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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Foundation to fund spare firefighting gear in City

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Just four months since the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation fully funded two thermal imaging drones for the City's public safety efforts, it now is covering the cost of five sets of bunker gear, also known as turnout gear, and an accompanying five sets of firefighting gloves.

The \$22,100 purchase will serve as spare gear for the department, available should firefighters need to address back-to-

back situations and allowing the proper time for their primary gear to be cleaned, dried and inspected for contaminants.

"While bunker gear is vital to safety during firefighting operations, when not cleaned and maintained properly, the gear can become a major hazard to firefighters through carcinogens and other hazardous chemicals found on the gear," Public Safety Director John Alcorn explained in a memo to city council.

"After a fire, firefighters

See GEAR, page 3A



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAIME RAE TURNBULL

A construction team takes center stage at the soon-to-be A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts on Jefferson in Grosse Pointe Park.

Art center on track

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Starting late last year from a hole in the ground to now installing metal roof trusses, construction of the privately funded A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts is on the beam for a summer opening.

"We are thrilled with the construction progress made over the last

six months due to favorable weather conditions, allowing contractors to complete the walls of the performance theater," said Dr. Paul Schaap, the center's major benefactor and a resident of the Park.

Four multi-story cinder block walls enclose what will be a 424-seat auditorium on Jefferson Avenue between Maryland in the Park and Alter in Detroit.

Until the roof is fully installed and covers the

interior, a bird's-eye view of work accomplished within the walls shows a stepped foundation for rows of tiered seating, an orchestra pit and a stage where, to all the world, men and women are merely players whether they like it or not.

Tall walls beside and behind the stage account for the fly loft, a vertical space generally rising twice the distance of the proscenium opening. Above and within the

loft, curtains, scenery, lighting and props are raised and lowered during theatrical productions in such quick and seemingly magical fashion to excite Bottom's pun, "This was lofty."

"That height is required for the fly space, so you can put on 'Mary Poppins' and the chandelier from 'The Phantom of the Opera,'" said Jaime Rae Turnbull, the center's executive director, also from the Park. "All of that is going to make this incredible venue so

See CENTER, page 2A

BoE puts branding on hold

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education picked a branding firm at its meeting Tuesday, March 19, then hit the pause button.

The board voted 5-0 to go with Roundtable6 of Troy, but with the caveat that outside money is secured to pay for the work. Vice President Ahmed Ismail and Trustee Valarie St. John

reasons.

"We'll only move forward if we can find outside funding so this doesn't impact the general fund," President Sean Cotton said. "That might be grant money or through one of our various foundations."

Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said the money must come with no restrictions or requirements.

The board heard presentations from three firms at its meeting March 12.

The district's Branding

Ad Hoc Committee drew up an RFP last fall and received six responses.

"We're looking for measurables like increasing visibility and awareness, increasing enrollment and retention and getting more alumni participation," Ted Coutilish, a marketing executive at the University of Michigan and co-chair of the committee, said at the time. "This isn't an enrollment campaign, but that part will come if we do this right."

Deborah Davis-Lenane, a market researcher with

Roundtable6, told the board last month the district is limited due to its location.

"There's a housing scarcity and no room to build, but you can improve communication and your brand promise," she said. "You have to have clear and concise messaging so you know how to translate data."

Davis-Lenane is a Pointer and serves on the board of The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. Roundtable6 also has done work for The Helm.

"All of the presentations were excellent, but I

See BRAND, page 9A

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SEE INSIDE PAGE 9A

**Pointer of
INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



James Biery

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Longtime minister of music
retiring from Memorial Church



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City tightens EV charging, liquor license, signage language

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Referred to as “the low-hanging fruit of updates,” by City Manager Joe Valentine, council last month tidied up three of its ordinances with housekeeping amendments.

One such update to the city’s mechanical equipment ordinance broadens its scope, allowing the regulations to capture more than refrigeration equipment and air-conditioning units, as it previously did.

“We wanted to expand that just to keep it a little bit more broad and make sure that the city can get ahead of any potential (un)attractive nuisances or other nuisances as it pertains to things like EV charging

stations or whatever kind of mechanical equipment that we don’t necessarily want to see when we’re walking down the road,” City Planner Gage Belko said.

The City’s liquor license ordinance, which previously only included the local and central business districts, also has been updated to include the Neighborhood Commercial District, which is along Fisher,

as well as several mixed-use transition zones that border the commercial areas — T-1 and T-2.

“Currently not all of your commercial districts are represented in the liquor license ordinance, specifically the Neighborhood Commercial District, Fisher Road,” Belko

explained during a prior meeting with council, “and so without that, we’re falling back on state regulations for certain things, when we do have a liquor license ordinance, it’s just not covering every district. So it’s a really simple change of adding a district in.”

Similarly, the sign ordinance was updated to properly capture all of the city’s zoning districts.

The amendment also includes incorporating signage standards for hospital facilities, Belko noted.

“They were never mentioned in the sign order, so now they are,” he said.

This is particularly pertinent as Corewell Health is in the process of designing signage to replace the Beaumont

brand and is expected to come before council in the near future for approvals relating to Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital.

As the three ordinance amendments are not part of the city’s zoning ordinance, they did not require a public hearing and were approved unanimously by council Monday, March 18.

Moving forward into the year and working off its recent master plan update, council also is expected to address residential design guidelines, adaptive reuse standards for residential and commercial structures, impervious surface standards, outdoor seating standards for covered structures and commercial mural standards.

Village Market armed robber referred for competency eval

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The court proceedings for Harold Smith — a 53-year-old homeless man charged with one count of armed robbery in a late February incident at Village Market — are on hold pending a competency evaluation.

At different times during his interrogation, Smith told detectives he sometimes hears voices; a female dresses up like him and commits crimes; and that he didn’t remember the incident and may have been under the influence of drugs.

He is set to return before Berschback for a competency hearing Wednesday, July 24.

If convicted, Smith faces a minimum of 25 years and maximum of life imprisonment.

— Laurel Kraus

WATER:

Continued from page 1A

not from the millage,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak confirmed with bond counsel. “(I) just wanted to make it clear that this doesn’t have anything to do with the millage.”

Work planned this season thus far includes:

- ◆ replacing the 6-inch water main on St. Clair from Maumee to Jefferson with an 8-inch main,

- ◆ transferring water services from a 6-inch water main to an existing 12-inch main on St. Clair from Maumee to St. Paul,

- ◆ installing a new 8-inch water main on Notre Dame from Maumee to St. Paul,

- ◆ and installing new water mains on Stratford and Wellington, additionally looping the two streets together to eliminate the dead-end mains that currently exist, which will improve water flow and firefighting capabilities.

“Water pressure is our biggest concern all the time,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. “We’re always

scared of hitting a hydrant near there.”

It is the city’s long-term goal to get rid of all the dead-end mains south of Jefferson, Public Service Director Pete Randazzo added.

The water infrastructure work also will include replacement of lead service lines in areas already under construction, working toward the state-required replacement of 5 percent each year.

Council unanimously approved Bidigare Contractors Inc., to handle this portion of the work for \$1,442,570 with a 10 percent contingency. Bidigare was the lowest among five companies bidding for the project, with its bid coming in \$382,000 less than the city engineer’s estimate.

“Bidigare did most recently that water main on Jefferson in Grosse Pointe Shores,” Randazzo said. “... I talked to Mike Way, the public service director there, and Steve Poloni, city manager. They’ve got phenomenal things to say about Bidigare contractors.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAIME RAE TURNBULL

Construction begins on walls fashioning the center’s Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery, a community gallery, dressing rooms, wardrobe and symphony rooms.

CENTER:

Continued from page 1A

valuable for our Grosse Pointe Theatre partner. Then there is supporting space, including the Manoogian Gallery and community gallery, the back of the house and dressing rooms.”

“The next phase of the project will form the remarkable architectural

features on the perimeter of the building,” Schaap said.

“That is all going to be built with glass and metal,” Turnbull said.

“You will not have the perception of height once the exterior is completed.

“A big crane is there to bring in the roof truss system,” she added. “That’s going to go quickly. Additional trusses that build out the exterior will start in September.

“We will have some grand-opening events prior to the Grosse Pointe Theatre season,” Turnbull said. “We have ideas we’re working on to include all of our program partners, a menagerie of performance and visual exhibits for our soft opening.”

“There was a basement created for the trap door,” Turnbull said. “Steps and all that goes into building a theater took a huge amount of time to do right.”

She said completion is due in July. A soft, or limited, opening follows with the official opening marked by the Grosse Pointe Theatre debuting its next season in September.

“We will have some grand-opening events prior to the Grosse Pointe Theatre season,” Turnbull said. “We have ideas we’re working on to include all of our program partners, a menagerie of performance and visual exhibits for our soft opening.”

In addition to Grosse Pointe Theatre, the Schaap Center will be the performance home of the Detroit Concert Choir, Grosse Pointe Community Chorus and Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra.

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

“The amount of interest coming from partners looking for this intimate space is remarkable,” Turnbull said.



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STR bill checks in at state House

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK

The latest legislative attempt to regulate short-term rentals on a statewide basis beats the band by retaining local municipal control while establishing an excise tax, most of which is funneled back to host jurisdictions to fund oversight.

Terms are contained in House Bill 5438, sponsored by the representative of a vacation-oriented, southwest Michigan beachside counterpart to Grosse Pointe suburbia.

"This bill would give us the ability to decide on our own how to handle short-term rentals," said Nick Sizeland, Park city manager. "Having a tax is helpful for the municipality to make

sure owners of STRs abide by our rules and be quality owners of property."

A provision of the legislation reads, "A local unit of government may enact and enforce reasonable regulations and may uphold zoning decisions for short-term rentals."

"I think this is the state's way of finding a middle ground," Sizeland said. "Since I've been here in 2016, the state legislature has

gone back and forth on short-term rentals. A lot of bills proposed were of a one-size-fits-all model that took away local control. We in Grosse Pointe Park were basically under the same rules as a beach community, which didn't make sense for us."

"What is different

within (this bill is) a 6 percent excise tax that will be assigned to each of those rentals," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"Most of those dollars will come back to the community to assist with costs that may be associated with them. The local government continues to maintain authority over governing them."

Sizeland characterized the excise tax as an incentive for local governments to support the bill.

"You don't have to have STRs in your community, but if you do, there's a benefit," he said. "You're going to get a tax now."

The legislation, introduced by first-term Rep. Joey Andrews, D-St. Joseph, in February and forwarded to the Committee on

Regulatory Reform, is so new it hasn't generated hearings, fiscal analysis or position papers.

"It's just starting," Sizeland said. "This is going to take a while."

The Michigan Municipal League cites a good neighbor policy when opposing regulations restricting local control of short-term rentals.

"Since the popularity of short-term rental websites came on the scene a few years ago, Michigan communities have worked hard to come up with reasonable rules and regulations that strike the delicate balance of allowing short-term vacation rentals in ways that keep all property owners in mind," according to "Keep Local Decisions Local," on the organization's web-

site, blogs.mml.org. "But now, special interest groups have fought to open the floodgates to short-term vacation rentals in Michigan's communities and turn our neighborhoods into a series of mini hotels."

Sizeland instructed the city's planning commission last year to propose short-term rental regulations as part of a comprehensive zoning ordinance update.

"We'll start seeing the city's stance on that flushed out at the next planning commission meeting (7 p.m. Monday, April 22, at city hall) when we go over a revised draft of the short-term rental ordinance," said Warren Rothe, commission secretary and assistant city manager.

As indicated by the MML blog, short-term

rentals are likely here to stay.

"It's not a matter of whether or not we'll have short-term rentals," Hodges said. "If we choose to not have them, we will be challenged in court and likely lose. So, it's a matter of how we manage them."

Although HB 5438 prohibits banning short-term rentals, it establishes annual statewide registration, safety standards, requires at least \$1 million liability insurance per STR while allowing location jurisdictions the authority to:

- ◆ set fire safety and blight mitigation standards,
- ◆ "determine the number of units allowed to be used as a short-term rental by any method of its choosing" and
- ◆ revoke permits.

Divers survey marina

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK

Underwater inspection of most of the municipal marina is expected to begin at almost any time.

The city council on March 11 approved a \$17,000 low-bid contract for commercial divers to report on the condition of:

- ◆ three piers,
- ◆ breakwalls on both sides of the marina opening to Lake St. Clair and
- ◆ the outer east and southside breakwalls of the marina at Windmill Pointe Park.

"This report will provide a review of the level of repair or replacement needed for the entry walls and piers," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "They would like to start as soon as they get council approval."

Underwater Construction Corp., of Stevensville, was contracted to inspect piers one, two and three of five piers at the marina. Pier one is at the far left, looking at the marina from inland.

Piers four and five are not being inspected.

"An engineering report for Hubbell, Roth & Clark

(municipal engineering consultants) conducted several years ago believe piers four and five are still very structurally sound and should not require inspection," Sizeland said.

The survey is projected to require four days.

Drivers are instructed to "identify locations of submerged (or) cutoff piles or obstructions, evaluate the condition of submerged portions of entry walls — condition believed to be poor — and to evaluate the condition of the interior wall of the east and south breakwaters," according

to the contract's scope of work.

The survey is separate from current marina maintenance. It also is preparatory to reconfiguring Pier 1 to handle fewer but wider boats.

A design team at Abonmarche consultants is working with the city on renovation plans.

"Abonmarche has worked with UCC," Sizeland said.

"(We) have found them to be professional, safe and qualified," according to Mike Morphy, Abonmarche waterfront group director and senior

project manager, in a letter to Park officials.

Another diving company wanted nearly \$81,000 for the job and anticipated needing 12 days to do it.

"This may indicate a greater level of detail assumed from (the higher bidder)," Morphy wrote.

"After this is done,

we'll be able to go back to Abonmarche and let them know what's under the surface for repairs," Sizeland said.

Additions to the contract price exceeding \$5,000 require city council approval.

"That's usually pretty standard language," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Sidewalk and roadwork preview

GROSSE POINTE PARK

A contractor's bid to repair city sidewalks came in at a price to be expected.

"Luigi Cement came in with a low bid of around \$145,000," said Tom Jenny, director of public works.

He said the price nearly equals what city officials anticipated.

"It gives us a little leg-room," Jenny said.

"We're looking at Phase 1, which is closer to Cadieux, Yorkshire, Bishop — those roads," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "Details to follow soon."

Contracts exceeding \$5,000 require city council approval.

"That will be going to council next month," Councilman Max Wiener said of the sidewalk proposal.

"Then we'll start our process of marking sidewalks," said Jenny, assuming approval. "If

we get everything marked and done, they can be in and out in two weeks."

Prior to work starting, residents will be offered a primer on fixing sidewalks.

Sizeland said, "I (and others) had a meeting with OHM Advisors (the city's consulting engineers) this week regarding a PowerPoint set for residents when this program is implemented; why we're doing it, what a white dot on the sidewalk means compared with a green one. That will be in preparation for starting this program."

"We'll develop an extensive FAQ on this one, too," said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager.

Roads

In the hopper for road resurfacing this year are:

- ◆ the Nottingham-Beaconsfield alley

between Kercheval and St. Paul,

◆ the Wayburn-Maryland alley between Charlevoix and Verner,

◆ a section of Charlevoix between

Whittier and Bishop and

◆ a section of Middlesex between Korte and Windmill Pointe Drive.

— Brad Lindberg

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GEAR:

Continued from page 1A

need to handle their gear with caution and avoid contamination. The safest practice for firefighters is to wash the gear as soon as possible after any event that may leave contaminants on the gear."

The department additionally will employ the spare gear for new hires, allowing them to train in

gear identical to the permanent set they will be issued.

"We facilitate the donations for public safety, along with other donations for the betterment of the community that are not covered by our tax dollars," City of Grosse Pointe Foundation President John Shook said, "... in order to give our residents and commercial businesses the best service possible."

Biery retiring after 14 years with Memorial Church

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Last Thursday was bittersweet for Minister of Music James Biery, who for more than a decade has contributed his touch to worship services and special events alike at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

March 28 marked his last time at the helm of a special Maundy Thursday service he developed and implemented at Memorial soon after he joined the staff 14 years ago.

"For Maundy Thursday, they could never figure out what to do," he said. "There would be 25 to 30 people who came — the same number of people in the choir. When I came, I saw the space and had a dream. I knew this would be a good place to do a chancel drama or church opera. ... We have talented singers here, a nice space, available instrumentalists."



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Accomplished organist James Biery will retire as the minister of music at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church this summer.

He spent some time researching pieces that

would work for the church, but when he couldn't find something suitable, he and his wife, Marilyn, sat down and wrote a 20-minute theater piece based on the Doubting Thomas story. They had so much fun, they wrote another based on Mary and Martha.

"We came up with an interesting format," Biery recalled. "I spent many months working on the musical score for it. And in 2017, we went from 20 people to 200 right away. It became tradition."

"It's a tremendous example of how music can be totally integrated into a church service, not just something to fill up empty space," he added. "... I try to do that in all our worship experiences here — totally integrate music into worship so it fits with what's being preached from the pulpit and what scripture is telling us."

Biery will step down from his duties of directing the choirs, playing

the Klais organ and overseeing the music program, but he has a few more feats to tackle first.

He'll conduct his last concert at Memorial later this month. It will follow the same theme as this year's Music at Memorial series — the number 14 — which has special meaning to him.

"I've known for a while, though not through planning, but my career has separated itself into 14-year segments," he said. "I worked at two churches in Connecticut for seven years each, right after grad school, then worked at the Cathedral at St. Paul in Minnesota for 14 years. And then I came here in 2010."

"I decided it's probably the right time for retirement to happen," he added, "which is also 14 years. There's a nice symmetry there. But there's more to the story."

The Bierys have traveled each summer to the Bach Festival in Germany. Last year they noticed staff members wearing T-shirts with "14" printed on them. He questioned why and learned Bach had a peculiar fascination with the number.

"Numerology was a thing back in those days," Biery said. "And the number seven, throughout Christian history and beyond that, is a symbol of perfection. ... Twice

seven, or 14, is considered double perfection."

Bach's Goldberg Variations has 14 variations; the piece he supposedly wrote on his deathbed has 14 notes in each phrase; the letters in "Bach," when matched with corresponding numbers — 2-1-3-8 — total 14; and the list goes on.

"So I thought this would be a fun theme for my last year," Biery said. "Bach is important to church musicians; he's our patron saint, so to speak. This concert features Bach music very prominently. The choir will sing a few of the favorite things I've written for them and everybody here the past 14 years. We'll open and close with 'Te Deum laudamus,' a hymn of thanksgiving. I'll play the organ and there will be choral music. It will be a fun time to look back at the music we've done together the past 14 years."

Another way to examine Biery's musical career is by reviewing his Wikipedia page, which features an extensive catalogue of the music he's composed, or by checking out a few of the 272 videos posted on his YouTube channel, to which there are more than 1,000 subscribers.

"I posted sporadically, but had never really done anything with it," he said of the channel, @jamesbierymusic. "Then came lockdown and the church started making music videos of hymns and organ music. We ended up with this incredible library. It served a need for churches in search of music."

A Nebraska native, Biery's own search for music began fairly early.

"It grabbed me," he said. "I started with piano lessons at 7, then discovered organ pretty early."

It piqued his interest enough to set his sights on Northwestern University's organ program. There he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in organ performance, as well as met his wife, who also was in the organ program.

He knew he wanted to explore church music — he'd been playing the organ at church since high school — rather than pursue a doctorate. While seeking work, Biery, who grew up in the Presbyterian faith,

was encouraged by a friend to consider the Catholic Church.

"It was the late '70s, still early enough when choirs were being resurrected," he said. "So I took a full-time job at a Catholic church in Wallingford, Conn. I had a great start there."

Meanwhile, his wife played organ at Center Congregational Church in Hartford. When a position at a Catholic cathedral in Hartford opened, Biery applied and got it.

"For a seven-year period we were both working with significant congregations in Hartford," he said, noting the couple shared their resources between the Catholic and Protestant congregations.

Biery accepted his third post at a Catholic cathedral in Minnesota — the staff was big enough to hire Marilyn, too — and though he never converted to Catholicism, enjoyed his time there. Fourteen years later, he landed in Grosse Pointe Farms, where he's made quite an impression.

Though his official retirement date is June 30, Biery's last Sunday at the organ is May 18. Making worship even more special that morning will be a visiting 20-piece chamber orchestra, led by a colleague from Germany.

"The choir will collaborate with them, so it will be a nice little party here," he said.

Though he's ready to retire, the same can't be said for his wife, who serves as bridge director of music at Kirk in the Hills Church in Bloomfield; however, plans are being hatched to eventually relocate closer to her family near Saugatuck.

"There needs to be a healthy, fresh start," Biery said of his position. "There's a future here that a new person would be able to do in ways that I can't. And I don't want to miss the retirement thing."

Biery has no plans to sit idly in retirement, when he'll have more time to compose and record music. He also hopes to devote more time to a renewed hobby of model train work.

"I have had model train equipment boxed up from when I was a child," he said. "The hobby has come a long way since 50 years ago. The childhood stuff is boxed up again and I've got all new pieces. I've had good fun with it."

Biery said he'll most miss the people at Memorial Church, from congregants and staff members to the "incredibly supportive folks in my program," he said.

"Some of the singers have stuck with this most of my time here. I will dearly miss them. We've developed a really nice family and we all care for each other. We're a church within a church, a community within a community, which is the way it ought to be."

The Sunday, April 21, concert, "Fourteen!," takes place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, visit gpmchurch.org or call (313) 882-5330.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY MASSERANG

Biery has led the music ministry at Memorial Church since 2014.

Grosse Pointe News

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NEW MONTHLY FEATURE IN THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS!

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Every last Thursday of the month, we feature a list of local dining establishments

Grosse Pointe Farms**Indecent exposure**

Employees at a business in the 18000 block of Mack requested a 27-year-old Detroit man be advised he's no longer welcome at the business, following a series of incidents.

The man first borrowed a waitress' phone supposedly to call his family to send him money Saturday, March 23, before attempting to lead her toward the restroom to expose himself.

The man was told to leave but returned the next afternoon, asking to fill out a job application, which later would provide officers with his identification.

The following day he lingered inside the establishment without making a purchase and made threats when asked to leave.

The waitress who had loaned him her phone contacted officers Wednesday, March 27, when the man texted her illicit videos of his genitalia.

The suspect is described as a thin-built, 5-foot, 6-inch black man in his mid 20s with tattoos on his hands and face. In each incident he wore black snow pants with a black and white Adidas coat and mask covering part of his face.

Porch pirate

A FedEx package was

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

stolen from a porch in the 400 block of Moross between 5:54 and 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 27.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods**Taking a rest**

Someone broke the rear window of a vehicle in the parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital and left the driver's seat fully reclined sometime between 6:50 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Monday, March 25.

The owner reported nothing was taken from the vehicle.

Stolen vehicles

Two vehicles were stolen two days apart, the first from the parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital sometime between 2:45 and 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, and the second in the 2100 block of Vernier sometime overnight Thursday, March 28, into Friday, March 29.

Security footage at the hospital showed a stolen black Dodge Durango pull up to a Chrysler 300.

The driver of the Durango got into the Chrysler and started it, then a passenger from the Durango drove away in the Chrysler followed by the Durango.

Detroit officers found a Chevy Silverado with its ignition punched out. The owner said they last saw the truck at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28. The truck and \$1,500 worth of tools were recovered.

— Ted O'Neil

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

City of Grosse Pointe**Tinted windows**

For driving with illegally tinted windows, a 25-year-old Eastpointe man was pulled over at Mack and Fisher and cited for driving with a suspended license at 9:30 p.m. Monday, March 25.

Moving quickly

Two black women in their 40s stole approximately \$240 in liquor from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 10:50 p.m. Thursday, March 28.

They fled in a U-Haul van at a high rate of speed.

Double whammy

A 32-year-old Harper Woods man received a citation and saw his vehicle impounded after driving with an expired license plate and suspended driver's license at 9:05 p.m. Friday, March 29. He was pulled over at Mack and Lincoln.

Shedding light

When stopped at Cadieux and St. Paul for driving with high beams at 4:25 a.m. Saturday, March 30, a 20-year-old Detroit woman was found to have never obtained a driver's license, for which she was cited.

Suspended license

A 30-year-old Sterling Heights man was cited for a suspended driver's license after being pulled over for a defective brake light at Mack and Neff at 8:25 p.m. Saturday, March 30.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per

dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Park**Suspects sought**

Three unknown, car-hopping perps in a freshly stolen truck broke into Fairfax Market last week.

Between 3 and 3:42 a.m. Wednesday, March 27, they pried open the front door and took \$600 from the cash register.

"Surveillance video showed the vehicle to be a white Chevrolet pickup," Park police said. "The pickup was stolen approximately 40 minutes earlier."

The market is a prototypical corner store in a residential neighborhood at the intersection of Fairfax and Beaconsfield.

Police said the suspects wore hoods, masks and gloves.

"(They) arrived in the area in (a) gray Nissan Sentra, pulled up to the (pickup) truck and stole it prior to the B&E," police said.

Wanted

A man being investigated for reportedly causing a disturbance at Charlevoix and Maryland was arrested around 10 p.m. Thursday, March 28, on an outstanding felony warrant for assault.

Police described him as a 35-year-old Detroit resident.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Drug-dealing pharmacist gets prison sentence

DETROIT — The former owner of now-defunct Beacon Pointe Pharmacy on Jefferson will spend nearly 8 ½ years in prison for unlawfully distribution of controlled substances and conspiracy to unlawfully distribute drug-controlled sub-

stances, according to federal authorities.

Hasna Bashir Iwas, 62, of New Baltimore, was sentenced Wednesday, March 13. A jury convicted her of 26 drug-related crimes while she owned and operated the pharmacy from 2013 to 2018.

Iwas regularly filled prescriptions issued by a local doctor, Otis Crawford, who was charged with unlawfully writing controlled substance prescriptions and pleaded guilty.

He died before his sentencing, according to a March 14 news

release from the U.S. Attorney's office, Eastern District of Michigan.

Iwas was responsible for distributing more than 300,000 dosage units of controlled substances with an estimated street value of \$1.8 to \$3.3 million, the

release continued.

She had a good thing going for a while. She received \$781,546 from the illegal distribution and, as part of her sentence, was ordered to forfeit all of it, as the money represented the proceeds of her drug dealing.

"My office will continue to devote resources to prosecuting healthcare professionals such as this defendant, who use their trusted roles as healthcare providers to deal drug in our community," U.S. Attorney Dawn N. Ison said.

First of many sycamores planted at Windmill Pointe Drive

By Brad Lindberg

Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Three sycamore trees freshly planted at the head of Windmill Pointe Drive are only the beginning.

"We have 97 more to go," said Brian Colter, city forester.

Some 100 sycamores are due for planting in the Park this year, courtesy of resident Paul vanTol and the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

vanTol is donating the trees. Sycamores are among 300 trees he planted six years ago near the Nicholson Nature Center in Macomb County with the intention of giving them to the city.

"There are all sorts of trees," vanTol said of his nursery. "Sycamores are the ones that matured

the quickest. I have another 200 trees. Over the years, we can hopefully pull those out and donate them to Grosse Pointe Park."

A \$35,000 foundation donation covers harvesting, transporting and contracted planting costs.

"A culture of giving is well established in Grosse Pointe Park, with these donations being yet another example of our wonderfully generous residents who are stalwart in their support of this exceptional community," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"Six or seven years ago, I met with (former Park) Mayor Bob Denner, (then-City Manager) Dale Krajniak and Brian Colter and proposed this project," said vanTol, a western Michigan native.

He's lived in the Pointes long enough to see how the area was canopied by American elms.

"(Dutch) elm disease was rabid, but there were still all beautiful streets with huge elms," vanTol said. "Those are all gone. Ash trees, unfortunately, were a substitute and those are all gone (due to emerald ash borer). Brian suggested what trees to grow. The rest are a wide variety, from oak to red maple to hackberry, more tulip trees and so on."

An additional 100 sycamores in the Park doesn't add up to over-planting.

"The overall population of sycamore in Grosse Pointe Park represents less than 0.5 per-

cent of city street trees and we're spreading them out," Colter said.

He's identified planting sites on municipal property, but won't force the issue on nearby residents.

"Residents will be notified in advance via door hanger," Colter wrote in his proposal to the foundation. "An orange flag will be put where the tree would be planted. If the homeowner calls and does not want a tree, they won't get one."

Sycamores grow 100 feet tall with similar-sized irregular crowns. They can live hundreds of years.

Michael Dirr, a horticulturalist and retired professor at the University of Georgia, described sycamores in

his textbook, "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants," as "a behemoth in the world of trees; striking and impressive specimen especially in winter when the white,

mottled bark stands out against the cold gray sky."

"Those big, huge beautiful trees along Jefferson through the Park are sycamores," vanTol said.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED
2024 SINGLE LOT ASSESSMENT ROLL

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe, 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024 on the proposed 2024 City Single Lot Assessment Roll. Copies of the Single Lot Assessment Roll will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the City Hall Building (17147 Maumee) beginning April 12, 2024. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Public comments, oral or written, are welcome at the public hearing on the proposed Single Lot Assessment Roll.

GPN: 4/4/24

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POINTES OF VIEW

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Wise move for GPPSS to look at transfer policy

As reported in last week's Grosse Pointe News, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is taking another look at its policy of prohibiting students in kindergarten through eighth grade from changing schools.

We applaud the decision to at least have a discussion on the matter.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle at the Board of Education meeting March 19, said she has been approached numerous times in her short two months on the job with questions as to why changing schools is not allowed. She also noted that the administration is just starting to talk about the issue and wanted to bring it forward so board members would not be caught off guard if they heard talk about it around the community.

This is the type of open communication, with the board and community, the BoE was looking for when it made the decision to hire Tuttle. She must have received the question enough for her to step back and take a look, rather than just giving a rote response of, "That's the policy."

The current policy was put in place during reconfiguration, when the decision was made to close Trombly and Poupart elementary schools. Before that, students could change schools depending on certain factors, including available seats and staffing levels.

Board President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said he's interested to get feedback from district families. That is especially true of families with school-age children living in the district but not sending their children to GPPSS. Could such an option possibly lure them back?

Tuttle said discussions are in the early stages and if the policy changes, it would not be as soon as the 2024-25 school year. She added that any decision must be data driven. That's smart, rather than making the change just for change's sake and then switching back, potentially driving more students out of the district.

Hopefully, a good portion of that data will come from the district's upcoming community satisfaction survey, due to be opened this month.

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

We encourage as many people as possible to take the survey and provide honest, open feedback. Respondents will be guided to a different set of questions, or trees, based on how they answer the first few questions.

Tuttle said she's interested in answers to narrative questions about why people left the district, if they intend on returning and if they have young children will they be enrolling them in the district.

As Cotton said, the focus of every decision he makes is increasing enrollment. It is refreshing to see the board and administration taking proactive steps in that direction, rather than simply bemoaning enrollment losses year after year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM MORROW

Spring is in the air

Boats are rigged and ready at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for the Midwest Collegiate Qualifier regatta, which takes place this weekend, April 5 to 7. This event will be followed by the Mallory Regatta, which is a qualifier to the High School National Championships at the end of April. Both regattas will draw families and schools from the Midwest region, which includes Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

New and coming attractions

Spring is upon us, and even if the current weather is not exactly my idea of a good time, it's always a season of renewal and new beginnings. We are excited over here at the GP News for fun and exciting new columns, yearly events like the Fishing Classic and, of course, the annual Wedding Guide.

Coming off our third straight win for the Michigan Press Association awards, we intend to defend our title next year by constantly improving and innovating. Our faithful and loyal staff boasts more than 185 combined years of newspaper experience — and I'm thrilled to have their hard work rewarded and recognized. On that note, we recently welcomed back Account Executive Ken Ong, who worked at the News for several years many moons ago.

One new column I'd like to point out that's beginning this week can be found on page 9A



called Academic Pointers. Longtime Grosse Pointe Public School System teacher Glen Hipple will offer sage advice and news on timely topics regarding our schools. This week he discusses the changes to the PSAT/SAT, which is coming up quickly Wednesday, April 10, at both North and South.

This year beginning in June, our annual fishing contest will add a boating division, which will add to the excitement and prizes. And our yearly Grosse Pointe News Best of the Best voting is coming up quickly as well, with fun new categories.

Thank you to our loyal readers and advertisers who keep this award-winning newspaper on top and thriving. We don't take you for granted and look forward to feedback and ideas that you would like to see in the paper. Don't hesitate to reach out at agryzenia@grossepointenews.com.

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.

An opposing voice

To the Editor:

This is in response to the op-ed titled, "Picking and choosing election deniers," by Brad Lindberg, published in the March 28, edition of the Grosse Pointe News.

To compare Ms. Abrams' statements and Donald Trump's actions as somehow equivalent is woefully incorrect.

Ms. Abrams was speaking out against a well-documented wave of voter suppression efforts up to and including a ban on providing drinking water to voters who had no recourse but to stand in excessively long lines, waiting for hours to vote. Ms. Abrams' behavior did not lead to any disruption in transfer of

power, nor any violent attacks at Georgia's capitol. Ms. Abrams' supporters are not serving time for violently attacking law enforcement.

We have no recorded phone call of Ms. Abrams' imploring election officials to "find" her X amount of votes. Fox News will pay \$787 million in damages to a voting machine company for defamation, not because of Ms. Abrams' election denial, but because of Donald's.

Ms. Abrams was not found to have been trying to go ahead with fake slates of electors in an effort to take office anyway.

Ms. Abrams did not bring one lawsuit after another, each one more frivolous than the last, frustrating our judges and abusing our court system..

Laura Matheny
Grosse Pointe Park

Thank you and welcome

Dear Patients and Friends:

It has been my pleasure and honor to have earned your trust and serve you as patients and friends for the last three decades. My goal has always been to provide the best in caring and professional quality dental care. Some of you have asked about my plans for retirement. With your welfare in mind, and careful consideration to my own future, I have made the decision to retire and transfer my practice to someone whom I respect both personally and professionally.

I am pleased, after a long and thorough search, to introduce Dr. Sabrina Salim, who will be taking over my practice. She is someone in whom I have a great deal of confidence. I have held the philosophy of treating each patient with the maximum levels of health, function, comfort and aesthetics appropriate to the individual. Dr. Salim embraces that philosophy.

While this transfer may seem sudden to you, Dr. Salim, the staff and I have expended a great deal of time and effort to ensure that you are well served by a smooth

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

April 4 - 10

LOCAL
4
Expect More

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
46° 33°	52° 34°	56° 33°	59° 40°	67° 42°	66° 47°	64° 50°
Rain/Snow Showers 70%	Mostly Cloudy 0%	Partly Cloudy 0%	Mostly Sunny 0%	Partly Cloudy 0%	Mostly Cloudy 0%	Mostly Cloudy 20%
SUNRISE 7:08 am	SUNRISE 7:07 am	SUNRISE 7:05 am	SUNRISE 7:03 am	SUNRISE 7:01 am	SUNRISE 7:00 am	SUNRISE 6:58 am
SUNSET 8:02 pm	SUNSET 8:03 pm	SUNSET 8:04 pm	SUNSET 8:05 pm	SUNSET 8:06 pm	SUNSET 8:07 pm	SUNSET 8:07 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Grosse Pointe — Michigan's baseball town



son officially getting underway last week, but we still have the Detroit Tigers' home opener to look forward to Friday, Apr. 5.

This line from "Moneyball" has always stuck with me because baseball is America's pastime and no matter how much the game changes, it is always something that can bring us together. That is especially evident right here in Grosse Pointe.

Before I started working for the Grosse Pointe News in 2021, I had no idea a city could have such an affinity for base-

ball like Grosse Pointe does. From high school to Little League, this town seems to thrive in the spring and summer when there is action on the baseball diamond.

It is something I've learned to love the most about Grosse Pointe, being someone from another area of metro Detroit who did not know much at all about the Pointes before I began working here. There is just something that feels good about seeing a town that rallies around one sport and still has so much passion for America's pastime at

every level.

Being able to cover the baseball teams at Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School the past few seasons has been such a great experience as a reporter. Whether it's a cold weekday afternoon in April or a sunny Saturday in June, seeing the way people flock to high school baseball games in the Pointes as loyal fans and supporters of their children and schools is special.

Sure, in my hometown of Plymouth people supported the local high

school baseball teams, but it seemed like nothing compared to the passion Grosse Pointe has. It also speaks to the talent of players the area produces, with countless players from the three schools in the Pointes going on to have success at the collegiate level and beyond over the years.

Going to a Tigers game — or any MLB game for that matter — is fun, of course, but it's towns like Grosse Pointe that seem to be helping America's pastime not only stay alive but thrive. Little Leaguers can look up to

the high school players and see how much pride they have playing for their school and their city, and it fuels the love for the game throughout generations.

As another high school baseball season gets underway, I am excited to see what this spring will bring to the diamond. I know the fans and the community will be out in full force all season long, supporting their teams and players, and the action will surely not disappoint. So here is to another great season of America's pastime.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

PARLEY ON POLLUTION CALLED AS ANOTHER SWIM SEASON NEARS: A twice-postponed meeting to discuss pollution of Lake St. Clair will be held April 12, it was announced Monday at a meeting of the Farms trustees. The gathering of Pointe and Macomb County officials was first scheduled for March 22 and then postponed to April 5.

Representatives from the State Stream Control Commission will also be on hand to discuss a program to keep pollution out of the lake. The approaching swimming season lends importance to the conclusions to be arrived at.

LARGE FLOCK OF RARE SWANS VISITS POINTE: An unusual sight greeted the early morning risers along the lakefront in the Bishop Road-Ellair Place area March 23. A flock of more than 100 wild swans were swimming around about 200 yards off shore. It has been

many years since a flock of that size has settled on Grosse Pointe waters.

ANOTHER WAR HERO ARRIVES FOR REBURIAL: Another Pointe hero of World War II is being laid to final rest. Reburial services are being held at the Pingree mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery for Lieut. (j.g.) William J. Mills, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson M. Wills of Woodland Place.

1974

50 years ago this week

Archive unavailable

1999

25 years ago this week

F O R M E R C O U N C I L M A N BIDIGARE NAMED WOODS ADMIN: The Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, acting as a committee-of-the-whole, voted 6-1 to recommend that former councilman Ted Bidigare be hired as the new city administrator. Bidigare served on the council for 12 years, but resigned in 1993 for job-related reasons. Since then he has been working in Muskegon as the community's transit systems manager.

PERFECT SEASON: The Grosse Pointe Park Cyclone, made up of players from the Grosse Pointe Soccer Association under-10 house league, went undefeated in the under-10 indoor soccer division at Total Soccer in Fraser. The team includes Alex Langton, Peter Beierwaltes, Tommy Withers, Chris McMillan, Timmy Greening, Scott Maxwell, Grant Withers, Mathew Dziuba, Charlie Fischer, Josh Kelly, Tommy Quinn, Andrew Dickson, Ian Talbot, Cameron Kozicki, Chad Fischer and Stefan Pfahler. Coaches are Will Beierwaltes and Lee Greening.

P L A N N I N G COMMISSION: ST. AMBROSE REQUEST REQUIRES MORE STUDY: While calling the

project a good one, the Grosse Pointe Park planning commission requested that more traffic studies be performed before the city council considers approving a request by St. Ambrose parish that would allow expansion of church facilities, but require the closing of Wayburn near Jefferson.

2014

10 years ago this week

WOODS DISPUTES SHORES' CONCERN: City officials are anxious to clear up any misconceptions residents and those in adjacent communities may have over the privatization of the Woods' ambulance service. On March 28, MedStar Ambulance took over the city's emergency medical service, which had been handled by city employees. The move to privatization is estimated to save the city \$400,000 in the first year. The change was not without controversy. At the March 21 meeting, a standing-room-only crowd expressed anger over the move and while the city expected some opposition from residents, it was surprised with the reaction of some city officials from Grosse Pointe Shores.

S A V I N G S W I T H A COST: A proposal to save public safety expenses by authorizing less officer overtime comes with costs of its own. Although sav-

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

transition. Our first concern was for your comfort and convenience. Therefore, please be assured that your recall and treatment will continue uninterrupted! The staff will remain, so faces will be familiar when you visit. I, along with my family, will be Dr. Salim's patients along with myriad close friends who I have been treating since 1987.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Sabrina Salim to our practice family. I am sure each of you will enjoy knowing her as much as I do.

DR. MARY SUE STONISCH, D.D.S
Grosse Pointe Woods

Seek to understand

To the Editor:

In the March 28 article, "GPPSS discussing transfer policy," Ted O'Neil reports the district is reviewing the transfer policy. While the article draws on the March 19 BoE meeting, it doesn't mention Trustee Colleen Worden's statement, "In 2019, during reconfiguration, there was some consultation with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) and they recommended that we not allow these transfers."

Mr. O'Neil wouldn't have had to look far for historical perspective. A June 19, 2019, article in the Grosse Pointe News, "Civil rights group recommends restart, vote on reconfiguration to proceed," reported:

"The (MDCR) report expressed particular concern for Poupart, the district's only majority black school, questioning why Poupart faced a decline in student enrollment the past two years. One culprit identified is the district school transfer policy, which had a disproportionate impact on Poupart ..."

"According to the report, 'Poupart faced the largest percentage of transfers compared to other schools while having the fewest number of transfers to Poupart. A related factor is the flexible policy for in-district transfers. If the flexible policy allowing for in-district transfers is revised and made tighter, one could see more students attending their neighborhood schools ...'"

The enrollment decline was one of several factors cited in Poupart's closure. What is not known is how the inequitable transfer policy impacted

enrollment. I hope the district, in its quest for data, will seek to understand why families left not just for private schools, as mentioned in the article, but for public schools that participate in schools of choice.

MARY GARLOUGH
Grosse Pointe Farms

Fear of school choice?

To the Editor:

In a recent WSJ op-ed, "Roosevelt Elementary Delenda Est," the writer raises an interesting common denominator (at least in Michigan) of wealthier suburban leaders' fear of school choice.

This letter describes West Bloomfield school district leaders mirroring our own school district leadership's attempt to keep educational freedom from residents. A group of residents wants to open a classical charter school to give more public school options to residents. Instead of improving the public education offering to include classical, leadership in both districts would choose to "tear down" these publicly funded school buildings before allowing a public school charter to occupy them.

There seems to be a trend of fear and ignorance around school choice that has infected wealthier suburban school districts.

Why do these areas with well-educated parents and boards seem to cling to the status quo? They refuse to see charters as proven public educational options, choosing instead to demonize and even destroy beautiful, tax-funded buildings to defend their position.

Outside Michigan, school choice is thriving and growing. Neighboring states such as Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin have expanded educational freedom via school choice laws, while Michigan goes the opposite direction both in public education performance (USNews ranks No. 33, behind all other Midwest states) and educational choice for parents.

Why do West Bloomfield and Grosse Pointe cling so tightly to "the way it's always been" versus educational innovation and choice? Why do our leaders see educational freedom for all parents, not just those who can afford it, as a threat rather than a public educational benefit? Any institution that fails to innovate fails to improve.

"If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses." — Henry Ford

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Stonisch retires after 37 years

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — There was an open house for Dr. Mary Sue Stonisch Tuesday, March 26, marking her retirement from Faircourt Dental Smile Studio. By 1 p.m. the next day, she and her husband, Dan Monahan, were on a plane to Florida.

"There's no time to waste," she laughed. "Life is meant to be lived."

The couple planned to spend a month in Bonita Springs.

"We're just going to unwind, whatever that looks like," she said. "Dan also just retired from his family business, The Monahan Co."

About 75 people attended the open house, mostly friends and patients.

"My heart is just so full," Stonisch said. "The open house just meant everything and more to me. It was a chance to revel in all the wonderful memories of my career and the talents God has given me."

During the open house, Stonisch shared how her dad, the late Rudolph Stonisch, remodeled what had been a proctologist's office when she opened Faircourt Dental in 1987.

"And then he handed me a 30-year note at seven and three-quarters interest," she laughed.

Her mom, Glorie, was her dental assistant and office manager the first two years the practice



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Known around town as "The Smile Artist," Mary Sue Stonisch hung up her drill Tuesday, March 26, and held a retirement open house at her dental practice in Grosse Pointe Woods. Many friends and patients came by to wish her good luck.

was open. Also at the open house, she told the story of how one family of longtime patients came to be.

"My dad bought my mom a classic Jaguar for her 50th birthday but it had electrical problems,"

she said. "She got stuck one winter and a good Samaritan, the late Randy Abud, helped her.

He wouldn't take any money, so my mom told him to bring the family in

for a free cleaning." Abud's widow, Tony, attended the open house. She and her family are still patients.

As for her decision to retire, Stonisch said it came down to wear and tear on her body.

"I've had a hip replacement and still need some hand surgery from all those years of drilling," she said. "It became evident I poured my heart, soul and love into the



Mary Sue Stonisch and her family, from left, Ellen Monahan, Patrick Riggs, Dan Monahan, Mary Sue Stonisch, Gail Stonisch Riggs and Patrick Monahan.

practice."

Once back in Michigan, the couple will spend most of their time at their cottage in Bellaire. But that doesn't mean slowing down. They are involved with the Bellaire Youth Initiative, which provides after-school and weekend programs

for K-12 students.

"We're not going to stop serving," Stonisch said. "We read the Bible every morning and heard a sermon recently that asked if you had all the pieces to a puzzle but no picture, how could you put it together? For us, the Bible is the picture."

They'll also still be in the Pointes from time to time.

"We're both Grosse Pointe South graduates and my in-laws live here," Stonisch said. "We have an apartment in St. Clair Shores, so we'll still have a presence in Grosse Pointe."

Faircourt Dental under new ownership

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — With the retirement of Dr. Mary Sue Stonisch, patients at Faircourt Dental Smile Studio shouldn't miss a beat. Dr. Sabrina Salim has purchased the practice and already is seeing patients.

"Knowing the close relationships Dr. Stonisch has developed, I realize the feelings that come with change, especially when it comes to one's smile," she wrote in a letter to patients. "I look forward to creating the same close bond with you as I continue her commitment to exceptional comfort, skilled care and treatment based on individual needs and desires."



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Dr. Mary Sue Stonisch with Dr. Sabrina Salim, the dentist to whom she sold her practice.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM RELATING THERETO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Harper Woods, Wayne County, Michigan, intends to issue and sell its general obligation limited tax bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000), in one or more series, for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost to acquire, construct, and equip water supply system improvements, including lead service line replacements, together with all related appurtenances and attachments.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF REVENUE BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE from the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations.

BOND DETAILS

THE BONDS will be payable in annual installments not to exceed thirty (30) in number and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at a public or private sale but in no event to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law on the balance of the bonds from time to time remaining unpaid.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF PAYMENTS FOR BONDS SOLD TO MICHIGAN FINANCE AUTHORITY

IN THE EVENT THAT THE BONDS ARE SOLD TO THE MICHIGAN FINANCE AUTHORITY, THE CITY MAY PLEDGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS MONEY RECEIVED OR TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY DERIVED FROM IMPOSITION OF TAXES BY THE STATE AND RETURNED OR TO BE RETURNED TO THE CITY AS PROVIDED BY LAW, except for money the use of which is prohibited for such purposes by the State Constitution. The City may enter into an agreement providing for the payment of taxes, which taxes are collected by the State and returned to the City as provided by law, to the Michigan Finance Authority or a trustee, and such funds may be pledged for the payment of the revenue bonds.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

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TO READ CLIENT REVIEWS:

SCAN ME

The evolution of the SAT: Embracing the digital age

On Wednesday, April 10, all Grosse Pointe Public School System students in grades 8 through 11 will take the SAT or PSAT as part of the annual M-STEP testing. The SAT exams are undergoing a long-awaited transformation as they transition to a fully digital format in 2024.

This change is a substantial shift from the paper-and-pencil tests that have been an educational staple for decades. The College Board, which administers the SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) exams, believes that revising the SAT aligns with the overall educational trend toward a primarily digital learning and testing environment.

Let's look at some of

the potential benefits of going digital:

A shorter, more streamlined experience

One of the most popular changes in the new digital SAT is the reduction in overall test-taking length to just over two hours, down from the traditional four-hour examination period. This change aims to reduce the fatigue and focus issues associated with longer examinations, which have become increasingly acute during the smartphone era.

Reading: Brevity and precision

The reading and writing section of the SAT has been restructured to offer shorter passages of no more than 150 words, each accompanied by a single question. This modification allows test-takers to concentrate on



Academic Pointers

by Glen Hipple

comprehension instead of quickly processing 400 to 500 words of unfamiliar text. The tradeoff for the shorter passages is increased rigor, including more advanced vocabulary and complex grammar.

Math: Enhanced flexibility

In the math section, the introduction of graphing calculators for the entire exam marks a departure from the previous format, where calculators were only permitted for the second half. Students are able to

use paper and pencil in addition to the on-screen calculators.

Adaptive testing: A tailored approach

Perhaps the most transformational feature of the Digital SAT is the introduction of adaptive testing. This method personalizes the difficulty of questions based on the test-taker's performance in real time. The exam is divided into two sections for each subject (reading and writing/math), with the first section presenting a mix of question difficulties. The test-taker's

responses to the initial questions determine the level of difficulty for the subsequent section, which facilitates a faster and more accurate assessment.

Maintaining core elements

Despite all the changes, certain elements remain consistent. Scoring will continue to be reported on the traditional 1,600-point scale, and students still are required to take the test at a school or testing center. This ensures a standardized and secure testing environment, maintaining the integrity of the SAT.

Preparing for the digital SAT

Classroom teachers throughout our secondary schools are reviewing these changes with students and individual

practice will only help their readiness. GPPSS students already are familiar with the adaptive testing approach due to their experience with NWEA testing since kindergarten. Digital practice tests can be found at collegeboard.org/sat and will link to further practice that can be completed at khanacademy.org.

Glen Hipple is a former GPPSS teacher and has been discussing standardized testing with Grosse Pointe families more than 20 years. He currently is the academic director of Pointers for Academic Excellence, a community resource dedicated to supporting and endowing excellence in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Contact him at glen@pf-ae.org.

Liggett joins independent schools for networking event

Thursday, Feb. 29, more than 65 alumni from four Detroit-area independent schools — including University Liggett School, Rooper School, Detroit Country Day School and Cranbrook School — attended Liggett's first Detroit Independent Schools Joint Alumni networking event at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The inaugural gathering was geared toward medical professionals and attendees were treated to a panel discussion featuring Dr. Bob Rabbani, '94 ULS; Dr. Latonya Riddle-Jones, '97 Cranbrook; Dr. Adam Dorfman, '90 Rooper; and Dr. Sameer Bhagwan, '06 DCDS.

Led by moderator Dr. Herman Gray, chairman



COURTESY PHOTOS

The event included a panel discussion featuring, from left, Dr. Adam Dorfman, Dr. Bob Rabbani, Dr. Sameer Bhagwan and Dr. Latonya Riddle-Jones.

of the Wayne State University Department of Pediatrics, this group of physicians spoke about their varied careers and how their independent school backgrounds gave

them the foundation to flourish in the ever-evolving world of medicine.

After the panel discussion concluded, alumni guests from the four schools stayed to mix, mingle and network with each other.

Additional Detroit Independent School Alumni networking events will be planned next year.



Optimists host middle school oratorical contest

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe recently hosted its annual oratorical contest at The War Memorial.

Ten eighth-grade students from Pierce Middle School participated, following the theme, "How to Change the World with Optimism."

Participants were chosen by administrators at Pierce and were graded on poise, content, delivery, presentation and overall effectiveness.

Judges selected Javier Lopez as their gold

medal winner, while Aria Burrascano earned a silver medal and Zachary Markijohn earned bronze. They will move on to the regional competition. Regional winners will move on to the Optimist National competition to be held in St. Louis later this summer.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend to hear guest speakers and learn what the club is



Ten eighth graders from Pierce Middle School participated in the contest.

about. For locations, dates and times, visit gpoptimists.com/

From left, silver medalist Aria Burrascano, gold medalist Javier Lopez and bronze medalist Zachary Markijohn.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Alumni from University Liggett School, Rooper School, Detroit Country Day School and Cranbrook School attended the first-ever Detroit Independent Schools Joint Alumni networking event at the Detroit Athletic Club.

BRAND:

Continued from page 1A

was particularly impressed with Roundtable6," Trustee Colleen Worden said. "What they've done for Wayne State is nothing short of brilliant. But we should be putting our money into our teachers and the people closest to the classroom."

The district's one-year contract with the Grosse Pointe Education Association expires Aug. 17.

Secretary Lisa Papas agreed about

the work Roundtable6 has done for Wayne State.

"They've always had a reputation as a premiere research university, but they struggled with students picking it," she said. "They invested money in their brand because it works."

According to Wayne State, it saw a 16 percent increase in new students at the start of classes last fall.

The board is not looking for a full branding campaign at this point, but an outline of what one would look like. The initial cost is expected to be around \$50,000.

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala — with top athletes winning scholarships!

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grossepoincenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra concert is April 14

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra continues its 71st season with a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14, in the waterside ballroom at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

A pre-concert talk will be given at 2:15 p.m. by WRCJ radio host Davis Goff.

The concert opens with

conductor and music director Joe Striplin leading the orchestra's brass section playing the rousing "Fanfare," from Paul Dukas's ballet, "La Péri," followed by a performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto in D major, featuring the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Jiamin Wang playing solo violin.

Originally from

Shanghai, China, Wang started playing violin when she was 6. At age 12, she entered the famous Shanghai Conservatory of Music, from which she graduated with highest honors in 2009. She then studied on a full scholarship at the Bard College Conservatory of Music before joining the DSO in 2013.

The concert concludes with Ottorino Respighi's "The Pines of Rome," a four-movement tone poem in which each movement depicts a place in the city with distinctive pine trees. It begins with the lively "Pines of Villa Borghese," depicting children playing games in the pine groves near the Villa, and concludes with the regal "Pines of the Appian Way," which depicts a victorious Roman legion marching toward Rome in the mist at daybreak. Respighi's program notes

describe the conclusion of the final movement: "Trumpets blare and the army of the consul bursts forth in the grandeur of a newly risen sun toward the sacred way, mounting in triumph the Capitoline Hill."

Tickets for the concert are available at the door or on the orchestra's website, gpsymphony.org. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for college students and free to students K-12.

The orchestra's 71st season concludes with an outdoor concert July 31, on the back terrace of The War Memorial overlooking Lake St. Clair.

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra is 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing local professional and accomplished amateur musicians with the opportunity to perform the classical symphonic repertory for the community at large.



Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Jiamin Wang will play solo violin during the concert.

DENTAL:

Continued from page 8A

Salim said it's been a smooth transition so far as the entire staff stayed on and the office is keeping the same hours.

"The staff is wonderful and I look forward to carrying on Dr. Stonisch's legacy," she added. "We'll keep the hours the same for now, but may look at expanding them as we evolve and grow."

Salim, who has been in practice 14 years, earned her D.D.S. from University of Detroit-Mercy and has taught at the University of Michigan as a clinical professor. She's been an associate dentist at offices in Ann Arbor and Shelby Township.

"I've worked for some really great people, but I've always wanted to have my own practice," she said, "to make it on my own. The timing worked out perfectly."

Stonisch said she couldn't be happier.

"It took me three years to find someone I was comfortable with," she said. "A lot of dental

offices are going corporate and I didn't want that. Dr. Salim will serve with grace and love and compassion."

Salim is Invisalign certified to provide orthodontic care and plans to bring in another dentist once a month who specializes in IV sedation and surgical procedures.

"A lot of people have a fear of going to the dentist in general, so we'll have that option," she said. "The plan is to refer out as few cases as possible."

Salim said she was drawn to the area for a few reasons, including the fact she has cousins in the Pointes.

"I'm very close to family and this is a close-knit, family-oriented community," she said. "I also was drawn by the Mack Avenue corridor and being close to the water. It's such a beautiful area."

She and her husband, Oday, an attorney, currently live in West Bloomfield but are planning to move to the Pointes with their 14-month-old twins, a boy and a girl.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Rotary guests

Left, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Sherrie Jones stands with club treasurer J.C. Brooks at Ford House on March 19. Brooks presented an update on the Rotary International Foundation's charitable work around the world in projects such as disaster relief and providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene. More than 90 percent of donations go straight to supporting Rotary service projects. Right, Jones stands with member Bob Grambo, who presented to the club March 12, about a trip he and his wife, Jane, took to sites in Penzance, U.K. The trip included Minack Theatre, an open-air theater in Cornwall, England, that was hand-carved into a granite cliff and is set in gardens overlooking Porthcurno Bay. He also detailed the World War II base, PK Porthcurno, the site of the first undersea telegraph cable system dating back to 1872, and where transatlantic fiber optic cables still originate.



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The Kaiser Family
Dr. Linda Karadsheh
and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kay

The Kerstetter Family
The Kiburz Family
The Kim Family
The Kimmel Family
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The Ellison Family
The Ford Family
The Fritz Family
The Gonczar Family
The Gough Family
The Green Family
Mr. Jason Grobel
The Haas Family
The Haubert Family
The Hawkins Family
The Hess Family
The Hinz Family
The Hollerbach Family
The Jezdimir Family
The Kaiser Family
Dr. Linda Karadsheh
and Family

The Rochert Family

The Rogers Family
The Rothmeier Family
The Schröder Family
The Swanson Family
The Tabaczuk Family
The Tracy Family
The Trombley Family
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4-5B SENIOR LIVING | 6-7B OBITUARIES | 8B CHURCHES | 8B AREA ACTIVITIES

Exterior detail of the Minoru and Teruko Yamasaki House. Minoru Yamasaki designed this 7,000-square-foot home for his own family in 1972. The simplicity of the design reflects the principles both of modern and traditional Japanese architecture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES HAEFNER

Your Old Mansion examines modern architecture Final lecture is April 7 at The War Memorial

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As a landscape designer, Peter Forguson has been privy to some gorgeous pieces of architecture throughout southeast Michigan and beyond.

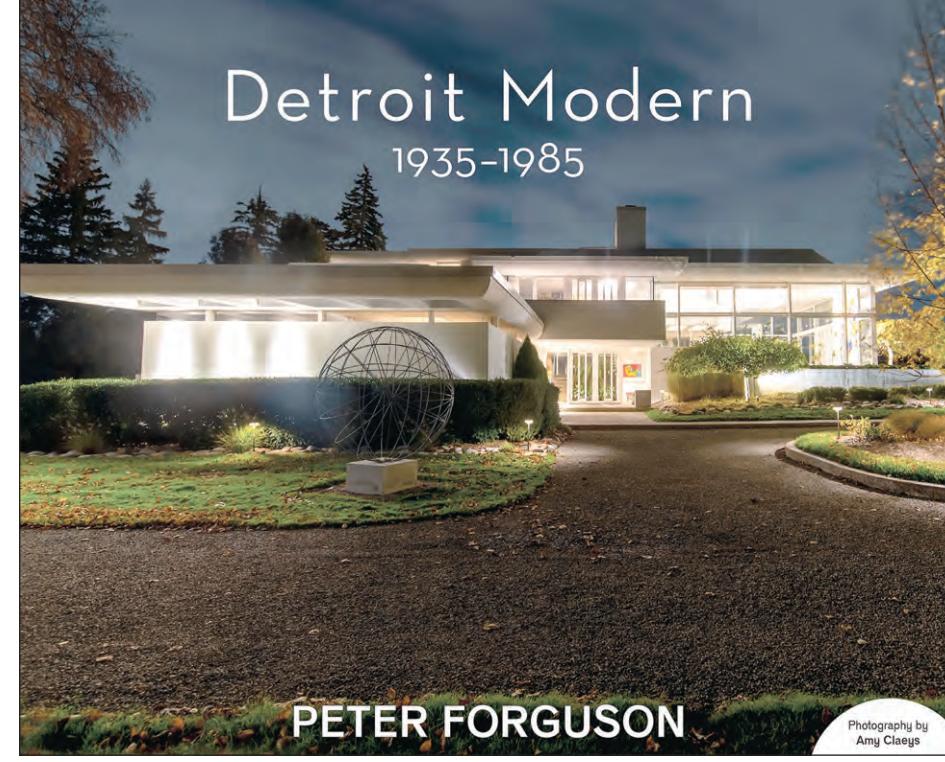
He'll discuss some of those midcentury modern masterpieces during the Grosse Pointe Artists Association's final Your Old Mansion lecture of the season, which takes place 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

During the program, which focuses on Forguson's book, "Detroit Modern: 1935—1985," the author will be interviewed by Deborah Lubera Kawsky, an art historian and recognized expert on midcentury modern design.

"Ever since I met Peter in January 2022, I've been fascinated by his story and the approach he takes in his book," Kawsky said. "We met when he was talking to the owners of the McLucas house (in Grosse Pointe Farms) about being in the book."

Forguson and Kawsky are among several contributors to the book, which was published late 2022.

"I spent years basing most of my vacations around touring architecture," said Forguson, noting much of his time working in landscape design has centered on clients with custom modern homes. The beauty of midcentury modern houses intrigued him; however, while scanning his own extensive library of books on architecture, he was disappointed



Landscape designer and author Peter Forguson will discuss his book, "Detroit Modern: 1935—1985," at the last Your Old Mansion lecture of the season.

there were no books that examined the local mid-century scene.

In his book, Forguson features more than 70 houses, many of which he has worked around and knows well. With more than 500 photographs, "Detroit Modern"

takes readers on a chronological tour of midcentury residential architecture — interiors and exteriors — while bringing to life the shared visions of architects and their clients.

"I was intrigued by Peter when we first met,"

Kawsky said. "I'm coming at material from an academic perspective, but to have someone come from a different perspective — meeting the architects, his passion for the material, the research he does, the things he's uncovered —

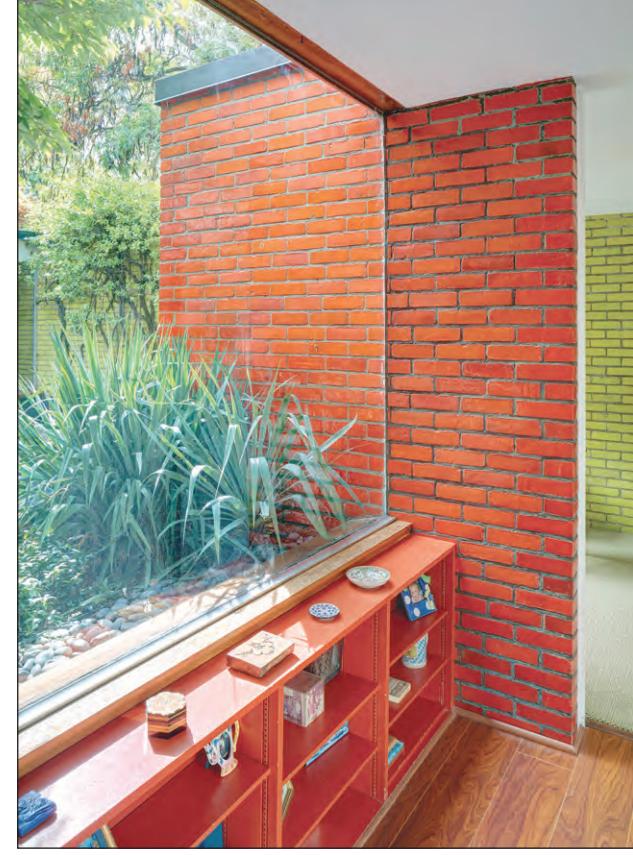


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES HAEFNER

The John and Kathleen McLucas House was designed by Alexander Girard in 1950, and includes glazed brick accent walls. The boldly colored glazed bricks document Girard's role as color consultant for the General Motors Technical Center, designed by friend & colleague Eero Saarinen.

I've learned a lot reading through this book. His passion, Detroit's role in this modern movement, really comes through in

this book."

Kawsky is no stranger to the midcentury modern movement. Her book, "Alexander Girard, Architect: Creating Midcentury Modern Masterpieces," was published by Wayne State University Press in 2018. An adjunct associate professor of art history at Madonna University and board member of Docomomo Michigan, Kawsky's current research, writing, exhibition curation and event coordination relate to Girard, as well as Detroit artist Artis Lane and muralist Hubert Massey.

Most of the houses fea-

See MODERN, page 2B



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY CLAEYS

The Gerald and Glenda Greenwald house, commissioned by the vice chairman of Chrysler Corp., was designed in 1982 by Irving Tobocman, whose body of work includes more than 70 modern homes across Oakland County.

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GPAAs instructor offers independent study, color theory classes

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

There may not be a medium Tracey Ladd hasn't tried.

What began at an early age with an interest in painting and drawing morphed into a love of all things art. Ladd, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in fine art, is proficient in cast-glass sculpting, silversmithing, metalsmithing, fiber art, assemblage-style sculpture and much more.

She'll lend her expertise to students who sign up for her independent study class through the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, April 9, 16, and 23.

"Independent study is for people who need help," Ladd said. "Maybe they've reached a certain point in their work and need help with technique, composition or overall sensibility. Come in and let's take a look at what each person needs. I've been teaching so long, my style is adaptable to what the student needs."

Ladd, who began teaching as a grad student at Bowling Green State University, after graduation also began teaching at the University of Toledo. She served several years as a coordinator and master instructor with the Toledo Museum of Art, participating in the educational department, developing class curricula and workshops, developing and implementing large-scale community projects and other responsibilities.

With a far-reaching skillset, Ladd hopes to share her knowledge with independent study students.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRACEY LADD

The artist sits in front of one of her glass installations.



Tracey Ladd



Cast glass is just one of Ladd's areas of expertise. She'll share her knowledge with students during an independent study series with the Grosse Pointe Artists Association.

"We'll talk about hue, tint, shade, saturation, chroma—and how to get colors to work for you," she said, "how to make it less complicated, but also how to choose what works best for you, what colors work together.

"It's like inviting 250

people to a wedding and figuring out where to seat them," she added, furthering the metaphor by noting not everyone gets along, so the challenge is figuring out the best arrangement.

"We'll talk about what colors work and how



A sculpture Ladd completed during her post-grad school years.

they interact and making those colors work for your artwork," she said. "The psychological impact, the visual impact, the compositional impact all come down to color."

Students can bring any paint medium to the class.

Ladd described her classes as supportive, but also adaptive. She welcomes beginners as well as advanced students.

"Beginners shouldn't be afraid to try," she said. "There's nothing more relaxing than to sit and do something you enjoy. But even if you're an expert... come and learn something new and be part of the class. I'm constantly learning."

One of the things she has learned is there aren't many rules for artists anymore.

"When I grew up, there were rules; there are

some aspects you have to follow or you're not an artist," she said, "but it's gotten to point where I don't think there are any rules anymore. Someone may think, 'I'm not an artist if I don't exhibit or if I don't have a degree.' I don't believe any of that."

"In my classes, I'm very supportive and I use my foundation of information to help people with what they want to do. Whether it's charcoal, paint, color theory, here's the information. How can I get it to relate to you?"

Cost for three sessions of Independent Study with Tracey Ladd is \$70 for GPAAs members, \$90 for nonmembers.

Cost for Color Theory with Tracey Ladd is \$70 for GPAAs members, \$90 for nonmembers.

To register for either class, visit grossepointheadcenter.org/classes



PHOTO COURTESY OF BALTHASAR KORAB

Above and right, this house was designed in 1961, by Gunnar Birkerts, for business giant and shopping mall magnate Alfred Taubman and his wife, Reva. It was one of the first commissions secured by Birkerts after leaving the office of Minoru Yamasaki & Associates.



The Fader House was designed in 1956, by midcentury architect Anne Krebs-Crane, who was courted by Minoru Yamasaki to come to Detroit. While she did work in Yamasaki's office, this home was designed after she had formed a partnership with Lester Fader. It was described in The Detroit News as "a floating house with stilts of steel."

MODERN:

Continued from page 1B

tured in Forguson's book have not been published before. He also took the time to reveal untold stories of the architects involved.

"It was satisfying, uncovering the Anne Krebs-Crane story," he said.

"She did some amazing projects in metro Detroit," Kawsky added. "She was courted by (architect Minuro) Yamasaki and she rejected him, then she married a builder, George Crane, and had a hand in building some amazing houses."

Among them, the Grosse Pointe houses of William Hawkins Ferry and Frank and Anne Parcells.

"There are a lot of



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY CLAEYS

The Tivadar and Dorothy Balogh house was designed in 1958, by architect Tivadar Balogh as his family residence.

amazing untold stories," Kawsky added.

Forguson's book includes stories about world-famous Detroit architect Irving Tobocman, who was

a house he had designed in 1982, after former Detroit Piston Dennis Rodman moved out of it in 1993.

Another featured house was commissioned by Otto Rosenbusch Sr.,

one of the founders of Concours d'Elegance.

"His son shared his love of automobiles," Forguson said, noting that to stage photos in front of the house, the son brought in a Corvette

made the same year the house was built.

The parallel set off a few bells for Forguson; he began frequenting car shows with a list of houses he planned to feature in the book, circling back with homeowners whose houses already had been photographed when he lined up interested owners of cars of the same vintage.

"It's perfect — Detroit modern homes and cars," Kawsky said.

"What I love about this book is it has every house and text associated with it, but not in a standard format," she added. "It's either a quote, a bulletin from the time, an architect statement, a current owner statement, a scholarly commentary."

Kawsky prepared well for the lecture, during which she'll highlight a few fun facts.

"Like the Walter Reuther home, which was built with bullet-proof glass," she said.

Added Forguson, "Or the Fraser Clark house, which is the only contemporary house in Indian Village."

Forguson's first book was a limited edition and currently is sold out. He'll bring copies to the lecture for attendees to browse. His followup, "Timeless Contemporary, Michigan: The Houses at the Epicenter of Modernism," will launch this fall, he said.

He's also working on a monograph of the work of his late friend, architect Irving Tobocman.

Tickets for the April 7 lecture are \$25 for GPAAs members, \$30 for non-members. Buy tickets online at grossepointheadcenter.org.

Owen's Able Table ready to launch

Food trailer employs young adults with special needs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Visitors to the second annual Special Needs Resource Fair in February, hosted by the Special Needs Resource Alliance, were treated to the soft launch of a new local business.

Guests dined on Tiny Hawaiians and Mini Chicken Burritos courtesy of Owen's Able Table, the idea of Owen Helton, 24, of Grosse Pointe Park.

"The fair was to promote it, to get the word out to people," Owen Helton said, adding that business at the fair was good. "A lot of people liked the ideas."

He came up with the plan while attending Hope College, where he immersed himself in the life-skills program. The young entrepreneur, who was part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System's cognitively impaired program, admitted he never used to like to cook, but it since has become his passion.

"He spent four years learning about independent living and what to do with his life," his mother, Joyce Helton, said. "When he graduated last May, he said he wanted a food truck."

Though he didn't like cooking before heading off to Holland, once there he learned a thing or two



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Owen Helton, right, stands with a member of his team, Tommy O'Hara, in front of his food trailer.

about running a kitchen.

"He worked his whole senior year on the project — you've got to have a website, got to have a menu, need to be trained, need to be safe and use good equipment," his father, Bill Helton, said. "The joke between my wife and I was when we retire, we'll have a food truck. But it's not like retirement; it's not easy."

It's a group project, Joyce Helton noted.

"He does a lot," she said of her son. "He does the webpage, interviewing for hiring. He picked out the logo. He's very active in it. Direction and financial support are from me and my husband."

Bill Helton, a former

restaurant owner, offered that direction to his son and the staff.

"It's true what they say," Bill Helton noted. "You're the first one in and the last one out. And you do every job in a restaurant — washing dishes, cooking, shopping, mopping."

Behind-the-scenes lessons also are a part of training, Owen Helton added, including "how to wash your hands properly, how to wear either a hat or hairnet so you don't get hair in people's food, food safety. ... How to be safe when you're around sharp objects and other kitchen utilities. And fire safety."

Owen's Able Table features a staff of four young

adults with special needs who have aged out of GPPSS programming. The business operates out of the commissary at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

"Watching them put sandwiches together is a riot," Joyce Helton said. "They have so much fun."

The team works in an assembly line-like manner, starting a meal, then passing it to the next person to add the next item.

"We trade off jobs," said employee Tommy O'Hara, who likes making burritos and preparing ham for Tiny Hawaiians.

Owen Helton said his favorite part is the business itself: "Being able to work with other special needs young adults and making friends."

One of the young business owner's objectives was serving light, healthy sandwiches. The slogan for Owen's Able Table is "Real food, not fake food."

"Real" means not ice cream or candy or desserts," he explained. "It's more fruit and vegetables and protein and drinks — more toward healthy options."

Added Bill Helton, "He's all about fresh. We have a subscription to the Full Circle garden, so every week during the summer we get a harvest of squash, tomatoes, zucchini. We're making stuff with locally sourced produce."

"... He takes a simple sandwich and elevates it," he added. "Nothing with a lot of steps; they've got to keep the same routine. But you start with a simple idea and elevate it. Maybe use a different cheese or bakery products from Rising Stars," which also employs young adults with special needs.

Owen's Able Table is licensed and ready to fully launch. It's merely waiting for approval from the health department.

"We've gone through all the checkmarks; we're a very legit, well-invested business," Joyce Helton said. "The goal is to be at graduation parties, soc-

cer games, block parties. We'll be serving the Grosse Pointes and surrounding areas. We want to keep it local."

"Businesses around us have been so supportive," she added. "We are for-profit. We're talking with businesses about sponsoring kids during work hours. Something like, 'Our special needs staff is brought to you by ...'"

Owen's Able Table also has received lots of community support.

"Last year during planning, 10 people volunteered to jumpstart us: a legal person, an accountant, a financial planner, a special needs teacher," Joyce Helton said.

Bill Helton said he was impressed with Owen's idea and even happier to know his son will be working this summer instead of playing video games.

"We're just really proud," he said. "... To hear about the idea and have him put together a plan in his head and decide to staff it with other special needs adults, we're really proud he was able to put that together and give other people this opportunity. Who knows? After a summer working at the food truck, maybe they end up working at a local restaurant or cafe. It's something productive."

Though the website is still in progress, it is operational. People who'd like to hire Owen's Able Table and businesses interested in sponsoring it may do so online at owensabletable.com.



From left, Owen Helton, Tommy O'Hara, Sam Wilk and Andrew Sanders get training from Bill Helton at the commissary.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Owen's Able Table debuted at the Special Needs Resource Fair Feb. 28, at The War Memorial. From left are Tommy O'Hara, Sam Wilk, Andrew Sanders and Owen Helton.

Grosse Pointe Chapter of PFLAG reinvigorated and ready to serve

The Grosse Pointe chapter of PFLAG recently announced its resurgence to foster acceptance, support and understanding within the community. PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

After a brief hiatus, the Grosse Pointe chapter is back and ready to serve the community. It will kick off its renewed efforts with a support meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

The featured speaker is Ellen C.S. Miller, LMFT, of Starting Point Therapy, who will present "The You, the Me, the We: How to Support Your LGBTQ+ Child, Yourself and the Relationship Between Parent and Child."

Miller is a licensed marriage and family therapist with extensive experience in supporting children, teens, adults, couples and families from diverse backgrounds. She specializes in fostering positive relationships and empowering individuals to navi-

gate the complexities of identity and family dynamics. Her expertise in adolescent mental health and crisis management, coupled with her compassionate approach, will provide attendees with practical strategies and tools to strengthen familial bonds and support LGBTQ+ loved ones.

"We are honored to have Ellen join us to share her expertise and insights with our community," said Janna Sendra, the newly appointed president of the PFLAG Grosse Pointe Board of Directors. "Her commitment to fostering understanding and promoting acceptance aligns perfectly with our organization's mission. We encourage everyone to attend this informative event and join us in creating a more inclusive and supportive community for all."

The support meeting is free and open to the public. More information and registration can be found tinyurl.com/2ct3tt2k.

To stay up to date on the Grosse Pointe Chapter of PFLAG and its upcoming events, follow them on Facebook and Instagram @PFLAGGP or email pflaggp@gmail.com.

St. Clair Shores Community Chorus presents 'Disney Dazzle On Stage'

The St. Clair Shores Community Chorus, under the direction of Cynthia Ohrt, presents "Disney Dazzle On Stage" at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at Lake Shore High School, 22980 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

The chorus, which has been entertaining audiences for 61 years, will perform Disney Broadway music from "Beauty and the Beast,"

"Aladdin," "Encanto" and many more.

Tickets are \$20 for adults in advance, \$22 at the door; \$10 for ages 4 to 12; and free for ages 3 and younger. For tickets, call Linda at (586) 482-6056.

For more information about the chorus, visit sescommunitychorus.org.

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Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Out with the old, in with the new

I grew up in the '40s and '50s. Now, nearly 80 years later, a whole new batch of words have replaced the ones I've been using for decades. Many of the old words and phrases are now considered politically incorrect. Most of the new ones make perfect sense, but some merely sanitize the old words or confuse me.

Some of the best of the new phrases and words include "Native American" and "African American." The term "indigenous" covers a lot of territory. "Firefighter"

has replaced "fireman" and "police officer" has replaced policeman, both for obvious reasons. Good.

If you grew up in the '40s and '50s you might note that these days the word "secretary" has been plumped up to a more important-sounding term: "administrative assistant." And instead of seeming stupid and confused, we now ask for "support" instead of "help." The word "gaming" has been released from its former shady, underworld associations. It has been legalized and

re-named "gaming." "Elderly" is frowned upon unless you're talking about someone 100 years old or older who isn't active and alert. I remember reading a Detroit Free Press article when I was in my early 70s. It referred to a crime victim as an elderly woman. Then, as was the newspaper's policy, it gave her name and age, which was 60. I was depressed for weeks.

"Human Resources" has replaced the former "personnel" department. Sometimes it's just referred to as HR. I still

have to stop and think when I run into the capital letters HR. Younger writers assume we elders instinctively know what it means. HR is almost as ubiquitous as NAACP and NBC and FBI and UNESCO. Some of these even cause me to stop for a few seconds to figure out, once again, what the letters stand for.

I watched a documentary recently about the current epidemic of people who live on the streets. The narrator made a huge point about labeling them "the unhoused," not "the

homeless." What's objectionable about "homeless?" Somebody is trying to confuse us elders.

"Dementia" and "Alzheimer's" are generally avoided these days because of confusion between the two terms—dementia is not always Alzheimer's. Senior communities like the one where I live usually have a section devoted to "memory care," which sanitizes both former terms.

"Failed" is a no-no, which is a shame. "Failed" is clear and obvious. It happens. We should get used to it. "Cripple" "retarded" "insane," "crazy," "Eskimo" and "Oriental" are not politically correct. The first four because they are often inaccurate, the last two because they refer to specific tribes, not entire populations.

But what about "handicapped?" Now it's "physically challenged" or

"differently abled." Too cumbersome, I say. What's wrong with plain and simple "handicapped?" And what should we now call all those "handicapped" parking spaces?

(By the way, the handicapped spaces in parking lots are often labeled "handicap parking," which irks the English major and former editor in me. It should be "handicapped parking." Two ps and an ed please.)

Another personal irk is the recent total absence of the word "actress" from the English language. All show biz people—TV personalities, entertainers, performers and the like—are now "actors." I don't know why. I have to guess their gender. These days, with the proliferation of imaginative names like Honeysuckle and Magic and Cardi B and Leaf and Vanilla and Whoopi, quite often, gender is anybody's guess.

The Helm offers a free workshop to explain ins and outs of Medicare

Those approaching age 65 are on the brink of qualifying for Medicare and probably are being inundated with correspondence from different insurance companies urging them to sign up for their prescription drug, Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans.

For those who are feeling overwhelmed, The Helm can help.

New to Medicare — during which Medicare

counselors provide a comprehensive overview of Medicare, including coverage, costs, pros and cons of different optional plans and how to sign up—is a 90-minute class.

The next session is 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. The class is free, but space is limited, so call The Helm at (313) 649-2110 or email

tallovilla@helmlife.org to make a reservation.

Contact Tony Altovilla at tallovilla@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2110 to get in touch with a Medicare counselor.

Classes take place at The Helm about once a quarter.

The Helm also offers free, individual appointments throughout the year with Medicare counselors to help people better understand their options, choose the best plans for them and answer any specific questions.

Contact Tony Altovilla at tallovilla@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2110 to get in touch with a Medicare counselor.



Larry Bennett celebrates his 100th birthday with a slice of cake during a celebration hosted by the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Men's Club honors WWII veteran

A cake presentation and more was in store for Larry Bennett at the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe membership meeting March 26.

Bennett, of Grosse Pointe Woods, is a World War II veteran who turned 100 years old March 28. He was inducted into the U.S. Army in March 1943, and was part of the 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. During the war, he was stationed in places like Italy, France and Germany.

After receiving his cake, Bennett stood up, took his camera from his lap and photographed his cake. He said photography has been a hobby of his past 70 years and he also enjoys woodworking and coin collecting.

When asked how he would celebrate his 100th birthday, he said, "My grandson and his family are coming over and we'll watch the Tigers game, but first we will go to the Pancake House."

The Men's Club of Grosse Pointe meets at The War Memorial and provides festivities, fun and fellowship for its members through social, educational and peer group association in its recreational and social activities.

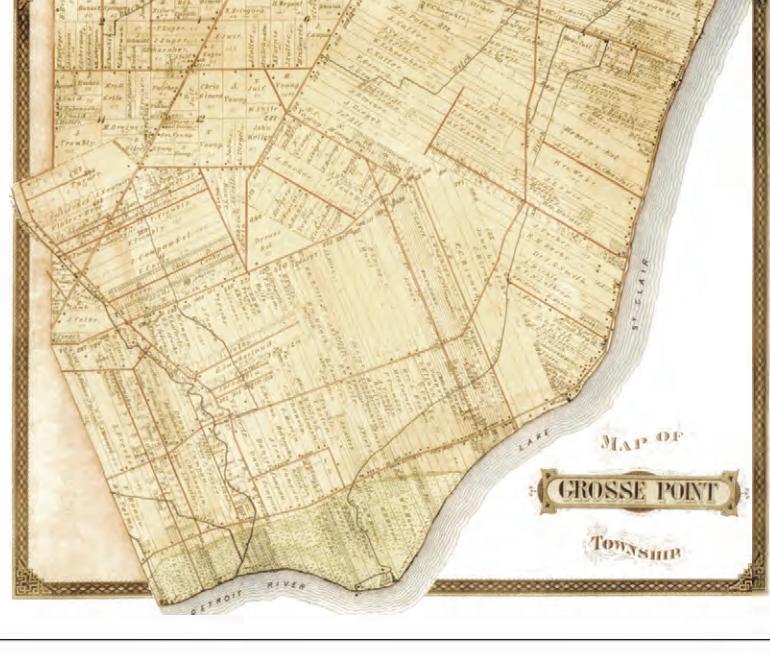


Alan Wright, Larry Bennett and Tom Vroom share a personal cake for the people sitting at Larry Bennett's table.

When the choir sang "God Bless America," Bennett stood to salute the flag.



Dateline: 1876



Grosse Point Township, Detroit River, Lake St. Clair: published by H. Belden and Co., 1876

Maps and atlases are like windows into the past, offering a unique perspective on how our local area has evolved. They can reveal past settlements, transportation routes that no longer exist and even changes in shorelines or landscapes. By comparing historical maps to modern ones, you can see the rise of neighborhoods, the construction of roads and railways and the transformation of the land over time. These maps serve as valuable primary sources, documenting not just physical changes but also the stories of the people who shaped the local area you know today.

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Self-care paramount to caregivers of others

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A 2020 report by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP revealed that caregivers are in worse health today than they were in 2015. A phenomenon commonly called "caregiver stress" results from the tasks and responsibilities caregivers take on when they care for a debilitated loved one or child with a chronic illness.

As such, the question must be raised: If you don't take care of yourself, how can you take care of someone else?

It's a simple question that can easily be overlooked by caregivers who are so overwhelmed with caring for their clients that their own health and well-being is compromised.

Often caregivers say they don't have time for self-care, that their person is top priority, but making time for oneself should not be avoided, said Carolyn Van Dorn, director of client and employee relations with Nursing Unlimited and facilitator of the Alzheimer's Caregiver support group at The Helm.

"Just remember, if something happens to you, what happens to your person?" she asked. "You can't be a caregiver if you're not taking care of yourself."

"I wonder if there are societal norms or pressures around the expectation that caregivers have to be all-giving and completely selfless that puts



them and the person they're caring for at such a great risk," said Allie Short, case coordinator at The Helm.

Whatever the reason, there is a solution and it starts with self-care.

Caregivers may or may not recognize the signs of burnout, but should take even the least of them seriously.

"The biggest (indicator) is personal appearance," Van Dorn said. "They don't take time to color their hair, put on makeup, press their clothes. Sometimes there's weight gain because they're not exercising and have no proper nutrition. There's lack of sleep, having a sharp tongue or short fuse, snapping at people or at their person."

Short agreed: "Maybe they start to notice they're losing patience quicker than they did when they first started giving care.

They may be seeing a struggle with their own well-being, which includes sleep changes—getting too much sleep or not enough sleep—or their emotional state, seeing more fluctuation with

extreme peaks and valleys.

"Even identifying what I'm feeling now—I'm not feeling good, I'm struggling, but I can't put my finger on it," she added, "or a change of how we feel about the person. With family caregivers, sure we love them, but do we still like them? That's an indication there could be some burnout and definite need for more support."

Self-care can start with something as simple as breathing.

"Just take a couple deep breaths," Short said. "Start there. Work to find ways to prioritize yourself, even just a little bit to start, and remember, you can't do it all."

Van Dorn said the biggest way to combat caregiver burnout is asking for help.

"There are so many resources available that maybe they're not aware of," she said, noting the Alzheimer's Association, ALS of Michigan and Michigan Parkinson's Foundation each offer a stipend to help pay for additional respite.

She recommended contacting physicians' offices and churches, which also may be able to offer help or referrals.

Short suggested individual therapy as an appropriate avenue.

"Being a caregiver is a big transition," she noted, "especially if you're new to the role, but also throughout caregiving, as needs change."

Not only is a caregiver support group offered at The Helm, but the organization also offers a provider referral program that includes individual care providers and agencies. It also can supply a list of interview questions for potential caregivers for those planning to hire more support.

Support groups are another avenue, Van Dorn said, noting The Helm hosts caregiver support at 5 p.m. the third Thursday of each month.

"People think that they can't leave their person alone so there's no support and they're stuck," she said. "With support groups, we do have a Zoom option and a dial-in option for those who aren't computer savvy."

Some caregivers may

be embarrassed about their situation; Van Dorn knows people who look for support groups outside of their community because they don't want their neighbors to know their situation. That's fine, she said.

"Go to a different county; at least you're getting support, help, relief," she said. "If you're not comfortable in your community, find a different community to attend. It's the outreach that's paramount."

"I can't force a person to seek care for themselves," she added. "Support groups are good, because you hear the stories. I can share stories all day, but when you're looking at the person it's happening to, it's a whole different story."

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be embarrassed about their situation; Van Dorn knows people who look for support groups outside of their community because they don't want their neighbors to know their situation. That's fine, she said.

"I'm here to listen to any concerns or thoughts the caregiver is having, or if families are considering a caregiver, to help guide them in a direction that would be beneficial for their person as well as them," she said. "... I can connect caregivers, even if we don't have a group or specific program, with resources. Part of my role is to see where else there are resources that may be provided."

Van Dorn also advised caregivers be prepared for the unexpected, for their sake and the sake of their person.

"Most caregivers are primary caregivers for their person," she said. "There's no outside help, no family help. If something happens to the caregiver, if there's an emergency and they need to bring in outside help, it's very disruptive to their person. They can be hospitalized and their person can end up in a facility in split seconds."

She gave the example of a caregiver stepping out to run a quick errand and hurting themselves in a fall.

"Who knows their person is home alone?" she asked. "I encourage them at least to put a sticky note on the back of their driver's license that says, 'I'm a caregiver. My person is home alone. Please contact ...' so there's someone to notify and make sure they're safe."

Contact The Helm for more help at (313) 882-9600 or email info@helm-life.org.

Offering support is part

Self-care for the caregiver

Courtesy of The Helm

asleep.

"Also, caregiving can be very isolating, so I try to do things for myself, yet be with others — get my hair done, maybe go get lunch with a friend," she added.

Kiara finds creative activities, particularly jewelry making, help refresh her. She also enjoys getting her hair and nails done.

"I make sure to focus on my mental well-being," she said.

Brenda relies on prayer.

"I ask God to give me the patience, strength and health to do what I need to do," she said.

Sera and Tonya both rely on the spiritual as well.

"I have a spiritual practice to my life and so have several of my clients over the years," Sera said. "They like to talk about God and praying, so not only does it fit in with my personal 'self-care' routine, it feels really good to connect with my clients. I think it makes them feel good."

Added Tonya, "I trust that God is going to get us through this."

Sera also suggested a few other tiny tips.

"I always pack a lunch," she said. "Fresh food provides rejuvenation and clean energy. Also, I always bring hand lotion and lip balm. Just the simple act of putting on cream or balm is a form of self-care."

Tonya, too, tries to find time to walk.

"Anything that will help clear my mind," she said. "I like to binge-watch Lifetime Channel movies. It relaxes me to the point I often fall

practitioner degree, receives help from her husband and other family members.

"While I am the primary caregiver, I do have some family resources to give me some time to myself," she noted. "And, because my mother has physical limitations, if we have to take her for an appointment, it's all hands on deck. I'm thankful I have that help."

Kiara, who is opening her own caregiving business this summer (Bonded Hearts, named after a favorite saying of her late great-grandmother), counsels caregivers to not over-work and set boundaries.

"For your own mental health, you cannot be taking calls 24/7 unless that's the position you're in," she said, reminding caregivers to empathize and not take things personally. "Many clients aren't used to having someone in their home telling them what to do. They're used to being in charge. The things they were once able to do by themselves, they now need assistance. That can be very frustrating for them and sometimes that frustration turns to anger that ends up directed at the caregiver."

You have to remember that and not get frustrated or take it personal. Remind yourself you are doing something good."

Added Brenda, "I don't need to travel or do a lot of things. I've already done so much. Right now, I need to be here."

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OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Albert "Al" Joseph Ellis

Albert "Al" Joseph Ellis, 69, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2024, surrounded by his loved ones, after suffering a sudden and debilitating stroke.

Al was born Dec. 4, 1954, in Detroit, to Albert and Cecelia (nee Reyes) Ellis. He and his three sisters were raised in a loving family with a strong Catholic faith and incredible work ethic, and were taught the importance of being respectful and kind to everyone—a lesson they saw lived out daily through the example of their parents.

The family moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1961. Al attended grade school at Our Lady Star of the Sea and graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School, class of 1973. He furthered his education at Kalamazoo Community College, where he studied business. He remained close to many of his grade school and high school friends, some going back as far as first grade. He met them for breakfast every Sunday for the past 10 years.

His strong work ethic, logical thinking, problem-solving skills and willingness to learn and do whatever was needed to get the job done contributed to the success of every business in which he was involved. Whether working in the family's grocery business, Parkstone Market in Detroit's Indian Village, or owning his own milk route, bread route and expediting service or working in another part of the service industry, his integrity and attentiveness made him sought after. Clients, colleagues and customers often became friends.

He was incredibly thoughtful and demonstrated that every day by his acts of kindness and the way he lived his life, whether helping his family, neighbors or a total stranger.

Al loved his family and any opportunity to spend time together, whether sharing holidays, birthdays, picnics, sporting events, dance recitals, first communions or spur-of-the-moment gatherings. He enjoyed being with his friends and neighbors and served on the board of his neighborhood association in St. Clair Shores. He was meticulous about caring for his home and his lawn. Al also had an affinity for cars, especially classic cars and fast cars, including his 1966 Oldsmobile 442 he bought in high school. He and his sons shared many car shows and Detroit Grand Prix races through the years.

Al's humble, genuine and down-to-earth demeanor, along with his continued generosity and wonderful sense of humor, helped him connect with everyone. That was one of Al's extraordinary gifts. He would say he was "just an ordinary guy." Those who loved him know Al was so much more. He

touched many lives and impacted them for the better.

He cherished his friends and adored his family, especially his two incredible sons of whom he was so proud; their wives, Al's wonderful daughters-in-law; and four amazing grandchildren. They were the light of his life. He loved his three sisters and remained close with them throughout his life. Al was an integral part of his family's lives and he will forever remain in their hearts.

Al is survived by his sons, Albert Ellis (Carmie) and Andrew Ellis (Sarah); grandchildren, Cecelia, Anastasia, Francesca and Sebastian Ellis; sisters, Cynthia Andrews (John), Patricia Ellis (Richard Strowger) and Sandra Langan (Matthew); and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Albert and Cecelia Ellis; and several other family members.

A Celebration of Life gathering will take place Saturday, April 27, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by a remembrance service from 2 to 2:30 p.m. at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Albert J. Ellis Fund at MIU Men's Health Foundation, to support men's health awareness and screenings to help save lives, mumenshealthfoundation.org/albertellis.

Timothy Greening

Timothy "Tim" Greening, 34, of Rockport, Texas, passed away Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, in a tragic car crash, alongside his beloved mother, Pamela Greening, 70, of Grosse Pointe Park. They were shortly followed in death by his father, Lee Greening, 71, of Grosse Pointe Park, in January 2024.

Born May 16, 1989, Tim was raised in Grosse Pointe Park. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Tim was a younger brother, doting son, caring nephew, devious cousin, "funce," invaluable engineer, dynamite Pinochle partner, adored "work husband," real-life husband, new dog dad, friendly neighbor, freakin' Eagle Scout and a real smart aleck.

He leaves behind his wife, Ülkü K. Greening; brother, Rob Greening (Melissa); and a niece, nephews, many aunts and uncles and all of his "7,000" cousins.

He will be remembered as a hilarious, conspiratorial goofball who was adored and a delight to be around. He loved so deeply and wanted to share that love with everyone. He flew in early for holidays just to spend more time with family. He moved his life to Corpus Christi and

called it home because he was able to find a new family there. He was so beloved and invaluable to everyone in his life, even one of North America's largest and most respected engineering firms.

Memorial services for Pam, Lee and Tim will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. A celebration of life will follow the memorial services.

Pamela Andriano Greening

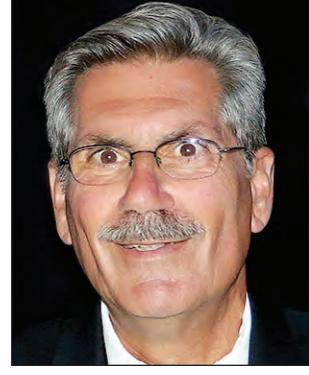
Pamela "Pam" Andriano Greening, 70, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away alongside her son, Tim Greening, 34, in a tragic car crash Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023. She leaves behind her beloved son, Rob (Melissa); her three adored grandchildren, Robby, Easton and Hazel; her siblings, Chris Andriano (Dee), Victoria Foreman (Dan), Jackie Gajos, Patricia Heimdal (Eric) and Dave Andriano (Jody); and many nieces and nephews, all of whom looked up to her.

Pam's husband and soulmate, Lee Greening, 71, followed her into the afterlife Monday, Jan. 15, 2024.

Born Aug. 3, 1953, Pam was the second born of six siblings, but regarded as the wisest by all. One could always find her with her nose in a book—a real one with pages she could turn. Pam graduated from Millikin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and from the University of Illinois Springfield with a master's degree in computer science. She was studious, whip-smart and devastatingly witty.

As big as her brain was, so was her heart. She was fiercely loyal to anyone lucky enough to be in her orbit, whether a family member, friend, fellow member of Crescent Sail Yacht Club, coworker at Ford throughout her 27-year tenure in IT or resident of Stag Island. She would and could do just about anything for those she loved. She also did everything she could for the places she loved and was a huge supporter of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, Keep Michigan Beautiful and the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan.

She found beauty and joy in every day: relaxing outdoors, appreciating a good cup of coffee, relishing a fancy English muffin and falling asleep to the Discovery Channel. She was steadfast in her beliefs. She held true to her mantra, "Live, Laugh, Love," in all aspects of her life. She made people earn her laughter, but gave her love and devotion freely and vigorously. She was a trusted, level-headed well of advice and comfort. She was and will always be the role model her family looks up to, only now



Albert Joseph Ellis



Timothy Greening



Pamela Greening



Robert E. Greening III



Jean Lynne Engerson



Vita M. Aluia

they must look up a little higher.

Memorial services for Pam, Lee and Tim will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. A celebration of life will follow the memorial services.

Robert Edward "Lee" Greening III

Robert Edward "Lee" Greening III, 71, passed away Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, surrounded by loved ones, including his son, Rob. He was predeceased by his wife, Pamela Greening; and son, Tim Greening, after a tragic car crash. The family finds comfort in their reunion.

Lee leaves behind his eldest son, Rob (Melissa); three treasured grandchildren, Robby, Easton and Hazel; his feathered companion, George; brother, Bruce (Katherine); and half-siblings, Susan McInally (David) and Steven Greening.

Born Sept. 30, 1952, Lee was a revered member of any community to which he belonged. Lee graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics/computer science and a master's degree in systems engineering. He was the commodore of the Edison Boat Club, former commodore and longtime member at Crescent Sail Yacht Club, crewmate on numerous sailboats, a thorough quality engineer for the entirety of his lengthy career at Ford, a soccer coach, committee chairman, scoutmaster and Silver Beaver Award winner of Troop 86, reliable handyman to family and neighbors and master of turkey at the Andriano Thanksgiving.

Lee could fix anything, welcomed any project with a do-it-yourself attitude and always was willing to offer a hand, whether someone knew it was needed or not. His work ethic was truly unmatched. He possessed incredible technical skills, but also appreciated a good comedy. He introduced his nieces and nephews to movies like "Caddyshack," which they'd watch together annually and quote from memory.

His first love was his family, but his second was the sea. He delighted in all maritime activities, whether the water was fresh, salt or frozen. One

could find him sailing the open water, ice boating or pushing the horsepower of his "big red boat" around the Great Lakes. Lee was a Port Huron Mackinac race winner and Bayview Yacht Club "Old Goat." A true outdoorsman, he relished any excuse to be outside, especially while camping at the BSA Cole Canoe Base. His knowledge of land and sea, as well as his bear hugs, will be greatly missed.

Memorial services for Pam, Lee and Tim will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. A celebration of life will follow the memorial services.

Jean Lynne Engerson

Jean Engerson, 84, passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Jean was born Nov. 12, 1939, in Detroit, to Leon and Ethel Engerson, both now deceased. She was a loyal daughter who took wonderful care of both of her parents all of their lives.

She graduated from St. Paul on the Lake High School with a group of friends who enjoyed regular get-togethers for the next 60 years. She continued her education at Wellesley College.

Jean was a people person who shared her gifts with countless others in numerous ways. She was honored as a long-serving probation officer for the cities of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Her greatest joy was serving as an official Godmother, "Fairy Godmother" or just Aunt Jean to the children of her friends. She always could be counted on to take the kids to their activities, wait for them and return them safely with a new story to tell.

Jean always had treats for the kids, probably so she could have one herself. She loved Peeps.

Jean also was an accomplished knitter. Her knitting needles and yarn were always with her. She knitted beautiful gifts all year long that she enjoyed giving to recognize special occasions.

She was a resident of American House, where she was loved by fellow residents and caring staff. She leaves behind loving cousins, friends and a generation of "kids" who will miss and

cherish her as their very special Aunt Jean.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. A graveside service will be held at a future date in Edmore, where Jean will be laid to rest next to her parents.

Vita M. Aluia

Vita M. Aluia, 99, passed away Sunday, March 24, 2024, surrounded by family.

Vita was predeceased by her mother, Mary Gentile; beloved husband, Joseph Aluia; daughter, Stella Marie Wilk; son-in-law, Joseph Cipriano; and son-in-law, John "Moose" Strehler. She was the loving and devoted mother of Josephine "Jo" Strehler-Cipriano, Mariann Aluia and Sam Aluia (Marietta); adored Nana of John Steven Strehler, Lori Strehler, Eric Wilk, Christina Bazner (Jason), Joseph Aluia (Kelly Sutter) and Vita Grace Aluia; treasured great-Nana of Trevor Jason Bazner; and dearest best friend and comare of Rita Bommarito. She also is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

She graduated from St. Paul on the Lake High School with a group of friends who enjoyed regular get-togethers for the next 60 years. She continued her education at Wellesley College.

She loved her extended family, Bill and Connie Catalfio, Marco Catalfio and Rodney and Ruth Watts.

Vita's family thanks the many wonderful caregivers and staff at Sunrise Vernier for their exceptional love and care of her. Vita lived a full life and always enjoyed her work in customer service, spending more than 20 years at Hudson's/Macy's and 25 years working the register at Mr. C's Car Wash on Mack Avenue, where she worked until age 94.

Her smile, caring personality and exceptional strength will be missed and remembered by all those who knew her. And in her words, "God bless you."

Visitation will be held 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 5, with a 7 p.m. scripture service at Chas. Verheyden, Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. She will lie in state Saturday, April 6, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of her funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 6021 Whittier, Detroit.

Entombment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 6B

Eileen Emily Mandarino

Eileen Emily Mandarino, 82, passed away Sunday, March 17, 2024. She was reunited with her father, Walter Kuczek; mother, Emily; daughter, Susan; and many other relatives and good friends.

Eileen and her husband, Ralph, met in Chicago while Eileen was going to Loyola University and Ralph to the University of Illinois. They almost didn't meet; when invited to meet each other at Eileen's friend's house, as maid of honor and best man to Ralph's cousin, Eileen was told she was meeting the ring bearer and had a vision of a 10-year-old boy; Ralph thought he was meeting an unattractive spinster. Both of them thought they had better things to do, but when Ralph walked into the kitchen and laid eyes on Eileen, it was love at first sight.

They spent 65 blessed years loving each other, working together to build a family and integrating themselves into the communities in which they lived, including Champaign, Ill., Oak Park, Ill., LaGrange Park, Ill., Winnetka, Ill., Grosse Pointe Farms and finally St. Clair Shores.

While raising their children — Robert, Susan, Patty, Kristina and Katie — Eileen helped each of the Catholic churches in the communities where she and Ralph lived. Inspiring young children was her passion and she never failed to provide it. Whether at a restaurant with small children nearby to the classrooms of St. Paul on the Lake, Eileen made kids laugh and smile while sharing touches of wisdom. To Eileen's and her husband's delight, their children produced 12 wonderful grandchildren, Alex, Nick, Zack, Max, Kristian, Anne, Janie, Grace, Stella, Connor, Cordy and Avery.

Eileen had many passions, including supporting the arts with her time and financial resources, attending cultural events during which she and Ralph entertained clients, board memberships in organizations that supported children's development and many other community activities. Most recently, she supported St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. She loved teaching Catechism and helping Deacon Rich prepare children for the sacraments, while serving on the church council.

One of her favorite self-imposed responsibilities was decorating her home for every occasion — Christmas was one of her favorites — and she outdid herself every time. Much like the most admired artisans, she would not consider it complete until the most minute piece was placed just right.

Notwithstanding the responsibilities of caring for five children, a home and multiple community involvements, Eileen assisted her husband in all their financial endeavors. She provided exceptional decision-making skills, including rather unusual examples of her



Eileen Emily Mandarino



Frederick Edward Kilgus



Glorie Stonisch-Jimenez



Sally Childs Coe

dexterity such as managing the switchboard of KPMG during a horrific snowstorm while the City was paralyzed, organizing a parade and picnic in Mesick for a company they had recently acquired and learning how to copilot a light sport aircraft manufactured by a company they founded in Zbraslavice, Czech Republic. The brewery in Prague was one of her favorites.

Although Eileen's mobility was severely curtailed in her later years, she and Ralph traveled the world, taking their children whenever they could as a learning experience. While touring East Berlin during the communist occupation and being told by a communist tour guide — the only allowed ones — how wonderful communism was to a busload of tourists, one of their younger daughters asked the guide, "Then why is a wall built around the city keeping your people from leaving?" The subject was immediately changed. Another time, their young children witnessed their father being led from their newly purchased Audi 2000 at gunpoint because the border guards in Czechoslovakia misread the visa as CIA instead of CPA. Also, inspecting Tiananmen Square in Beijing shortly after the massacre, under watchful eyes — adventurous one might conclude, but good material to teach her children about the world in which they lived. She was always instructive and positive with sparkling eyes and a friendly smile.

Eileen and her husband enjoyed a love for each other that could have been a screenplay for "Return to Casablanca." Their loving bonds were strong from their first meeting and continued to grow in their years together. Hard times, as well as exceptionally good times, were equally greeted by determination to address them as a united, supportive couple. Their ability to face whatever came as one allowed them to defeat dreadful medical challenges. Their faith in God and each other carried them through their beautiful marriage; their love is eternal.

Eileen is survived by her husband, Ralph; their children, Rob (Karen), Patty McKee (Patrick), Kristina Junga (Tony) and Katie Mandarino (Kia); grandchildren, Alex and Kristian Mandarino, Nick, Zack and Max Ratsek, Annie, Jane and Grace McKee, Stella and Cordelia Junga and Connor and Avery Mandarino; and her sister, Micki Novak.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at noon Friday, April 12, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will lie in state beginning at 11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St.

Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

Arrangements were handled by A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Frederick Edward Kilgus

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

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

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

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

Fred and his wife, Lynne, loved to travel and shared their trips with family and friends. Their children and family friends have fond memories of shared visits to places as far away as New Zealand, Fiji and Spain.

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

Fred leaves behind his son, Todd Kilgus (Lisha); and daughter, Kathy Driscoll (Todd). He also leaves behind eight adoring grandkids, Max, Mackenzie, Lucy and Charlie Driscoll, and Sterling, Sofia, Kingston and Preston Kilgus; his

brothers, David and John Hesse; as well as many friends and relatives.

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

Glorie Marie Stonisch-Jimenez

Glorie Marie Stonisch-Jimenez passed away peacefully in her sleep Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

She was born Feb. 4, 1940, in Detroit, to Mary and John Podgorski. Those who knew Glorie knew she was generous, loyal, optimistic, resourceful, inventive and elegant.

She had a wonderful childhood with her younger brother, John, aka Sonny. Her mother had two sisters and her father had two brothers, among other siblings. The three sisters married the three brothers and they all had children who grew up together. Although times were tough, they lived simply and within their means, loving, laughing and making memories still shared today.

Glorie attended St. Bartholomew's Catholic School and then Pershing High School with her brother, John, and three cousins, Dennis, Diane and Marilyn. She attended Hillsdale College, where she pledged the Chi Omega sorority and earned a teaching certificate.

Glorie taught one semester in Fraser before going back to school for a master's degree in child development.

She met Rudy Stonisch II, who, as Glorie recounted, was the most eligible bachelor in Detroit. She fell in love and continued the traditions of golabki and kielbasa. Her favorite stop was for a coney dog. After graduating with a master's degree from the University of Michigan, she received a degree from the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute at Wayne State University and planned a wedding in Detroit.

Glorie and Rudy were married June 17, 1962, on Father's Day, at the University of Detroit High School chapel. Her parents, John and Mary, were so proud. A year later, Mary Sue was born.

They lived in a house Rudy designed and built in Farmington. With her degree in child development, Glorie and her college friend, Judy Schlaman, a sorority sister from Hillsdale, started the St. Claire Nursery School at their home church. Soon after, Gail and Rudy III were born.

Rudy always dreamed of living close to the water and in 1973, his dream came true. He started his own sales rep firm for the automobile companies in Detroit and moved their young family from Farmington Hills to Grosse Pointe. Glorie and Rudy loved the community. Glorie was involved in many philanthropic activities, as well as taught "How to start your own pre-school" at Marygrove College.

Glorie and Rudy loved traditions and goal setting. Every Sunday before Christmas, Glorie and Rudy would take the children to dinner, relive their accomplishments from the previous 12 months and set goals for the year to follow.

When Glorie was 56, Rudy died suddenly at age 66. As Glorie's world stopped suddenly, those who knew Glorie helped fill in the gaps. Glorie, lovingly called "Grammie," spent endless hours with her first grandchild, Patrick J. Stonisch-Monahan. Soon, Abigail and John Riggs were born, then Rudolph Theodore Stonisch IV, followed by another set of twins, Kate and Charles Stonisch. An additional blessing occurred when Mary Sue married Daniel Joseph Monahan. Two more granddaughters were added to the family: Mary Ellen Monahan and Madeline Monahan.

Then Glorie fell in love again, with Dr. Jorge Jimenez, a Bolivian geneticist from Purdue University. They dated a few years and, realizing they could not be apart, were married July 17, 2005, in Grosse Pointe. Glorie and Jorge traveled, played, danced and had fun, laughing and joking with each other constantly.

Around five years ago, Glorie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and later ALS. Jorge beautifully and selflessly cared for Glorie in their Florida home. She will be deeply missed.

Glorie will lie in state at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 17, until her funeral service at 11 a.m. at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic

Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, donations may be made to Alzheimer's Support Network of Naples, 1241 Pine Ridge Rd., Ste. 100, Naples, FL 34109.

Sally Childs Coe

Sally Childs Coe, 96, passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in Greenville, S.C.

Sally was born March 6, 1928, in Chicago, to Terrell L. Childs and Coyetta Youmans Childs, both now deceased.

Sally was a 1946 graduate of The Liggett School in Detroit. She attended the University of Michigan and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She graduated from the Tobe Coburn School of Fashion in New York City in 1952. Sally met her husband, John "Jack" W. Coe, soon after she started working at J.L. Hudson department store in Detroit.

While raising her two sons in Grosse Pointe, Sally was a member of the Junior League of Detroit and past president of the Sigma Gamma service sorority. Sally became a successful realtor in 1975, and was affiliated with several residential realty firms.

Sally was predeceased by her husband, Jack, in 2011. She is survived by her sons, John (Jana) of Kensington, Md., and Daniel (June) of Greenville, S.C.; grandsons, Andrew (Meredith Grant), Robert (fiancee Isalyn Connell) and David Barnett (Jill); and sister, Phyllis Walker of Overland Park, Kan.

A ceremony to honor and remember Sally will be held with interment at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at the Christ Church Grosse Pointe rose garden, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Miracle Hill Ministries, P.O. Box 2546, Greenville, S.C. 29602.

Sally will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her legacy of love, compassion and never-failing positive outlook will live on in the hearts of those she touched.

MEMORIAL**Rosemary C. McNair**

Feb. 14, 1936 —

Jan. 23, 2024

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 12, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lymphoma Research Foundation, bit.ly/4ctQkaq.

One favorite returns, another two fitness classes debut at The Helm

Improving mobility, strength and balance are keys to staying physically fit as one ages. The Helm helps with three classes beginning in April.

The perennial favorite, A Matter of Balance, is an award-winning program that emphasizes practical strategies to reduce fear of falling, control falls and help increase activity levels. Falling isn't inevitable as one ages; however, there are things that can be done to reduce fall risk factors, including changes to environment and improving strength and balance.

A Matter of Balance takes place 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 2 to 25. It is free to members and future members.

For individuals who have mastered A Matter of Balance and are

looking for more challenging exercise, Geri-Fit meets twice a week for 12 weeks and helps participants build strength and endurance. Exercises are performed seated or standing and incorporate the use of two- or three-pound dumbbells. While there isn't any choreography or dancing involved, Geri-Fit also incorporates stretching and range-of-motion exercises, stability and balance training for fall prevention, cardiovascular activity for heart health and gait

See FIT, page 8B

8B | CHURCHES

Moross Greenway spring cleanup planned April 13

The Moross Greenway Project is looking for volunteers for its annual spring cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13, rain or shine.

Interested volunteers are asked to gather in front of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 21150 Moross, between Edgefield and Chester, in Detroit. Parking is available in the center — especially battery lot off of Moross.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and dress for the weather. Boots are recommended as the islands are often wet.

Water, trash bags and traffic safety vests will be provided.

Work will be focused on two main tasks:

- ◆ Trash collection on the islands from St. John Hospital to the I-94 service drive.

- ◆ Garden bed cleanup

using a method of cutting plant material into small pieces and leaving it in the beds to nourish the soil.

Volunteers are asked to bring hedge trimmers — especially battery operated — if they are interested in garden cleanup.

Board members will be available to guide volunteers and answer questions.

For more information, visit morossgreenway.org.

Michigan Science Center, Ford House host solar eclipse experience April 8

Ford House and the Michigan Science Center are joining together to welcome visitors to witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of the solar eclipse on the grounds of the historic Ford House from noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 8.

This event promises an unforgettable experience for seasoned astronomers and curious star-gazers alike as the sun and moon converge, painting the sky in an ethereal dance of light and shadow. With an expansive property offering unobstructed views, Ford House offers a unique vantage point for this rare astronomical event.

The event will take place outdoors and indoors, rain or shine. Visitors can enjoy the

Ford House grounds and concessions beginning at noon, with self-paced tours of the main residence available until 4 p.m.

From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., visitors can participate in several educational and hands-on activities with Michigan Science Center educators, who will provide details of how the eclipse unfolds, as well as demonstrate how to make pin-hole projectors and sun-spotting scopes for safe viewing.

Family-friends activities include:

- ◆ Pinhole Projector Making (arts and crafts activity to safely view the eclipse)

- ◆ Kid Safety Shields for Eclipse Glasses (arts and crafts activity to shield peripheral sunlight around eclipse glasses)

- ◆ Solar Telescopes and Sunspotters (science technology to safely view the sun)

- ◆ NISENet's Build a Moon Base Camp (design-based activity

with consideration of the need to support life on the moon)

"When two cultural institutions like Ford House and the Michigan Science Center come together, we can literally point the community's eyes skyward and be inspired," Ford House President and CEO Mark J. Heppner said. "We won't have the opportunity to experience this for another 20 years. So, being able to share this moment is truly special."

"We are delighted to collaborate with the Ford House to offer a unique science learning experience for families that will undoubtedly inspire children and adults alike," said Dr. Christian Greer, president and CEO of the Michigan Science Center. "This is an extremely rare astronomical event for our area. Our team can't wait to present the science of solar eclipses and promote safe viewing in such gorgeous surroundings."

Tickets are \$7 for

adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger, and includes a pair of solar eclipse glasses.

Those looking for a fuller experience may purchase a VIP package, which includes admission, a pair of solar eclipse sunglasses, a gift from the Michigan Science Center, two wine glasses, a bottle of Heron Hill's Eclipse wine and light bites for two guests. All of this is available for \$50 for members of Michigan Science Center and Ford House and \$60 for nonmembers.

Friends of Ford House and Michigan Science Center members may secure general admission tickets at no cost and will receive a discount on the VIP package.

To learn how to become a Friend of Ford House, visit fordhouse.org/friends, or to become a Michigan Science Center member, visit misci.org/join-support.

Visitors may purchase tickets at fordhouse.org/solareclipse.

Holly Mitchell

Therapy dog Holly Mitchell of Grosse Pointe Farms peacefully crossed the Rainbow Bridge after a brief battle with cancer Friday, March 29, 2024. She was 12 years old.

Born Dec. 6, 2011, and adopted as a rescue puppy, Holly quickly blossomed into an outgoing, athletic dog with a sense of humor and deep love of people.

During her early years, her favorite activity was going to the dog park every day and chasing tennis balls. She also excelled at digging holes in the yard, barking at the bird feeder, bamboozling treats and leaving magic fibers of love (aka dog hairs) everywhere she went.

But even more than chasing tennis balls, she loved going to training classes. She was an excellent student and even learned to read a few words and distinguish colors. Yet as much as she loved chasing tennis balls and going to classes, there was one thing she loved even more — her family and people.

Holly was able to turn her love of people into a career. She studied hard, earned a certification from Therapy Dogs International and began to volunteer at Henry Ford Medical Centers as a therapy dog.

At Henry Ford Pierson, Cottage and E. Jefferson locations, she brought smiles to thousands of people over the years. But she didn't stop there. She loved her work so much she assumed she was working everywhere she went around the Grosse Pointes. She would walk into a store like a rock star and pose with strangers when they asked for a selfie.

During the COVID pandemic when medical center visits were shut down, she started doing virtual visits and posted stories and pictures for the medical staff to enjoy. She also gifted the Pierson location with a



Holly Mitchell

life-sized standee nicknamed Flat Holly.

In her senior years, when arthritis began to slow her down, she began a new endeavor; she became a social media influencer and posted a weekly fashion column. She dressed up in scarves and pearls every week and amused readers with her fashion advice such as, "Don't forget the pearls!" When news of her passing reached her internet fans, hundreds of dogs donned scarves and pearls — Holly's signature look — and posted the pictures online in her honor.

No matter what she did, Holly approached every new adventure with enthusiasm and an open heart. She was a sweet, happy soul who gave love to all and asked for nothing in return beyond a scratch behind the ear and one of those crunchy dog biscuits Mom kept in her pocket. She was a very good girl.

Donations in her memory may be made to the donor's favorite dog rescue group.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, through April 30, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Registration is required.

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

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

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

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Darraugh Collins of Food Rescue US — Detroit speaks. Email grossepoinerotary@gmail.com.

Find the complete Area Activities listing online at grossepoinenews.com

FIT:

Continued from page 7B

exercises to help improve walking.

Geri-Fit takes place 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesdays, April 1 to June 19. It is free to members and future members.

A more intense cardio workout takes place in Drums Alive with Rosa.

Participants use drum-

sticks, a large stability ball and music to create a fun and energized workout that gets the heart rate up and improves cognitive health through repetitive movement.

Drums Alive takes place 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. every Thursday in April, beginning April 4. Cost is \$7 per class for members, \$10 per class for future members.

The Helm offers a number of fitness classes

throughout the year. Some classes are free, others have a fee. Classes — offered in a fun, welcoming and noncompetitive environment — are for adults of all abilities.

Participants work at their own pace and are encouraged to enjoy not only the physical benefits of exercise, but the social as well.

For a complete list of fitness classes at The Helm, visit helmlife.org.

Worship Service

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

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

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



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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
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

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Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe distributes financial awards to five women

On March 13, Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe honored five women at its annual awards dinner at Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen & Café in St. Clair Shores.

The Virginia Wagner Educational Award honors a woman enrolled in a university degree program who has financial need, as well as serves as a volunteer in her community.

This year, Mercedes Williams won the Virginia Wagner Educational Award.

"I would love the opportunity to prove that life's circumstances are not all of my story," she said, "that a young woman like me can achieve levels of success and can contribute to the community."

Her master's degree in social work, coupled with the money from this award, will set her on the path to making her hope of being a community consultant a reality.

The Ruby Award acknowledges a woman who, through personal and professional activities, has made a positive difference in the lives of other women and girls. Amanda Paletz, who works for The Joseph Project (josephproject.com), won the Ruby Award. The award money will go toward the non-profit project to connect

human trafficking survivors with pro bono legal services.

This year there were three Live Your Dream Award winners, honoring women who are going to school to improve their employment opportunities and who are head of household, enrolled in training or educational programs and have financial need. This is the signature award of Soroptimist International of the Americas.

Simone Picarr Miller was awarded first place of the three Live Your Dream awards. Her goal is to become a nurse, preferably a baby-mother nurse.

"Despite facing significant adversities, including the loss of my aunt, who played a pivotal role in my life, and the challenges of single motherhood, my resolve to pursue my dreams remains unshaken," she said. "This award represents a steppingstone toward achieving my educational aspirations."

As one of the two other Live Your Dream awardees, Erica Beauliere knew from the time she was 22 and started working with the disabled and the elderly that she wanted to become an occupational therapist assistant.

"I stumbled a lot during my journey, but I never gave up," she said. "One of the reasons I left New



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, award winners Erica Beauliere, Mercedes Williams, Simone Picarr Miller, Amanda Paletz and Jennifer Maschke.

York and came to Michigan in 2015 was to pursue a better life and to go to school."

The third Live Your Dream awardee, Jennifer Maschke, hails from Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Her dream is to have a private psychotherapy practice in a home respite-type setting.

"I would like to gain experience in the field of mental health by working with the Canadian Mental

Health Association while working toward my master's degree to become licensed," she said.

The club gave special thanks to judges Mary Beth Calandro, Jill Davenport, Beth Kurta and Mary Jo Magee, who

are independent of nomic empowerment. The Grosse Pointe club includes 54 members who are all volunteers.

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve eco-

For more information, visit grossepoinotesoroptimist.net. The group welcomes women from any metro Detroit city.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Thad Galvin, LMSW

What is good therapy?



Though there are many types of therapy, the process is essentially a collaboration between the client or patient and a therapist, hopefully held by a positive and supportive relationship, in which the client can speak their truth, tell their story, get a fresh perspective on the elements of the problem and discover ways to heal, transcend, improve and ultimately have a better experience of their life. At its root, it's two people just talking; but the scope, focus and nature of what's spoken about can be, and often is, life changing.

Good therapy begins with an acknowledgment that there is a problem and an intention to get some help addressing the problem. It's that simple and yet for some, it's not easy. The lion's share of most people's inability to engage in the process lies in resistance or avoidance, or a misunderstanding or lack of knowledge about what happens in therapy.

For example: Did you know our thoughts and experiences and emotions can literally become our biology? Science has identified that chronic conditions like stress are related to gastrointestinal conditions like heartburn, indigestion, nausea and

associated lower abdominal pain, in addition to conditions like panic attacks, IBS, GERD, ulcers, insomnia, etc. Similarly, repressed anger/hostility and depression are strongly associated with hypertension, heart disease, strokes, chronic pain, eating disorders and substance abuse/dependence, amongst many other maladies.

I hope you will join my colleagues and me for the Mental Health Matters series 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Thad Galvin, LMSW, is the founder of Calm Safe Place, LLC, a Grosse Pointe-based therapy practice designed to address attachment-based trauma and encourage patients to connect with their whole selves and the world around them in ways that provide meaning, purpose and fulfillment.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Blocked out from neighborhood gatherings



Dear Gabby: I just found out that the women on my block have a semi-regular gathering with each other and I am not invited. The worst part is that they post it on social media and I feel embarrassed and sad.

I am one of the only ones who works outside of the home and maybe I've been standoffish? I am not sure.

Do I ask to be invited? Or just keep feeling bad about myself the next time I see it posted on Instagram?

I was not born and raised here, so I feel like

a bit of an outsider sometimes, but generally everyone is always incredibly friendly and great neighbors. But this situation really has me feeling left out in the cold, so to speak.

— Frozen out in the Farms

Dear Frozen,

I find that nine times out of 10 these things are either a mistake or a case of busy people just not realizing you have an interest in being a part of something. Sounds like

these ladies like to have fun, so maybe it's worth being a part of this neighborhood group.

How about hosting your own brunch or cocktails at your home and inviting everyone? It doesn't have to be elaborate, but the act of inviting and including everyone will likely be enough to get an invite to the next outing, or just be up front and let them know that moving forward, you would like to be included.

And overall, this proves something I am fond of saying: Most times, it's never a mistake to include more people than you first think. Often, it's simply the blessing of the invitation that makes people feel like they matter to you.

I say set the example and I bet you will start a great new trend in your neighborhood of extra thoughtfulness and creating more fun social opportunities with each other.

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

Struggling to make and keep friends

DEAR ANNIE: I have a friend, "Donna," who lives in another state. We've been friends for three years. Due to past trauma of being cheated on, I have trust issues, not just in relationships but friendships as well. I've damaged and even lost a few friends because of these issues.

Truth be told, ever since I moved, I've missed having a true friend who's close by. Making friends where I

says she can't or doesn't want to talk, I have doubts about our friendship and it causes fights between us. It hurts because I know she's a true friend, but I struggle to bring myself to trust her because I think about what I've experienced before.

Dear LONELY: Don't take Donna's introversion too personally. Everyone has different communication styles,

moved to has been a struggle.

I've tried counseling, but it is expensive. I want to go, but affording it is a challenge. I dislike where I moved from but miss the hell out of my friend. Please help. — LONELY IN WYOMING

As for settling in in

and just because yours don't exactly match doesn't mean she doesn't still love and value your friendship.

Let her know how much you miss her and how you've been struggling in isolation after your move. Suggest that you set a standing date — once a week or every other — for a phone call or FaceTime to catch up and keep in touch.

As for settling in in

Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



than the options you've already looked into. Remember that growth takes time. Be gentle with yourself.

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

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Ferlito's brings Italy close to home

Italian restaurants are a hot commodity in the Grosse Pointe area. Every location has its own uniqueness, technique, ambience and story.

For more than 40 years, Ferlito's has held its charm at 20745 Mack Avenue. Like many authentic Italian restaurants, family is everything — family owned, family operated, family recipes. In the late '70s, Joseph "Joe" and Antonina "Toni" Ferlito put their family name on the corner building, started serving families that came through the door and continued for decades to follow.

After Joe passed away, Toni and her son, Ben, carried on the business for years, with Toni greeting guests until the day she retired at age 80, after 35 amazing years of feeding the community.

Enter Chef Josh Mowen. In 2015, Josh took over ownership. The location was familiar to him, because not only did he grow up eating there, but it also was his first restaurant job in 2005-06. Mowen graduated from Harper Woods High School in 2005. After his first stint at Ferlito's, he found himself in Chicago, working at Rocco Pizza, a popular pizzeria owned by the "Pizza

King" of Chicago, Russell Bry. In 2007, he went to culinary school at Le Cordon Bleu in Chicago, followed by a four-month externship in Sorrento, Italy, at a Michelin star restaurant. After moving back to Michigan, he worked for an Italian restaurant in Troy and a bistro in Ferndale, just to name a few.

Growing up, Ferlito's pizza was a staple for my Italian family. While we cooked mostly at home, it was our go-to for pizza night, whether it was delivered, picked up or we dined in. With made-from-scratch dough, its hand-tossed deep dish, Chicago-style deep dish and classic round pizzas are still being cooked in its 50-year-old pizza oven. Aside from the ol' faithful oven, Ferlito's now has an updated kitchen where the magic happens.

When I asked Mowen about other changes he made since taking over, he mentioned the obvious: the interior. A remodel of the dining room happened in 2019, which included a difficult decision to remove the simplest and best salad bar on Mack.

They replaced the space with a wet bar after acquiring a liquor license. With

the pandemic came the addition of alfresco dining as well. Pizza and salad at the decorative picnic tables on a nice summer day is a great combo. What Mowen did not change was the recipes.

"I've been eating Ferlito's since I was a child and have much respect for their original items," Mowen said, adding that he found Joseph Ferlito's signature dish, Chicken Joseph, in the recipe book and it has since become one of the top 10 best-selling sautéed dishes.

While he did modify the original menu by scaling it down, this allowed him to invest into better quality products like Amish/Hallal chicken, sustainable fish and organic produce. Most of its products now come

from Grosse Pointe's own Fairway Packing, Carmela Foods and Lumetta Produce. Desserts come from its neighbors at Chocolate Bar Café and Classics from Scratch. It also serves liquor from local distilleries and always has at least two Michigan beers on draft. Mowen prides himself on supporting local businesses as much as possible.

While most of Mowen's experience is in Italian cuisine, after being classically French trained, his favorite thing to cook is barbecue. I'm pretty sure over the years I've actually seen him on a barbecue out back cooking some slabs. Sizing down the original menu opened an opportunity for him to challenge himself and dabble in different types of cuisines on a weekly basis, which leads to some phenomenal

dinner specials. Personally, these are some of the best dishes I've ever eaten on this side of town, especially the short rib special. And like I said, the only thing I ever ate at Ferlito's growing up was pizza.

Undecided on what to try as far as the classics go? I highly recommend the Sicilian Sampler: baked lasagna, ravioli, meatballs and Italian sausage. This is definitely a



COURTESY PHOTOS

shareable choice as well. I suggest an appetizer of ricotta dip first. The entrees are big portions and leftovers are always welcome, too.

Catering is another bonus here. With every Italian dish you can think of — appetizers, sides, salads, desserts — Ferlito's is an excellent choice for graduation parties and all other functions. It also offers its own dining room for events, free of charge.

Its family feast is a no-brainer for smaller gatherings. It includes a tray of your choice of pasta, antipasto salad and parmesan breadsticks. This is carry-out only, is ideal for a last-minute company situation and perfect to bring to a friend's or family's house. It easily serves five to six people. Tuesdays for two — \$22 for two pasta entrees dining in — and half-off wine bottles on Wednesdays are two great weekly specials, too.

The chef title is one Mowen shies away from. From being hired as sous chef to becoming a self-appointed head chef, it's a title he doesn't expect or require.

"Every member of the staff is just as important to the restaurant running at 100 percent," he said. Speaking of his staff, Mowen credits Ferlito's consistency to some of its longtime employees.

"Andy has been one of the faces of Ferlito's for over 20 years, serving in the dining room," he said. "Then there are our two brothers in the kitchen, Wally and Matt Smolinski, who have been here for over 20 years each. Wally is our kitchen manager along with his brother, Matt, our assistant. The three of

them have been extremely helpful over the past nine years since I became the owner. While we've been friends for a long time, they feel more like family. They have such a passion and love for Ferlito's. It's truly a rare thing in this industry, to have employees that care, like their owner."

Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina



Fairway Ribeye Special.

I will always call my friend, "Chef." He's earned it and he deserves it — whether he likes it or not!

Fun Fact: Mowen also now owns Sorrento's Pizza at Harper and Nine Mile. This guy just loves a good slice!



Fairway Steak Bite Special



Ferlito's pizza is still being cooked in a 50-year-old pizza oven.



Calamari appetizer.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Warm weather is almost here! Hooray!

It's so exciting to enter the new (hopefully not freezing) season and therefore get some new clothes to go with it. If you're like me, you can scroll and click and add clothes to your cart for hours on end. But when it comes time to check out, the price of high-end shorts sets can be enough to put your phone down.

Brands like Varley and Lululemon make fantastic, covetable sets. And to be honest, the quality and style do justify the price.

However, in order to expand my Little League, early summer errands and walks-with-friends wardrobe — but also stay within a budget — I wanted a few more outfits to put on repeat.

After scouring my favorite influencers' sites and doing some research of my own, I landed on a \$32 Amazon set with the name "Missactivir." There are multiple color options, but I opted for a creamy neutral called "apricot."

In true Amazon fashion, the package arrived in two days so I was fortu-

nate enough to be able to take it to Florida for test-



ing. The fit is true to size, the color exactly what I was hoping for and the length perfect for me — not too short and not too long. The material is a thick, scuba-like fabric that truly feels like it should be expensive. It's also extremely comfortable.

It took until day four on the island for me to find the right vibe for this outfit: a walk on the beach on a semi-cloudy day en route to the island shop to look for this year's souvenirs. The fit and fabric were on point and I was

ready for the day in seconds. I paired it with new Lululemon slides, which also are a win by the way.

I have to give the set 5 alligators for price, quality and performance. As far as care goes, it only says to machine wash it, so I did that and hung it out to dry. I have a sneaking suspicion this could turn into doll clothes if put in the dryer and I'm unwilling to take that chance. I'm excited to wear this set to games on a warm day, coffee or walks with friends, grocery

shopping and more.

Find this and other sets by visiting tinyurl.com/4sh8zwnf

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@grossepoincenews.com.



A hidden gem

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This is a sandwich found primarily in western New York, specifically Buffalo. It's something of a secret that you can only find if you are in the right spot. However, I got the recipe from my uncle who grew up in Buffalo.

The key to the dish is the Kimmelweck rolls. They are covered with caraway seeds and kosher salt. It comes from German roots and is absolutely delicious.

You need good, bulky kaiser rolls which are then baked until the salt and seeds secure themselves to the bread.

Thinly sliced steak is laid over top with an au jus. I used beef consomme to dip the slices of beef in prior to assembling the sandwich. You

can use a packet of au jus or a packet of beef gravy. Horseradish is a must.

This dish is a treat, a specialty that you can't find anywhere. I had to make it three times to get the right picture. Each bite, I sighed with satisfaction. It's too good to stop taking another bite. Trust me, I've had four in the last three days.

Cheers, Mombeau

Beef on Weck

2 lbs sirloin steak

6 hearty kaiser rolls

1 egg (just the white)

2 tbsp caraway seeds

1 tbsp kosher salt

1 can beef consomme

Horseradish

Grill your steak on high heat until your preferred doneness. Let rest while you toast the rolls. Slice them in halves and brush the top half with egg white. Sprinkle caraway seeds and kosher salt over top.

Preheat the oven to 375. Once the rolls go in the oven, in a small saucepan heat the beef consomme. Toast for five minutes.

When the steak is done and rested, slice thinly. Dip the slices into the consomme and place onto a toasted roll. Horseradish is highly recommended.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

The bloom is off the rosé

Rosé wine has always intrigued me for many different reasons, so I never take it for granted. When it is good, it's very, very good.

Of course, when it is bad ... well, you can finish that sentence.

The news value here is that I saw an authoritative story the other day on the internet that indicated that sales of pink wine in the United States have declined in the last 12 months. I never imagined that this would happen. But the story said that a lot of it that was made from the 2022 vintage is now

being closed out.

It is true, of course, that rosé doesn't need to be consumed immediately. An extra year in the bottle simply means that wine won't be as fresh or as interesting as it was when it was younger.

U.S. wine buyers should therefore be alerted to the fact that 2022 rosé wines that remain in the marketplace probably will be discounted, and if they are not, they will soon become an obvious liability. Older dry rose wines, especially those that were bottled in

clear glass, will soon show their bronze colors as they shift away from pink, which indicates a tired wine.

I never imagined I would see this, especially given the fact that dry pink wine has been on a roll for the last decade. Since about 2014, sales of dry rosé wine have been on the rise.

A huge percentage of that came from the south of France, where some of the best pink wine in the world is made.

That sales boom was a far cry from a decade earlier when there was a widely circulated myth that all rosé wines were sweet. That may have been true 30 years ago when most wine-makers still believed that all pink wines were for novices who didn't like dry wine.

Moreover, in the 1980s, it wasn't easy to make a great dry rosé since oxygen can easily turn the color from pink to orange or brown. In the 1980s, screwcaps rarely were used, and it was the use of the cap, not the cork, that helped to make dry rosé wines as fresh and as interesting as they became by 2000 or so.

The quality of dry rosés improved significantly when methods of making it grew more sophisticated and the terrific fruit flavors of

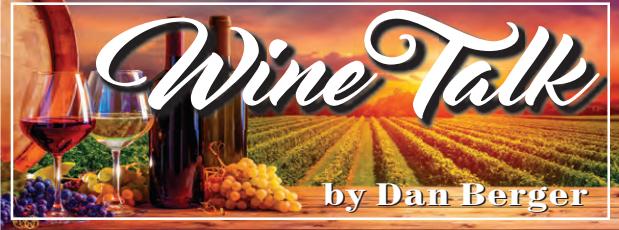
various grapes could be captured. This included grenache in Europe and pinot noir in the United States.

It's not easy to make a great dry rosé, but around the world, we began to see literally hundreds of dry versions that displayed all sorts of fascinating aromas, from tangerine or cherry to watermelon or citrus, and many other enticing characteristics.

By about 2005, dry rosé was being made by various procedures. The best way was to harvest red grapes earlier than you would for red wine and leave the juice and the grape skins in contact with one another for a short time to pick up color and flavor.

I generally don't favor making rosé by what is called saignee, where juice is drawn off a fermenting tank of fully mature red grapes. Usually, such wines lack the delicacy and fruity aromas of wines made intentionally to be rosé.

Before the world began to understand dry rosé, lots of people would tell servers at wine festivals and in tasting rooms that they didn't want to even try their dry rosés, saying, "I don't drink sweet wine." People often thought that if it was pink, it would be sweet, no



by Dan Berger

matter what the label said.

If the story I saw on the internet last week was correct, 2022 dry rosé wines might well be a category of interest to bargain hunters. The majority of those wines were for sale about a year ago at between \$16 and \$20 per bottle. But most 2022 rosés still rep-

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Grosse Pointe Park Marshmallow drop

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

Grosse Pointe Park held its rescheduled Marshmallow drop Friday, March 29. The event was rescheduled because of snow and the 29th brought a sunny and mild day.



The helicopter drops marshmallows all at once.



5... 4... 3... 2... 1... Go!



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY RITCHIE
Sisters Lillian, left, and Ruth Ritchie of Grosse Pointe Park got to meet the Easter Bunny at this year's marshmallow drop at Patterson Park.



Holding her bag of marshmallows, Grace Dreaver stops to touch the yellow bunny to see if it is a giant Peeps candy.



Bridget Triplett holds the Easter Bunny's hand while her sister, Audrey, holds the purple bunny she received after turning in her golden egg.

OUR BUNNY GEORGE

Our bunny was found
All shivery, sad and light brown
Atop a blanket of snow

A neighbor scooped him up
Right before his curious pup
The full winter moon all aglow

Who could have known
That little bunny left all alone
Would fill our hearts with such love

Who would have guessed
This floppy-eared pest
Would fit our family like a glove

Now we don't know the hows and the whys
And the reasons someone said their goodbyes
And left the poor boy that night

But we named him George
And now he was forged
Part of our family for life

The first days, boy they were tough
We had all almost had enough

He tested our patience,
he jumped and he climbed.
Escaped and missed his litter box
every single time

Bit holes in our sweaters
Refused to get better
Everyone was super upset
Our family got together

And wanted to give him away -
HOWEVER...
We couldn't give up on him yet

We all did our best
To encourage and suggest
To teach instead of just telling

And lo and behold
George became good as gold
His house was neat and less smelly

We cheered and we praised
He had learned to behave!
We were so proud of ourselves and of him

It took our patience and grit
In fact every last bit
But we promised to love him through
thick and thin

There's a moral to this story
And though it may sound boring
Sometimes it takes patience and care

But it's always worth the struggle
(Especially when it comes to
bunny snuggles)
To love and to guide and to share

So next time
you see someone who's in need
Think about George and do a good deed
Because helping is a wonderful thing

And the best part of all of it
Is that YOU'LL have a ball of it
When you make someone's
heart start to sing

RIP sweet George



Winners and Runners Up Of The Grosse Pointe News Coloring Contest



Winner 1

Claire O'Neill

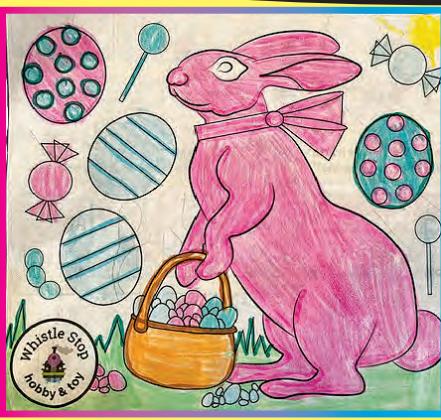
Winner 2

Jack Carmen Thiel

Runners Up



Charlie Card



Charlotte Moore



Ava Martusiewicz



Claire Tavery



Felix Thiel



Fischer Groz



Jack Jones



John Card



Jonathan O'Neill



Kate Podesky



Mackenzie Bahr



Rose Picek



Penelope LaPointe



Selby Corbett





PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREENMACHINE FILM AND SUB-GENRE FILM
Brian Tyree Henry as Charles Young, looking for an open window in the 2020 film "The Outside Story," written and directed by Casimir Nozkowski.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



Charles and Isha are polar opposites. While everyone in the neighborhood knows who she is, they only sort of recognize him. He frequently has to identify himself as "Isha's boyfriend".

In his effort to get back into his apartment, Charles encounters all the offbeat, diverse characters that make this such a delightful film. Each interaction acts as a small movement that combined, form a beautiful tone poem about friendship, love, and life.

It also feels like what we went through right after the recent covid pandemic, when we started reconnecting with friends and family.

Among the more interesting people he meets is Officer Slater (Sunita Mani) who delights in giving parking tickets and ends up taking Charles on a culinary tour of some of her favorite local restaurants.

Then there's Andre (Michael Cyril Creighton) who lives in the same building and is involved in a three-way with a married couple from Finland.

And my favorite character is his neighbor Elena (Olivia Edward), a young piano prodigy.

The two of them end up spending quite a bit of time together, and engage in some hilarious antics on the roof of their building.

Everyone he interacts with is cast perfectly. They all help make this a funny, charming, and touching little indie film. I have to admit, just writing about it makes me want to watch it again!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the film was written and directed by Casimir Nozkowski. Cinematography credits go to Zelmira Gainza.

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

You have a ton of streaming options. Watch it for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card) and Tubi. Also on Plex, Hulu, The Roku Channel, Pluto TV, and Prime Video.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

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

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

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

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com.

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

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



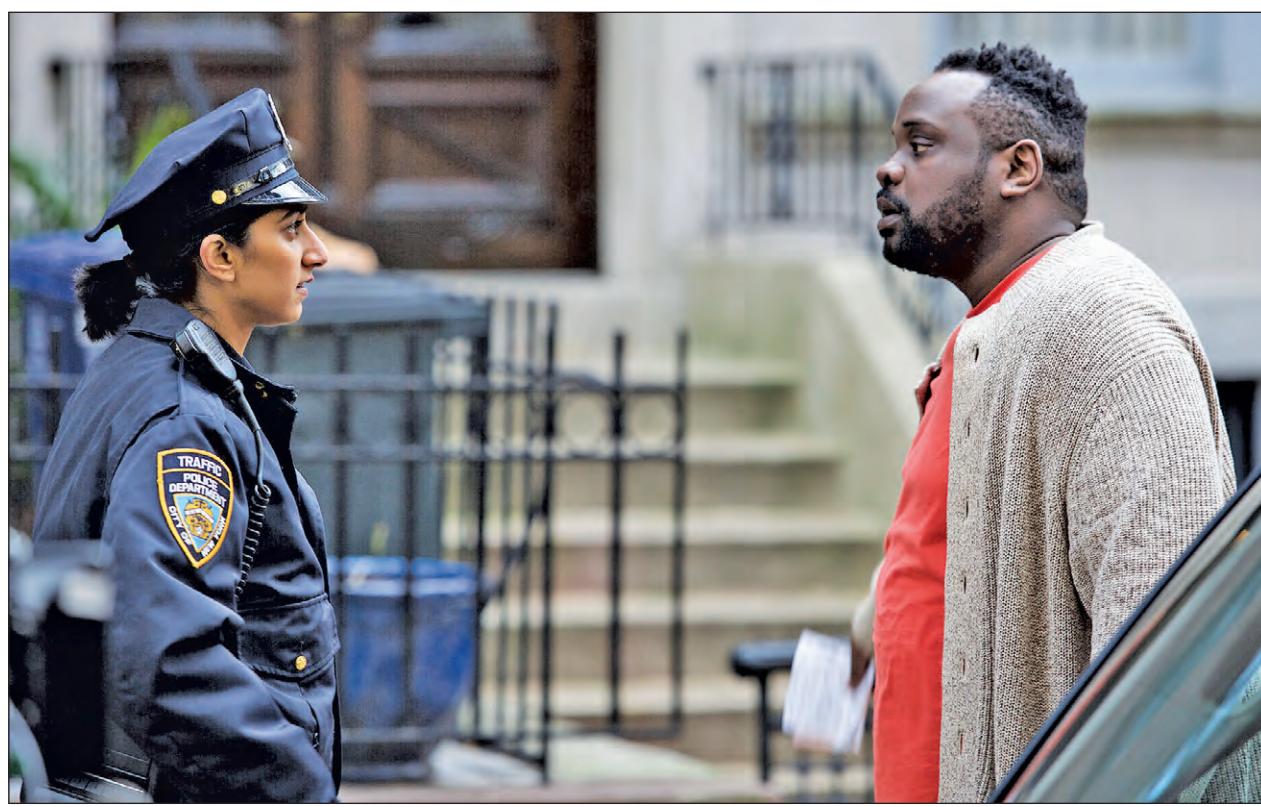
A despondent Charles.



A frustrated neighbor Andre, played by Michael Cyril Creighton with Charles.



Charles meets with his landlord Neil (Matthew Maher).



Sonequa Martin-Green as Isha.

Left, Sunita Mani as Officer Slater and Brian Tyree Henry as Charles Young.

Ready, Set, Fish!

By Brian Owen
Special writer

The 2024 fishing season began before 2023 fishing licenses even expired, thanks to a mild winter. Ice out took place in early February and boats could be spotted on the water within a day. There have been several days with temperatures reaching the sixties and even the seventies in some areas, warming the waters of Lake St. Clair even more.

The walleye bite has been hot in the Detroit River and smallmouth bass are already being caught from the piers. Watch for an early run of salmon this year which could start before this issue prints.

This fishing season will bring exciting opportunities to Grosse Pointe anglers of all ages, access and ability! For starters there will be a Grosse Pointe pier fishing tournament that begins April 1, hosted by St. Clair Smallies (@stclairsmallies on Instagram).

All fish entered in this

tournament will be photographed, measured and recorded through the virtual fishing tournament app Fish Donkey.

The tournament will run the entire month of April. Registration is \$15 and all proceeds will be used to start a Grosse Pointe bass fishing tournament team. Prizes include gift certificates to Moe's and Lakeside Fishing Shop, a tackle bag stuffed with lures and a charter fishing experience with Bushwacker Fishing Charters.

St. Clair Smallies will also host an in-person fishing clinic at Neff Park on May 11 at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for young anglers 12 and up. Participants will first learn about local fishing guidelines and species, equipment, bait and how to tie a few useful knots before heading to the pier and competing in their very own fishing tournament.

Registration is only \$25 and can also be found on the Fish Donkey app. Search for Smallie School GP and

join the tournament to reserve your spot for the class.

One of the most exciting updates to the Grosse Pointe fishing season is the Grosse Pointe News' annual fishing tournament will now include boaters! Any fish caught from a boat in Grosse Pointe waters will qualify to win prizes from the boater category.

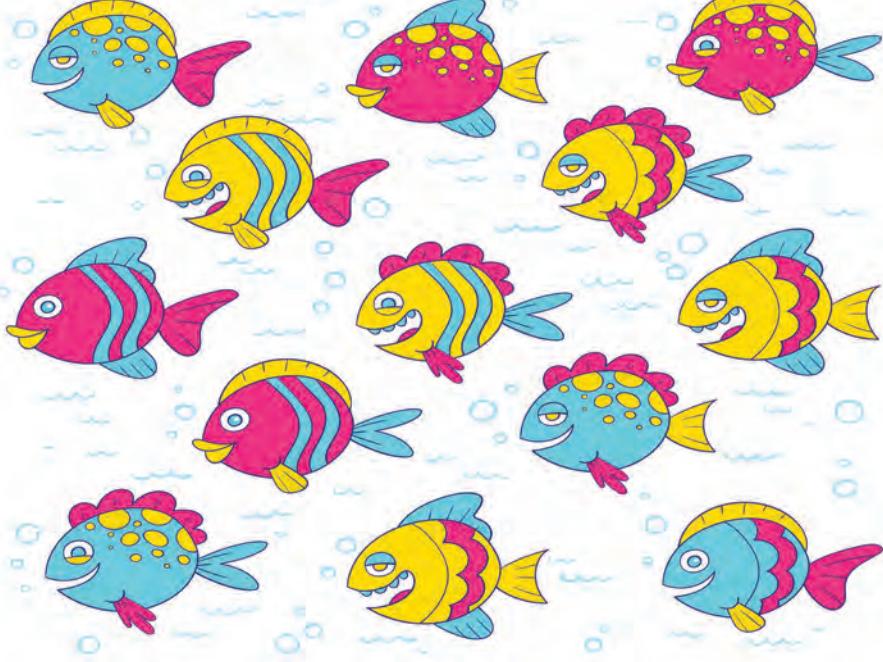
Anglers fishing from the piers will compete in their pier fishing category.

Further, the Grosse Pointe News fishing tournament will also be using the Fishdonkey App to track results. Participants will be able to view their own Digital Livewell (R) along with a live leaderboard and know their standings in real time.

Visit fishdonkey.com for more information or download the app.

It's going to be another great fishing season in the Pointes, so renew your fishing license, spool some fresh line on your reels and get out on the water!

Find 2 identical fish



Find 10 Differences



Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Double-check financial matters, especially those to do with banking and shared property.

Something unexpected might impact these areas, and directly or indirectly affect your wealth. Don't be caught with your guard down. And remember, information is power.

Tonight: Be helpful.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

A spouse, partner or close friend will likely do something that catches you off guard today. It's something you didn't expect.

They might want to redefine a relationship. Or they might simply want to take you to lunch. Either way, it's a surprise, and hopefully, a nice one.

Tonight: You're admired.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your work routine will be interrupted today because of something unexpected.

This could be a power outage, equipment breakdowns, late deliveries, staff shortages or some kind of unexpected event.

Whatever the case, you will handle it. Tonight: Benefits.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Parents should be vigilant today, because this is a potentially accident-prone day for their kids. Therefore, know where they are at all times, especially toddlers. Remove all potential hazards.

Meanwhile, you might receive a surprise invitation today. Tonight: Secret flirtations.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Travel plans are unpredictable today. They might be canceled, delayed, changed -- whatever.

You also might have to travel when you didn't expect to do so. School schedules might suddenly change. Someone you admire might spout radical ideas.

Tonight: Friendships.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

A small appliance might break down at home today or a minor breakage could occur.

Something will suddenly change your home routine.

Surprise company might drop by.

It could be anything. Be patient with

family members in case a sudden argument breaks out. Encourage harmony.

Tonight: Be helpful.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Pay attention to everything you say and do, because today is an accident-prone day for you. (Obviously, an accident does not have to happen; however, the potential is there.) Therefore, be alert and mindful. This applies to verbal accidents as well as physical. (Oops.)

Tonight: Play!

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your finances are unpredictable today. For example, you might find money; you might lose money. Likewise, be smart and protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Be smart and double-check details with banking, cash flow and earnings.

Tonight: Entertain.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You're restless today. This is why you might impulsively do or say something, which surprises others, especially family or people at home. You're an independent soul, and not everyone is willing to march to your drummer and your revolutionary ideas.

Tonight: Appreciation.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a restless day. You have that feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Right now, you're charming and charismatic, and at the same time you're proactive and confident. You have strong opinions about financial matters. Do nothing until you're sure about what you want.

Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

BORN TODAY

Actor Robert Downey Jr. (1965), actress Natasha Lyonne (1979), actor Hugo Weaving (1960).

Contract Bridge

HEADS I WIN, TAILS YOU LOSE

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K 7
♥ 7 4
♦ A 3
♣ A Q J 9 8 7 4

WEST

♠ A 9 8 6 4
♥ K 5
♦ J 10 4
♣ K 6 2

EAST

♠ 5 2
♥ A 9 8 6 3 2
♦ Q 9 8 2
♣ 10

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 3
♥ Q J 10
♦ K 7 6 5
♣ 5 3

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

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

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

When the king did not appear,

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

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

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

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

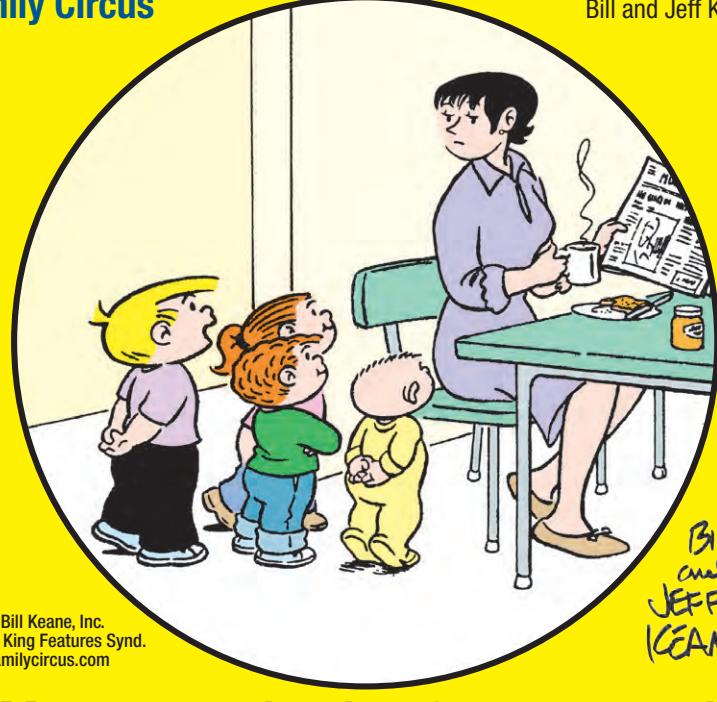
Left undiscussed here is the possibility that a wily East holding the doubleton king of clubs might not have taken the king to lure South into taking a second club finesse — but that's a subject for a whole other column.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

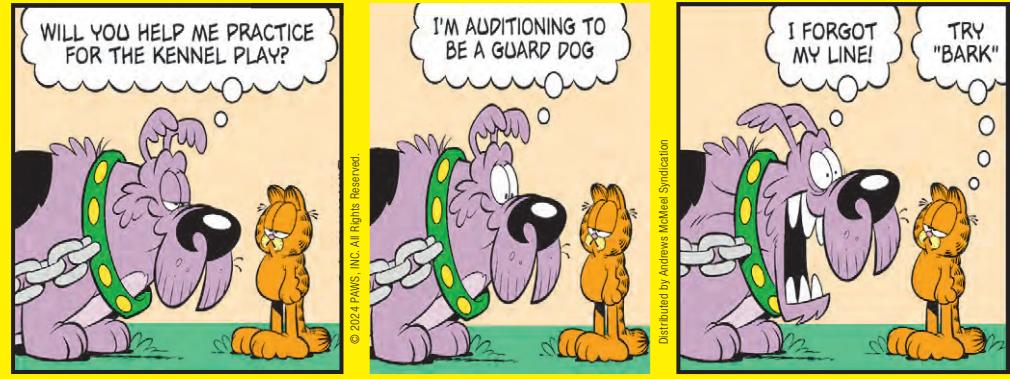


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www.familycircus.com

"Mommy, make that face you made for your driver's license picture."

Bill and Jeff Keane

Garfield



Jim Davis

Popeye



Bud Sagendorf

Beetle Bailey



Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

4/4 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/28 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 4, 2024

ACROSS

- 1 "Modern Family" actress Hyland
- 6 Made a web
- 10 Italian lake known for luxurious villas
- 14 Houston slugger
- 15 Darn it!
- 16 Like spoken defenses
- 17 Third ____ (date tagalong)
- 18 Voice below soprano
- 19 It can be changed or made up
- 20 Most common flight conveyance? Kitchenware brand
- 26 About to pop
- 27 Bible book with the most verses
- 28 Central place to make a landing?
- 32 Is, in Latin
- 33 Friend's opposite
- 34 Body art dye
- 36 Discovery org.
- 37 What has hands and a face but no body
- 39 British fellow
- 43 Red, green or blue
- 45 Face down
- 46 Kitty's cry
- 49 Average thoroughfares?
- 50 Goddess after whom Greece's capital is named
- 54 Six games, maybe, in tennis
- 56 Difference between the shortest and longest possible ways to go by car?
- 60 British bud
- 61 Fur, for a cat
- 62 Bob Marley, religiously
- 66 Idyllic garden
- 67 Strongly encourage
- 68 Queried
- 69 Google thermostat
- 70 Shirts shot from cannons
- 71 "We Have the _____" (Arby's slogan)
- 72 Horror franchise, or a tool
- 73 Byproduct of an eruption
- 74 GPS calculation
- 75 Length x width, for a rectangle
- 76 Easter, for one
- 77 Geometry lesson for a toddler
- 78 Gallup offering
- 79 Sephora competitor
- 80 Certain bright hue
- 10 Baltimore slugger

- 52 Brand with spokes-candies
- 53 Like Kourtney, among the Kardashian sisters
- 54 Manage
- 55 Six games, maybe, in tennis
- 56 Difference between the shortest and longest possible ways to go by car?
- 57 TV princess who yields the chakram
- 58 Poets' tributes
- 59 Thin desktop computer
- 60 Point on a stem
- 61 Button for taping a TV show
- 62 One of 100 in Pooh's wood
- 63 Presentable
- 64 Mauna
- 65 Weeding tools
- 66 Alternatives to reds
- 67 Parts of Mexico but not Canada
- 68 Large unit of weight
- 69 Caterer's job
- 70 Violent movie feature
- 71 All the (trendy)
- 72 Soothe
- 73 Jamaican music genre
- 74 Vietnamese celebration
- 75 Promos
- 76 Start a pot
- 77 Exterminator's target

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/28 Solution

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www.upuzzles.com

4/4

Travel Statistics by Amanda Winters

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

4/4

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

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4/4

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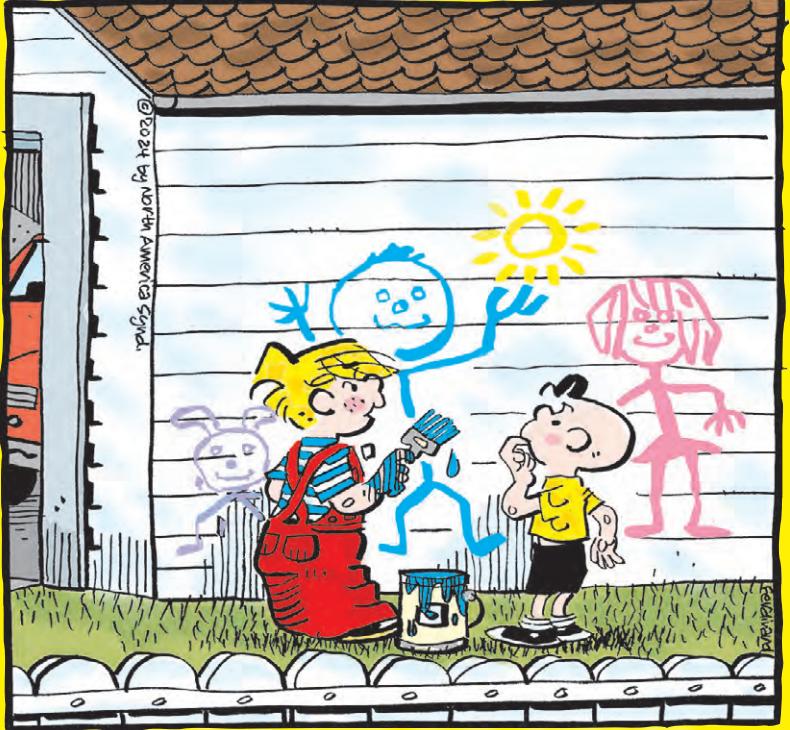
Comics

Peanuts


Charles M. Schulz

Hagar The Horrible


Dik Browne and Chris Browne

Dennis the Menace


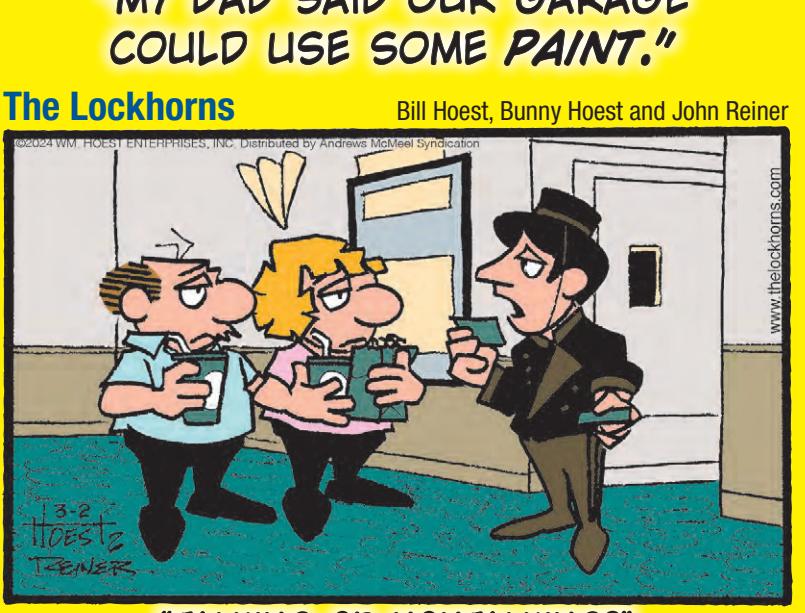
Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

Crankshaft


Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

Crock

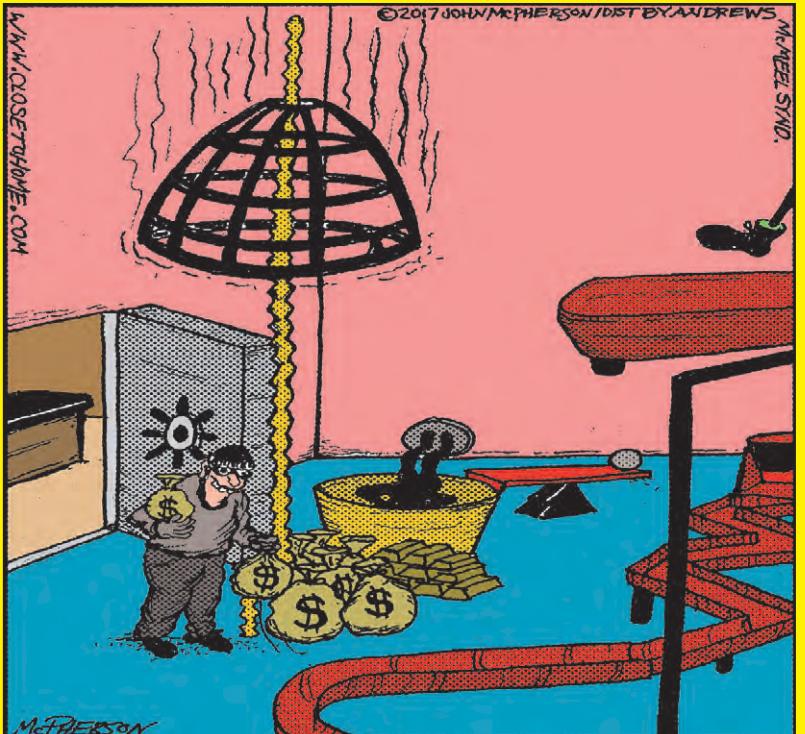

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



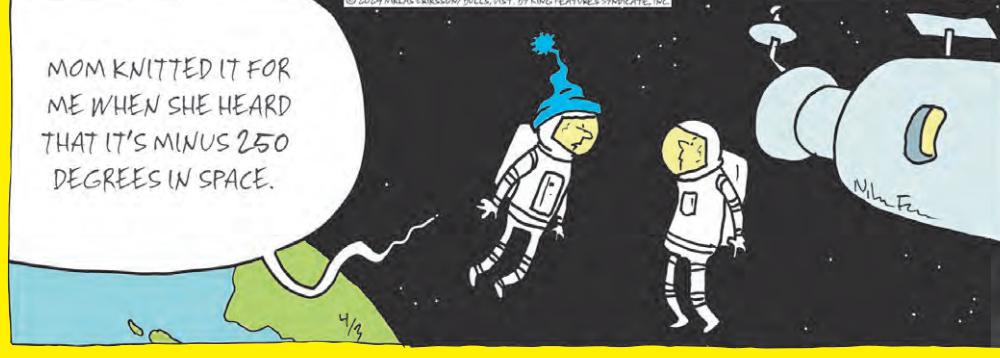
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim


Mike Peters

Close To Home


John McPherson

Carpe Diem


Niklas Eriksson

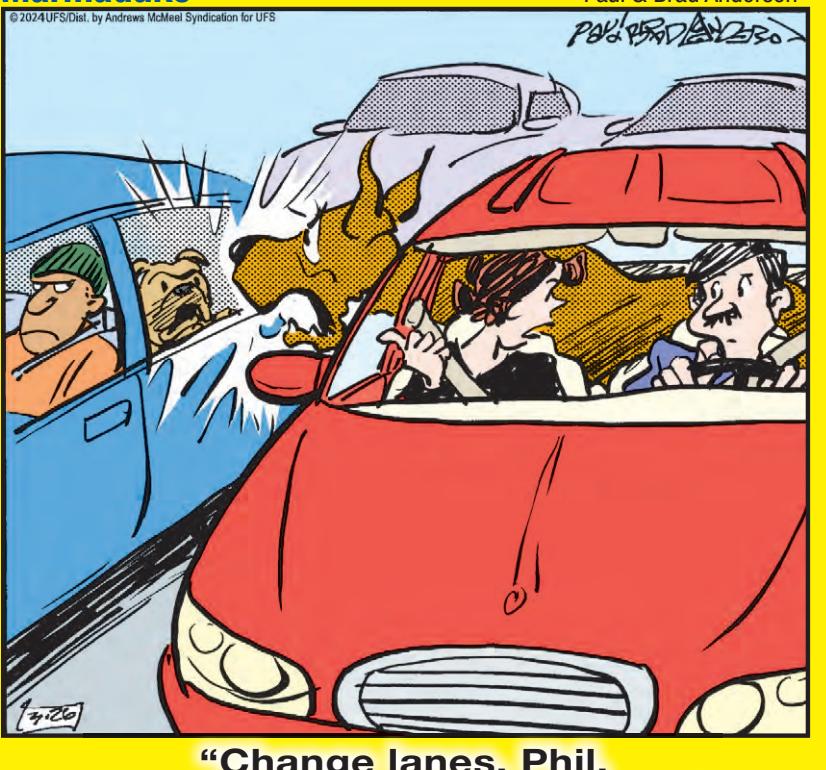
B.C.


Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

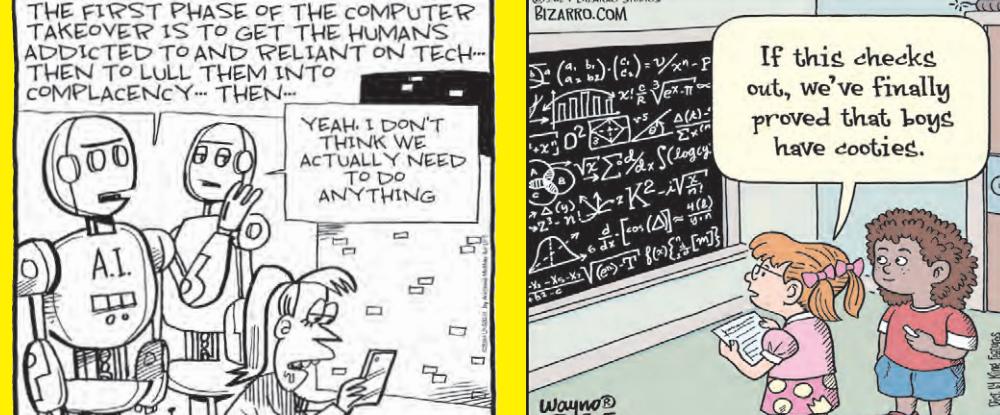
At the Milton Bradley corporate vault.

Wumo


Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Marmaduke


Paul & Brad Anderson

Reality Check


Dave Whamond

Bizarro


Dan Piraro and Wayne

"Change lanes, Phil.
We have a case of road rage."

Kid Scoop®
.com

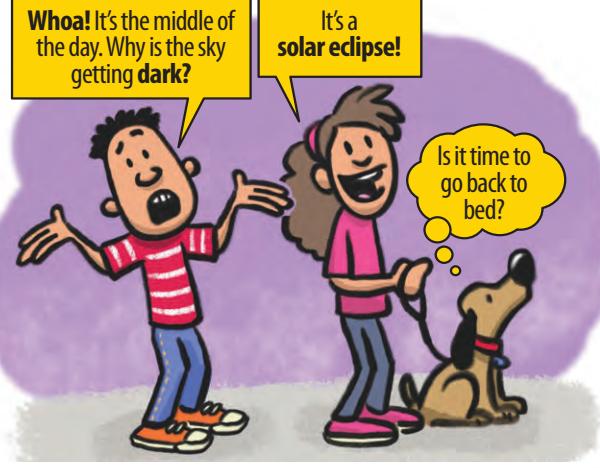
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Solar Eclipse

Imagine, it is daytime and suddenly the birds stop chirping. Animals curl up to go to sleep and the sky begins to darken. It isn't anything to worry about, though. **It's a solar eclipse!**



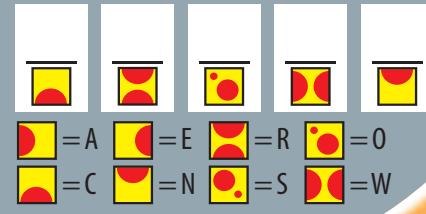
During a solar eclipse, people and animals sometimes get a little confused!

Standards Link: Describe eclipses of the sun and moon.

Surprising Corona

The sun is surrounded by a layer of gases that are hard to see until a total eclipse. This layer is called the **corona**. The corona is very dim. It's usually hard to see because the Sun is so much brighter.

During an eclipse, the corona shines around the outside of the moon's shadow. Use the code to discover what the word **corona** means.



Standards Link: Describe features of the sun.



How often does a total eclipse happen over land?

It's easiest for people to see a solar eclipse when it happens over land. Use the letters and numbers found along the correct path through the maze to reveal how often a total solar eclipse is visible on land.

Standards Link: Understand the cyclical nature of eclipses.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

SUPER COOL: During a solar eclipse, the Moon not only blocks the light of the Sun, but it also temporarily blocks the Sun's warming rays. Hold this page up to a mirror to see how this can affect the air temperature in the path of totality.



Double Double Word Search

CORONA
DARK
DIM
EARTH
ECLIPSE
LAND
LAYER
MOON
PARTIAL
PATH
SHADOW
SHINES
SOLAR
SUN
TOTAL

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Out of the Shadows

Good reporters are said to shine light on problems—to take them out of the shadows. Find a newspaper article about a problem. If the reporter hadn't written about this, would you have learned about the problem?

Standards Link: Write to express an opinion.

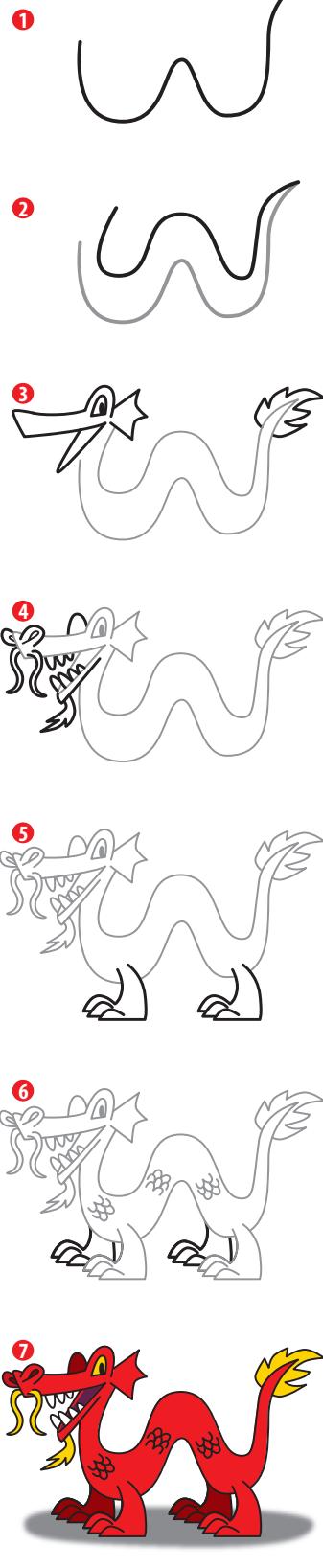


Kid Scoop Together

Did a dragon eat the sun?

In ancient China, some believed that solar eclipses occurred when a dragon ate the Sun. People would bang drums and pots and make all kinds of loud noises during eclipses to frighten the dragon away.

Draw a Dragon



FREE DOWNLOAD: Kid Scoop Teacher Activity Pack!

With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at:



kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:

SOLAR

The noun **solar** means having to do with the sun.

We will get special glasses to watch the **solar** eclipse.

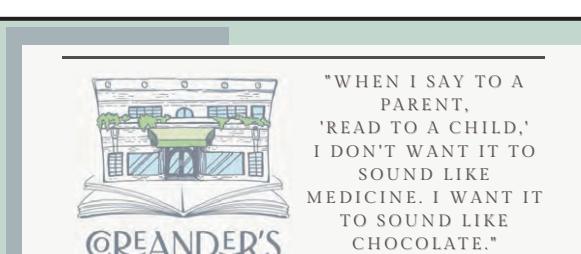
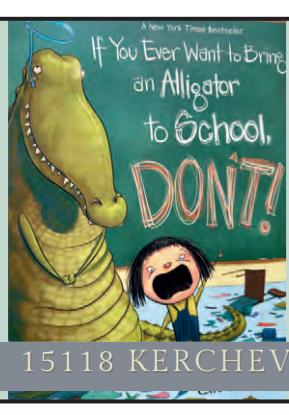
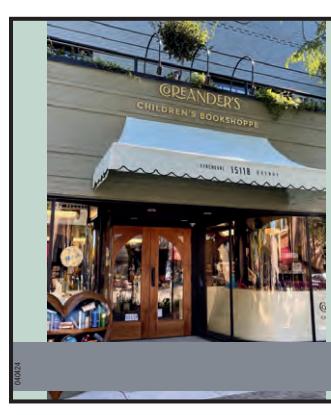
Try to use the word **solar** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On!

Sunny Person

If the Sun was a person, what would they be like?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.



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SPORTS



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Motown Madness



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Purdue and Gonzaga get ready to tip off the first of three NCAA men's basketball tournament games at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit last weekend. For more on what the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight experience in Detroit was like, see page 2D.

'Stay the course'

Spartans Ayrault rebounds from injury to earn 1st team, All-Big Ten honors

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

During a breakout season in which she averaged 15.1 points per game to lead all scorers on Michigan State University's women's basketball team, former Grosse Pointe North standout Julia Ayrault was one of only 10 players to earn first team, All-Big Ten honors last month, a distinction voted on by the media and the conference's 14 coaches.

"I think it is extremely validating," Ayrault said of the honor. "I don't know that it was something I really ever thought about happening. I was kind of more focused on the season. And I was really proud of winning games."

Ayrault's performance this season underscores both a great personal comeback and team rebound from last season. Under new head coach Robyn Fralick, MSU ended the 2023-24 campaign with a 22-7 record, a vast improvement from its 16-14 record in 2022-23.

Ayrault thrived under her new head coach, too.

Now in her first year of graduate school with one year of eligibility left, the former guard/forward accepted Fralick's suggestion in the preseason to move to center, a position known in basketball circles as "the 5."

Despite describing herself as "slightly undersized" for the position at 6 feet, 2 inches, Ayrault went on to average 7.3 rebounds per game, finished second in the Big Ten with 61 blocks and 11th in the conference in scoring. She also racked up 69 assists and scored in double figures 24 times this season.

"I played the 5 this season, so everybody was hard to guard," Ayrault said of her opponents at the position. "... They're all so talented and just big and fast. I did my best, but I definitely think there were a lot of challenges with starting a different position, trying to big body with some people for entire games."

Still, Ayrault put her team first.

"I mean, for me, it's just (about) whatever I need to do to help in any way I can."

Her season continued to progress as one full of pleasant surprises. One of the best came when Ayrault picked up a March 5 phone call from her mom, Kim.

"She was the one that called me and let me know that

I'd won (All-Big Ten)," Ayrault said. "She got to break the news to me, so that was pretty cool."

That special moment between mom and daughter was years in the making. As a freshman in 2019, Ayrault averaged 5.5 points a game. Her offensive production was better her sophomore season, where she averaged nine points a game. In 2022, her production dropped to 3.6 points per game.

But there's a story that comes along with the 2022 season — it came after she sat out her entire junior year due to

a Lisfranc ligament tear on her left foot, which occurred the third day of official practice.

Ayrault said she didn't immediately know what happened when she heard a pop in her foot while driving to the basket.

COURTESY PHOTO Michigan State's Julia Ayrault.

"I went to literally drive to the right, like I always do, and I pushed off my left foot and I felt a little pop, but I didn't know (what happened)," she said. "I honestly thought my ankle tape ripped. That's what it felt like to me."

She sat on the court for a few minutes deciding whether to remove her shoe or not.

"It felt like the tape ripped right up the middle of my foot and I just kind of sat there for a second. I thought, you know, the trainer's going to have to re-tape me. I

See AYRAULT, page 3D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Liggett's Collins stays hungry for success in senior lacrosse season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Just a few years ago, Brynn Collins probably would not have seen herself as an athlete who was on her way to competing at the collegiate level in a sport like lacrosse. Now, the University Liggett

lacrosse was a sport that had a presence within Collins' family,



COURTESY PHOTO

School senior has become one of the biggest leaders both on and off for the Knights' varsity girls lacrosse team and will be playing for Hope College soon after graduation.

However, even though lacrosse was a sport that had a presence within Collins' family, she started as an athlete more focused on other sports.

"Up until my freshman year of high school, I was always doing track and cross country. That was kind of my thing," Collins said. "I started to have some back issues, so I decided in the spring of my freshman year I would pick up lacrosse. My older brother played so I grew up around lacrosse and it seemed fun to me."

That was not Collins' first attempt at playing lacrosse. She played one season with the Neighborhood Club while in middle school, but gave it up since she did not like having to play goalie.

Collins is far from a goalie now. She plays in the midfield for the Knights, but sees herself as a very offensive-minded player.

"I definitely enjoy playing up with the offense a bit more and

being aggressive and attacking," Collins said. "I like scoring goals, but also getting assists and setting my teammates up for good plays. ... I like working off the ball and setting picks and drawing slides and dumping it off to an open player."

Collins is not afraid to take a shot on goal herself or pass the ball off to a teammate to create a play. She believes it is a testament to the chemistry she and her teammates have, especially with fellow midfielder and senior Allie Roth.

Collins has been teammates with Roth several seasons now and the two always seem to be on the same wavelength during big moments on the field.

"(Allie) usually takes the draws and she's really good at that," Collins said, "and we have great chemistry together and can always pass to each other and know that the other person will be able to catch the ball and create a chance to score."

That strong team chemistry has helped make Collins and many of her teammates better players and friends.

Those kinds of connections are what Collins hopes will lead the Knights to success this

spring and what she is looking for at the next level.

Collins is signed to play NCAA Division III women's lacrosse at Hope College after she graduates from Liggett. Her future Flying Dutch teammates already have a strong bond, as Collins saw while getting to know the team on her visit, and it is that type of comradery she is excited to be part of.

"I first started talking

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Liggett senior Brynn Collins is signed on to play women's lacrosse at Hope College next year.

Best of Brynn

- 2023 CHSL All-League
- Signed to play lacrosse at Hope College
- Member of Liggett varsity girls lacrosse team since freshman year

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2D | SPORTS

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

to the coach around this time last spring and I visited then, too," she said. "It really checked all the boxes. I loved

how close it was to the lake and the campus and, of course, the team and the great chemistry they have. The coach has a big vision for the program."

Clearly, the coaches at Hope see Collins as

part of that vision. Her current coach with the Knights can see it too, knowing that one of the team's senior leaders will be going on to a bright future.

"Brynn works extremely hard and it shows in her game," Liggett varsity girls lacrosse coach Amanda Amine said. "She is completely fluent with using both hands on the field which is often not the case at the high school level. Brynn is an excellent teammate and leads by example and I know she is going to have an awesome senior season for our team this spring. Hope women's lacrosse is very fortunate to be gaining a great player and person next year."

Collins' senior season with Liggett begins Thursday, April 4, with a home game against Eisenhower. Before the spring is over and she plays her final game in a Knights jersey, she hopes to help lead her team to a Catholic League championship and a deep run in the playoffs.

This spring also will serve as one more



COURTESY PHOTOS



Collins was named CHSL All-League in 2023.

Collins joined the Knights' girls lacrosse program as a freshman.

opportunity for Collins to hone her skills before going on to the college level. What that means, for her, is continuing to be more assertive on the field and encouraging to her teammates.

"Last year, my confidence wasn't as high, but this year I think I've really developed as a player," Collins said. "I know my role and know to be more aggressive and attack

the ball. ... We have a lot of great athletes on our team and I just want to work with them all to make our lacrosse skills better together."

Nominate!

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, scan the QR code at right. Or visit our website grossepointrnews.com/athlete-of-the-week/



I SAY — SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

Sports spotlight shines on Detroit, Purdue's Edey during March Madness



favored Michigan State to go to the Sweet Sixteen.

This time, the arena hosted the Sweet Sixteen itself, along with the Elite Eight, in what was an exciting weekend of basketball. I was in attendance last Friday night for the two Sweet Sixteen games between Purdue and Gonzaga and Tennessee and Creighton.

The first matchup, where Purdue took on Gonzaga, felt like a Purdue home game. All four fan bases were well represented in Detroit, but the Boilermakers seemed to have an overwhelming majority of the support. This makes sense, as Purdue was the closest school to Detroit geographically.

It was almost impossible to look anywhere

in downtown Detroit this weekend without seeing Purdue black and gold. Out of the other schools, I would say Tennessee was the next most well-represented.

As someone with a Tennessee alumni in the

family, that was nice to see, but Purdue fans were still the most numerous and the loudest.

I am all for being passionate as a fan. That's how I live my life when it comes to Detroit sports or my Syracuse Orange. Purdue fans were almost on another level. I respect how they

have heard them complain about Purdue basketball many times this season, and largely for one reason — Zach Edey.

It is hard to deny

Edey's skill. Standing 7 feet 4 inches tall, he is an absolute monster on the court and seeing him in person instead of on TV really puts that into

easy shot. If the shot doesn't go in, then the odds are he will get another chance at the free throw line anyway.

Defending Edey is almost impossible, and most of the time all defenders can do is try to hack away at him, which in turn nearly always seems to result in a foul. However, that does not seem to go both ways. There were many times this weekend where Edey was playing defense pretty physically, and did not seem to get called for the same fouls on defense that other defenders do while going against him on the other side. This has been noticed a lot not just during this tournament, but during the entire season, and has caused fans across the country to now be rooting for anyone but Purdue.

With 27 points from Edey, Purdue moved on to the Elite Eight with a 12-point win over Gonzaga. Later in the night on Friday, Tennessee knocked off Creighton 82-75, which busted my bracket since I had the Blue Jays in

the Final Four, to set up a date with the Boilermakers in the Elite Eight on Sunday.

Edey finished with 40

points on Sunday as Purdue took down the Volunteers 72-66 to go to the Final Four for the first time since 1980.

Once again, Edey garnered all the attention and almost all of the boos from anyone who was not a Purdue fan.

Now, the stage for the Final Four is set. Purdue emerged from Detroit as champions of the Midwest region, and now head to Phoenix where they will meet

Cinderella story North Carolina State in the Final Four.

NC State is one of my school's ACC rivals, but after what I witnessed here in Detroit this weekend, I have to be

rooting for the Wolfpack against the Boilermakers. My bracket is busted anyway, so why not root for the underdogs.

I did have UConn winning it all though, and they are still in it, facing Alabama in the Final Four.

That means that I still have to root for the Huskies above all, because sometimes picking the favorite has to pay off, right?

As for sports fans here in Michigan, it will not be too long before we get to see the Final Four come back to the Mitten.

Ford Field is set to host the event in 2027, giving the city of Detroit the Final Four for the first time since 2009. So,

around this time three years from now, our state will once again host the madness. That might feel far away, but after what we saw this weekend at LCA, you can already bet that it will not disappoint.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS 19617 HARPER AVENUE HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Harper Woods, Michigan Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers at Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Special Land Uses pursuant to Section 10-770, Section 10-643 and Section 10-653 of the Harper Woods, Michigan Zoning Ordinance:

1. 19616 Kelly Road - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district, and
2. 20760 Harper Avenue - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district, and
3. 20330-20340 Harper Avenue - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Planning Commission c/o Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk, City of Harper Woods, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225.

POSTED: April 4, 2024

PUBLISHED: April 4, 2024

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City

795 Lake Shore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236
313-881-6565

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m., on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024** before the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, Council Chambers at 795 Lake Shore Rd.

• The petitioner at 44 Renaud Rd. is requesting a Variance for a 6 foot set-back instead of a 10 foot set-back as required.

• The petitioner at 840 Lake Shore Rd. is requesting a Variance to eliminate installation of a pool safety fence along the rear property line that abuts Lake St. Clair.

Plans of the proposed projects are available for your viewing at the Office of the City Clerk, 795 Lake Shore Road, during normal business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Bruce Nichols,
City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 4/4/24

AYRAULT:

Continued from page 1D

just kind of ... flipped over onto my foot and kind of sat there for a second and I was kind of like, uh oh, it doesn't feel right."

In short order, doctors diagnosed Ayrault with a Lisfranc tear, an injury most commonly seen in the sports world among football players. It's named after French

surgeon Jacques Lisfranc de St. Martin, who served in Napoleon's army in the 1800s. He observed soldiers injuring their midfoot when it got stuck in a horse's stirrup during a fall.

Some athletes can strain the Lisfranc ligament, which usually heals in roughly eight weeks. But when it's torn, the bones shift out of place. Surgery is required and recovery times range from four months to up to a year.

Ayrault ultimately underwent two surgeries, the first of which used screws to stabilize the ligament. The second came months after she rehabilitated herself back to full strength when doctors determined the screws needed to come out.

She found herself back at square one, facing another grueling rehab. She took another step back when she had a stress reaction, returning her foot into a boot for the third time during her recovery.

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finally returned to full strength in 2023-24, only to put together the best season of her career.

She credits the staff who helped her get back to full strength physically, as well as sports psychologist Dr. Molly McQueary, MSU's director of student-athlete wellness.

"I think I definitely got to a place of, 'Hey, am I going to be able to continue doing this?'" Ayrault said. "And I actually would definitely shout out Dr. Molly. ... She helped me tremendously just with the mental hump of kind of getting over those things and persevering through all of that. And I think

of belief in myself and kind of what I could do and what my body could do," she said.

Ayrault's mind/body struggles after her injury are not unprecedented in the world of college athletics. According to a National Institutes of Health study, 23.7 percent of college athletes showed clinically rele-

"I honestly could go on and on about Coach Fralick," Ayrault said.

"She's a tremendous leader. She's a tremendous mom. ... She's all

around just a really great person."

Ayrault said Fralick's focus on getting to know each player and treating each one on a personal level paid dividends this season.

"The second she stepped on campus, her No. 1 priority was, 'OK, I'm ready. I want to dive into you guys. I want to get to know each of you individually as human beings.'

Then we can worry about the basketball part later."

Ayrault said the relationship building between player and coach helped build immediate trust in her new coach.

"She didn't know any of us, but as soon as we met her, she was like, 'I believe in you. I know you're capable of doing really great things.'

"And I think obviously a lot of confidence comes within yourself, but I think she did a really good job of making us feel super confident as well," Ayrault added.

That budding confidence and trust in Fralick led Ayrault to make the switch to center.

"A new staff created a new environment. And I think everyone kind of bought into that and was really willing to kind of make adjustments and try new things. And I think it ended up really paying off for us for sure," she said.

And it paid off in spades throughout the season.

The Spartans beat rival



PHOTO BY RICK KIMBALL

Michigan State Spartan Julia Ayrault, pictured here in a game at the University of Michigan, beat the Wolverines twice this season.

University of Michigan to use her final year of eligibility in 2024-25.

"I think we definitely are kind of looking to build off what we did this year," she said. "I think a lot of people on the team would agree we're not satisfied. We're definitely proud of the progress we've made, but I think we definitely want to take one step further in our development and get better and kill it a little bit further in the tournament."

Next May, Ayrault will leave MSU with an undergraduate degree in elementary education and a master's degree in education. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of her high school coach at North, Gary Bennett, and become a teacher. She also doesn't rule out perhaps following in the

But with another strong season, the WNBA might come knocking. That would be an opportunity too good to pass up, according to Ayrault.

"If the opportunity presented itself, I think I'd be extremely honored and would want to be in that situation," she said.

"If it's meant to be, it will happen. If not, then, you know, that's a nice chapter of life. And I think both options are really good. Honestly, I don't really know what the future holds."

Ayrault said when the time comes for her to kiss the green Spartan "S" at midcourt before her final home game next spring, she hopes her legacy will be one of high character and the importance of strong relationships.

She also said her college career, during which players hit the transfer portal at will, is one that illustrates the value of staying the course.

"I think the transfer portal is great, you know, if people are in bad situations and need to get out of it, or they need to better their situations," she said. "But that was something I was never really interested in. I always wanted to stick it out and stay the course. I felt like I was meant to be here for a reason. Whether or not it was easy or hard at times, I think that was something that was really a priority for me."

"... I hope that's something people will remember me by. Just stay in the course and trust that it's all going to work out."



PHOTO BY RICK KIMBALL

Ayrault drives past a Minnesota defender.

tournament. Ayrault had a scratch and bloodied shoulder at the end of the game to prove it. She's motivated by this season's momentum enough

coaching footsteps of Bennett and her dad, Andy, an assistant coach for women's basketball at Wayne State University.

Norsemen bond

Julia Ayrault played four years of varsity basketball at Grosse Pointe North High School under longtime head coach Gary Bennett. She still touches base with Bennett about once a week, whom she credits for launching her college career.

"I really can't even speak on how great he is," Ayrault said. "And I mean, I truly don't think I would have played college basketball if I didn't have him as a high school basketball coach."

Bennett begs to differ.

"I disagree with that," he said with a chuckle. "She was gonna play no matter what."

With each one passing along the credit for Ayrault's rise in women's basketball, their mutual admiration for one another is evident.

"He still gives me some

pointers and stuff on things I can get better at, which I really appreciate because I truly don't think I'd be here without him at all," she said. "I mean, everything he did for me throughout high school, just the way he develops players."

"...His heart is big...and just who he is as a person. Like, a lot of people see him as kind of a harder coach, but he's one of the nicest people on the planet."

Bennett said his most vivid takeaway from coaching Ayrault is how great of a teammate she is.

"That is her strength," he said. "She is so supportive, so excited when her team does well and wants to do anything she can do to encourage the team, and is upbeat and positive all the time."

Bennett recalled a time when even a missed shot by Ayrault inspired her North teammates during a state quarterfinal game against Martin Luther King her junior year.

"Everyone was nervous, but Julia told the team, 'don't worry about it. If you shoot an airball, you shoot an airball. It's gonna be OK,'" Bennett said. "And she went out and shot an airball the first shot of the game."

"But it kind of loosened everyone up. She makes everyone feel more loose and confident no matter what."

Bennett also said he has had fun watching Ayrault play for Michigan State, especially this season.

"She caused difficulty for the other teams," he said. "She shot the ball better



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Ayrault rocks North's green and gold in a 2016 game.

from the 3 this year than ever in my opinion. She was critical to their team.

"Julia needs to touch the ball," he added. "She's great at passing, sees the floor and finds her teammate. I don't know someone better at finding the open person and throwing a crisp pass."

Bennett said he loved seeing the Spartans' renewed confidence this season under their new coaching staff and credits them for "changing the whole culture into something positive."

He said he sees his former player contributing to the team's new mojo.

"She is an awesome teammate and I just can't say that enough. She brings the right kind of energy to a team."

4D | 2024 SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW



2024 Spring Sports Previews ►

MORE THAN 30 VARSITY TEAMS GEAR UP FOR NEW SEASONS

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

What do you get when you take hundreds of athletes from three local high schools, form more than 30 varsity teams and spread them across nine sports? You have the makings for one action-packed 2024 spring sports season in Grosse Pointe.

The GP News sports staff talked to the team's head coaches to get the inside scoop on what fans can expect from some of their favorite teams this season. This week, we have your pre-game prep for baseball, boys golf, boys and girls lacrosse, softball, girls soccer, girls tennis and boys and girls track and field. In the coming weeks, we'll bring you previews for boys crew, girls crew and sailing.

Baseball

HEAD COACH: DAN GRIESBAUM SR.
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 27-15, 8-6 in MAC Red, won district and regional championship and lost in the "elite eight" in the state tournament. "Last year nobody expected us to do what we did," said head coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. "It was tough to get by North and Brennan Hill and we were fortunate to do that. Then we beat Western and U of D and were within six outs of getting to East Lansing, but came up a little short."

2024 season goals: "Our goals are always the same – win the MAC and get to East Lansing (for the final four)," Griesbaum said.

Players to watch: After losing 15 seniors to graduation, Griesbaum said junior catcher Andrew DiLodovico and seniors Joey Michelotti (CF) and Jack Weigand (LF) and Jake Kozel are set to make an impact. DiLodovico will not play during the first few weeks of the season due to an injury that occurred during the team's spring training trip in Florida. The team also lost returning starter Hunter Belanger for the season due to off-season foot surgery.

"There's plenty of space for this year's players to play a major role, and that's what we are figuring out now before the MAC games start April 15. Stevenson is favored, Dakota will be good, but the whole MAC Red will be a dog fight. There will be no days off in league play."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We have very good team speed, and we will run as much as possible," Griesbaum said. "We will play good defense. The key is how quickly our pitching develops. (Assistant coach) John Hackett is entering his 31st year and he will get them going. I have full confidence our pitching will come around. We have to throw strikes and not beat ourselves and play good defense."

HEAD COACH: KEVIN SHUBNELL
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 23-12, MAC White Champions, Eliminated in district final

2024 season goals: "If your goal is something specific or to win a certain amount of games then you might fall short somewhere and feel like a failure. Our goal is to play for each other and to be the best version of ourselves come June and let the chips fall where they may."

Players to watch: Brennan Hill (Pitcher/Outfield), Rocco Cardinale (Pitcher/Outfield), Shane Armbruster (3B), Luke Sanley (2B), Bobby Rhodes (1B)

"We're going to rely heavily on our seniors and they're a very close-knit, battle-tested group."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We've tried to create a culture where these kids will play for each other, and I think especially our seniors really do that...I think that kind of culture of wanting it more for the guy next to you than for yourself is what we're after, and these kids really show that."

HEAD COACH: JAY RICCI (1ST YEAR)
University Liggett School

2023 record: 26-13, reached the state championship game, which ended in a 2-1 loss to Grand Rapids Christian

2024 season goals: "Our team goals haven't changed," said the Knights' new head coach Jay Ricci. "They are to put the work in to put us in a position to compete for a Division 2 state championship."

Players to watch: Seniors Preston Barr and Nick Greene; juniors Gary Stacy, Jackson Fetter and Andrew Johnson

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"This year's team has the potential to compete with anyone on the field. The immense amount of positivity and work ethic I have seen give the staff a lot of optimism heading into the season."

Girls Soccer

HEAD COACH: CHRIS BOLIO
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 9 wins, 6 losses and 3 ties and advanced to the district semifinal.

2024 goals: Our goal this year is to win the MAC white and our district. We have the roster to make a run this year.

Players to watch: Senior Lainey Morgan, juniors Savannah Spangler and Lila Brundage, and senior goalkeeper Elsa Bachert.

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"Fans can look forward to an exciting season," Bolio said. "We have a roster full of girls that just want to win, and will leave it all out on the field."

HEAD COACH: THALU MASINDI (1ST YEAR)
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 10-7-2, District, Regional and Division 2 state champions

2024 season goals: "Our goal is to make sure that we can be consistent from the start and be in good form and then move on to focus on the playoffs where I know many of these players have experience in those big games."

Players to watch: Amelia Streberger and Gabby Miller

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We have players who experienced last year and have gone all the way and understand soccer at the high school level, and we have some new faces coming in and I'm encouraging them to raise their bar and meet in the middle so we can have a really solid group overall."

2024 SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW | 5D

Girls Lacrosse

HEAD COACH: AMANDA AMINE
University Liggett

2023 record: 9-6

2024 season goals: We play in a tough Catholic High School division, so our main goal this season is to win the CHSL championship," said head coach Amanda Amine. "We also want to continue to grow and develop our girls lacrosse program, and have a ton of fun while doing so!"

Players to watch: Sophomores: Returning leading goal scorer and midfielder Olivia Marcero and Goaltender Madeline Unkel

Junior: Midfielder Fiona Sirens

Seniors: Midfielder Brynn Collins (she will play women's lacrosse at Hope next year), Midfielder Allie Roth, Attack Hallie Marcero, and Defender Chloe McFarlane

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"I believe our biggest strength is our overall team athleticism," Amine said. "Our midfield is very strong and I feel that our offense is going to have a lot of firepower this season. Defensively, having Madeline Unkel returning as our goaltender after starting all of last year as a freshman, is a huge advantage for us. She has worked hard in the offseason and will be a great leader for us back there."

HEAD COACH: SHAUN HAMPTON (1ST YEAR)
Grosse Pointe South

2023 Record: 9-8-1

2024 Goals: To get 1 percent better everyday
Players to watch: Lyli Hampton (2023 All-State nominee), Abby Brink (2023 All-State nominee) and senior Meg Kelly

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We are a very young team with 10 sophomores and two freshman," said rookie head coach Shaun Hampton. "The goal of the year is to come together as a team, work hard, have fun and to get 1 percent better everyday."



Boys Lacrosse

HEAD COACH: JUSTIN MACKSOUD
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 15-5 Overall (13-4 in the regular season, 4-1 in the MAC Red, and regular season league co-champions. Team also had 5 All-State players in 2023 and were regional finalists.)

2024 season goals: Earn 10 wins; repeat as MAC Red Conference champions in regular season and conference tournament; allow less than seven goals per game; win a regional championship. "And as usual, have a ton of fun doing it," Macksoud said.

Athletes/players to watch: Macksoud made mention of several players but especially highlighted senior Ryan Peabody (Faceoffs/Midfield), junior Lucas Valice (Goalie) and sophomore Jack Smith (Attack).

Players to watch: "Peabody, Valice and Smith are three of the best players at their positions in the entire state," Macksoud said. "Peabody is one of the leading faceoff men in the state and is being recruited heavily by a lot of schools for his services. Valice is in his first year as a starter, but a ton of coaches already know of how special he is from seeing him as a young middle school kid and a freshman on JV. Smith was All-State as a freshman with 43 goals and 12 assists while playing with three other All-State players on the offense in 2023. He's already the top target of every defense we will play and he has improved so much in the offseason that I can't wait to see him dominate teams this year."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We lost 15 talented seniors and a ton of All-State talent," Macksoud said. "Our rivals all think we are dead in the water this year and that we have no real players. We're never dead. We don't rebuild. We reload...and this year is no different. I feel sorry for anyone who takes a game with us this season and doesn't respect the fight that's coming to their door."

HEAD COACH: MARK SEPPALA
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 8-12, eliminated in regional semifinals

2024 season goals: "The focus every day is for each individual just to get better. Winning is fun and that's the ultimate goal, but if each player can show up every day and gain a bit of experience and get a little bit better, that's the main thing. Stay focused on the things you can control and hopefully things fall into place."

Players to watch: Joe Bar (Attack), Andrew Schaden (Attack), Massimo Todesco (Attack), Mike Rice (Midfield), Mason Andrus (Midfield), Ethan Baily (Defense), Matthew Lorelli (Defense)

"We have a lot of returning seniors who we're looking at to be the leaders of the team. There's also quite a few young players that we have high hopes for as they develop throughout the season."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"Our defense is going to be strong as far as stopping teams from scoring. We need to transition the ball up to our scorers on the attack. But our key returning strengths are in the back on defense and then up front so it can help us get that transition game working."

HEAD COACH: MIKE COSTANZO
University Liggett School

2023 record: 8-7, Eliminated in first round of regional playoffs

2024 season goals: Make it to the Catholic League final and win, compete for a regional title

Players to Watch: Ryan Cordero (Goalie), Francis Blake (Defense), Maksim Johns (Midfield), Nick Gould (Attack), Alex Gould (Attack)

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"This is such a fun team to coach because they have so much energy... We have 35 players but we're so cohesive. Every practice, there's so much energy and excitement and it makes it so much fun."



Softball

HEAD COACH: BILL FLEMING
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 23-14-1 overall, 7-5 in the MAC Blue

2024 season goals: "Each year the team chooses a motto to define our season. This year the motto is 'REACH HIGHER.' The team selected attitude, focus, and support as the cornerstone principles to help us REACH HIGHER this season. Although we had a successful season last year with 23 victories, two round robin championships, and tied for third in our league, the team wants to achieve more this season, by winning our league, winning our district and beating our cross-town rivals," Fleming said.

Players to watch: Fleming said every player on this season's roster is dedicated to making the team better with a "team first" mentality. Seniors Avery Harris, Avery Bellish and Addie Waller, along with junior Luna Agosta are expected to lead the squad on and off the field as team captains.

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We worked extremely hard in the off-season and have high expectations for this season. Each player on the roster will contribute to our success as we strive to meet our goals," Fleming said. "The team bonding and chemistry has been excellent and we are excited to get started. This dedicated group of student-athletes has set high goals for themselves this season... I am excited to see them in action. I and the rest of the coaching staff are really proud of the hard work this entire group has put in preparing for this season. With added focus and a positive attitude we are up to the challenge of achieving our lofty goals this season."

HEAD COACH: RON SMITH
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 20-11, district and regional champions, advanced to Division 1 state quarterfinals

2024 season goals: Win MAC Red Division, repeat as district and regional champions

"Last year, we got as far as this program has ever gotten. It had only been that far once before...We want to go that far again and further."

Players to watch: Natalie Babcock (SS), Addie Molitor (3B), Addie Wakefield (2B), Charlotte Julian (OF), Eva Borowski (IB)

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

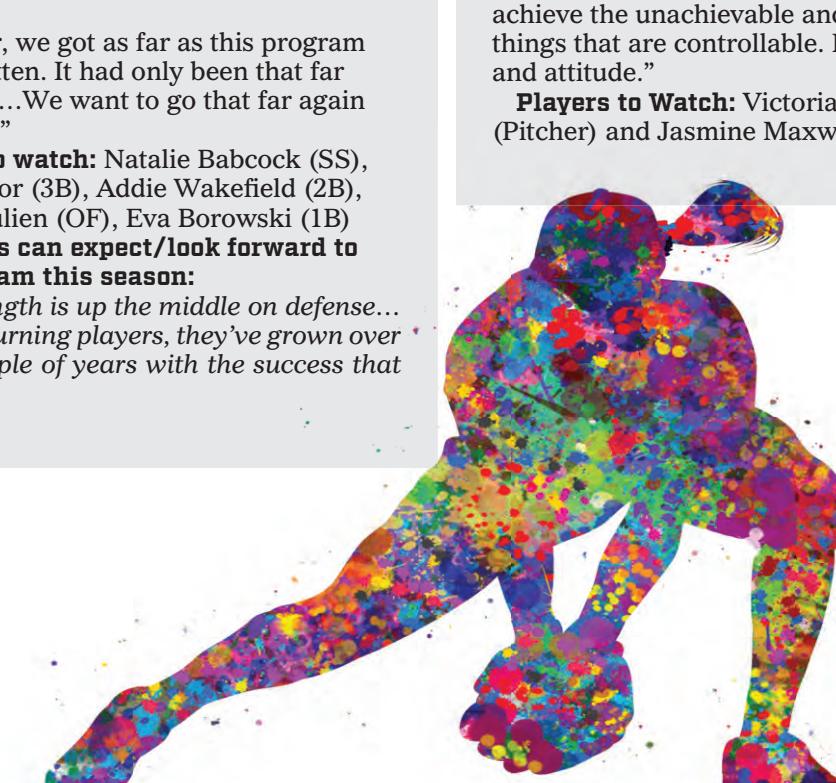
"Our strength is up the middle on defense... Also our returning players, they've grown over the last couple of years with the success that we've had."

HEAD COACH: PSAUTINA ANDREWS
University Liggett School

2023 Record: 23-5, CHSL champions and district champions

2024 season goals: "We want to think the unthinkable, believe the unbelievable, achieve the unachievable and control the things that are controllable. Effort, energy and attitude."

Players to Watch: Victoria Nugent (Pitcher) and Jasmine Maxwell (Utility)



HEAD COACH: CHRIS BOLIO
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 9 wins, 6 losses and 3 ties and advanced to the district semifinal.

2024 goals: Our goal this year is to win the MAC white and our district. We have the roster to make a run this year.

Players to watch: Senior Lainey Morgan, juniors Savannah Spangler and Lila Brundage, and senior goalkeeper Elsa Bachert.

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"Fans can look forward to an exciting season," Bolio said. "We have a roster full of girls that just want to win, and will leave it all out on the field."

HEAD COACH: THALU MASINDI (1ST YEAR)
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 10-7-2, District, Regional and Division 2 state champions

2024 season goals: "Our goal is to make sure that we can be consistent from the start and be in good form and then move on to focus on the playoffs where I know many of these players have experience in those big games."

Players to watch: Amelia Streberger and Gabby Miller

What fans can

6D | 2024 SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Girls Tennis

HEAD COACH:
JEFF COLLINS
University Liggett School

2023 record: Liggett's girls varsity tennis team is coming off an exciting 2023 season in which they qualified for the state tournament. The team had three regional singles champions and one regional doubles finalist.

2024 season goals: "Our goal is to continue to build the Liggett tennis brand," said head coach Jeff Collins. "We expect to build on the success from last season by advancing further in the state tournament. For practice and matches, we strive to 1.) have fun 2.) control the ball and 3.) never give up on a ball."

Players to watch: "Keep an eye on returning regional singles champions Alexandra Larrea, Claudia Haouilou and Nina Shanidze, as well as regional finalist Audrey DiDiO," Collins said. "The team is also strengthened by the additions of Avery Slanec and Isabella Nihem."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"The team is led by senior captains Alexandra Larrea and Harper Wallace. We have excellent senior leadership for our younger players to emulate," Collins said. "I'm impressed with the work ethic, camaraderie and team spirit of all the players. This is the recipe for a successful season."

HEAD COACH:
MARK SOBIERALSKI
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: Regional champions and top 10 finish in the state finals in Division 2.

2024 season goals: To finish in the top 10 in the state.

Players to watch: We lost only three seniors from last year's team, but two of them were first team All-Staters," said head coach Mark Sobieralski. "We return two All-Staters in sophomore Kaitlyn Strong and senior Maeve Hix. They will play No. 1 doubles together and should be one of the top teams in the state. No. 1 singles player Olivia Kowal (junior) returns and is a team captain along with Hix. Olivia's sister Charlotte comes in as a freshman and will play No. 2 singles. Their mother Jennifer played varsity for me at GPS."

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"This year we should be more balanced between our singles and doubles lineup. Our goal is to finish in the top ten in the state. We are sitting at number ten in the preseason poll."

HEAD COACH:
JOHN VANALST
Grosse Pointe North

2023 record: 5-8-2, Finished 2nd at regional and 9th at Division 2 state finals

2024 season goals: "The overall team goal this season is having a strong showing in the MAC Red and winning the regional tournament."

Players to watch: Five senior captains; Stephanie Karoutsos, Kristine Bonnell, Gianna Roux, Paige Lefevre and Maggie McSkimming. Freshman Laila Aslam at No. 1 singles.

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"The strength of our team is our experience. Many players have three or more years at the varsity level. In addition to that experience, we have some very talented young players added to the lineup."

**Boys Track & Field**

HEAD COACH: **MARK SONNENBERG**
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: The Blue Devils were an undefeated 6-0 in league competition, winning the MAC Red regular season and MAC Red tournament. The team also were Region 7 champions.

2024 season goals: Despite some talent loss due to graduation, we would like to win our league and region again, and qualify as many as possible for the state finals," said head coach Mark Sonnenberg

Athletes to watch:

Conrad Squitieri – discus, 400 meter dash and long jump
Jaiden Spratt – 200 meter dash, long jump, high jump
Onction "Ozzie" Zape – 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash
Jack Martin – 800 meter dash and 1600 meter run
Tethyan McKenzie – 800 meter dash and 1600 meter run
Jacob Page – discus, shot put

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"This team — in just a few short weeks — has already shown that they can replicate the passion and dedication that delivered them championships last year," Sonnenberg said. "There is little doubt in my mind that this crew will step up and successfully defend their 2023 titles."

HEAD COACH: **ERIC EPLIN**
Grosse Pointe North

2023 results: Finished 5th in MAC Red Division and 5th at regional meet, had athletes qualify for state finals in 3 events.

2024 season goals: "Compete in the MAC Red, improve and reach individual goals in each athlete's chosen event, and qualify as many athletes to the MHSAA state meet as possible."

Athletes to Watch: Reinaldo Williams, Clinton Allen and Marcus Robinson in shot put and Discus. Jaden Laster and Malcomb Ridgeway in hurdles. David Rochon and Caleb Kosek in distance. Jakub Lutoborski in long jump.

**Girls Track & Field**

HEAD COACH: **STEVE ZARANEK**
Grosse Pointe South

2023 record: 5-1, third overall in the MAC Red and state regional runner-up. Savannah Spangler qualified for the state final, giving at South the distinction of sending at least one runner to the state final for the 45th consecutive season

2024 season goals: Compete well against all MAC Red teams; challenge to win the state regional; compete at state finals in multiple events.

Athletes to watch: On the team roster of 71 athletes, top point-scoring returners include juniors Savannah Spangler and Olivia Barba; sophomore Morgan Duff and senior Morgan Deenik. Other top returners include Jaimison Diamond, Anne Wayman, Evie Wodzisz, Grace Campbell, Adelina Parakh, Chloe Caulfield, Sarah Koval and Malvina Lubanski

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"Our team is a wonderful mix of 70+ hard working young women," said head coach Steve Zaraneck. "The coaches set the expectations for everyday work at a very high level and to date, all on the team are meeting those expectations. We expect another fun, exciting season filled with great competition."

HEAD COACH: **DIANE MONTGOMERY**
Grosse Pointe North

2023 results: Finished 4th in MAC Red Division, 4th at regional meet, had athletes qualify for state finals in 4 events

2024 season goals: Qualify as many athletes as possible for the state finals and finish high in the MAC Red standings.

Athletes to watch: Team captains; Serenity Fulce (sprints), Bailey Hopko (throws), Lucie Leonhard (distance), Zofia Lutoborska (mid-distance), Sarah Westrick (hurdles, long jump, pole vault), and Dakota White (sprints, long jump). Mimi Trupiano, Dene McCall, Kimberly Walker in sprints, Nicolina Gusmano, Emily Francis, Quinn Notebaert, and Liliana Ivanaj in mid-distance, Ashlei Anatolio, Katie Madigan, and Emma Babcock in distance.

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"We have a wonderful senior class with lots of experience and they have been setting a strong example for the newer athletes."

Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

HEAD COACH: **JERMAINE CALLOWAY**
University Liggett

2023 results: Had two athletes qualify for Division 3 state finals

2024 season goals: "Last year, everybody set personal records at some point. We want that to happen again, just to let everyone know that just beyond making states or winning a medal, you can be better at the end than you were in the beginning."

Athletes to watch: Santino Cicarella, Marvin Hartfield Jr., Jermaine Calloway Jr., Colette Peabody, Olivia Jacques and Kelsey Beckett

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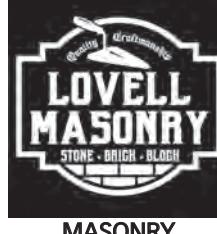
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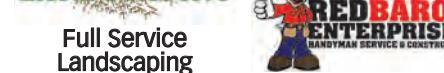

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