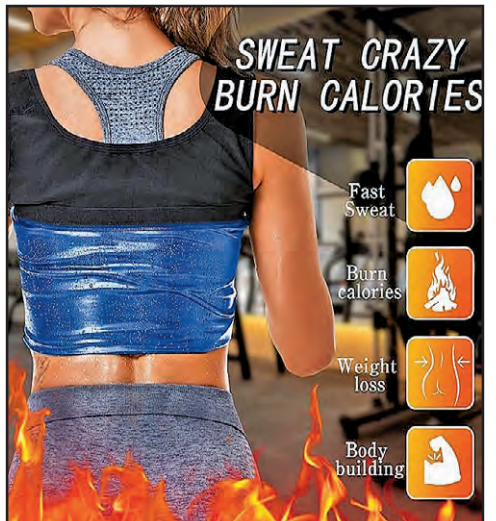
The point of this sauna shirt is essentially to trap body heat and cause increased metabolism and sweating. It's like being in a sauna, so you may also sweat out toxins and such. About five minutes into my high intensity class wearing this tank top, I was really feeling it. It almost caused me to panic because of the feeling of

being so much hotter than normal. Ten minutes in, and I could feel sloshing sweat inside the tank top as I was doing crunches. I worried that it might all come crashing out and I'd die of embarrassment and have to find a new gym, but it somehow stayed inside the tank (phew).

After the first 20 or so minutes, I just got used to it and sort of forgot I had it on.

After returning home, I could not take the shirt

off fast enough. First, I decided to get a towel and reach into the shirt to get any excess sweat. There certainly was a lot. Soon after, I couldn't resist getting on the scale. I was 1.2



pounds less than before the workout class. Not earth shattering, but not bad either. And that was after drinking a lot of water (which is highly recommended so you don't get dehydrated from excessive sweating).

According to some online research, the overall benefits of the sauna tank are debatable. Most agree that you will certainly sweat out a lot of water weight. Some argue that your metabolism is boosted from raising your body temperature.

According to the website Everydayhealth.com, "Sauna clothes replicate heat adaptation (a term exercise scientists use to describe the process whereby the body adjusts to hotter temperatures) similarly to what would happen when we encounter hot, humid outdoor environments." Heat adaptation has various benefits, such as increased blood plasma volume, earlier onset of sweating, and more dilute sweat, according to physician Dr. Dalleck, a professor of science and sport. The increase in plasma volume — which is the volume of the liquid component of your blood, according to the Cleveland Clinic — is a measure of better overall cardiorespiratory fitness. More dilute sweat means less sodium is lost, meaning you preserve more of the electrolyte, which helps keep energy up during exercise. So, yes, the suit can help boost the intensity of your

workout, Dalleck says. One of the more annoying parts of the sauna shirt is that you have to hand wash and hang to dry. It's not that big of a deal, but I usually prefer to throw my clothes in the washing machine.

The shirt does dry completely very quickly, so that's a plus.

All in all, we are giving the sauna shirt 3.5 alligators. Who knows if it is really helping. But getting on the scale and seeing it go down by a few pounds is a nice motivator to help you get to your goals. As for me, I'll be wearing it as much as possible for the next few weeks.

As always, seek input from your physician before trying anything like this. It may not be for everyone! Best of luck with your spring break and summer body goals. To purchase the tank, there are many versions on Amazon.com in the \$20 range. The one we tired can be found at <https://www.amazon.com/MOLLDAN-Womens-Shapewear-Weight-Workout>.

*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.*



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[www.gpt.org/sensory](http://www.gpt.org/sensory)

# Braised perfection

## Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I recently purchased "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" by Julia Child from Flyleaf on the Hill. It's absolutely inspiring for a girl like me who is ready to tackle anything in the kitchen. Everything is made with simple and easy ingredients. But they come together to form a great dish.

Her chicken fricassee drew me in immediately. This isn't the exact recipe and I made some changes but the idea is to braise the meat until tender and soft.

I had the butcher break down a chicken into two breasts, two thighs and two wings.

It's seared with a flour coating, which is then removed and then leeks and mushrooms are added.

The key to this one is fresh tarragon, wine and lemon. The chicken came out so soft and buttery, I served it over linguine with frozen green beans that I reheated with butter and lemon. My kids like them better.

Use all thighs or breasts if you prefer.

Our pot was cleaned out with happy little satisfied faces. Julia might be mad at me for the frozen green beans but they were all eaten with great satisfaction.

Cheers, Mombeau

### Chicken Fricassee

1 whole chicken

3 leeks, sliced and washed

1 lb sliced mushrooms

½ cup dry white wine

2 cups chicken broth

2 tbsp fresh tarragon

Juice from 1 lemon

1 cup flour

2 tsp garlic powder

Salt and pepper

2 Tbsp olive oil

Ask your butcher to break down the chicken for you. If not, buy 3 lbs of chicken thighs or breasts. Dredge the chicken in a mixture of flour, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Preheat your oven to 325.

In an ovenproof stock pot, sear the seasoned chicken in the olive oil until brown. You might have to do two batches.

My kitchen was a smokey mess so remember to turn your oven fan on. After about three to four minutes a side remove the chicken and add the leeks and mushrooms. The chicken will finish off in the oven. Once they cook for a



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

few more minutes add the wine and let reduce until half. Add the chicken broth, lemon and tarragon. Slowly slide the chicken in and

place in the oven for one and a half hours.

Serve with cooked linguine tossed in olive oil.

Frozen green beans? Give them a try.



## Aging wine

Twenty years ago, one of the questions I got asked most was, "How long do you think this wine will age before I drink it?"

That was then. For about the last two decades, almost no one has asked me. The only reason I can give for this is that people didn't really care about aging wine, which appears to be reflected in the way most red wines have been made since the mid-1990s. (Very few white wines are made to be aged.)

So, I was taken aback recently when someone asked, "Will this wine age?" The question seems to be making a comeback. And a few more wines are being made to be aged.

This subject is fasci-

inating in view of the fact that for centuries, the best wines were known to improve for years in the bottle, and the phrase, "Like fine old wine" has come into the language as a reference to greatness in maturity. We then went through a period where aging wine was not considered to be an issue.

This subject is extremely complex and hard to answer simply. I could always answer by asking back, "How long are you talking about keeping a bottle of wine in the cellar?" If the query comes from someone who wants to lay away a case or two for a child who was recently born, for the child's 21st birthday, then the answer was: You're on your own.

With the exception of some very rare wines, I know of few red wines made today that I'd feel comfortable suggesting can be kept that long and still be drinkable.

The one exception is vintage port from Portugal. It's a noble English tradition to lay away a pipe of port (about 100 gallons) for a son or daughter upon their birth.

That's a lot of wine, especially for port. A hundred gallons of port makes about 500 bottles of wine! On the plus side, however, vintage port is one of the longest-lived of wines. Dry red table wine is another story.

Some great Bordeaux can go as long as 20 years, but even as great as some Burgundies are, it's questionable whether most of them would be great past about a decade. (The few classic old Burgundies that do make it to 50 years and still show amazing traits are what collectors of wine pray for every time they pull the cork on an old Burgundy. It happens all too rarely.)

Oddly enough, one of the most age-worthy red

wines is made from the oft-disparaged petite sirah. But one reason we age them as long as we do is that they can be frightfully tannic when young.

Top winemakers suggest that the key element that allows a wine to age is not overt fruit or a slug of oak, but balance. A balance of all elements, acid and tannins included, are essential for a wine to age.

A wine with huge amounts of fruit but without the structure to hold that fruit is likely to be dead in just a few years.

Of the wines in my cellar that have aged the longest, most are Italian. Barolo and Barbaresco in particular show the characteristics that age well. When they are young, good ones generally have the fruit (roses, cherries, tar) that indicates the intensity of the nebbiolo grape along with strong tannins and acid that need decades to smooth out.

We had a bottle of a great 1990 Chianti recently and it was already beginning to fade, so 20 years seems to be limit for such wines.

Finally, a wine tasting good when it's young is

no guarantee it will taste great with age. Indeed, some of the most appealing young wines begin to decline very soon after release. Best suggestion: Drink most reds when they are two to three years old.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

## Family troubles

DEAR ANNIE: It has recently come to my attention that my middle adult son has molested my adult daughter when she was 8 years old. She broke down and told me tearfully last week.

He is now 23, and he is 31. And I am completely at a loss of how I should feel, think, react. I'm basically an emotional wreck. He is married with four children (whom I now fear for), not to mention what his wife would think/do...

I'm REALLY at a loss because we were/are so close. Please, any thoughts on this? My daughter and I are OK; she knows I'm here for her and we will go at her pace and not push anything, but this explains a lot about her behavior over the years. I've looked for help on the web for this and all I get are hotlines. Thank you

for your consideration. — CONCERNED PARENT

DEAR CONCERNED PARENT: Firstly, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to you and your daughter.

Discovering such heartbreaking news will inevitably leave you feeling shocked, devastated and completely at a loss for how to proceed.

Your first priority must be the safety and well-being of your daughter. Your unconditional love and support are undoubtedly a huge source of comfort and strength for her. And it's natural to feel conflicted about your son, grappling with the love you have for him and the shock, devastation and rage you likely feel about his actions.

Seek professional guidance and support to help you navigate your

emotions and make informed decisions about how to move forward. Consider reaching out to a therapist or counselor who specializes in family dynamics and trauma. Additionally, exploring support groups or networks for families of survivors of abuse can provide you with a sense of community.

One of the biggest questions a therapist can help

you deal with is talking to your son about what he did, and whether he should tell his wife. She deserves to know the truth and make an informed decision about what to do next; her children's safety is at stake.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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PHOTO BY ANNE GRYZENIA

## Green up your party table for St. Pat's



By Olivia Monette and Donna Zetterlund  
Special Writers

St. Patrick's Day means that spring is right around the corner, so green is on everyone's mind for more than one reason. We've curated a few great ideas for celebrating the wearin' o' the green that are easy on you and your wallet.

For a fun and festive table to delight guests or simply spruce up Sunday dinner for the holiday, a trip to Party Adventure in St. Clair Shores is a great start. Their colorful paper plates and napkins mingled with your own dinnerware add zest to your table without spending a lot. And cute decor items like leprechaun hats and drink koozies bring whimsy to your table in mere minutes.

Creating fresh centerpieces is a breeze with a few luscious picks from the Trader Joe's floral

department. Our Grosse Pointe News style editor assembled the perfect arrangement to add a breath of spring to any St. Pat's gathering. The orange-toned accents add contrast and that all-important pop of color to the centerpiece and table. With a dark plaid runner as a shared placemat, the bright greens of the overall theme are showcased even more.

Make party snacking effortless with crockpot appetizers (like the tasty beer cheese dip recipe, at left) or ordering charcuterie. By preparing convenient finger foods, you'll have more time to mingle with guests.

The most memorable times are had by adding a bit of celebration to everyday life, or planning and anticipating exciting gatherings of family and friends around tradition and fun. Sure and begorrah, no matter the celebration, keeping things simple will be the best way to enjoy it!

### A TABLE TO CELEBRATE

Shop at **Party Adventure** and you won't need any Irish luck to host a fantastic party! Mix and match paper and decorations with your own dishes, above, for a pop of color that creates a whimsical and festive table. Fresh flowers from **Trader Joe's**, left, add a natural feel to your St. Pat's table.



## DRINKIN' O' THE GREEN

Looking for a healthier, alcohol-free way to celebrate St. Paddy's Day? Go with the green and enjoy one of many nutritious, veggie-filled juices, above, from **Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.** You'll actually feel better the next day!

## OUTSIDE THE BOX

...and inside of a vase! **The Rustic Root** has a cool plant bar, right, where you can express yourself with a great little St. P. pick-me-up for friends and family. You don't need a whole pot of gold to make someone's day with these affordable and thoughtful gifts. Better yet, you can make a day of it with a friend and create something together for a lasting memory and a keepsake to green up your room all year.

## LEPRE-CAN!

Everyone loves an Irishman, so don this cute hat, below, complete with a red beard for your celebration and get the party started with **Party Adventure!**

## FUN FARE

Whether you are looking for last-minute hosting supplies like cocktail napkins or gifting ideas like funny can koozies, **Small Favors** is a great place to go for St. Pat's Day fun.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MONETTE



### WHERE TO SHOP:

**Party Adventure**  
23400 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores  
(586) 776-9750  
partyadventuresusa.com

**Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.**  
17864 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe  
(313) 442-2402  
rhythmandbluejuice.com

**The Rustic Root**  
21501 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores  
(586) 359-6004  
therusticrootmi.com

**Small Favors**  
17112 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe  
(313) 887-1774  
shopsmallfavors.com

**Trader Joe's**  
17028 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe  
(313) 640-7794  
traderjoes.com

## Holiday Recipe

# Beer cheese dip is a little pot o' gold

**A tasty adult treat for party time or card night blends all the right flavors**

1/4 c. unsalted butter  
1/2 c. finely chopped yellow onion  
1/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1 (12-oz.) can IPA beer  
1/4 c. half-and-half  
6 oz. shredded fontina cheese  
6 oz. shredded sharp yellow cheddar cheese  
1 tsp. dijon mustard  
1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
Chopped chives and/or black pepper, for garnish  
Soft pretzels, to serve

### Directions:

In a medium saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until softened, 4 to 6 minutes. Gradually whisk in the flour and cook, whisking constantly, until lightly browned, about 1 minute.

Gradually whisk in the beer and half and half. Cook, whisking constantly, until the sauce is thickened and just begins to bubble, 5 to 7 minutes. Reduce the heat to low and gradually add the cheeses, whisking constantly, until melted and combined. Remove from the heat.

Whisk in the Dijon mustard and the Worcestershire sauce. Garnish with chives and black pepper,

if you like. Serve with pretzels; re-warm gently as needed.

*Tip: Serve beer cheese dip in a slow cooker set to low heat so that it stays warm for the entire party.*

(Recipe from [thepioneerwoman.com](http://thepioneerwoman.com))



Serve with soft or hard pretzels, pretzel knots, breadsticks, bagel chips, toasted baguette slices, crackers or any of your favorite dipping carbs.

6C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG BEACH PRODUCTION AND BLEEKER STREET MEDIA

Left, Jane Curtin as Joyce, Harriet Sansom Harris as Sandy and Ben Kingsley as Milton watch the ship taking flight in the 2023 movie "Jules," written by Gavin Steckler and directed by Marc Turteltaub.



After hearing him talking about an alien in his yard, she arranges for him to meet with a neurologist. When she suggests he may want to look into assisted living, he storms out of the office. End of discussion.

Naturally it's hard keeping a spaceship in one's backyard a secret for long. Milton eventually confides in two acquaintances. Sandy (Harriet Sansom Harris) and Joyce (Jane Curtin).

Sandy decides the alien should be named Jules (Jade Quon), who in spite of not speaking, conveys a sense of compassion and empathy. You want to just go up and give the little creature a hug!

The three co-conspirators soon figure out that Jules is working on repairing his craft, hoping to return to his home planet. To that end, they join forces to provide him what he needs to make that happen.

What's more, an event like a ship crashing in a small town doesn't go unnoticed by the government. The incident is initially reported on the news as a weather satellite falling out of the sky. But as more information is gathered, they suspect it's from outer space. And the race is on for agents to discover its whereabouts.

I really enjoyed this different take on the

alien story. While it's a sci-fi movie on paper, it has a quiet, folksy feel to it, minus all the histrionics typical of a Hollywood production. It was one of those rare films I simply didn't want to end. The trio of Kingsley, Curtin, and Hansom was so sweet, you wish you had relatives like them.

Note to parents: The film is rated PG-13 and I think it would be fine for family viewing. About the only thing objectionable are a couple of F-bombs. But I ask you, what kid hasn't heard that?

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also on Paramount, and to rent on Prime Video.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

About this column:

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

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

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

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

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com).

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](http://moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).

MOVIE REVIEW  
"Jules"  
2023 - PG-13  
1 hr 27 min  
★★★★★

Imagine, if you will the movie "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" for adults. Or seniors, to be more exact. That's a fairly apt description of this absolutely charming, tender-hearted and unique little film.

It's directed by Marc Turteltaub, who's known for such memorable films as "Little Miss Sunshine," "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," "Safety Not Guaranteed" and "The Farewell."

The fact that Sir Ben Kingsley stars in the movie doesn't hurt either. When you see his nuanced performance here, you realize why he's been knighted. And hearing his American accent, it also confirms just how well trained so many British actors are.

Milton (Kingsley) is a doddering older duffer who lives alone in a small Pennsylvania town. He has a son who lives in California who he has little contact with. Fortunately, his daughter Denise (Zoe Winters), a busy veterinarian, lives nearby and frequently checks up on him.

His life isn't very exciting, to say the least. The highlight of his month is the city council meeting, which he regularly attends. At each session, during the open forum, he recites the same prepared list of complaints. Naturally, his speech is met with rolled eyes from his fellow citizens.

One night, something remarkable occurs. A spaceship crashes in his backyard. Now if this happened to you or me, we'd go crazy. However, Milton is such a mild-mannered soul, he's almost totally unfazed by the event. In fact, his main concern is that the craft landed on his beloved Azaleas!

The next day he discovers an alien laying on the ground half way

to his back door. This is no ordinary being. He's a silver, androgynous creature with kindly eyes and is totally silent.

Milton, seeing the passed out alien in his yard, gives the alien a blanket and some water and the beginning of a subtle, intergalactic friendship commences.

When Milton discovers the alien enjoys eating sliced apples, he heads to the store to stock up on the fruit. There he tells the cashier he's buying a big sack of apples for an alien that's crashed in his backyard.

Naturally, word gets back to his daughter who's already concerned about his mental state. She's noticed he's recently done little things like leaving a can of beans in the medicine cabinet, which he shrugs off as being forgetful.



Jules, played by Jade Quon, repairing his craft.



Milton (Kingsley) and Jules (Quon) chilling.



Zoe Winters as Denise checks up on her dad.



Joyce (Curtin) nurtures her sweet companion.



Joyce (Curtin), Sandy (Harris), Milton (Kingsley) & Jules (Quon).



Milton deep in thought.



The gang says farewell to Jules.

# A Date with the Devil

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

The Grosse Pointe South Mothers' Club held a dance, "A Date with the Devil," for its annual fundraiser. The three pillars the club focuses on each year are enrichment, preservation and scholarship. Enrichment grants were awarded to teachers in the fall and again in February. Seniors just completed their applications for scholarships March 1. The scholarship committee will review the applications, interview students and identify scholarships to present to the seniors in May. Attendees were encouraged to wear South colors and South gear.

The dance included food, a DJ, silent and live auctions, the latter of which Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers donated a blue sapphire necklace worth approximately \$10,700. Around 170 tickets were sold.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nancy Cotton and Christina Kean, co-chairs of the Mothers' Club event.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jenny Kowal, Jackie Sullivan and Terry Linnell, Mothers' Club supporters, enjoy the evening.



Kathleen Drawbaugh and Heidi Hallman wore South jackets.



Michelle Parik, Mothers' Club President, Parag Parikh and Ali Carr embrace the Blue Devils' school colors of blue and gold.



Stefan Ahee and Casey Sanders came to the event to support the Mothers' Club.



COURTESY PHOTO

The three pillars of the Grosse Pointe South Mothers' Club.

## Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

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

**Happy Birthday** for Thursday, March 7, 2024: You are charming, sensitive and creative. You can also be fey and otherworldly. It's important to assert yourself when need be. This is the last year of a nine-year cycle, which means it's time to let go of people and things that might be holding you back.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

Today you might be in competition with someone. Or you might work with a friend or a member of a group to achieve a goal, perhaps a victory. A casual friendship might turn romantic for some, because there's a lot of energy in the air! Tonight: Strong feelings.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

Because your ambition is aroused, you'll express yourself with such emotion and eloquence that you can inspire others to follow you. Without question, your heart is in what you want to achieve, and people respect those who believe in what they're doing. Tonight: Results.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

You'll be convincing today in your desire to learn something new or teach something to others. You might use this same energy to make travel plans or to "get away from it all" and see new turf. If you have to defend your beliefs, you certainly have the energy to do so. Tonight: Take action.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

In disputes about shared property or how to divide or share something with someone else, you'll come out on top because you are fervent and convincing. You believe in what you're fighting for. Romance will also be passionate today (and memorable). Tonight: Check your finances.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

Conversations with friends, partners and members of the general public will be feisty and dynamic today. Oh yes, you'll stand up for what you believe. However, the reverse might be true. You might attract someone to you who is looking for a fight. Be careful. Tonight: Be alert.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You have lots of energy today! You want to get things done, and you want to do so efficiently because you want results. If you're competing with someone, this will light a fire underneath you. Competition will make you identify with what you're doing and give everything you've got. Tonight: Stay steady.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is a playful day! In particular, you have strong competitive energy, which will do you well if you're in competitive sports or in any kind of team activity that needs to compete or win. Likewise, your romantic urges are strong, and you won't hesitate to make the first move. Tonight: Socialize.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is the perfect day to roll up your sleeves and make improvements at home. You have the energy to do so. Be ambitious

about what you want to achieve. Make things look better. You want to create some order out of chaos and busy activity. Tonight: Success.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're unusually convincing today, which is why it's a powerful day for those of you who have to persuade others, sell, market, teach or make anyone listen to your words. This is because today you'll put everything you have into what you have to say. Tonight: Confidence.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today you're willing to work hard to do something to boost your earnings or increase your wealth in some way. You're not afraid to take action. In fact, competition will spur you to greater heights. However, this same energy could tempt you to spend big. Don't be rash. Tonight: Check your belongings.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You have strong feelings about practically everything today. But in particular, you want to make some improvements to your home or where you live, or your family situation. You'll be able to do this because you've got focus and energy to burn! Tonight: You're strong.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a strong time for you, because the Sun, Mercury, Saturn and Neptune are all in your sign. Nevertheless, you will likely accomplish the most today by working alone or behind the scenes. It's all a bit hush-hush, isn't it? Tonight: Quiet time.

### BORN TODAY

Actor Bryan Cranston (1956), actress Rachel Weisz (1970), actor Tobias Menzies (1974).

## Contract Bridge

### A CUT ABOVE THE REST

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 8 7  
♥ J 10 9 8 5 2  
♦ A 10  
♣ A K Q

**WEST**  
♠ Q 6  
♥ A K Q  
♦ 9 4 3 2  
♣ 9 6 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ A 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ J 7 6 5  
♣ 10 8 7 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 10 9 5 4 2  
♥ 6 3  
♦ K Q 8  
♣ J

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠  
Pass 2♥ Pass 3♠  
Pass 3NT Pass 4♠  
Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a duplicate bridge game some years ago. The North-South pairs invariably reached four spades, but the outcome varied, depending primarily on how declarer handled the trump suit.

At most tables, West started by cashing the K-A of hearts and then shifted to a diamond. Declarer won in dummy, led a spade and went into a huddle after East followed low.

Those declarers who decided to put

up the king made the contract, felling the Q-A together on the next trick; those who finessed the jack of spades lost to the queen and went down one.

The guess in spades was not an easy one. True, West had never bid and had already shown up with the K-A of hearts, making it unlikely that he also held the ace of spades. But there was still the possibility that East had been dealt the A-Q-x. In that case, the play of the king would lose the contract and the play of the jack would win it.

At one table, though, the declarer never had the opportunity to guess the spade situation. The entire issue was rendered moot when the defenders found a surefire way to defeat the contract! Here West also began by cashing the K-A of hearts, but he decided there was no future in shifting to a diamond. Instead, he continued with the queen of hearts. East then put on his thinking cap and came up with the killing play: he trumped his partner's high heart with the ace! Declarer still had to lose another trump trick to the queen and so went down one.

East reasoned that by ruffing with the ace, he would automatically defeat the contract if his partner started with the Q-x or J-x-x of spades and might not defeat the contract if he didn't ruff with the ace. East was absolutely right.

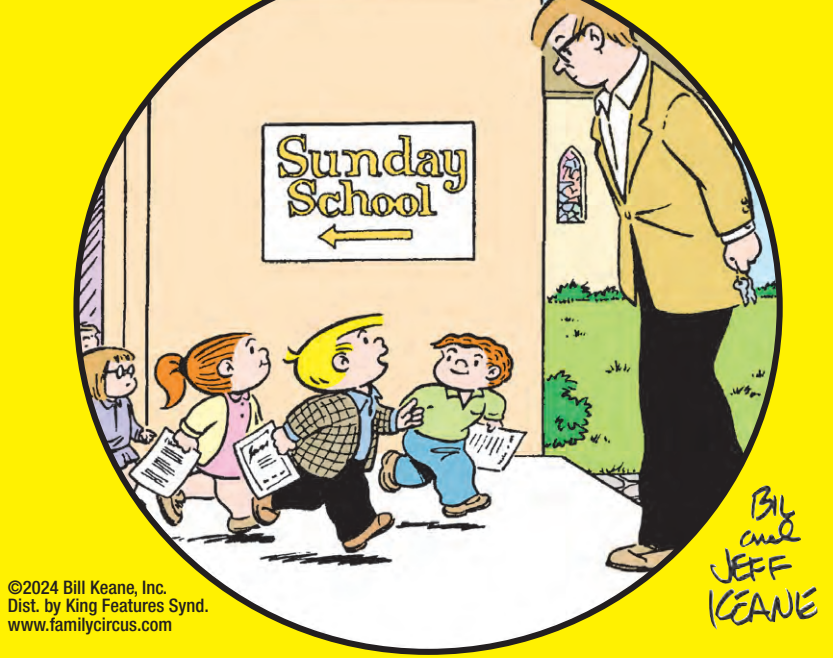
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by Steve Becker

# Puzzles and

## Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



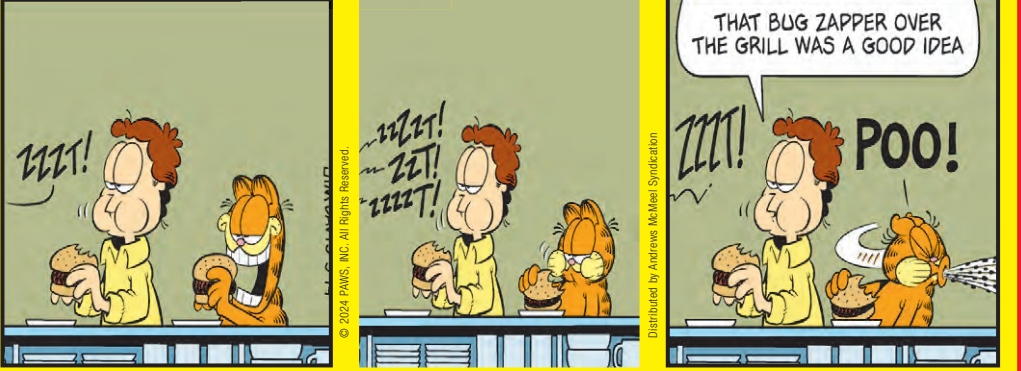
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Bill and Jeff Keane

**"Today we learned about the Top Ten Commandments."**

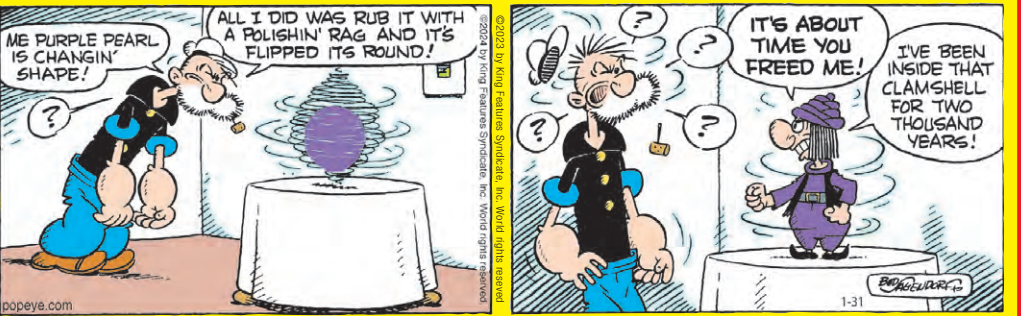
## Garfield

Jim Davis



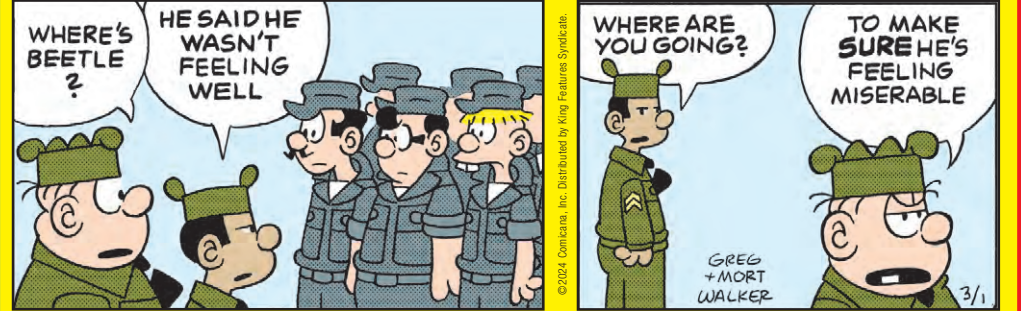
## Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



## Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



## Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



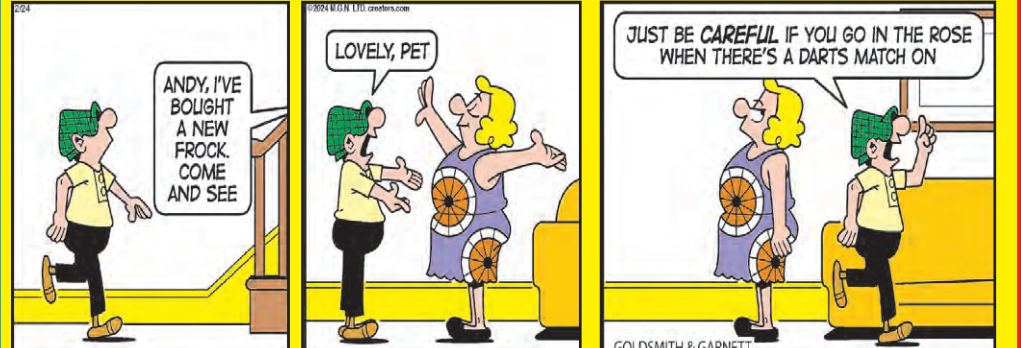
## Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



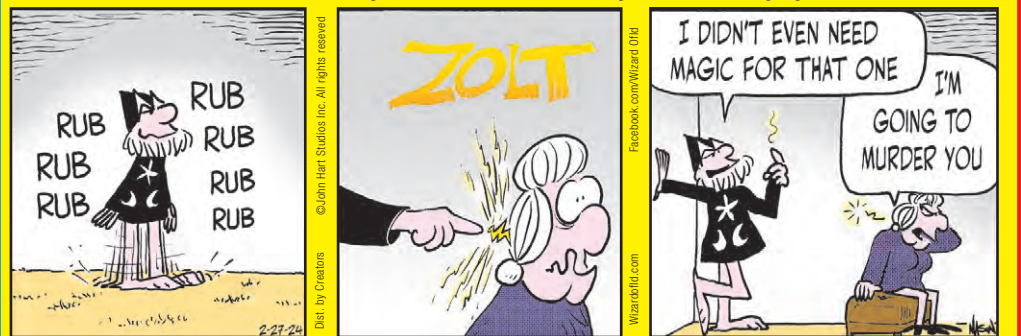
## Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



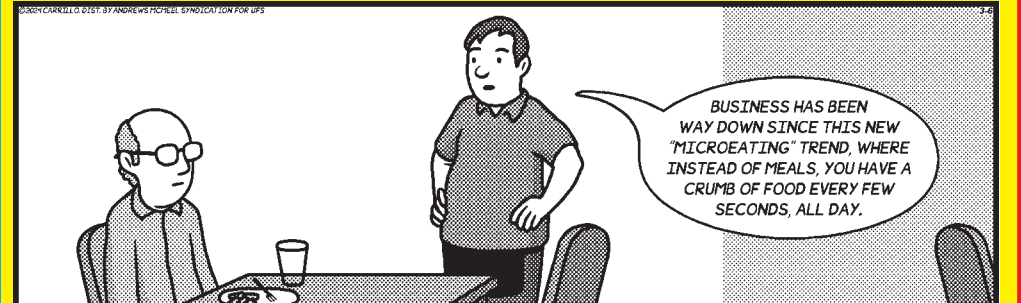
## Wizard of Id

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



## F Minus

Tony Carrilo

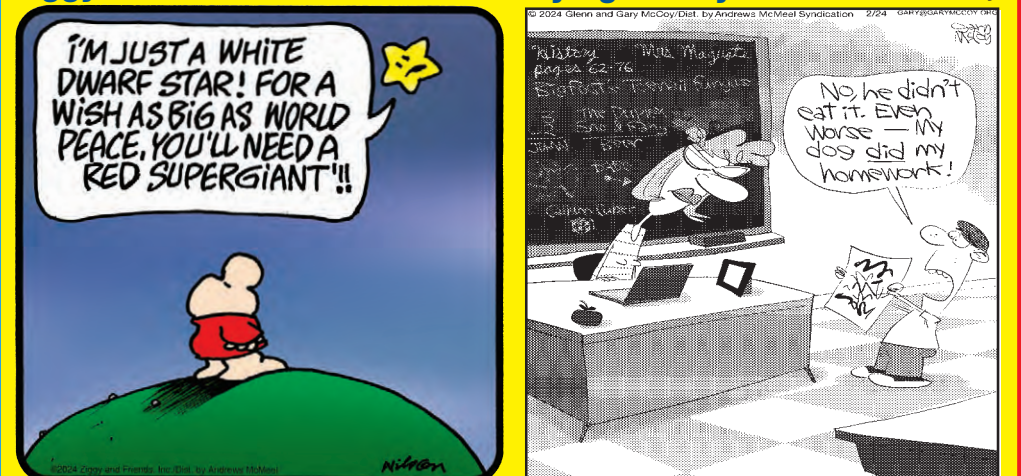


## Ziggy

Tom Wilson

## Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

2/29 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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2/22 Solution

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 7, 2024

**ACROSS**

- Moistens, as a turkey
- Restaurant reading
- Ambulance worker: Abbr.
- Skating style
- Black cat, perhaps
- Gen \_\_\_
- Home that uses certain dryer sheets?
- In favor of
- Hankering
- Managed care grps.
- Followed surreptitiously
- Classic sitcom set during the Korean War
- \_\_\_-cone
- Hop aboard
- When the mosquitoes fly?
- Warning signals
- Hubbub
- World Cup org.
- Hindu scripture
- Host of a talk show that aired from 1986 to 2011
- Fertile 36-Down
- Word after "loose" or "tight"
- \_\_\_ about time!
- The "o" in Roy G. Biv
- "Betcha can't eat just one"?

**DOWN**

- Pamper
- \_\_\_ vera
- Like cotton candy
- Foil metal, once
- Cast a spell over
- Appears to be
- Farm lows
- Second-largest living bird
- Snug retreat
- Sense of foreboding
- Blasts
- "A \_\_\_ technicality!"
- Walked (on)
- Syllables from Santa
- Right away
- Quagmires
- Courtroom hammer
- Justice Kagan
- Winnie-the-Pooh and others
- Iran's official language
- Org. approving prescription drugs
- Chic Manhattan neighborhood
- No longer a minor, say
- What expecting parents choose
- Potting material
- School org.
- Accumulates
- Become close-mouthed
- Lady's address?
- Surprise attacks
- Verge
- Most populous continent
- Hard to find here!
- Stack
- Used a weeding tool
- \_\_\_ 500
- Genetic messenger
- Visualize

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

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

2/29 Solution  
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3/7

### Product Placement by Lee Taylor

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



# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



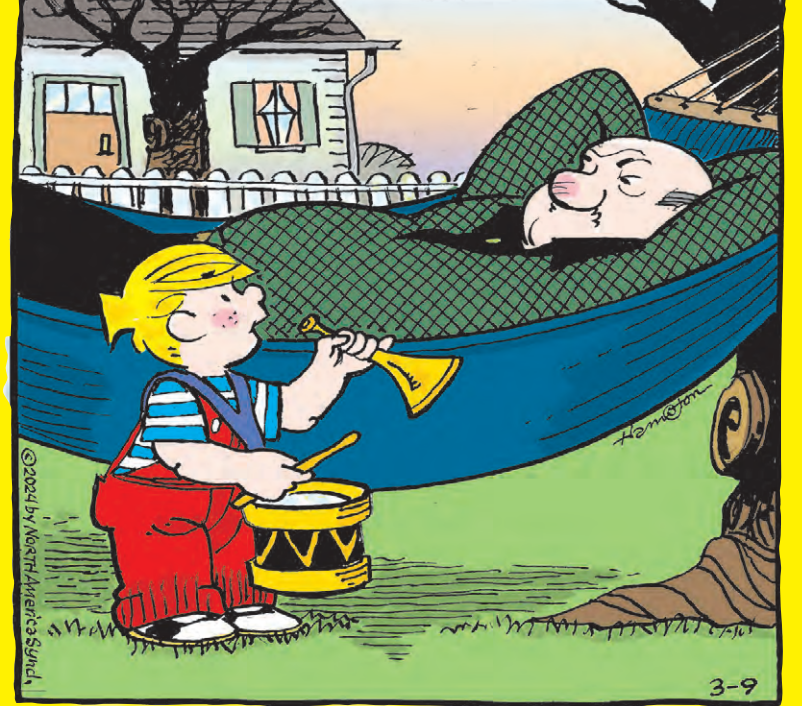
## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



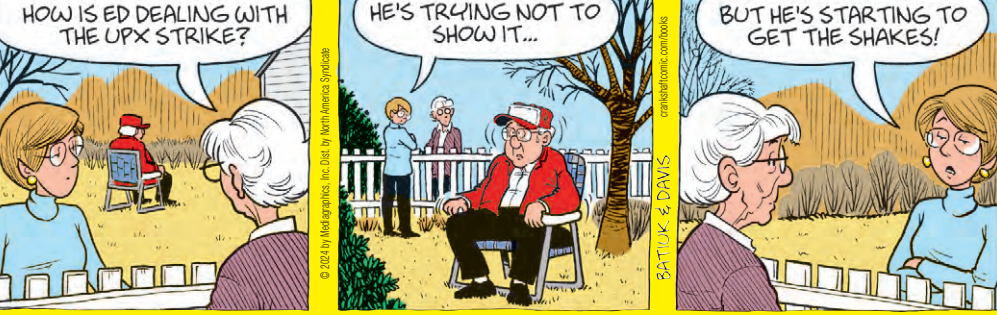
## Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



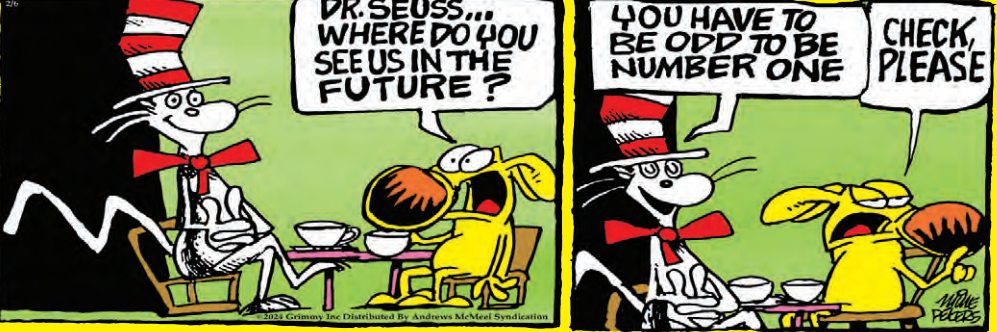
## Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



## Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



## Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



## B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



## Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



## Reality Check

Dave Whamond



## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



"IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, MR. WILSON... YOU'D HAVE NOTHIN' TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!"

## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



## Close To Home

John McPherson



"OK, let's tape your phone to your nose, stick you out the blowhole while you tell a big lie and see if you can get a signal!"

## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"When I said, 'Dont beg,' I didn't mean you should just take my sandwich."

# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**Kid Scoop Together**

## High-Flying Frogs

Felix and Finn Frog are seeing who can jump highest. Color in the spaces that add up to an even number. The frog with the most colored spaces is the winner.

FELIX	FINN
3+2=	7+4=
3+6=	1+2=
6+5=	4+4=
7+2=	6+2=
5+2=	1+1=
2+2=	3+5=
4+2=	2+8=
3+3=	6+6=
2+6=	1+3=
9+1=	5+5=
3+5=	4+4=
4+8=	6+8=
8+8=	7+7=
4+4=	2+6=

## Fun With Money!

Finley, Fabian and Fiona Frog each have \$30 to spend at the Spring Blossom Festival. They each made a list of things they want to spend money on at the Festival.



Take a look at the prices of the items each frog wants to buy. Then, use your math skills to answer the following questions:

1. Which frog will have the most money left over after buying everything on their list?

2. Which frog won't have enough money to buy everything on their list?

3. What items could this frog remove from their list to stay at or under \$30?

How many blossoms can you find on this page?



Fiona's List	Finley's List	Fabian's List
Lilly Pad Launch \$5.00	Lily Pad Launch \$5.00	Tulip Train \$4.00
Honey Cookies \$3.50	Dragonfly Hat \$4.50	Honey Cookies \$3.50
Tulip Train \$4.00	Puddle Coaster \$6.50	Daisy Wheel \$6.50
Pond Popcorn \$2.75	Muddy Maze \$5.25	Pond Popcorn \$2.75
Swamp Cocoa \$2.50	Leafy Boats \$6.50	Dandelion Shake \$4.50
Buggy Balloons \$3.25	Pond Popcorn \$2.75	Petunia Chips \$3.25
TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$	TOTAL \$

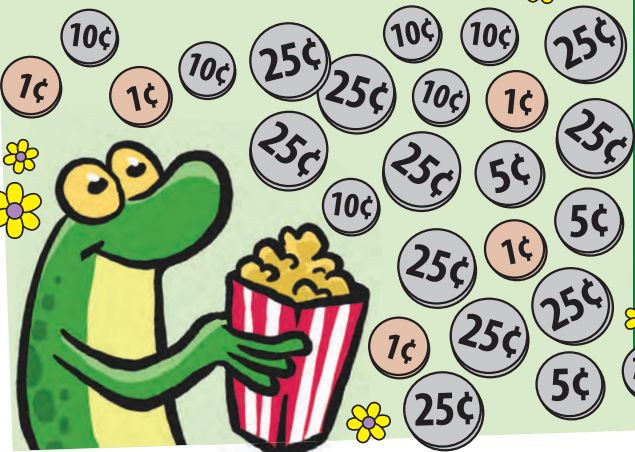
### Muddy Money Maze

Do the math to find out which path has the highest value.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

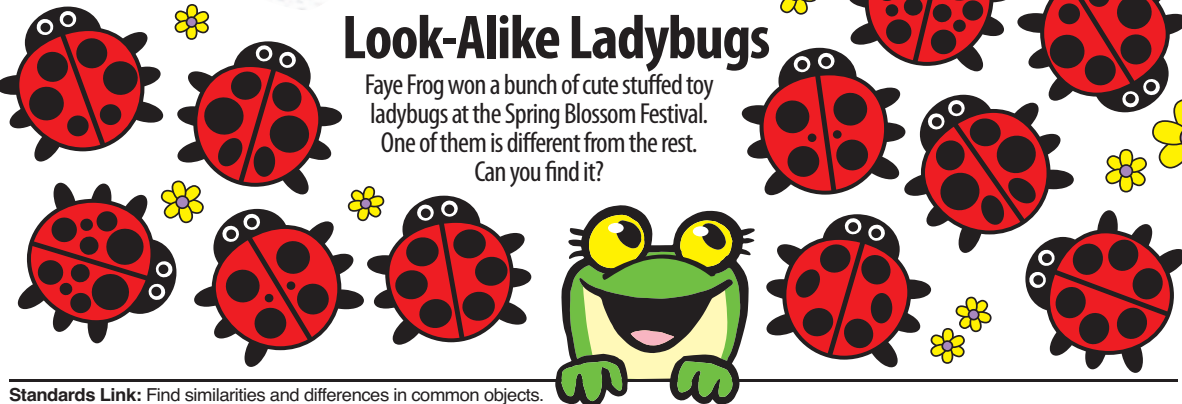
## Spending Spree

Frankie Frog LOVES munching on pond popcorn at the Spring Blossom Festival. A box of it costs \$2.75. Circle the coins that add up to that amount.



## Look-Alike Ladybugs

Faye Frog won a bunch of cute stuffed toy ladybugs at the Spring Blossom Festival. One of them is different from the rest. Can you find it?



Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Extra! Extra!

## Signs of Spring

Look through the newspaper and find five things that let you know it is springtime. Write the name of each in alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow written instructions.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Frieda Frog wants to buy a treat at the Spring Blossom Festival, but she can't remember how much is in her piggy bank. Can you count it for her?



Frieda has \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in her piggy bank.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate money amounts.

## Double Double Word Search

- BLOSSOM
- BOATS
- BUY
- DANDELION
- FROG
- HAT
- HONEY
- LIST
- MATH
- MONEY
- MUDDY
- PRICES
- SPRING
- TULIP
- USE

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.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **SPEND**  
The verb **spend** means to pay out money to purchase items.  
I plan how much money I'll spend before I go shopping.  
Try to use the word **spend** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Costly Headlines

Assign a money amount to each letter of the alphabet: A = \$1, B = \$2, C = \$3, etc. Select three newspaper headlines and add up the letters. What is the most "expensive" headline you can find? Which is the least expensive?

Standards Link: Mathematics: Calculate sums and differences.



Why is it a really bad idea to give dollar bills to a frog?

ANSWER: Because they'll rip it, rip it, rip it.

## Write On!

### Kids Help Families Save

Write three to five ways that kids can help their families save money.

## Your Neighborhood

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# SPORTS



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3D BOYS HOOPS | 4D PLAYOFF HOCKEY | 5D GYMNASTICS | 6-7D CLASSIFIED



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Wyatt Hepner, right, stares down opponent Sam Angello from Eisenhower at the start of the Division 1, 138-pound state championship bout.

## Hepner brings Blue Devils first ever wrestling state title

By Mike Adzima  
*Sports Reporter*

In 2023, Wyatt Hepner made history by becoming the first wrestler from Grosse Pointe South to ever compete in a state championship match. Saturday, March 2, the junior Blue Devil added to that history by not only making it back to the championship, but by winning the Division 1 state title at 138 pounds and becoming South's first wrestling state champion in school history.

"It's awesome to be putting Grosse Pointe

South on the map and just making history," Hepner said after his victory. "It feels great."

Hepner's victory in the championship match came against Sam Angello, a senior from Eisenhower. The match was about as even as possible, with both wrestlers battling until Hepner eventually won just 1-0 on points.

"It's great knowing that if I can just make one good move, I can win the match," Hepner said about how close the championship match was. "My defense and my riding is top tier so I

know that if I get just one point I can still win against anyone."

The championship was the closest match by far that Hepner encountered all weekend on his road to a title. He defeated Allen Park's Carlos Sanchez in the opening round by technical fall. In the quarterfinals, Hepner took down Hayden Pletscher from Swartz Creek on points 17-5, then beat Julius Pacheco from Davison 8-2 in the semifinals.

The win for Hepner comes just a year after he finished as the state runner-up at 126 pounds.

Ever since that day last March, making it back to the finals and finishing atop the podium was always the main goal for Hepner and his coaches.

"After last year, it just made us even hungrier knowing that we got so close," South wrestling coach Dave Salazar said. "...Knowing how close we got, we didn't want to let it slip through our fingers again. Wyatt worked super hard all season to make sure that no stone was left unturned and we would at least make it back to the finals, then when we got there to give it everything we

## From GP to All-State

In a remarkable achievement in Division 1 of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League, all six players who earned first team All-State honors hail exclusively from either Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North or University Liggett School.

In total, 15 players from the Pointes earned All-State honors, including first team, second team and honorable mention, when the league made its announcement last week.

South's Rosie Smith and Anne Wayman made first team All-State, along with North's Cameron Beers and Josie Cueter and Liggett's Sofie Ancona and Sullivan Estes.

Second team All-State team members include South's Sophia Reynolds, North's Ella Dobbs and Liggett's Brooklyn Peshl.

### 2023-2024 DIVISION 1 ALL-STATE AWARDS

#### 1ST TEAM, D1

- Cameron Beers**  
*Defense, Grosse Pointe North*
- Sullivan Estes**  
*Defense, University Liggett*
- Sofie Ancona**  
*Forward, University Liggett*
- Josie Cueter**  
*Forward, Grosse Pointe North*
- Anne Wayman**  
*Forward, Grosse Pointe South*
- Rosie Smith**  
*Goalie, Grosse Pointe South*

South's Abby Evans, Bella Peruski and Molly Reynolds, North's Alyssa Burney and Liggett's Louisa Dragovic, Elle Quinlan and Allie Roth earned All-State honorable mention.

For more on last weekend's girls playoff hockey action, head to page 4D.

have."

Hepner's victory in the championship also completed his perfect season, ending the year an undefeated 51-0. Being South's first ever wrestling champion, he is also only the second individual wrestling champion in the history of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Grosse Pointe North's Greg Fleming was the first to

accomplish the feat over 40 years ago in 1983.

Hepner was one of four Blue Devils wrestlers who made it to Ford Field and the state championships last weekend, also a school record. Senior Paul Wilson was the other Blue Devil besides Hepner to advance furthest in the tournament.

See WRESTLE, page 5D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Bryan bolts to South's swimming elite, completes 'bingo' card heading into state final

By Meg Leonard  
*Senior Editor*

Ben Bryan took his first swim lessons as a 6-month-old and ran his first mini-triathlon before age 4. He has embraced that early athleticism, a

notable work ethic and commitment to lead by example and positioned himself to make some major waves at this weekend's Division 2 boys swim and dive state final at Eastern Michigan University.

Bryan, a senior team co-captain for Grosse Pointe South, didn't simply qualify for a few events at finals. He achieved what's called a "bingo" by qualifying for every individual swim event in the meet, akin to a baseball player hitting for the cycle.

He is the program's first swimmer to earn that distinction since former Blue Devil and University of Michigan great Jacob Montague did so in 2016. Bryan has

state qualifying times in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 free, 200 IM, 100 back, 100 fly and 100 breast.

He also plays a pivotal role on South's relay teams, usually leading off in the 200 medley and 200 and 400 free. He is eligible to swim in all three at state finals, though he will only compete in two, based on meet rules.

Bryan said he set some "soft goals" for himself his senior season, but the bingo card wasn't ini-

tially one of them.

"I was toying with the idea of trying to get all the state cuts, but I wasn't super firm on it," he said. "And then I was messing around (with it) and my sister convinced me to do the 500 (free). So I started the 500 and got that cut."

"I began to think, maybe I can, maybe I can do this."

At that point, he only had one cut left, the 100 breast, which he earned at the "Last Chance" meet Feb. 27.

John "Fo" Fodell, Bryan's head coach at South and for Grosse Pointe Gators swim club, said his team co-captain

has all the assets required to be a great swimmer and leader.

"I think it all starts with his intelligence. He's easy to talk to and well-spoken and you can have a philosophical conversation with him. He's able to understand greater concepts," said Fodell, noting their lively discussions over the years on

See ATHLETE, page 2D



COURTESY PHOTO

South's Ben Bryan is gunning for top swims in this weekend's state final, including in the 100 butterfly.

### Ben's Best

- Earned "bingo" card by qualifying for every individual swim event in the 2024 boys swim and dive state final, the first Grosse Pointe South boy swimmer to do so since 2016.
- 4-time All-State medalist and 2023-24 Blue Devils team co-captain.
- Committed to swim at Middlebury College in Vermont beginning next fall.

Athlete Of The Week Proudly Sponsored By:



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## 2D | SPORTS

### ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

things like nutrition and the physics of swimming.

Though swimming is now Bryan's passion — he will move on to compete at the collegiate level next season at his parents' alma mater, Middlebury College in Vermont — he started off as a multi-sport athlete, swimming and playing football and baseball in his hometown of Twinsburg, Ohio.

Shortly after moving to Grosse Pointe as an eighth grader, Bryan continued playing three sports and joined Gators. Then COVID hit.

Though pools were closed throughout Michigan during the shutdown, something for Bryan clicked.

"Swimming was only a winter sport for me ... and then with COVID and everything, it was kind of a mess and it really made me think as to where I wanted to go with my sport," he said.

"... I remember Fo posting on Instagram for these two weeks, where every day he posted a new challenge and it was things I never had done before."

Coining them "absurd workouts," Bryan started taking part in his coach's challenges, like running a quarter mile eight times, one after the other, as fast as possible.

"I wish I had lived here when I started swimming, because I think under Gators I would

have been like leaps and bounds faster than where I am now," he said. "But I think that that was kind of the moment, seeing pictures of everybody doing these challenges from their houses, where I was like, 'This is awesome.'"

Bryan focused on swimming from then on.

"Sophomore year, I was a little bit more dedicated towards swimming in the summer. ... Then last year was the first year that I truly dedi-

*'I'd obviously love to be top three and would love to win one of my events.*

*I'm going to race as hard as*

*I can. ... It's mine to win, not mine to lose.'*

BEN BRYAN, GROSSE POINTE SOUTH SENIOR SWIM & DIVE CO-CAPTAIN ON HIS NO-PRESSURE APPROACH TO THIS WEEKEND'S STATE FINAL

cated myself to swimming (year round)."

Bryan had a breakout junior season. At last year's state final, he earned three All-State honors: a sixth place in the 200 IM; a second place and new school record in the 400 free relay; and a fourth place in the 200 medley relay.

Soon after, he was named co-captain along with best friend Troy Liu for the 2023-24 season.

A college decision also loomed as Bryan began his senior year. A top-tier student, he went on nearly a dozen college visits, including to Connecticut College and Middlebury.

He made his decision to attend Middlebury, a small liberal arts college of 2,800 students in New England, not because his parents went there, but because it offered the best fit academically and athletically. He said he connected well with the coach and team, the school's balance between academics and sports, and Vermont for outdoor activities, including rock climbing and hiking.

Fodell, who swam and played tennis at Albion

"good" means in the swimming world.

"That's actually something that I struggle with," he said. "It's easy to lose perspective in swimming because when I go off to these (national) meets ... you're swimming against people who quite literally have Olympic rings tatted on their shoulders. You forget that you're in the pool with the top 1 percent of people."

He compared those meets with ones at the high school level, where his status changes a bit to the swimmer others chase.

"One of my favorite moments from South is like at the Last Chance meet, when I hopped in the pool to pace somebody to try and help them get their state cut," he said. "If I can help them by doing that, that's awesome."

One aspect Bryan loves about swimming is that it's both a team and individual sport. With goals to reach on both levels in the state final, he said his framework is centered on setting the bar of maximum effort, while building camaraderie.

"I'd obviously love to be top three and would love to win one of my events," he said, while emphasizing he isn't putting any pressure on himself or others. "I'm going to race as hard as I can. ... It's mine to win, not mine to lose."



South's Ben Bryan, left, gets support during a recent meet from his biggest fan, grandfather Norman Silverman.

With his high school career nearly complete, Bryan said a big barometer of his success at South will be when underclassmen take over leadership roles next year after learning from him.

"I want them to be in my position, where somebody can look up to them and say, 'That is where I want to be,'" he said. "That's how you continue building a

strong team and culture by putting in the work and building friendships. That is how I want to be remembered."

### Nominate!

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit [grossepointe-news.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointe-news.com/athlete-of-the-week).



Blue Devil co-captains Ben Bryan, left, and Troy Liu have led this year's swim and dive team to its 26th consecutive MAC Red championship.

At left, South senior Ben Bryan stays loose on the pool deck Feb. 24, at the MAC Red championship.

COURTESY PHOTOS

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS – DOUBLE SHREDDED BROWN HARDWOOD MULCH AND INJECTION OF MULCH IN LANDSCAPE BEDS AND DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND MULCH THROUGHOUT THE CITY:** Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing the following services: Double Shredded Brown Hardwood Mulch and Injection of Mulch in Landscape Beds throughout the City and Installation of Engineered Wood Fiber Playground Mulch at various locations in City Parks. Copies of specifications and bid sheets may be obtained from the City Clerk. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

G.P.N.: 3/7/24

**Paul Antolin**  
City Clerk

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

### PUBLIC NOTICE 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE** Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:

Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 12, 2024	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 12, 2024	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 19, 2024	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 26, 2024	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2024 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted at to the Assessor's Office prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury) - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper. All board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act." If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 434-2452.

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates  
2/22/24, 2/29/24, 3/7/24

**Eric Dunlap**  
City Assessor

## Grosse Pointe News



*Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?  
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[grossepointe-news.com/athlete-of-the-week](http://grossepointe-news.com/athlete-of-the-week)

Grosse Pointe News

# District dreams dashed for South boys hoops

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South's boys varsity basketball season ended Wednesday, Feb. 28, after a 46-42 loss to Martin Luther King in the team's district semifinal, a contest defined by the Blue Devils' hustle and impressive ball movement, but hampered by the team's missed scoring opportunities, especially from the three-point line.

With the loss, South failed to defend its 2023 district championship crown, the program's first since 1992.

South head coach Steve Benard recognized his team's effort immediately after the game, but admitted to some frustration that the Blue Devils' offense fell well short of its usual production.

"People wish you good luck in these games, but it's really not about luck," he said. "It's what you did before you got here. We were prepared and ready to play. We had



South head coach Steve Benard, center, addresses his players during a first half time out in the district semifinal.

our opportunities. It was just one of those nights where we had our great opportunities we normally have, and yet we only scored 40-some points."

Though South's offense cooled as the game progressed, it

started off hot.

Less than a minute after tipoff, junior guard Tory James hit a three to get South on the board first. James stole the ball on King's first possession and got the ball quickly to senior Karter Richards.

Richards dished it to junior Vince Vashon in the corner, who hit a wide open three to put South up 6-0 at 6:39 of the first quarter.

By the five minute mark, South cushioned its lead to 9-2 when Richards hit another

three pointer from downtown. James hit a nice shot high off the glass for an 11-2 lead, getting Blue Devils fans on their feet.

But after a called time out, King settled in and closed the gap and the first quarter ended with South up 16-13.

The second quarter saw fast action and King took its first lead,

took extra time off the clock before attempting a shot. South missed a three-point attempt as time ran down and the teams entered the locker room tied 26-26 at the half.

"Normally those are shots we make," Benard said. "You know, (King is) a good team. That was a battle, it was a war. It was

*'Normally those are shots we make. You know, (King is) a good team. That was a battle, it was a war.'*

STEVE BENARD, GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

18-17, with just under six minutes left until half. Both teams crashed the boards and fought for every point, highlighted by a Richards' breakaway dunk to put South up 26-24 with 1:15 left in the quarter.

After several South possessions, including many that ended on a turnover or miss, King played keep away and

just like I told my guys, it's nothing different than playing Warren Lincoln twice or playing UD-Jesuit or Hamtramck. It's the same thing, it's a war."

The third quarter was a virtual repeat of the second with aggressive play on both sides and South clinging to a 36-35 lead

See SOUTH, page 8D

# North makes its case against Cass Tech, falls to reigning champs in semifinal

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

Though the 2023-24 Grosse Pointe North boys varsity basketball team's final record was not what they hoped, a 67-55 district semifinal loss Wednesday, Feb. 28, against defending state champion Cass Tech showed Norsemen head coach Rob Johnson what his squad is really made of — gritty teammates who don't dwell on mistakes, but instead, hustle and play for each other.

"I think we came out with a lot of energy, especially to start the game," he said of his team's effort against Cass. "We kind of just instilled it in us all year that no matter who we're playing against, we want to compete, we want to play hard, and that's a testament to these kids."

"They never gave up all year long. We didn't necessarily have the record that we wanted to, but we always played hard every single game and we took a lot of pride that if we were going to go down, we were going to go down swinging," Johnson added.

North kept its game against Cass within single digits all game long, heading into halftime down only 31-26.

The Norsemen kept the game close throughout the third quarter, but saw the game begin to slip

away in the fourth when Cass extended their lead and North junior Leo Perettie and senior Rubin McBride-Williams fouled out. As time expired, the Norsemen were handed a 12-point loss that was much closer than the final score indicated.

Perettie, who was named first team All-MAC White, led all Norsemen scorers with 19 points. Junior RJ Williams had 10 points, while junior Dequan Howell and senior Vasili Vasilos contributed eight and seven points respectively.

Johnson cited his team's strong energy and effort throughout the game despite his team's late foul trouble. He also complimented Perettie's scoring efficiency and penchant for getting his teammates good looks.

"And you could see early on against Cass Tech, no matter what pressure that they were throwing at him, he always kept his cool," Johnson said. "He always moved on to the next play and that was a big reason why he only had two or three turnovers. ... But what I'm most proud of with Leo is just how much he grew as a leader."

The Norsemen finished 2-8 in the MAC White and 9-13 overall. North will lose six seniors to graduation, including Brady Beers, Rocco Cardinale, Ryan Henderson,

McBride-Williams, Dimitri Vasilos and Vasili Vasilos.

Johnson also noted how his team consistently rose to the challenge against highly ranked opponents, like Cass Tech and Warren Lincoln, which has a shot at winning the Division 2 state championship.

He also pointed to a few different times this season when his team responded to losing streaks to pull within one game of getting back to .500, embracing a "let's go get the next one" mentality.

He gave much of the credit for that mindset to his seniors.

"My seniors that I got to coach, I was blessed to coach this group of six young men. I got to coach them for a year on the JV and then two years on varsity," he said. "Those guys kind of set the foundation of never giving up, never backing down."

"Doesn't matter what our record is. Doesn't matter who we're playing against, right?" he continued. "We're always going to compete and we're always going to be gritty and play hard."

The Norsemen's upward trajectory at the end of the season sets the stage to capitalize next year on a strong returning junior class, which already is focused on putting in the offseason work.



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Players watch North's shot drop in the district semi-final Feb. 28.

Johnson said immediately after the team's season ended, Perettie and junior RJ Williams, whom Johnson calls his "big fella," spoke to players from next year's team about getting into the weight room the next day.

In addition to adding strength and size, Johnson said other key focuses will be reducing

turnovers, improving free throw shooting and getting better through extensive summer play.

He is counting on the 6-foot, 6-inch Williams to play a big role next season.

"He's a beast," Johnson said. "He started pretty much every game as a junior, giving us around 10 points, eight rebounds every night. He was

shooting 70 percent from the field all season...he's got to work on his free throws, but he's getting better there."

Overall, Johnson said his players can leave this season with their head held high.

"They stuck together all year," he said. "... We can walk away knowing that we gave it all we got."

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

Notice is hereby given that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold multiple Public Hearings on Tuesday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the following purposes: 1) consider amendments to Section 50-4.27, Portable Storage Units, of the Zoning Ordinance, 2) consider rezoning of 20100-20102 Mack Avenue from RO-1 Restricted Office to C Commercial, and 3) consider special land use for 20100-20102 Mack to be a children's event space.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at [www.gpwmi.us](http://www.gpwmi.us).

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail [building@gpwmi.us](mailto:building@gpwmi.us).

G.P.N.: 3/7/24

## City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed two (2) Ordinance amendments for second readings at its meeting scheduled for March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers/Court Room of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center. The proposed Ordinance amendments are available for public inspection at the Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS CHAPTER 8, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE XI; STRUCTURES IN FRONT YARDS; SECTION 8-335, TO EXCLUDE ONE FREE MINI-LIBRARY LESS THAN FIVE (5) FEET IN HEIGHT AND NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) SQUARE FEET IN TOTAL AREA, PER RESIDENCE, FROM THE DEFINITION OF A STRUCTURE AND TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCES FOR SECTION 50-5.3, OFF-STREET PARKING AND SECTION 50-5.5, SEMI-CIRCULAR DRIVEWAYS.

Paul Antolin  
City Clerk

Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

## 4D | SPORTS

# Cranbrook's late rally knocks Knights from boys hockey playoffs

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett boys hockey team entered the Division 3 regional final last Wednesday, Feb. 28, against Cranbrook looking for its first regional title and state quarterfinal appearance since 2018. The Knights were just moments away from achieving that, until a pair of Cranbrook goals late in the third period turned the game around in the blink of an eye, leading to a 4-3 Liggett loss.

"I thought we played a really great game," Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. "...We made it tough for their defense to break out and I thought we were playing some of our best hockey of the year. With like four or five minutes left, we kind of took our foot off the gas. I don't know if it was nerves or what, but we stepped back from what we were doing successfully and kind of watched it come to us."

The Knights struck first about five minutes into the first period

when Alex Gould found the back of the net to open the scoring.

The early Liggett lead did not last long, however, as Cranbrook's Roman Cicco tied the game less than a minute later. The score remained deadlocked at one until late in the opening period, when Wyatt Versfelt from Cranbrook scored to put the Cranes up 2-1 going into the first intermission.

Despite being down at the end of the first, Liggett dominated the middle period. The Knights got an early power play to begin the period and took advantage as Andrew Johnson tied the game 2-2 less than two minutes into the second. Special teams continued to pay off for Liggett just a few minutes later, when Nick Gould scored while the team was short-handed to put the Knights back on top 3-2.

Liggett maintained the one-goal advantage

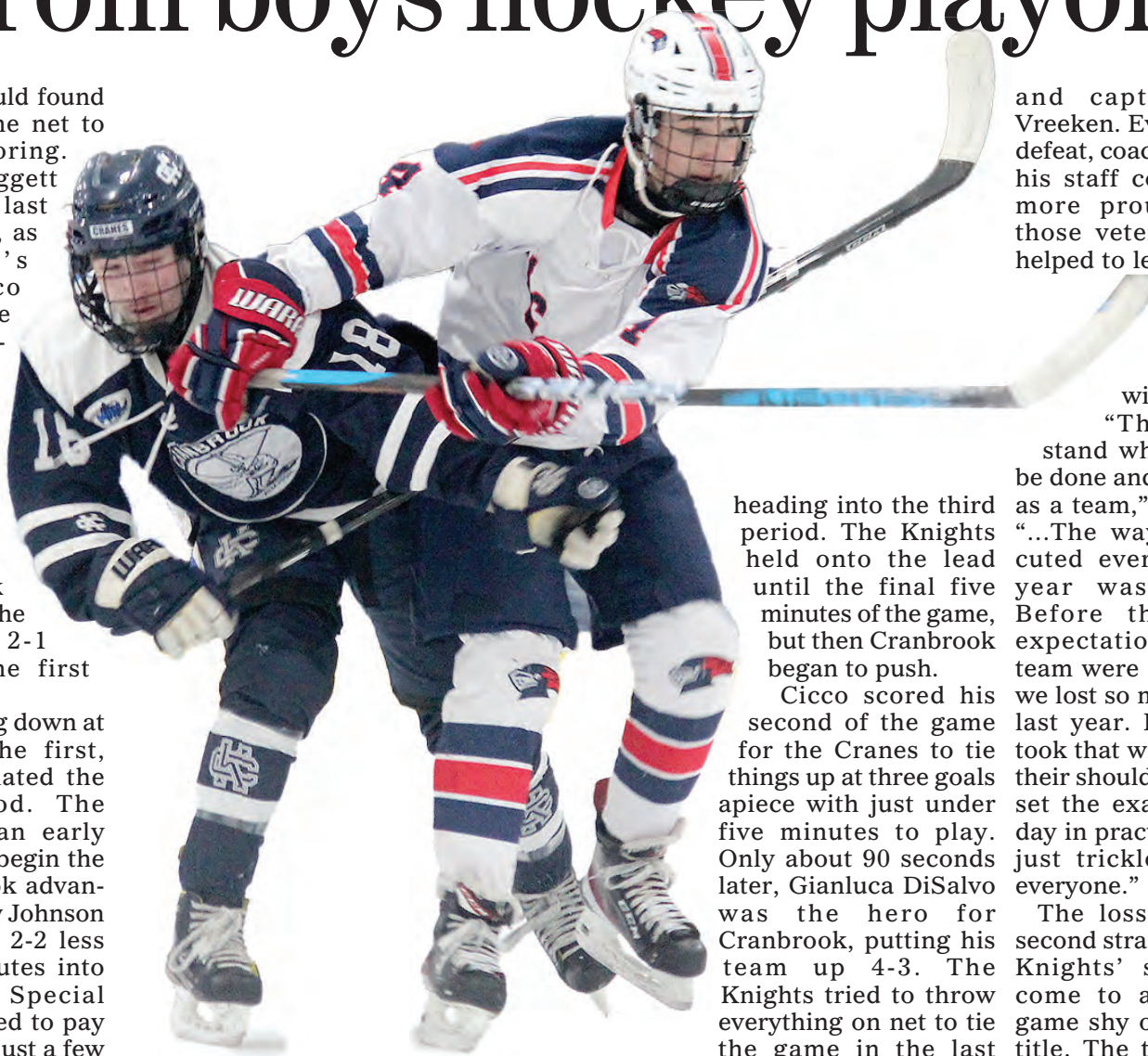


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett junior Drake Griffin, right, pushes past a Cranbrook defender while trying to break into the offensive zone during last Wednesday's regional championship game.

and captain Kevin Vreeken. Even after the defeat, coach Smith and his staff could not be more proud of how those veteran players helped to lead the team

on and off the ice in the playoffs and all winter long.

"They understand what needs to be done and how we act as a team," Smith said. "...The way they executed everything this year was amazing. Before the season, expectations for our team were low because we lost so many seniors last year. I think they took that with a chip on their shoulder...They all set the example every day in practice and that just trickles down to everyone."

The loss marks the second straight year the Knights' season has come to an end one game shy of a regional title. The team lost in overtime to Detroit Country Day in the 2023 regional final.

Liggett's final record for the season ended at 16-8-1.

heading into the third period. The Knights held onto the lead until the final five minutes of the game, but then Cranbrook began to push.

Cicco scored his second of the game for the Cranes to tie things up at three goals apiece with just under five minutes to play. Only about 90 seconds later, Gianluca DiSalvo was the hero for Cranbrook, putting his team up 4-3. The Knights tried to throw everything on net to tie the game in the last three minutes, but ultimately came up short.

The Knights were led all year by a core of seniors including Francis Blake, Maksim Johns, Kobe Donaldson

## Knights, Blue Devils advance in girls hockey state tourney

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The Division 1 state championship tournament got underway in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Saturday, March 2, with University Liggett, Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North all representing the Pointes in the bracket. The Knights and Blue Devils both moved on in the tournament, continuing what could be a collision course to the championship game, while the Norsemen saw their season come to an end in the quarterfinals.

### Liggett

The Knights entered the tournament as the top overall seed in Division 1, facing off against Ann Arbor Pioneer in the quarterfinals last Saturday. Liggett continued to dominate just as it did through much of the regular season, knocking off the Pioneers 11-0.

Sophia Secco, Sofie Ancona and Sullivan Estes all scored two goals apiece for the Knights in the blowout win. Stella Smiatacz, Avery Welsh, Ellen Quinlan, Louisa Eran Dragovic and Allie Roth all found the back of the net as well.

Liggett moved on to

face the Mid-Michigan Alliance after press time Wednesday, March 6, in the Division 1 semifinals. The Division 1 state championship game is scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

### South

The No. 2 seed Blue Devils also cruised to a relatively commanding victory in its quarterfinal matchup. South took on Ann Arbor Skyron (Skyline-Huron) last Saturday and did not face much trouble, going on to win 5-1.

Evie Wodsiz scored the lone goal of the first period, giving South a 1-0 lead after the opening frame. Charlie Harr and Maeve Hix added to the Blue Devils' lead in the second period, making it 3-1 in favor of South by the time the middle frame was over. Goals by Anne Wayman and Gabby Vosburg in the third period helped seal the win and continue the Blue Devils' march into the semifinals.



South's Bella Peruski makes a pass toward the front of the net during the Blue Devils' playoff game against Ann Arbor Skyron Saturday, March 2.

South took on St. Mary's in the Division 1 semifinals after press time Wednesday, March 6.

### North

The Norsemen found themselves in a high-scoring affair against St. Mary's in the quarterfinal round on Saturday. In the end, North was unable to quite keep up offensively, losing 10-6 to end its season.

The game was tied at two goals apiece after the first period, with Ella Dobbs scoring both goals for the Norsemen

in the opening frame. St. Mary's jumped in front during the second period, scoring four times while Alyssa Burney was the only one to find the back of the net for the Norsemen during the period.

While North would add three goals in the third period, another from Burney plus goals by Josie Cueter and Paige Martin, St. Mary's continued to build on its lead and ultimately emerged victorious.

"We had ten skaters and one goalie, and some girls had to miss games because of injury or sickness and yet we still had an amazing season filled with strong games and a positive attitude," North girls hockey assistant coach Taylor Shaheen said. "Our team is filled with so much talent and strength."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett senior captain Sofie Ancona pencils in the Knights for the Division 1 semifinals in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League playoffs.

# Gymnastics just misses final team spot for state meet; 5 move on to individual round

By Meg Leonard  
Senior Editor

In regional competition at Birmingham Groves Saturday, March 2, the Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics team finished fourth overall with 133.750 points, just missing the final team spot to advance to the state final. But the season didn't end there for five GPUG gymnasts who will move on to the individual round at states Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, at Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

Grosse Pointe North junior Allie Mattes and Grosse Pointe South junior Lucy Tull qualified for the All-Around competition in Division 1 and Division 2, respectively. The remaining three gymnasts qualified for one individual event

in Division 2. North sophomore Jessi Taylor qualified for vault, while North senior Ainsley Tanghe and North freshman Anna Nguyen will compete on beam. "My goal at states would for sure be for the girls to place, but in the end I want them to have fun and enjoy the experience, especially because it is their first time competing in Grand Rapids," said Izzy Nguyen, GPUG's head coach.

She said Mattes in particular is positioned for a run at a championship.

"As long as Allie has a calm and positive mindset, I believe that she can push for a state title," she said. "Floor would be the main event I think she can push for."

Nguyen noted the special camaraderie in the high school gymnastics community and said that

will be on full display from her team this weekend.

"We always are supporting the teams from our region at the state meet, so we will be cheering on Farmington, Huron Valley and Fraser, who we hope can place at the team state meet," she said.

Overall, Nguyen said she is proud of what her team has accomplished this season, with one weekend left to go.

"They had a rough start, but have pushed themselves very hard to make it to where they stand now," she said. "They're always supporting each other no matter what. I appreciate all their hard work. ... I am very proud of them and also honored to be able to be their coach."



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, Grosse Pointe United gymnasts Allie Mattes, Lucy Tull, Jessi Taylor, Ainsley Tanghe and Anna Nguyen each qualified for this weekend's state final meet in Grand Rapids.

## WRESTLE:

Continued from page 1D

At 175 pounds, Wilson won his first round and quarterfinal matches both by points to advance to the semifinals. In the semis, Wilson went up against Oxford's Micah Roper and ended up on the losing side of a 10-6 points decision, coming up just short of giving the Blue Devils two wrestlers in state champion-

ship matches.

Wilson then went into the consolation bracket, defeating Andrew White from Detroit Catholic Central 10-2 to advance to the third-place match. He would end up finishing fourth in the weight class, losing to Rockford's Louis Bosscher in the third-place bout.

"Paul had one of the biggest turnarounds I've ever seen," Salazar said about the senior. "To go

from not scoring any points (at Ford Field) last year and turning it all the way around to fourth place this year, I'm not sure I've ever seen anyone make a jump like that."

Josh Lemanski was also at Ford Field last weekend for South and finished eighth in his weight class. Competing at 165 pounds, Lemanski lost his first round match to Plymouth's Sam Plencner. However,



North's Preston Auld grapples with his Division 2 first-round opponent Tex Smith from Mason.

Lemanski made a bit of a run in the consolation rounds. He defeated Ethan Neville from Grandville and Yaseen Jaber from Allen Park to make it to the quarterfinals of the consolation bracket before falling to Saginaw Arthur Hill's Michael Baldwin.

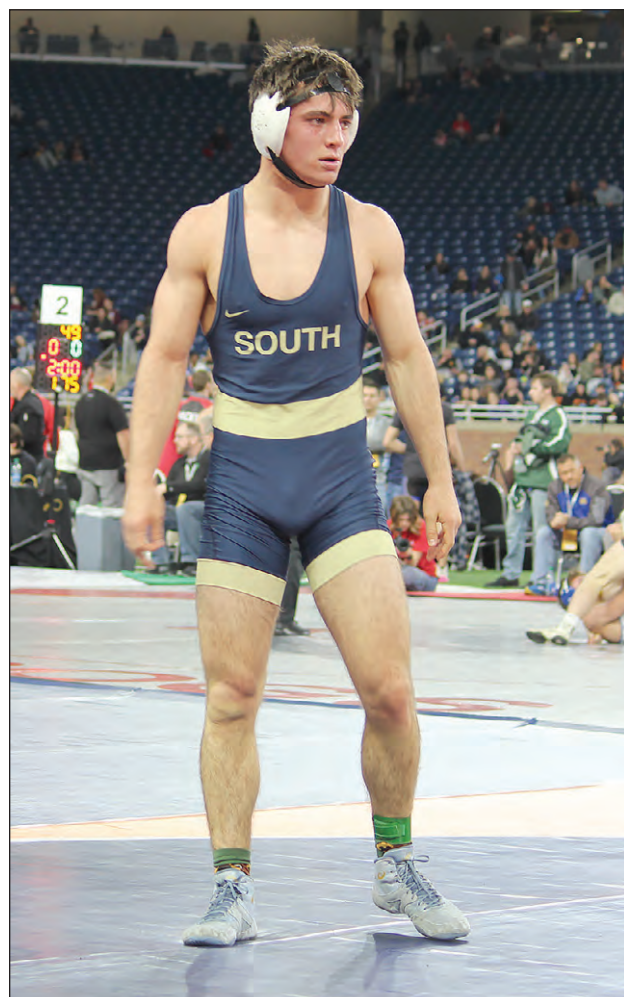
Milania Rodriguez became South's first-ever wrestler to qualify

for the girls state finals. Wrestling at 135 pounds in the girls division, Rodriguez fell to Bronson's McKenna Webster in the opening round. She then went on to pin Katherine Matter from Charlevoix in her first matchup of the consolation bracket before falling to Allendale's Terra Booe in the next round.

Senior Preston Auld was Grosse Pointe North's lone representative at Ford Field, making it to the state finals for a second year in a row. Wrestling at 144 pounds in Division 2, Auld lost his first round matchup to Mason's Tex Smith and fell to Michael Gonyeau from Plainwell in his first consolation bracket bout.



South senior Paul Wilson, left, advanced as far as the state semifinals in Division 1 at 175 pounds last weekend at Ford Field.



Josh Lemanski from South battled his way to an 8th place finish in Division 1 at 165 pounds during the state finals at Ford Field last weekend.

At right, South's Milania Rodriguez tries to escape from a hold against McKenna Webster from Bronson. Rodriguez was the first female wrestler in South school history to make it to Ford Field.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS LEMANSKI

South students and wrestlers made their way to Ford Field last weekend to cheer "Wyatt Hepner in the Division 1, 138-pound state title match by painting their chests with "Let's Go Hep!"

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**Grosse Pointe News**

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# 8D | SPORTS

## SOUTH:

Continued from page 3D

into the fourth.

The Blue Devils provided the game's most flashy highlight to open the final quarter. At the 7:20 mark, Richards drove down the court and flipped a perfect alley-oop pass to senior Nate Davey, who jammed the ball home for a 38-35 lead.

A minute later, King hit a three to tie things up at 38. South then held a 40-38 lead for the next two minutes with neither team scoring but playing aggressive defense, especially freshman Kooper Richards, who created good chaos for South by getting jump balls called or forcing King turnovers.

South had trouble finding the net all quarter long and began to see its season slip away with about two minutes left.

King pulled ahead by sinking an athletic fade-away jumper over

two South defenders to give the Crusaders a 41-40 lead that they never relinquished. Vashon missed a three-point attempt on South's next possession, after which the teams exchanged fouls. After the Blue Devils inbounded the ball under their own basket, King made a monster block on a shot attempt. With the ball back, the Crusaders cruised down the court for the score and a foul. Up 43-40 with 1:14 left, King sank the free throw to go up 44-40. The Crusaders scored again and South scored one last time for a 46-42 final.

Benard told his team afterwards that although the early exit stings, the players made the most of the personnel they had since South is in a closed district, with no ability to recruit like many of their opponents do.

"I told my guys afterwards, we got 15 kids

all from the same zip code, and, you know, we're ranked in every publication."

He also recognized the efforts of senior co-captains Davey and Karter Richards, who had seven and 22 points respectively in the district semifinal. Richards also had eight rebounds and will move on to play at Lake Superior State University next season.

"As a four-year varsity player, (Karter's) level of communication and leadership within the team, the guys just feed off that," he said. "...he wasn't going to go out without a fight. I was expecting a huge game from him."

Benard, who was named MAC Red Coach of the Year last week, said he is proud of his team's style of play and reactions from opponents and fans.

"People left the gym (tonight) and they're not talking about King.

They're talking about Grosse Pointe South," he said. "That's kind of how I feel when we play. We're such a unique dynamic team. We have some athleticism. We get some dunks. We bang some threes. We get some steals. We do some things. And our offense and our half court sets are really good."

"I just love when people watch us play, they're like, 'oh man, that was a good game.'"

Though South fell short of repeating as district champion, Benard said it's all eyes ahead at the off-season work, which starts now.

"...This is all about building a program and putting the best possible product on the floor and working hard in practice and getting better," he said.

South finished 10-0 in the MAC Red regular season, 18-5 overall and won the MAC Red tournament championship.



## Richards Reigns

Senior Karter Richards, who is set to play at Division II Lake Superior State University next season, leaves the Grosse Pointe South's basketball program as one of its most prolific athletes. He joined the varsity squad as a freshman, playing in 77 games. Over his career, he averaged 28.6 minutes, 2.5 steals and nearly 5 rebounds 17 points per game. He scored his 1,000th career point Jan. 4, against L'Anse Creuse North. He holds two program records for most two-point field goals made (353) and most steals in a season (80 in 2023-24). He capped off his senior season as MAC Red MVP and was named to first team All-Conference. Current teammates Tory James joined him with first team All-Conference honors and Nate Davey earned second-team league honors. Vince Vachon was named honorable mention All-League.

**Karter Richards leaves South as a member of the 1,000-point club.**

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

# HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here are more of this week's sports highlights from around the Pointes:



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

## SOUTH STAFF VS. STUDENTS

Student council members from Grosse Pointe South's class of 2024 hosted its second annual Staff vs. Students basketball tournament fundraiser Thursday, Feb. 29, with the staff outlasting the students 33-25 in a winner-take-all championship game.

All proceeds from the tournament will go toward South's Class of 2024 and will be used for class-sponsored events and leadership camps. With a mix of players and staff from North and South, six teams participated in the event, including two senior teams, one junior team, one sophomore team, one freshmen team and the staff team.

Pictured above, from left, are staff and students from the championship game, including South senior Joey Michelotti, South junior Vince Vachon, North junior Leo Perettie, South senior Nate Davey, North's athletic trainer Brigette Scarber, and teachers Leslie Dolle, Shannon Sugamele, Kendra Caralis, Scott Peltier and Peter Loch.

## SOAR DETROIT/ EAGLE SPORTS TOPGOLF FUNDRAISER

Dust off those golf clubs and help support two worthy local charities from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 14, at Topgolf in Auburn Hills. The event will raise money for Eagle Sports Club and SOAR Detroit tutoring program.

Eagle Sports Club was founded in 1999 to serve families on the east side of Detroit by building relationships through sports. The organization serves roughly 1,000 participants in six leagues for kids ages 4 to 14. In 2005, the Eagle Sports team introduced SOAR, a literacy program for kids on Detroit's east side, with just 15 students. Since then the program has served about 150 kids annually, with each child's reading improving by an average of two grade levels in each year of tutoring.

Golfers have the option to form a team at the fundraiser, golf individually, sponsor a hole-in-one, birdie or par, or attend the event as a non-golfer and mingle with attendees.



For more information, scan the QR code above.

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

### City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2024 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
March 18, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

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

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2024 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor's Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 19, 2024 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 885-5800.

### City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

#### CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK 2024 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2022 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

**Organizational Meeting**  
March 12, 2024 1:00 PM

**Appeal Hearings**  
March 12, 2024 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
March 26, 2024 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. COMPLETED 2024 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor's office end of day Tuesday, March 28, 2023 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

**More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.**

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 822-6200