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Grosse Pointe News

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

EERV grant bigger than expected

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's mid-morning Friday, April 12, and Grosse Pointe's Congressman Shri Thanedar is answering the telephone in his Washington, D.C., office on Independence Avenue across from the Capitol Building.

Ring, ring.
"Hello?"
"You're answering your own phone?"

"We just did some voting," Thanedar said. "And I'm going to go back and vote some more. I don't miss votes because when issues are of importance to my con-

stituents, I don't want to be missing in action." Thanedar is at the center of obtaining federal funds for flood protection in the Park.

He announced earlier in the week approval of a \$1,666,279 federal grant to assist construction of the city's extreme emergency relief valve. The \$2.8 million valve, installed recently at Patterson Park, is designed to divert excess storm water to Lake St. Clair rather than backing through the sewer system into thousands of basements, as happened during heavy rains in summer 2021.

See GRANT, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

This painting from Titus Kaphar's "From a Tropical Space" collection has drawn criticism from students and parents at Grosse Pointe North High School.

Painting at North met with complaints

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A large painting by renowned artist Titus Kaphar installed earlier this month in the lobby of Grosse Pointe North High School has led to controversy, particularly among black students and parents.

The artwork, which stands 6 feet, 8 inches tall by 6 feet wide, depicts a black woman standing in a bedroom holding a baby under each arm. The babies, however, have been removed from the canvas, leaving only their outline.

The painting is from the personal collection of Sean and Nancy Cotton

and for two years was on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts until June 2023.

Sean Cotton is president of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education and owner of the Grosse Pointe News.

"I'm waiting to hear

See PAINTING, page 9A

Monteith mini survey

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — As the Grosse Pointe Public School System readies its comprehensive community outreach survey, a much smaller survey is planned for a specific subset of the district.

Parents of fourth grade students at Monteith Elementary School will be getting the survey as the district's administration continues examining its transfer policy. GPPSS currently does not allow students in kindergarten through eighth grade to change schools. High school students are allowed to transfer under limited circumstances.

"We don't have enough data to make a decision, so this is one way to start collecting some," Superintendent Andrea

See SURVEY, page 10A

Giarmo is 2023 City officer of the year

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — It'd be difficult to find a page within the City public safety department's annual report of crime statistics and accomplishments that doesn't contain a mention of Officer Austin Giarmo, who as a result, has been named the City of Grosse Pointe 2023 officer of the year.

"I'm very honored and proud, especially because there's so many deserving officers that work in our department," Giarmo said. "It's a great accomplishment, but it really is an entire department award, because I couldn't do anything without the guys I work with."

In his three years with the department, Giarmo has

See OFFICER, page 8A



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Director John Alcorn, left, presents Officer Austin Giarmo with his many awards for 2023, during Monday night's council meeting.

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Pointer of INTEREST



James Cooper
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Retired Grosse Pointe history teacher

See story, page 4A



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Farms officers Cashion, Zielinski promoted

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Just two years since returning to duty following a traumatic accident in 2017, Farms Officer Veronica Cashion was promoted to the rank of sergeant during a ceremony before city council and a room packed with fellow officers, friends and family Monday, April 8.

Cashion initially came to the Farms in 2012, bringing a combined eight years of experience with the Detroit Police Department — where her husband, Jim, currently serves as a lieutenant — and the Harper Woods Police Department.

She led the Pointes' Shop with a Cop program — raising money

and coordinating officers from various departments to take students with physical and mental disabilities on a shopping spree at Christmastime — which earned her a community service award, until she was struck by a vehicle in 2017, while walking out of her gym. Cashion suffered extensive damage to her neck, spine and pelvis, requiring shoulder surgery and staples in her head, as well as preventing her from remaining an officer.



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

“In 2019, she asked if she could return as a part-time dispatcher while continuing her rehabilitation, with the ultimate goal of return-

ing to be a PSO,” Farms Public Safety Director John Hutchins said. “With a lot of hard work and support from her husband, Veronica was

The room is all smiles as Veronica Cashion’s husband, Jim — himself a Detroit police lieutenant — momentarily struggles to pin her sergeant badge. Right, is Director John Hutchins.

cers. “We recognize Veronica’s promotion to the rank of public safety sergeant this evening, as well as being one of the best comeback stories we have seen in our profession.”

Serving as a sergeant since 2019, the ceremony also saw Officer Frank Zielinski promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Zielinski joined the Farms department in 2000, bringing experience from the Hamtramck Police Department and Wayne County Jail.

“During the course of his career, Frank has earned several citations and commendations, as well as serving as the Special Response Team

See PROMOTE, page 4A

GRANT:

Continued from page 1A

The grant is nearly 70 percent more than the \$1,050,000 Thanedar forecast in February.

“The flood issue is a problem across my district,” he said. “I have made flood relief and low-income housing as a couple of my priorities.”

“This is the result of relationships and working collaboratively,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “The congressman was willing to listen to us. He acted in a very impactful way on our behalf.”

“It’s a health issue,” said Thanedar, sworn to a freshman term in January last year. “Even before I took my oath of office, I saw firsthand the damage flooding is creating. We cannot afford to have homes flooding, our seniors being exposed to health hazards.”

Park voters last year approved a 10-year millage to raise a total \$17 million for water and sewer system improvements. In 2020, the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation donated \$130,000 to jumpstart construction of the

EERV’s sluice gate, a custom-made component that opens and closes to control the amount of flood water being diverted.

“The whole district is sitting on old infrastructure,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. “It’s a huge issue. We in the Park have taken a proactive stance, but at the same time, because it’s a regional issue, the work we’re doing is part of a regional solution.”

Although the relief valve is designed to have greatest impact on the Park, diverting flow also takes pressure off the regional sewer system that serves numerous eastside communities from Macomb County to Detroit.

“It’s of benefit to everybody,” Wiener said of the valve. “Congressman Thanedar bringing resources and attention to it is a benefit to the whole district.”

“We see ourselves as part of the region and it’s important to work collaboratively,” Hodges said. “These grant dollars buy us time to find long-term solutions for infrastruc-

ture so our basements aren’t the retaining source (for floodwater).”

The Park received the third highest of 15 grants totaling \$15 million in Community Project Funding that Thanedar obtained for cities throughout his district, ranging from flood mitigation in Ecorse to replacing lead water service lines in three cities, including Detroit.

“I wanted to make sure the federal money we’re bringing is uniformly dispersed across my district,” he said. “This is not the only money we’re bringing. We brought close to \$2 billion on my watch for infrastructure, roads and bridges, water-sewer systems and lead removal.”

Thanedar explained the Park’s situation in a March 21 letter to Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, subcommittee chairman on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies:

“In June 2021, over 3/4 of all Grosse Pointe Park homes flooded due to a 8-inch storm event that equated to a 1,000-year storm event. Ninety percent of the city is disconnected, unfortunately we

are tied to a line that is connected to combined communities and our flow goes down to Connor and Freid plants at the GLWA which was overwhelmed in the June storm event.”

Park officials haven’t registered the grant in the city’s financial records.

“As we’re going into our budget for the next fiscal year, we’re not going to put any of that money into the budget until we actually receive confirmation from the appropriate federal department where the money’s coming from and how we can spend the money,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

“We are hopeful to have that information soon so we can incorporate it into budget discussions,” Hodges said.

“Hopefully, it’s fungible and goes right into the EERV construction payment, but we’re not spending a dime of it until we know how we can use it,” Wiener said. “We’ve done some diligence and looked at comparable grants other cities have gotten. So, we’re mapping out a couple ways it could be allocated.”

It’s rare for the Pointes to be awarded significant federal or state grants, which often are prioritized for communities struggling financially.

“The fact that Congressman Thanedar went to bat for us has been hugely beneficial for us as a city,” Wiener said. “Historically, we



COURTESY PHOTO

While the 26-foot-tall Spirit of Detroit statue outside Detroit city hall appears to look up Woodward Avenue in anticipation of the NFL draft, April 25 to 27, three Grosse Pointe Park officials attend Congressman Shri Thanedar’s April 8 announcement of the suburb being approved to receive a \$1,666,279 federal grant for construction of the extreme emergency relief valve. From left are Mayor Michele Hodges, Congressman Thanedar, City Manager Nick Sizeland and Councilman Max Wiener.

don’t get a lot in Grosse Pointe Park. We’re grateful. He deserves all the credit in the world.”

“As a small business guy, I can’t bear to see all this federal dysfunction,” said Thanedar, a chemist and entrepreneur. “I’m trying to help my constituents through that and bring money to the district. I’m just doing the job they hired

me for.” He added, “A lot of politics is emotions and demonizing the other side. But, to me, it’s about working together and making a difference. As a small business person that had to make payroll every two weeks, I’m pragmatic.”

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Mental health focus of second veterans seminar

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — For its second veterans education seminar of the year, The War Memorial invites veterans Thursday, April 25, to learn of support opportunities and professional help that exists for suicide prevention and those looking to recover from alcohol use.

Led by representatives for Volunteers of America Michigan and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the seminar will begin at 12:15 p.m. and is preceded by an 11:30 a.m. lunch.

“It’s important for us to really talk about mental health and suicidality in the veteran space, because historically, it’s very much a male-dominated field,” said Diandra Gourlay with Volunteers of America Michigan. “Men don’t typically want to

talk about their feelings and in the military, there’s also a feeling of, ‘Don’t talk about it,’ as well, so that loneliness and isolation is really a key indicator of why we see higher suicide rates with the veteran population.”

Gourlay’s portion of the seminar will focus on the VOA’s SERV program, which launched a year and a half ago and stands for Suicide Prevention, Engagement and Referral for Veterans. Through the program, a case manager will help identify the challenges in a veteran’s life causing suicidality, such as lack of childcare, sustainable employment or connection to community and resources; work with the veteran to develop a plan to tackle the issues individually and connect the veteran with needed resources; and invite the

See VETERANS, page 5A

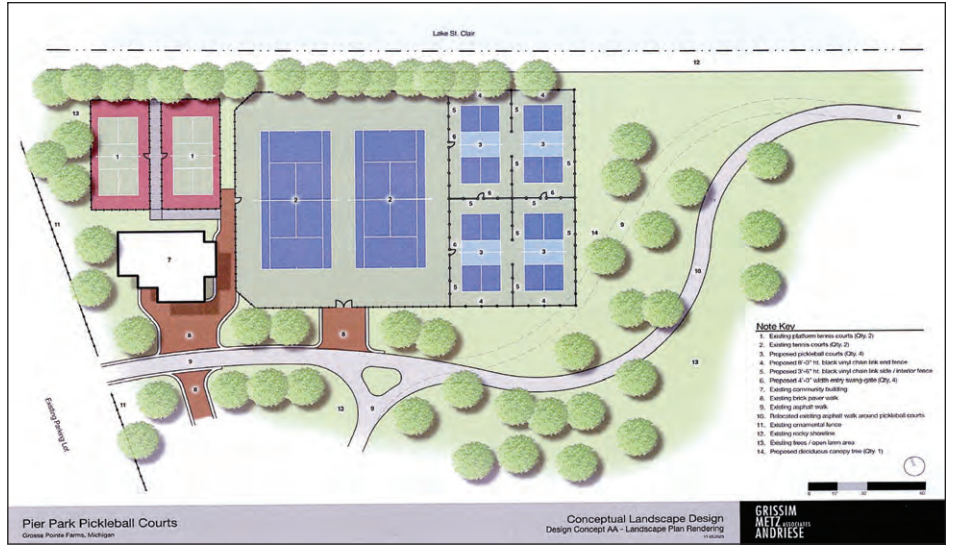
Pier Park pickleball courts to open late June

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — “We want them to get started as early as they can,” City Manager Shane Reeside said of the company selected to construct four new pickleball courts at Pier Park, set to be completed Wednesday, June 26.

“It will be completed prior to the Fourth of July weekend,” Reeside added. “We’re optimistic. If things go well, it could be sooner than that. If weather’s an issue, it could be later than that, but I think it’s a realistic schedule.”

Farms city council unanimously approved a \$262,225 contract — the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation has committed \$100,000 — with Best Asphalt Inc., Monday, April 8, for the construction of four pickleball courts, resurfacing of two tennis courts, new fencing that will be half the current tennis court height and relocation of the asphalt pathway to



COURTESY RENDERING

The project will replace one of the three Pier Park tennis courts with four permanent pickleball courts, while additionally resurfacing the remaining two tennis courts, installing new fencing and shifting the asphalt walkway further from the lake to create more usable greenspace.

create more usable greenspace along Lake St. Clair.

A second bid for the project, presented to council by Gibraltar Construction Co., came close to double the price point at \$457,872.

“We received two bids despite really lobbying for more bids and contacting a lot of contractors and posting on the state website,” Reeside said. “As noted by

Councilman (Lev) Wood earlier, there’s a huge variation in the bid amounts; however, we’ve reviewed the bid amounts and discussed it with our consulting firm, Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, and we feel confident that Best Asphalt Inc., has met the bid requirements.”

Pier Park will lose one of its three tennis courts through the project;

however, the third court has exclusively been used as a temporary pickleball court the last two years and is reserved at nearly twice the rate of the two remaining tennis courts. In 2023, pickleball was rated the fastest-growing sport in America for the third year running, according to research by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

TIFA:

Continued from page 1A

utilized by the owner-occupied community.”

TIFA board members unanimously approved terms subject to city council approval of the TIFA budget.

Although applications soon will be available at city hall or posted on the municipal website, grants aren’t issued until the new fiscal year begins July 1.

“No payments will be made until after July 1,” Rothe said. You can’t get two (grants) in one year. If you apply in July for the fiscal-year 2025 program, you can’t apply in September for the same program. No double dipping.”

TIFA board members incrementally increased the grant budget in recent years from \$60,000 to the upcoming \$100,000.

“This program (has) been a boon to the northwest sector, a vibrant (and) trendy sector,” said Jim Robson, a TIFA board member and former councilman.

“The primary thrust of government is to protect the tax base,” Mayor

Michele Hodges said. “We owe that to our residents, as well, to keep growing our property values and the quality of builds. It also helps our bond rating.”

Grants are so well-liked that last year’s overflow of around 18 applicants doubled the total number of successful applicants two years earlier.

“Given its ever-increasing popularity, I wouldn’t be surprised if we have over 25 applications by the middle of June,” Rothe said.

Rothe and the municipal building inspector review each application.

“(Applicants) are getting assigned a number (this year) depending on when they come in,” Rothe said. “They’ll know exactly where they stand in line.”

Growing participation also is due to expanded eligibility. Originally an incentive to improve off-street parking facilities by funding construction of new or larger concrete pads off alleys, plus upgrade garages or replace dilapidated ones with pads, grants were expanded last year to include fence repairs and replacements.

Eligible

Those kinds of improvements and more are eligible for fiscal year 2025:

- ◆ front and rear façade improvements, such as porches, overhangs, railings and stairs;
- ◆ side façades that are “visible to the public eye,”
- ◆ enhanced front entryways,
- ◆ aesthetic improvements, such as awnings;
- ◆ fencing along alleyways or street-side yards,
- ◆ painting, if a component of comprehensive façade improvement, and
- ◆ doors and windows, if part of overall façade improvements.

“We get a pretty good variety of requests,” Rothe said.

“We have to get porches (and) garages fixed,” Robson said. “A lot of fences need to be

repaired. This is a marvelous incentive.”

“On top of that, the city intends to pave two more alleys in the upcoming road budget,” Rothe said. “I don’t know which ones.”

Ineligible

Not eligible for grants are regular and “general maintenance items that are part of normal property ownership,” such as:

- ◆ roofs,
- ◆ tuck pointing,
- ◆ driveway or sidewalk replacement,
- ◆ parking lot construction,
- ◆ installation of vinyl or aluminum siding,
- ◆ mechanical systems, landscaping, murals, interior renovations or repairs of building code or other violations and
- ◆ labor costs, whether by contractors or do-it-yourselfers.

The authority is funded by property taxes generated within the TIFA district — bounded by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development

Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham — and are to be spent for the benefit of the TIFA district.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, APRIL 22

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
 ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education workshop, 5:30 p.m.
 ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

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Once and always a teacher

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

James Cooper charted a career in education while cooling his heels in a commie jail cell.

It happened following graduating from the University of Michigan during the mid-1980s.

"I was traveling in Europe," Cooper said. "It was the hipster thing to do. I was in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, hanging out near the U.S. embassy. Yugoslavia was on the edge of a brutal civil war. The secret police were everywhere."

They rousted Cooper and found a container of what they later learned was white laundry powder in his travel bag.

"They took me to their precinct and put me in a cell," Cooper said.

Although a detainee, he was still a tourist and did what tourists do. He pulled out his Instamatic camera and snapped a picture of himself.

"I refer to it as the real first selfie — cell-fie — ever," Cooper said. "The secret police released me explaining this would be a good time to leave Yugoslavia. I agreed and left on a 3 a.m. train to Budapest. Oddly, this experience and the civil rights struggle in the U.S. led me to become a teacher."

While teaching advanced placement United States history at Grosse Pointe South High School, Cooper recounted the past while eyeing the future.

"I always felt like history was a big deal, a platform to use going forward," he said.

He didn't romanticize the old days.

"I often think past times were more simple, easier, more clear cut,"



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES COOPER

James Cooper commands varying levels of attention while coaching the Grosse Pointe South High School sailing team.

Cooper said. "That's false. Nostalgia generally is a defense mechanism that occurs because of anxiety or sadness of present situations. We should be careful not to get lost in it. It's like worrying. Willie Nelson used to say worrying is like a rocking horse — it's something to do, but it gets you nowhere."

Cooper is retired. "I was proud that 84 percent of my AP students earned college credit on their AP board exams," he said. "That's a few thousand Grosse Pointe kids and families who achieved pretty good things and saved some money, too. That was a solid contribution to this community and to those kids. Hard work paid off."

He also coached the school's sailing and women's golf teams.

"Both programs were successful," he said. "I started the South women's golf team."

Winning stemmed from emphasizing things other than winning.

He said, "We coached details, skills, perseverance, repetition of successful actions, process,

dedication, commitment, leadership and grace; how to be graceful in victory and defeat. Grace and class are what good sports programs teach, not winning. Winning takes care of itself if you are doing those other things. And it did. So many quality young minds picked up a golf club or rigged a sailboat."

Each set of new students carried qualities of those before.

"Students are still funny, still nervous, still anxious, super energetic, inspiring and smart," Cooper said.

Most changes during his career impacted teachers, not students.

"It feels like there was about 15 years where the state was trying to dismantle public education, from teacher pay cuts to brutal teacher evaluations," Cooper said. "These were pretty degrading for us. Naturally, many have abandoned the teaching field and few are interested in replacing us. When I applied for a teaching job in Grosse Pointe Public Schools, there were over 120 applications for that posi-

tion. Today a posted job might get none or one applicant. COVID added a whole other challenge to education. I am lucky to not navigate it anymore."

Yet, the profession remains rewarding.

"Since retiring, I have been tutoring high school students in need," he said.

Cooper also volunteers as a driver for The Helm's Meals on Wheels program. His wife, Margaret, is The Helm's program coordinator.

"I always thought being a good teacher was super hard," Cooper said. "I realized there are far harder jobs in life. One is growing old. It is an honor not everyone gets, but it can really be a difficult challenge to endure alone. Growing older without means of support, or a significant other or family, is a mountain of challenge. It can be debilitating, literally. So I bring warm meals to those in need once a week."

A variation on Cooper's teaching career is working for Viking Cruises' Detroit excursion program.

"The company allowed me to pick some amazing Detroiters and some terrific retired teachers from Grosse Pointe as guides, like Tammy Duffield from Brownell, or super historian Terri Steimer from Grosse Pointe North and film buff Detroit historian John Monaghan from South," Cooper said.

Tour highlights are the Ford Rouge Plant, Henry Ford Museum, Motown Museum Hitsville USA and Pewabic Pottery.

One constant in his life is sailing. He skips a J/111-class sloop named Freedom.

"I remember sailing in

a Chicago to Mackinac race on Freedom in 2012," Cooper said. "In the middle of the night, heavy fog, no wind, we were ghost walking over the water. South graduate Scott Partridge, his father and I were on watch."

The compass registered a northern course. Yet, the global positioning system showed the boat backing south at 1.5 knots.

"There was a strange lapping of water on our transom," Cooper said. "We finally realized that we were going backwards (in) a current. We laughed so hard. We took second overall that year. I could go on forever about golf and sailing. I still teach adult sailing at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club."

Cooper knows what he and his family will be doing this summer.

"Our summers are spent on the water, trying to figure out how to harness this wind and enjoy the great Michigan summer weather," Cooper said. "It's fun. This summer my son, Bobby, will ride in his first Bayview to Mackinac race. I'm proud that we can share this experience like my father and I did."



A family trip to Utah deserves a selfie. From left are James Cooper, son Robert, wife Margaret and daughter Lauren.

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024 CITY PROPERTY TAXES AND 2024-2025 BUDGET

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, 313-885-5800, will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2024 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Offices, 17147 Maumee Avenue, on the proposed 2024 City tax levy and on the proposed 2024-2025 City budget. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection during regular business hours in the office of the City Clerk beginning May 3, 2024.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Public comments, oral or written, are welcome at the public hearing on the proposed millage rate and the proposed City budget.

Christopher Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 4/18/24

CITY OF HARPER WOODS CITY COUNCIL MUNICIPAL BUILDING HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harper Woods will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on the Creation of a Special Assessment District to Defray the Costs to Continue the Maintenance and Operation of Police and Fire Protection for the City of Harper Woods.

1. The estimate of the costs and expenses of the police and fire motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment, housing and police and fire protection to be defrayed by an annual levy on the lands and premises within the special assessment district. The estimate of costs and expenses is estimated to be in excess of \$4,000,000.
2. The creation of a special assessment district consisting of all of the lands and premises within the municipal boundaries of the City of Harper Woods.

Residents who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their written comments regarding this matter to the City Clerk's office prior to the hearing date.

LESLIE M. FRANK
City Clerk, City of Harper Woods

POSTED: April 16, 2024
PUBLISHED: April 18, 2024



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Frank Zielinski's wife, Rita, and daughter, Fiona, pin his lieutenant badge.

PROMOTE:

Continued from page 2A

commander, FTO, FTO unit supervisor, bike officer and vehicle maintenance officer," Hutchins said, "and I'm sure I left out a few accolades."

Last year, Zielinski received a director's citation recognizing his 22 years as a member of the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team.

"He has been involved in hundreds of callouts and has served on the team as a breacher, sniper, negotiator, assistant team leader and, finally, team leader," Hutchins said at the time. "Since becoming the team leader, no gunshots were fired by team members during countless contacts with armed offenders."

The public safety promotional process is rigorous, Hutchins noted, encompassing months of study for a written exam on police and fire command, state law, budgeting, staffing, fire science, public relations, morale, discipline and leadership style; an interview including legal questions and hypothetical scenarios by a panel of chiefs from outside the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods; and promotional ratings from each supervisor within the department.

City officers recognized for 2023 efforts

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Among a number of department awards presented to City officers for their efforts in 2023, Lt. Thomas Martindale, Officer Joshua Ina and Officer Jacob Carpenter received a unit commendation for locating and reuniting a missing child with his mother.

“We got a really nice letter from Mom about

how that crew handled that after she was reunited with him,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said.

A citation was awarded to Detective Sgt. Joe Adams for his work throughout the Grosse Pointes and metro Detroit assisting other agencies with digital forensic exams, as well as to Detective Mike Narduzzi, who identified and contributed to the arrest of a statewide Lululemon and Ulta Beauty theft ring.

“Hopefully some of you are familiar with Detective Narduzzi’s name,” Alcorn said to city council Monday night. “It’s kind of been synonymous with Lululemon at this point. He brought real honor to our department.

“... The attorney general, actually during the press conference, mentioned him by name, which I don’t think you see very often, especially when there’s many agen-

See EFFORTS, page 8A

VETERANS:

Continued from page 3A

veteran to meet with a peer support specialist.

“A peer support specialist is a veteran who has also had personal experience with suicide or suicidality,” Gourlay said. “And so the peer works with the veteran in a different way than the case manager will, in that they understand what the veteran is going through. They’ve been there. They’ve walked in their shoes.”

A representative with

the VA also will dive into substance use, specifically how alcohol abuse can play into mental health challenges, to coincide with Alcohol Awareness Month.

The seminar is free, but registration is required at war memorial.org/event/calendar/11/april/veteranseminar or by using the QR code at right.

The deadline to register for the lunch portion is 5 p.m. Friday, April 19.

The next veterans

education seminar, 6 p.m. Thursday, June 27, will feature a book talk with retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Doug “Odie” Slocum about his recently released book “Violent Positivity.”



Grosse Pointe Shores

Half a dozen

A 53-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving with a suspended license after being pulled over on northbound Lakeshore near Vernier around 10 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

He’s been ticketed five previous times for the same offense. Officers initiated the stop because there was no visible license plate on the 2016 Chevy Suburban, which was impounded.

—Ted O’Neil

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

City of Grosse Pointe

One man’s trash

Three garbage cans were stolen by an unknown male from the rear of a business in the 17000 block of Mack at 8:50 p.m. Friday, April 5.

The suspect left in a gray pickup truck.

From Eve to Adam

When a customer inadvertently left her purse in a shopping cart at a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval Saturday, April 6, a 26-year-old Detroit woman stole it, allowing a 28-year-old Detroit man to use the victim’s credit cards at various locations.

An investigation led to their arrests at their home last week.

Suspended license

A 50-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving with a suspended license at 3 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, after being flagged at Cadieux and Charlevoix for an expired license plate tab and defective brake light.

Intoxicated

A 60-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving intoxicated and on a suspended license at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, after being stopped for speeding at Jefferson and University.

Turned in

A 45-year-old Detroit woman last week turned herself in for a retail fraud committed in early March at a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval. She was cited and released.

DWLS

For driving with an expired license plate and defective headlight, a 28-year-old Detroit man

was pulled over at Mack and Lincoln at 8:50 p.m. Saturday, April 13, and cited for driving on a suspended license.

Tough luck

A random license plate check at Mack and Fisher at 9:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14, revealed the driver — a 22-year-old Clinton Township woman — did not have a valid license, for which she was cited.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stolen car

A blue 2023 Dodge Demon was stolen from an open garage in the 200 block of Touraine between 11:18 p.m. Saturday, April 6, and 9:30 a.m. the next morning.

Too slow

A 23-year-old Detroit man was stopped and cited for defective equipment and driving while license suspended, as he pulled into the Mack Belle Tire parking lot at 11:50 a.m. Monday, April 8. The vehicle had a badly cracked windshield, no functioning right brake light and a flat front tire.

Honesty

A 38-year-old Detroit man freely admitted stealing a beer from a

business in the 19000 block of Mack at 5:09 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, and drinking it before officers’ arrival.

He was arrested for retail fraud.

Too slick

When asked why she was not driving her own vehicle, considering the man driving had a canceled license, a woman told officers she doesn’t like to drive in the rain.

Stopped at Kercheval and Kerby at 11:13 p.m. Thursday, April 11, the 31-year-old Detroit man driving was cited for defective equipment and driving while license not valid.

Scam

A 78-year-old Farms woman is out \$29,900 after being scammed when she was unable to log into her Charles Schwab bank account.

Resisting arrest

A 47-year-old Detroit woman yelled she was pregnant as her reason for physically resisting arrest after stealing \$172.70 worth of alcohol, cookies and fruit from a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 3:04 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

She was arrested for third-degree retail fraud, narcotic paraphernalia, resisting an officer and a misdemeanor arrest warrant.

—Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety,



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Grosse Pointe Park

Three charges

According to the weekly crime summary Park police cull from their blotter and provide the Grosse Pointe News, at 7 p.m. Monday, April 15, at the intersection of Wayburn and Hampton, “GPP PSOs responded to the (area) on a report of a woman assaulting a child. Subject found at the scene sitting in the driver seat of a vehicle, pulled on to the curb, with two young children in the rear seat. Follow-up investigation revealed the subject to be intoxicated. Further investigation revealed evidence that the subject had struck one of the

children several times causing injury. Victim taken to hospital for treatment of minor injuries.”

Officers reportedly arrested the woman, 37, of Dearborn, for drunken driving, child abuse and child endangerment.

Hit & run

At 3:34 p.m. Sunday, April 14, in the 15300 block of Jefferson, “Victim’s vehicle was legally parked on Jefferson, right wheel to curb, with the rear driver’s side door open. The suspect vehicle was east-bound Jefferson and struck the open door. The vehicle did not stop at the scene. No injuries reported.”

Police described the suspect vehicle as a gray pickup truck.

Property damage

In the 800 block of Nottingham sometime during the 24-hour period starting 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14, “Victim discovered the front passenger side window of the 2023 Ford Escape shattered by unknown means.”

—Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O’Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

New Detroit sign hardly a Hollywood moment

Sure, we have the Spirit of Detroit to represent our civic and team pride, but reactions to last week's unveiling of a new sign spelling out D-E-T-R-O-I-T to coincide with the city hosting this month's NFL Draft were pretty deflating.

The sign, which consists of seven letters and stands around 8 feet tall to spell out the city's name, was installed Tuesday, April 9, along the route from Detroit Metropolitan Airport into the city. It was intended to offer a warm welcome to the hundreds of thousands of visitors expected to arrive here for the draft, April 25 to 27.

Based on reaction on social media, the sign is a big fat flop.

"At the very least they could have used the Old English font," said an X user on the app formerly known as Twitter.

"Does Temu accept returns?" asked another, referring to the sign's cheap appearance.

The city actually didn't pay chump change for it, which is one of five billboard-style welcoming signs positioned around the city leading up to the draft. It was built at Fairmont Sign Co., on the city's northeast side and cost \$425,000 to make, according to an April 10 story in The Detroit News.

Gmac Cash, a Detroit rapper most famous for creating timely raps like "Belle Isle Slide," "Big Gretch" and "Lions Won Again" churned out another on-topic gem called "Detroit Sign." He released it just hours after the unveiling.

Safe to say Mr. Cash was not pleased with the results. "Man This Some BS #DETROIT," he wrote on X, along with a side-by-side photo comparing an AI-generated Hollywood-type sign compared the actual one in Detroit.

In the rap's intro, he suggests the city got the letters from Toys 'R Us.

He packed a lot of pithy commentary into his one-minute song, including:

"One thing I'ma do, I'ma state the facts/This ain't the sign that we wanted, you can take it back."

He then gripes about the inability to see the sign from a plane flying into the city before adding, "I thought our sign was gonna look like Hollywood/That's prolly why they put this b----- right by the 'hood."

He then semi-apologizes for the negativity.

"Now just keep it real, we ain't never hatin'/But I think I seen bigger signs at a graduation," before asserting the city must have gotten the letters on a discount.

He ends it by saying if the wind blows too hard it might knock the letters down.

Mr. Cash's original post on X, after which he added more posts on the topic, including a video he filmed as he sat inside the letter "O," in the sign, received thousands of likes, hundreds of reposts and hilarious replies.

"This is like Stonehenge, from 'This is Spinal Tap,'" said one user, who added two crying face emojis.

"I remember when they unveiled the Joe Louis fist. Maybe the fist can smash the sign."

"Temu had their back," quipped another.

Unfortunately, we are in lockstep with Mr. Cash and the many others who voiced their displeasure with the sign. We're calling this one a big swing and a miss, Detroit.

Hopefully there will be other ways we wow visitors coming in for the draft and they will leave knowing Detroiters' hospitality is what the real spirit of The D is all about.



Detroit rapper Gmac Cash (@GmacCash) posted this photo comparing an AI-generated sign versus the one unveiled in Detroit Tuesday, April 9.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @GMACCASH/X

GUEST OPINION By Melissa Fradenburg

5 strategic financial moves to make post-tax season

The moment you submit your tax return might feel like the end of a financial chapter, but it's actually the perfect starting point for making strategic decisions that can enhance your financial well-being. As the dust settles on this tax season, consider these five essential tips to leverage your current tax situation into a springboard for future financial growth.

1.) Adjust your tax withholdings: One of the most immediate actions you can take post-filing is to reassess your tax withholdings, especially if you faced an unexpected bill or received a large refund. Both scenarios indicate a mismatch between what was withheld from your paycheck and your actual tax liability. Adjusting your withholdings can improve your monthly cash flow, allowing for more accurate budgeting and preventing the IRS from holding onto more of your money throughout the year than necessary.

2.) Max out your retirement contributions: With your tax situation fresh in mind, it's an opportune time to evaluate your retirement savings strategy. If you're not already contributing the maximum allowed to your retirement accounts, consider increasing your contributions. Whether it's a 401(k), IRA or Roth IRA, these accounts offer significant tax advantages. And maximizing your contributions can reduce your taxable income while bolstering your retirement nest egg.

3.) Leverage tax-advantaged accounts: Beyond retirement accounts, other tax-advantaged accounts, such as Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and 529 college savings plans, offer opportunities to save money in a tax-efficient manner. Contributions to these accounts can provide immediate tax deductions or credits, grow tax-free and be withdrawn tax-free for qualified expenses. Utilizing these accounts fully can be a cornerstone of a savvy finan-

cial plan.
4.) Embrace tax loss harvesting: For investors with taxable accounts, tax loss harvesting is a strategy that involves selling investments at a loss to offset capital gains taxes. While it may seem counterintuitive to sell assets at a loss, strategically doing so can lower your tax bill and reinvest the proceeds in a way that positions your portfolio for potential future growth. This strategy requires careful consideration and timing, making the post-tax season an ideal time for evaluation.

5.) Optimize your tax refund: Finally, if you're receiving a tax refund, resist the temptation to view it as a windfall. Instead, consider using it to pay down high-interest debt or bolster your emergency fund. Both moves can provide a solid return on your investment by saving you on interest payments or providing a financial buffer in case of unexpected expenses.

The period following tax filing should not be a passive time. Instead, it's a golden opportunity to make adjustments and decisions that can significantly impact your financial future. By taking stock of your tax situation, adjusting withholdings, maximizing contributions to retirement and other tax-advantaged accounts, employing strategies like tax loss harvesting and wisely allocating any refund, you can set the stage for improved financial health and prosperity. Remember, the best time to plan for the next tax season — and your future — is now.



Melissa Fradenburg, AIF®, CDFA® is a financial advisor, podcast host and active community member in Grosse Pointe. Follow her on social media @money_do_list or reach out (313)290-2602. Antonelli Financial Advisors offers fee-only, discretionary investment management and wealth advisory services tailored to meet the client's financial needs and investment objectives.

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

April 18 - 24



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
67° 51°	63° 41°	55° 36°	56° 32°	61° 45°	63° 43°	62° 44°
Mostly Cloudy	Morning Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 6:45 am SUNSET 8:17 pm	SUNRISE 6:43 am SUNSET 8:18 pm	SUNRISE 6:42 am SUNSET 8:19 pm	SUNRISE 6:40 am SUNSET 8:20 pm	SUNRISE 6:39 am SUNSET 8:22 pm	SUNRISE 6:37 am SUNSET 8:23 pm	SUNRISE 6:36 am SUNSET 8:24 pm

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

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

Science catching up with scripture



Oct. 30, 1207 BC, providing one possible scientific explanation for a Bible story colloquially known as “Joshua’s Long Day.”

Recorded in Joshua 10:12-13, “Then Joshua spoke to the Lord on the day when the Lord handed over the Amorites to the sons of Israel, and Joshua said in the sight of Israel, ‘Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.’ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation (of Israel) took vengeance upon their enemies. Is it not written in the Book of Jashar? So the sun stood still in the middle of the sky and was in no hurry

to go down for about a whole day.”

Not only can the Israelites be placed in Canaan at the time of the 1207 BC eclipse by independent Egyptian evidence inscribed on a granite block — today, in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo — the original Hebrew biblical text plausibly could be translated to imply the sun and moon, rather than stopping, ceased their normal functions. Further, the occurrence of an eclipse would have caused a double-dusk effect, which ancient Israelites could have interpreted as extra day time.

An in-depth explanation of this theory can be

found in a research article titled, “Solar eclipse of 1207 BC helps to date pharaohs,” published in the journal *Astronomy & Geophysics* in 2017, by Colin Humphreys with the University of Cambridge and Graeme Waddington, an astrophysicist and independent scholar.

Of course it is equally as likely the events in Joshua 10 are describing a scientifically unexplainable miracle; however, it is fascinating to witness in real time how science, at some point, tends to catch up to biblical truth.

For instance, Job 26:7 — which may be the earliest written book in the Bible — says, “He (God)

stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the Earth upon nothing.”

Comparatively, the prevailing theory for many early centuries was that the Earth was flat and resting on the back of an animal or Greek god.

Job 38:16 then says, “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?”

Remarkably, the scientific discovery of deep-sea springs occurred only recently in the 1970s when submarines gained the capability to travel deep enough.

The Bible, in Leviticus 15:13, also teaches to

wash hands for cleanliness and, in Leviticus 13:46, to quarantine the sick.

Jewish people in the 1300s, who would have ritually followed these models, experienced during the Bubonic plague such a contrasting survival rate to other Europeans, that a belief they had caused it began circulating.

How incredible that this plethora of modern scientific truth possessed by the ancient Israelites and Jewish peoples would be inexplicable if not for it being relayed by the creator of the universe.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God,” II Timothy 3:16.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

\$4,000,000 ASKED FOR SCHOOLS: A special school election was called by the Grosse Pointe Board of Education in a formal resolution adopted at its regular meeting April 6. Two propositions are to be voted upon: The first of these would, if approved, authorize the Board of Education to issue bonds up to a maximum total of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of completing the Parcels Junior High School and the new Kerby Elementary School, and building three additional elementary schools in the area north of Kerby Road.

BATTLE BLAZE IN LANDMARK ON LAKEFRONT: A fire believed to have started in faulty wiring in the third floor did damage estimated at \$12,000 to the residence of Mrs. Hugo Scherer on Lakeshore Road. Firemen from the Farms and City battled the stubborn blaze for more than three hours. The structure, located at the foot of Moran, is one of the best known along the lakefront because of its many tall white pillars.

MOVING DAY ABANDON TWO ENTAILS MAJOR PROJECTS: University

MANEUVER: One way of solving the housing shortage was found by John I. Llewellyn when he bought a house and moved it from the back of Henry Ford II's Lakeshore Road estate to 303 Ridgemont at a cost of approximately \$2,500. The moving operation caused much activity among the youngsters who live along the route which the house traveled. Detroit Edison employees were on the job from start to finish to temporarily move wires which got in the way.

1974

50 years ago this week

NH'S PAPER HAS D O L L A R DIFFICULTIES: Grosse Pointe North's student newspaper, “North Pointe,” will be out of business in two more issues. Due to a 25 percent escalation in printing costs and limited budget, the newspaper will be printing only May 3 and June 1 editions. South High School's “The Tower” is not encountering similar problems since the editors opted for a cheaper printer at the beginning of the '73-'74 school year.

ULS DECIDES TO ABANDON TWO PROJECTS: University

Liggett School has officially decided to abandon two proposals, to enclose the McCann Ice Rink and to construct indoor tennis facilities on school grounds. Together they would have cost an estimated \$1.6 million.

SOUTH NATATORS MAKE BIG 'SPLASH' AT EML: South High School's swimming team, in its first year of competition in the Eastern Michigan League, captured first place.

1999

25 years ago this week

POINTE AQUATICS HAS TWO STATE CHAMPS: Two members of the Pointe Aquatics swim club brought home first-place medals from the recent United States Swimming state finals in Lake Orion. Lindsay Rodin, 14, took three firsts in the girls 13-14 division. She won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:13.93, the 1,000-yard freestyle in 10:40.46 and the 1,650-yard freestyle in 17:52.86. Rodin also placed in the top 16 in six other events to finish third in the individual high-point competition. Lee Elsey, 15, won the 1,000-yard freestyle in the boys 15 and older division with a time of 9:53.24.

INCUMBENT WON'T RUN IN SHORES

ELECTION: Come May, there will be at least one new face on the Grosse Pointe Shores board of trustees. Incumbent William O'Keefe has decided not to run. In his place, two incumbents and four challengers will vie for three open seats. Dr. James Cooper and Dr. Robert E. Lee have added their names to the ballot, which includes incumbents Cameron Piggott and Rose Garland Thornton, and challengers Alan Broad and John Rickel.

2014

10 years ago this week

SOLD!: The nine-acre site on Briarcliff Road that was once home to the University Liggett School's middle school campus has been sold. According to a source who did not wish to be identified ... a developer has purchased the property and will convert the existing building to condominiums. The sale, according to the source, is contingent upon rezoning the property, which currently is zoned single family housing.

ADOG NAMED JAZZ WILL PATROL THE POINTES: A jazz lover played a lot of C notes to become title sponsor of public safety K-9, take two. Gretchen

Valade, owner of the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe on The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, is funding a new police dog. The donation will cover five years start-up costs for the K-9, a specially outfitted police cruiser, equipment, veterinary bills, food and state-mandated training.

DEPUYS WAS 'A LEGEND': “She had a master's degree in business and a Ph.D. in people.” That is how Jim DePuys described his mother, Marge DePuys, the name and force behind Marge's Bar, a Grosse Pointe Park institution for nearly 50 years, following her death Saturday, April 12. She was 85.

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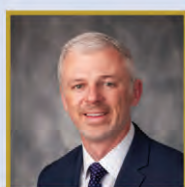
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Marina inspection result pending

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — No news is good news regarding results of an underwater inspection of the municipal marina's docks and seawalls.

"We don't have any determination at this time if anything's wrong," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Divers inspected most of the marina's dock pilings and outer breakwall a couple of weeks ago. A report of findings is due any time.

"We'll be talking a lot more about that at our subcommittee meeting on April 10," said Larry Haggart, a member of the recreation commission and chairman of the marina subcommittee.

"I don't know if we'll have the reports back by then," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, council liaison to the commission.

The city council on March 11 approved a \$17,000 low-bid contract

for commercial divers to report on the condition of docks one through three, breakwalls on both sides of the marina opening to Lake St. Clair and the outer east and south-side breakwalls.

"We wanted them to see if there were any long-term needs," Caulfield said. "On docks one, two and three, there were questions about restructuring."

The survey constituted Phase 1 of harbor maintenance and renovations and reconfiguration of Pier 1 to accommodate fewer but wider boats.

Commissioners approved the idea of Pier 1 reconfiguration last November. Construction costs are pending further preliminary analysis.

"Our next step is a meeting with Abonmarche (marina consultants) to talk about design engineering," Sizeland said.

"If they say we just have to restructure a few docks, we'll go into final engineering reports," Caulfield said.

"I would imagine that at the June or July council meeting we'll talk more heavily about the marina and whether we're going to do this," Sizeland said.

"Phase 1 was highly conceptual," said Michael Hindelang, recreation commission chairman. "Phase 2 is putting actual meat and bones of what can be done. Then, we have to spec it out and move forward."

Underwater piling and breakwall inspections are separate from nearly \$100,000 worth of harbor maintenance agreements the council approved in February to remove wood dock risers, replace 400 rub rails, replace the dockside non-potable water distribution system and repaint the inside, upper portion of the outer fishing pier breakwall.

Contracts were paid from the marina fund and reserves, both generated by boat fees, not general property tax receipts.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Donated eclipse glasses should be in good condition without any scratches or holes in the lenses.

Library system collecting gently used eclipse glasses

American Paper Optics, the top U.S. supplier for eclipse glasses, alone produced 75 million pairs for the April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse.

The Grosse Pointe Public Library now is collecting gently used eclipse glasses to be recycled for reuse in future eclipse events, in partnership with Astronomers Without Borders and Eclipse Glasses USA.

The glasses must be in good condition. "The lenses have to be

without any scratches or holes," said Mary Short, GPPL marketing and programming coordinator, via email.

All three GPPL branches — Central, Ewald and Woods — currently have collection boxes posted near the main reference desks.

"One of the primary beneficiaries of this initiative are school children in countries that might not have easy access to eclipse glasses," states the Eclipse Glasses USA website. "By redis-

tributing these glasses, Eclipse Glasses USA hopes to provide educational institutions with the tools they need to offer their students a safe and enlightening eclipse viewing experience."

The next total solar eclipse, Aug. 12, 2026, will be visible in Greenland, Iceland, Spain, Russia and a small area of Portugal, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

— Laurel Kraus

EFFORTS:

Continued from page 5A

cies working on a case."

Officer Jarod Jones — who serves as the department's community resource officer and leads the Seniors and Law Enforcement, or SALE, program — received a commendation for his volunteer work, most of which Alcorn said he finds out about after the fact.

"I'll get phone calls and letters about people that he writes tickets to, because of how good he is with people," the director said. "This past Christmas he came across somebody whose family was in need and he started a fund for them, where he

got the whole department involved in getting gifts for the family. He does a lot of these things on his own and he's inspirational to the entire department."

Lt. Alan Gwyn earned a commendation for the arrest of a man who, on multiple occasions, exposed himself and attempted to make physical contact with others at The Village CVS.

For their efforts helping to battle an overnight fire in Grosse Pointe Park, Sgt. Chris Cotzias, Sgt. Michael Herrgott and officers Austin Giarmo, Jones and Jacob Gentile received a chief letter from former Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Public Safety Director John Hutchins also recognized Gwyn, Herrgott and Giarmo with a chief letter for their mutual-aid response to a fatal accident.

Additional 2023 officer awards are:

- ◆ unit commendation — Martindale, Cotzias, Herrgott, Jones and Giarmo;

- ◆ commendation — Giarmo, who also is the City's 2023 public safety officer of the year;

- ◆ commendation — Officer Steven Mukavec;

- ◆ Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award — Giarmo, for the third year in a row;

- ◆ and City of Grosse Pointe chief letter — Cotzias, Herrgott, Jones and Giarmo.

OFFICER:

Continued from page 1A

become an officer with the juvenile division; is on the fire prevention team, which visited nine schools in 2023 to teach fire safety; is one of the founding members of the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Crisis Intervention team, which is specially trained to handle mental health distress calls; has completed basic detective school and is training to aid in the detective bureau; and last year, became a field training officer, responsible for training new hires.

"That's fantastic, because what the awards and what these things

don't tell you is how kind and how brave he is," Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. "He's the best example of what we want our officers to be and now he's training them to be that way."

For his efforts in 2023, Giarmo also received a commendation, unit commendation, chief letter from former Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell, chief letter from Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Director John Hutchins and chief letter from his own department. He also, for the third year in a row, earned the Mothers Against Drunk Driving award.

"In recent years, there was a rise in fatality

crashes due to someone being under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both," wrote Sue Strong, with MADD, in a letter to Giarmo. "Raising your hand and taking the oath to protect and serve does not go unnoticed as well as the lives that you have saved. Thank you for your continuous commitment and hard work toward eliminating drunk and drug driving in your community."

Not to be overlooked, the officer was cited as being responsible for saving the life of a cat during a fire in the City last year, as well.

"It's an amazing degree of work, in my opinion," Alcorn said, "... and I'm honored that he works with us."

Grosse Pointe News

THE NOSH

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Grosse Pointe News



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grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

Teachers of the Year recognized

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — With Teacher Appreciation Week around the corner, the Grosse Pointe Education Association recognized its Teachers of the Year, one from each building in the district, at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Tuesday, April 9.

Each also was recognized for how long they've been teaching — both overall and in the district — and were asked to share words of wisdom with other teachers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Barnes Early Childhood Center: Dorothy Heitjan, early childhood program, 31/31. "Never stop learning because life never stops teaching."

Brownell Middle School: Amy Jo Callaway Burke, social studies, 36/34. "Just be kind. It's simple to do and costs nothing."

Defer Elementary School: Holly McVicar, kindergarten, 18/9. "Teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning."

Ferry Elementary School: Julie Walkley, moderate cognitive

Grosse Pointe Education Association Teachers of the Year, from left: Beth Gulick, Dan Gilleran, Dorothy Heitjan, Amy Jo Callaway Burke, Holly McVicar, Julie Walkley, Jenna Valgoi, Karen Frakes, Cynthia Eichhorst, Natalie Bruveris and Sierra Koleber. Not pictured: James Adams and Jill Starkey.

impairments, 33/31. "Be flexible, be creative, be an advocate and set your expectations high. Above all else, do the right thing because it is the right thing to do."

Grosse Pointe North High School: Dan Gilleran, social studies, 25/25. "Teaching is an art and a science. As educators, we need to find the right balance to generate the spark that enlightens students to want to know more."

Grosse Pointe South

High School: James Adams, biology, 30/30. "Always focus on what you can control and not what you cannot. If you want change, get involved at the level where the change can occur. Take some risks! It makes life more interesting."

Kerby Elementary School: Jenna Valgoi, third grade, 14/14. "I believe that building connections with your students, showing them how much you care and creat-

ing a welcoming classroom community can truly have the greatest impact on your students. Take the time to lay this foundation and the learning and growth will naturally follow."

Maire Elementary School: Karen Frakes, fourth grade, 28/28. "The words of wisdom I offer actually come from a student who gave a presentation this past week quoting Simone Manuel, first Black American woman swimmer to win

an Olympic gold medal: 'Let your passion be your compass to achieving the impossible.'"

Mason Elementary School: Cynthia Eichhorst, art, 15/4. "We can't possibly be great at everything we do as educators. There are simply too many demands and expectations. If you give your best effort and add a little love and cheer, no one will notice the rest."

Monteith Elementary School: Natalie Bruveris, kindergarten, 17/14. "In

our profession, I find such value in making connections whether it be with students, families and/or colleagues. It is always so much easier to motivate my students when we have a strong relationship. As a resident in our community, I have so many opportunities to connect with students and families outside of school which impacts our rapport in the classroom. Additionally, I feel that every year I become a stronger teacher because I have more opportunities to collaborate and connect with my incredible colleagues. I encourage all teachers to find ways to build connections as it can have such a huge impact."

Parcells Middle School: Beth Gulick, physical education, 33/30. "Plain and simple, try to be kind every day."

Pierce Middle School: Jill Starkey, math, 27/26. "No learning happens without mistakes."

Richard Elementary School: Sierra Koleber, Young Fives, 4/4. "Connection and reflection. Connecting and building meaningful relationships with students, families and other staff members is the key. Also, reflecting on what's going well and opportunities for growth is essential."

Foundation for Public Education annual Spring Benefit is May 2

Funds support grants to GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education recently announced it will host its annual Spring Benefit at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. As the GPFPE's largest fundraiser, Spring Benefit proceeds support the organization's mission of funding extraordinary educational opportunities with the Grosse

Pointe Public School System.

Since its inception in 2006, the GPFPE and its supporters have donated close to \$4.3 million to GPPSS and counting, through its biannual and Social Emotional Encouragement and Development, or SEED, grants.

"Spring Benefit is an important part of our year," said GPFPE President Cynthia Sohn.

"Not only does it give us a chance to celebrate and reflect with our amazing donor community, but it is also one of the most critical pieces of our fundraising. We are looking forward to a beautiful evening at The War Memorial and we are grateful to the sponsors and volunteers who are helping make this event happen."

This year's benefit will include cocktails on the lakefront, a sit-down dinner and live auction.

Auction items include University of Michigan football tickets, two dif-

ferent northern Michigan vacation packages, a Detroit River cocktail

cruise and more. There
See *BENEFIT*, page 10A

PAINTING:

Continued from page 1A

from the North administration after they get together with students to figure out what the next steps should be," he said. "But hearing students say it makes them sad, that's tough to hear. That certainly wasn't the intent."

Although the district would not say how many people complained about the painting, it was enough to send an email to North families Monday, April 8. It was signed by Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop and North's four administrators.

"As complex art does, the painting has elicited various emotions," the letter stated. "Some have expressed interest and excitement about the painting and its meaning and have made connections between it and their own lives, while others have expressed uncertainty, dissatisfaction or even dismay with the painting's themes and implications."

Since students were taking the SAT last week, Cotton said he believed administrators would be meeting with students this week.

"Out of respect for all the voices we are hearing, GPN and GPPSS administration will be meeting with various stakeholders to determine what the appropriate next steps should be," the letter continued. "Caring for the educational goals and social-emotional needs of our students calls for balance and intention."

The untitled, oil-on-canvas painting comes from a collection by Kaphar called "From a Tropical Space" that was on display at the Gagosian Gallery

in New York in 2021. The paintings were based on a similar one he did after the death of George Floyd that appeared on the cover of Time a month later.

"In her expression, I see the black mothers who are unseen, and rendered helpless in this fury against their babies," Kaphar told Time. "As I listlessly wade through another cycle of violence against black people, I paint a black mother ... eyes closed, furrowed brow, holding the contour of her loss."

Hope Watkins, a North student, spoke against the painting at the board's meeting Tuesday, April 9.

"The woman looks weak and distressed and the black, blue and purple background are not uplifting colors," she said. "They are sad and depressing. School should be uplifting. I already know the fears and trauma of being a young black woman."

Cotton said he spoke with a few concerned mothers before Tuesday's meeting and gave them Kaphar's phone number.

"I didn't know they would call him right away, but he was getting ready for an event in his honor at the Brooklyn Museum," he said. "He was still kind enough to take time and talk to them."

Cotton said during his discussion with the mothers, "everyone assumed positive intentions."

"We can solve this issue together," he added. "At the end of the day, I support whatever decision the administration makes."

No decision had been made by press time.

Cotton said he and Kaphar, who is black, agreed the artist should visit Grosse Pointe soon to talk with students.

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 University Liggett School

South to present 'Little Shop of Horrors'

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES

— In a sheer case of coincidence, the cast and crew of Grosse Pointe South High School's "Little Shop of Horrors" found themselves rehearsing last week on the same day metro Detroit experienced a near total eclipse of the sun.

Those who have seen the movie will get the reference.

"We'll definitely be using that in our in-school advertising," said Dan DeMarco, a South teacher and director of the Pointe Players. "We tried to get something together that day, but the eclipse itself was too much of a distraction."

The students and DeMarco picked the musical last May, when they were deciding what to perform this year. They did "12 Angry Jurors" last fall.

"We sit down each spring to pick what to do the following year," DeMarco said. "We don't want to do the same genre two years in a row. Then the com-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South's "Little Shop of Horrors" stars, front row from left, Reese Straske, Violet King and Allie Thomas; and back row from left, Dylan DeMarco, Ashton Fell, Hudson Burkett, Grace Euper and Allison Novak.

pany that licenses the play checks to make sure no other schools in the area are doing the same thing."

DeMarco said he thinks audiences are in for a treat.

"The seniors last year were really bummed they wouldn't be around for it," he said. "We should draw some good crowds."

There are two dozen cast members, including the ensemble, with some parts being double cast.

"That's kind of small compared to most high school musicals, but we've also added more people to some of the dance numbers," DeMarco said.

The play follows the same basic storyline as the mid-1980s movie.

production, said students started off rehearsing based on the movie.

"Once we got the license, we switched over to the (musical) book," she said. "There are about 20 numbers and this is a hard-working bunch of kids."

DeMarco said a light rehearsal schedule started in January.

"We had to start early because we had exams, mid-winter break and then spring break," he said.

The two-hour show includes four different versions of Audrey II as the plant grows, the last of which requires two puppeteers to operate.

Shows are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 25 to 27, with a 2 p.m. matinee April 27, all at Grosse Pointe North High School's Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. There also are two shows during the day Wednesday, April 24, for middle school students and guests from The Helm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and are available at gpsouthchoir.org.

Cast: Dylan DeMarco, Grace Euper, Ashton Fell, Alexander Cline, Christian Yonkus, Violet Lincicome, Hudson Burkett, Allie Thomas, Allison Novak, Violet King, Ellie Sahutske, Reese Straske and Jolina Huchingson.

Ensemble: Brady Barbour, Alex Carter, Oscar DeLuca, Shea Dolle, Lauren Euper, Syri Ibekwe, Grace Geresy, Aliana Ritter, Kate Scott, Samantha Turner and Finn Wallace

Stage manager: Ella Johnson

Costumers: Richie Barnwell, Ghost Lindsay, El Kester and Jack Sample

Student director: Sage Potter

Crew: Richie Barnwell, Jorge Carozza, Zaira Gentile, El Kester, Violet Lincicome, Ghost Lindsay, Mari Mueller, Eden Novack, Chevy McGlone, Jordan Rice, Jack Sample and Eleanor Schroeder

Orchestra: Carolyn Gross, Richard Wolf, Rocky Bocci, Alan Ayoub, Abraham Neds-Fox, Viggo Jewell and Joe Chila

BENEFIT:

Continued from page 9A

also will be a wine pull and a paddle raise.

Joe and Beth Moran of Grosse Pointe Farms are this year's Spring Benefit honorary chairs. The couple's dedication to education and community service spans five decades, including Beth

Moran's own teaching tenure in GPPSS. Along with their support of the GPFPE, the couple has served organizations such as Full Circle Foundation, The Family Center, Junior Achievement and Habitat for Humanity. Beth Moran is a current member of the GPFPE board of directors.

"My time on the

GPFPE board has been so rewarding, seeing the impact that we make every day on our students, teachers and families within the GPPSS," she said. "Joe and I have always felt strongly about supporting organizations that are true to their mission and responsible and effective with their dollars. As donors and volunteers, this is

critically important to us and the GPFPE is a stellar example of this type of organization. We are proud to support it as this year's honorary chairs."

The 2024 Spring Benefit sponsors include: Diamond Sponsor: Beth and Joe Moran
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University Liggett School

SURVEY:

Continued from page 1A

Tuttle said. "And again, if there were to be a change, it would not be for next school year."

The survey revolves around the fact that Monteith students heading into fifth grade are split between Parcels and Brownell middle schools.

"All of our other elementary schools feed into one middle school," said Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent of educational services.

About 75 percent of Monteith students go to Parcels with the rest going to Brownell. Those who go to Brownell then rejoin their former classmates at Grosse Pointe North High School while the rest move on to Grosse Pointe South

High School.

Bishop said the survey will entail three questions.

◆ Which middle school would you pick if you could?

◆ Which middle school is your child supposed to attend?

◆ What would motivate you to choose the other school?

Bishop said the boundary line is not Moross, as many believe.

"In some instances, the line cuts off in the middle of a street," he said.

Trustee Colleen Worden said she appreciates the survey.

"As a Monteith mom, I can tell you it's a bitter pill to swallow for some families," she said. "You've got houses next door to each other with kids going to different middle schools."

Trustee Lisa Papas

agreed.

"After eighth grade they switch and go to North, so they're not making just one transition," she said.

The larger survey will include a big focus on families of students who either left the district or never enrolled in the district.

"I'm interested to hear from our residents whether they would like to have the ability to choose a different school if there is capacity," Board of Education President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, previously said.

He added he wants to find out if families that have chosen private schools would return to the district if they could choose a school other than the one closest to their home.





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A lifetime of love Museum features beloved Peanuts character, raises funds for charities

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

“Everything in this room has a story and I know every one.”

Mike LeFevre’s Snoopy Museum is a sight to behold.

More than 16,000 Snoopy collectibles — from stuffed animals to lunch boxes to figurines and even a bowling ball — line multiple glass showcases throughout the space, located next to

the businessman’s restaurant, Mike’s on the Water.

It’s the culmination of a lifetime he spent collecting the character with which he’s been enthralled since childhood.

“In 1965, I received my first Snoopy when I was 4 ½ years old,” LeFevre said. “It was June and my dad came into the house with my new sister. He had her in one arm and a Snoopy in the other. I

grabbed the Snoopy.”

That exact moment is commemorated in a painting by Suzie Starnes, which guests view when turning the corner to enter the museum.

That Christmas, LeFevre got a Snoopy music box with a note attached: “Merry Christmas, love your sister, Susan.”

By the time he was 10, Snoopy dolls and toys overflowed from his dresser onto his bedroom floor. But that was just the beginning.

“I started collecting and getting them as gifts from friends, cousins, customers, business associates,” LeFevre said. “And I always look when I travel. I’ve found Snoopy in Germany, in Vietnam. There are pieces in here from all around the world. I’ve been to 144 countries: Uruguay, China, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Prague, Russia, Guatemala, Egypt. You get the picture. It’s a passion to me.”

“From 1965 to now, I’ve got more than 16,000 items,” he added. “Ninety percent of this was given to me by other people and 10 percent I bought.”

Now he’s inviting the public to be part of the journey by offering the



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mike LeFevre, clutching the first Snoopy he ever received, stands in front of a photo of his sister, Susan, with the same Snoopy dog in her arms. LeFevre’s museum is a tribute to his beloved sister, who passed away in 2012.



A selection of Snoopy lamps and telephones is positioned above a Snoopy ride that once was stationed at a Kmart.

space — which also serves as a banquet hall and seats up to 44 guests — to rent. Every penny he brings in is donated to charity.

“To use the room for an event, you have to donate money,” he said. “If there’s no event, you have to put money in the charity box to see it.”

Each month benefits a different charity. During April, Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan will

receive the donations. May donations will benefit The Helm, June will benefit the Full Circle Foundation, July will benefit Racing for Kids, August will benefit the J. T. Mestdagh Foundation and September will benefit Kids on the Go.

New charities for the year will be drawn again in October.

“This collection was in my house,” LeFevre said.

“I’ve always talked about opening a museum so people could see it and to raise money for charities. It made no sense to be in my basement.”

LeFevre’s dream was recognized last fall when he opened the museum, which was a long time coming.

Two summers ago, every piece was carefully packaged into 496 boxes, then stored for a year while the space was being prepared. In September 2023, LeFevre began unpacking boxes and staging the museum. Eight weeks later, the space opened.

Artist Mariana Chaolei Lewis painted murals on the walls, one depicting a world map featuring Snoopy “everywhere I’ve been in the world, plus some,” LeFevre said.

From floor to ceiling, items on display vary from unopened McDonald’s Happy Meal toys and various candies to telephones, holiday items, music boxes, glasses and mugs, clocks and even rides that formerly were featured at Kmart stores. Two Charles Schultz autographs are among the menagerie, many pieces of which are priceless, like a Snoopy briefcase that was stolen from LeFevre years ago and eventually returned to his possession.

Among his treasures are other meaningful tokens he’s received through the years. Patrons of Mike’s on the Water have drawn



LeFevre’s museum features more than 16,000 Snoopy items, from stuffed animals to clocks to lunch boxes and everything in between. The space doubles as a banquet room.

See SNOOPY, page 6B

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2B | FEATURES

Ahee featured speaker at Mayors' Prayer Breakfast

Tickets still available for May 2 event

"Faith over fear" will be the theme of Connie Ahee's keynote address during the 38th annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast.

The event begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 2, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Mayors from the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods will be in attendance, to meet and eat with community leaders, as well as take in

Ahee's inspiring words.

A longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident, Ahee earned a degree from Albion College, then worked in the admissions office after she graduated from the school, which holds a special place in her heart. She met her husband, John, there; the couple was married in 1993.

They raised their two children, Zack and Anna, in Grosse Pointe, a community in which the

Ahees have actively served as business leaders, church members and philanthropists. They've also been highly involved in supporting their children's schools.

Following her husband's death in 2020, strong family bonds and great friends in their church and community have sustained Ahee's faith and optimism, which provide a base for supporting her children, both of whom are under-



Connie Ahee

graduates at the University of Michigan. She also remains active

in advocating for and supporting Albion College.

Ahee has led a distinguished sales career, previously with NBS Commercial Interiors and currently with KWALU Furniture. She has earned a healthy reputation for her keen sales skills combined with integrity and kindness that are evident in repeat business and deep connections in the business community.

"We're excited to have her," said Jennifer Boettcher, president and

executive director of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, event host. "We try to find people in the community who are inspirational. She has a great story to tell about life's challenges and obstacles. The community really came together for her, too, and helped support her and lift her up."

Tickets for the breakfast are \$50 each and may be purchased at the chamber office or online at grossepointechamber.com.

— Jody McVeigh

American Legion invites students to attend state educational programs

American Legion Grosse Pointe Post 303 invites current high school juniors to attend American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State educational programs.

Boys State takes place at Grand Valley State University and Girls State takes place at Michigan State University. Both programs are held the week of June 23 to 29.

These "mock government" programs are designed to teach students how state government works while developing leadership skills and an appreciation of their rights as a citizen. Attendees get a fast-paced experience immersed in politics and civic responsibilities with fun, hands-on learning about government and leadership skills.

Previous attendees include NBA star Michael Jordan, actor Mark Walberg, former NBC News Anchor Tom Brokaw, 42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton, U.S. Senator Gary Peters, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senate candidate John James and former Vice President Mike Pence. Grosse Pointe North High School Principal Kate Murray and Grosse Pointe South High School instructor Kevin Minor both participated in the programs.

Annually, the state events give young men and women the summer between their junior and senior years in high school a glimpse of life in a college dorm setting, as well as leadership, management and communication skills. Students must be in 11th grade or an equivalent in-school

program or have a half semester to complete as a senior and must be a U.S. citizen.

The motto is "Learn by doing." The staff's goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State and Girls State an opportunity to govern themselves and run their own state. Delegates can learn more about their city, county and state government in one week at Boys/Girls State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting. Boys/Girls Staters meet with elected and appointed officials to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of a variety of positions in government from people on the "inside." Topics covered throughout the week are current and range from judicial cases, security in schools, immigration and health care

to taxes, legislative and executive branch and much more. Delegates hold offices in all branches of government, pass laws and run municipal governments.

There also is an opportunity to compete for scholarships in both programs for students who are direct descendants of veterans. They have an opportunity to win a \$1,000 scholarship at the state level and up to \$15,000 from Samsung

Corp., at the final level of competition. Those interested should visit michiganboysstate.org/ or legion.org/scholarships/samsung. Samsung applications must be submitted on or before the first day of the programs. Samsung scholarships are awarded to Boys State and Girls State attendees only.

Nationwide, each state program selects two outstanding participants to go to Boys Nation and

Girls Nation programs in Washington, D.C., later in the summer. For more information, visit Boys Nation at legion.org/boysnation or Girls Nation at legion-aux.org/ala-girls-nation. South graduate Neal Jeup and North graduate Marissa Stinson attended Boys and Girls Nation.

For more information, call Grosse Pointe Post 303 Commander Dan McCrary at (313) 492-7462.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Reunion

Grosse Pointe South High School's Class of 1984 is hosting its 40th reunion 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Tickets are \$55 in advance, \$65 at the door, and include a cash bar, appetizers and music from the 1980s. Checks may be mailed to Amy Kish, 1023 Bishop, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230 or sent via Venmo to (313) 770-1772, with the note "GPS 84 Reunion." For those in town early, a casual get together will occur 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, at Rustic Cabins in Grosse Pointe Park. For information, call Marianne Stavale Benkoski at (703) 901-0080, Johanna Staub Judson at (313) 580-3813 or Carey Fitzgibbon Baldwin at (828) 318-2628.

Kids on the Go

Kids on the Go presents its ninth annual golf outing, "FORE" the Kids, Thursday, May 9, at Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township. The event, which begins with

a 9 a.m. shotgun start, includes 18 holes with cart, coffee and breakfast bites, a boxed lunch, dinner, open driving range and putting green practice and more. The event sells out quickly; sponsorship opportunities also are available. Visit kidsonthegocamp.com to sign up.

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

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

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m., Friday, April 19, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 24,

Holy Innocents Church, 26000 Ridgemont, Roseville.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Family Center

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

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

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

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

- ◆ Springtime Stress Break, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Destress with a 30-minute yoga practice followed by the opportunity to plant lavender and peppermint to take home.

- ◆ QPR Suicide Prevention Training, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Registration is required.

- ◆ Eighth annual Suicide Prevention Walk and Mental Health Fair, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. More than 20 vendors dedicated to

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See EVENTS, page 4B

Keeping it clean

War Memorial brings goose-chasing pooch to lakefront property

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

At 5 years old, Josie has five properties to care for in the Grosse Pointes.

The Australian cattle dog recently added The War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and Grosse Pointe Club to her duties, which already included Farms Pier Park and Lake Front Park in Grosse Pointe Woods.

"She's willing to please and wants to work," said Patricia Thibault, who, with her husband, Mike, rescued Josie when she was a puppy. "She loves her job and makes people so happy.

"She's my puppy, his dog and our girl," she added.

Josie is an employee of Goose Pointe, the Thibaults' bonded and insured goose abatement business. Her title is goose dog; her responsibilities, making mad dashes toward geese to shoo them from the properties in the hopes it will train them to stay away.

Josie is following in the footsteps of her big brother, Roscoe, who began showing her the goose-dog ropes shortly after she joined the family at two months old.

"We started with Roscoe at Farms Pier Park when he was 5," Mike Thibault said. "Then, when he was 11 or 12, we started talking about (getting) another dog."

They found Josie online at a rescue in Armada. When she started taking obedience classes, the trainer was pleased with what he saw.

"He said, 'This dog has great attention,'" Mike Thibault recalled. "If you spend time with her, she'll do anything you want."

Josie and Roscoe worked Pier Park for a couple years. They were spotted there by Grosse

Pointe Woods City Administrator Frank Schulte.

"He said, 'You're doing a great job. Can you come to the Woods park? We have a real problem over there,'" Mike Thibault recalled.

Roscoe and Josie handled both parks together until Roscoe passed away three years ago. Josie still runs those properties, but since March has added three more to her coverage area.

The War Memorial COO Nikki Charbonneau first spotted Josie while visiting Pier Park.

"I thought, 'We need him,'" Charbonneau said. "Within a half hour, I had Mike on the phone and literally the next morning, they were here chasing our geese."

Since the start of spring, Josie has visited The War Memorial twice a day. Soon after she started, Susan Griffin at Memorial Church and John Matway at Grosse Pointe Club reached out and secured deals.

"It's cool because this entire campus is covered between the three properties," Charbonneau said.

"We can do all three within an hour," Mike Thibault said. "With this huge amount of water frontage, if we can keep it a little nicer, that's great."

He has the time, too. The semi-retired pharmacist, who also competitively rows, will pare down Josie's hours when rowing season starts and it gets too hot. Once the geese know better than to land on War Memorial property, her visits will be reduced to once a day or a few times a week, Charbonneau said.

"April through the end of May, nesting season, we'll mitigate the number of nests and goslings," Mike Thibault said. "Once it gets warm, we'll come around whenever there's green grass.

When we see a need, we'll be here."

Charbonneau said she noticed an immediate decline in geese on the property and even reported that a couple of stubborn, frustrated geese were spotted on The War Memorial's rooftop by amused staff members.

The Thibaults charge a nominal fee for Josie's visits, which occasionally include a third daily stop at the new sites.

"Mike's fee is very fair; it basically covers health insurance for the dog,"



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Josie and Mike Thibault rest up in case any geese show up.



Thibault and Josie take a break while patrolling the breakwall at The War Memorial.

Charbonneau said. "For the price he charges, it's way less than any sprays or other ways to mitigate the goose issue."

Other methods that could be used to control the goose population — sound machines, sprays, drones — are not nearly as effective.

"One goose poops two to three pounds per day," Patricia Thibault said. "You can spray, but it's expensive and when it rains you have to spray again. You could use a drone, but I'd hate to think what would happen if it crashed. Geese are not afraid of people or golf carts, so ... dogs."

Charbonneau noted the importance of having a goose dog because of the sheer number of events The War

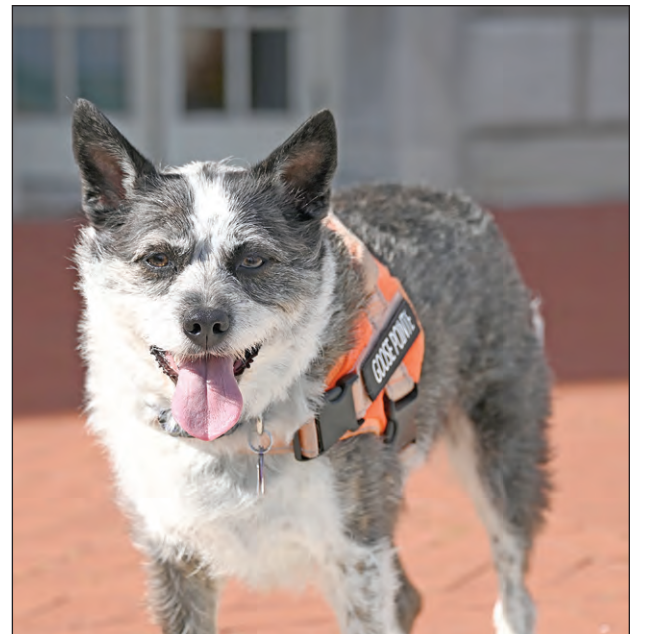
Memorial hosts in the warmer months, from concerts to wedding ceremonies.

"It's tedious work for the grounds crew," she added, "and once it's cleaned up, it's covered again. ... Now it's easier to manage without new goose droppings every day. It's nice for guests, too, to get droppings off the ground."

"And for the staff, it's the highlight of everybody's day when Josie comes in," she added. "She's become our mascot."

The Thibaults are considering adopting another puppy next summer, so Josie has backup.

"As small as she is, she's pretty mighty," Mike Thibault said. "Josie loves it and it gives



Five-year-old Josie cares for five properties in the Grosse Pointes.

us a little extra time together. I couldn't think of a prettier place to be." Learn more about Goose Pointe on its Facebook page.

The Helm welcomes four new board members

The Helm at the Boll Life Center elected four people to its Board of Trustees for 2024.

The new members are:

◆ David DeBrunner of Grosse Pointe Farms, vice president and chief accounting officer and controller for Ally Financial, Inc.

◆ Michelle Jackson of Southfield, vice president of primary care with Henry Ford Health System

◆ Richard Lueders of Grosse Pointe Park, human resources consultant

◆ Lisa Vallee-Smith of Grosse Pointe Farms, public relations and marketing communications consultant

"We are so pleased to welcome these new members to our board of directors," said Krista Siddall, executive direc-

tor of The Helm. "They bring vast experience in various industries and

businesses to The Helm board. Their input will be invaluable as we con-

tinue to evolve and grow.

"We are fortunate to have such remarkably talented community leaders willing to donate their time and expertise to The Helm," she added.

"We look forward to and are excited by how our

entire board will work together to make the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods a great community in which to grow older."

entire board will work together to make the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods a great community in which to grow older."

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4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Michael J. MacDonald

Michael J. MacDonald, 81, passed away Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla., from cardiac complications. He was a lifelong enthusiast of all things Detroit.

Known as Mike, Mac and Moke — the latter to his Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers — his wit and generosity were immeasurable.

Mike was born in Detroit and attended St. Joan of Arc School, Parcels Middle School and Grosse Pointe High School. He continued his education at Michigan State University and Wayne State University. While a student at MSU, he began a lifelong relationship with Ann Warren MacDonald. They were married for 57 years. Ann once said she knew Mike was the one when his mother related a family remembrance: At age 14, along with his brother John, 18, the teens purchased a washer and dryer for their mom's birthday. The cash needed for the purchase came from paper routes and first job funds. Ann said the MacDonalds were the kindest, most generous and funniest

people on the planet and they mastered the art of the loving tease. Michael loved his family and friends. Success was an afterthought. These qualities followed Mike for life.

Michael began his career as a graduate student at Wayne State. He was head of science purchasing and often stated that buying frogs was a "big deal." He then moved into sales at Detroit's U.S. Truck Co., Leaseway Transportation and finally, American President Companies in Oakland, Calif.

The culmination of a long career in transportation and logistics resulted in Artisan Associates Inc. Mike returned to Detroit and joined his two partners in a startup heavy haul logistic firm, domiciled on Joy Road in Detroit. The three partners were very involved in the Detroit community, including establishing ACTION ON JOY RD, supporting the philanthropy of Joy House (Christ Child Society) and adjoining Detroit neighborhoods. This was a dream of finally establishing a company culture of good business partnerships, along with love for community.

Mike is survived by his wife, Ann Warren

MacDonald; daughter, Katie MacDonald (Brian Wolstone); son, John C. MacDonald II; grandsons, Teme MacDonald and Tyler Wolstone; his sister, Sally MacDonald Reyst; brothers, John A. MacDonald (Harriett) and Peter C. MacDonald (Mickey); brother-in-law, Bill Warren (Chris); and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 27, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach, Fla., with a reception following in the Osprey Village villas dining room in Amelia Island, Fla.

A Detroit reception will be held 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 3, at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison, Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Kevin's Song, as Mike was a founding member emeritus, 21 Kercheval, Ste. 345, Grosse Pointe Farms, bit.ly/3U4U6jj; or St. Peter's Church Episcopal Youth Group, 801 Atlantic Ave., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034, stpetersparish.org/give.

Share memories and condolences at oxleyheard.com.

Arrangements were handled by Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors.



Michael J. MacDonald



John Gault Calwell, M.D.

John Gault Calwell, M.D.

John Gault Calwell M.D., 90, of Northville, passed away Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of 50 wonderful years to Darlene Calwell; loving uncle of Margaret Ann, Mary (Jonna), Michael (Jane), Jennifer, John, Brad (Donel) and Dana (Brian); proud great-uncle to Sophia, Caroline, Benjamin, Nathan, Anna, Daniel, Christopher, Cathryn, Robert, Rosa and Laurence; and dear brother-in-law to Sam Burch and Doris Calwell. John also is survived by many loving cousins and friends.

Born in 1933, John's passion for life was evident in everything he did. He found joy in simple pleasures such as gardening, woodworking and building things with his hands. His craftsmanship was evident in every piece he created, reflecting both his skill and his love for the craft.

A true adventurer at

heart, John had a zest for travel that took him to far-flung corners of the globe. Whether exploring new cultures or simply soaking in the beauty of nature, he embraced every opportunity to broaden his horizons and enrich his life.

John's ties to Queen's University Belfast in Ireland were deep and meaningful. His dedication to education and desire to make a difference led him to play a pivotal role in establishing a scholarship fund that continues to support aspiring students to this day. His commitment to empowering others through education was a testament to his belief in the transformative power of knowledge.

At his cherished cottage, John found solace in the tranquil beauty of the outdoors. He delighted in entertaining friends and family, creating cherished memories that will be treasured for generations to come. His love for boating and sailing brought him immense

joy, and he could often be found navigating the waters with a smile on his face and a sense of adventure in his heart. A passionate patron of the arts, John was a familiar face at cultural events, where his presence was always accompanied by his trademark warmth and generosity.

John's true passion lay in philanthropy. His altruistic spirit knew no bounds and he dedicated himself wholeheartedly to helping those in need. His acts of kindness touched countless lives and his generosity left an indelible mark on the community he cherished. Whether through donations to charities or lending a helping hand to those facing hardship, John exemplified the true meaning of selflessness.

Above all else, John will be remembered for his unwavering kindness, boundless generosity and genuine desire to make the world a better place. His legacy lives on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him and his spirit will continue to inspire acts of kindness and compassion for years to come.

John was predeceased by his parents, Hugh and Margaret Calwell; and siblings, Margaret Burch and William Calwell.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.



PICTURE COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Safety first

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Sherrie Jones stands with John Kosanke, director of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department. During the club's March 26 meeting at Ford House, Kosanke shared the latest steps residents can take to reduce exposure to identity theft and cyber crimes. His presentation encouraged attendees to always report these crimes to local police, who work hand-in-hand with state and federal authorities to attempt to apprehend those responsible. Additionally, senior citizens are often the most at risk for these crimes, so families of seniors should be extra vigilant. Grosse Pointe Rotary Sunrise Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join their Tuesday presentations at 7 a.m. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

mental health will be on hand. Learn more by calling (313) 447-1374.

Ceramic sale

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

Library

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

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

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

- ◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ In Cold Mug Book Discussion, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe.

- ◆ You Kill Me: The True Crime Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ 1,000 Hours Citizen Science Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Tree for Life: A Thoughts to Action Lecture, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Computer Scams and What Not to Click On, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Teen Game Club, 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Saturday Drop-In Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

GPAA

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

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

- ◆ Experienced wood-block artists are invited

- to reuse their boards to make new art with Nobuko Yamasaki, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays, April 28 and May 5.

- ◆ Intermediate Watercolor with Paula Fiebich, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, May 1 to 29.

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

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

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

Ford House

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

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

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

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

- ◆ Bird Walk, 7:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

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

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Local artist Linda Boyle speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

GP Community Chorus presents spring concert April 28

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents its 71st spring concert, "Music of Great Poets," at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

"I've always been fascinated with the poetry of music and the philosophy that music should act in service to the text," GPCC Director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi said. "Once I found a choir that I believed could follow that vision, I knew that I wanted to focus on musical settings of great poets such as Robert Frost, Maya Angelou and others."

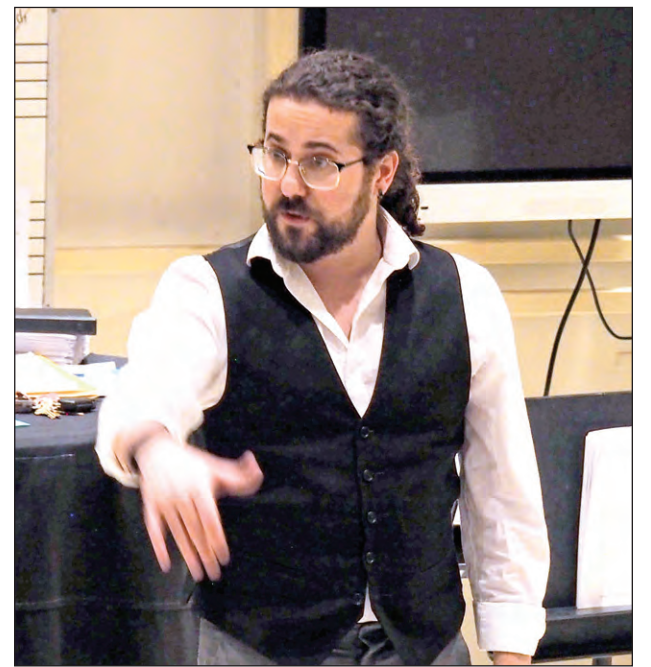
The lineup features beloved poetry, such as Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and Frost's "The Road Not Taken" — two of Grosse Pointe Woods singer Amy Moulton's favorites.

"I wake up with the words in my head," she said of Angelou's poem.

Among other poetry being sung are Frost's "Choose Something Like a Star," Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" and Emily Dickinson's "If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking."

"We're also doing 'A Million Dreams,' from 'The Greatest Showman,'" Moulton added, noting other songs include Sting's "Fields of Gold" and the traditional Scottish song, "The Parting Glass."

Founded in 1953, by Malcolm and Marion Johns, the chorus includes more than 60 singers. Moulton has been with the group around six



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WM G. POLOM

Above, director Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi. Left, Kashani-Gharavi directs the alto section.

years. This is Kashani-Gharavi's second year conducting the chorus, which is accompanied by Ron Pietrantonio.

"Since I started with GPCC last season, the choir has responded amazingly," Kashani-Gharavi said. "They are always engaged and eager to embrace the new style I bring with me. The choir has supported my goals and my passion for this program. Just as they have learned from me, I have learned from them. They teach me how to be a better director every day."

Moulton said the feeling is mutual.

"We're learning a lot with our conductor," she said. "He's working on his Ph.D., so he's bringing us to a higher level than we've been before. It's enjoyable though; there's no pressure. It's good camaraderie and fun."

Moulton said even on cold, gray winter days when she would rather stay home than venture out to rehearsal, her mood shifted as soon as she joined fellow GPCC members.

"Once you start to sing you feel so alive," she added. "It's a wonderful

thing, so relaxing."

Ticket prices, which include a dessert reception after the concert, are \$25 for adults, \$5 for ages 12 and younger, and available in advance or at the door. Tickets also are available at Moehring Woods Florists, 20923 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods (313) 882-9732, or from a chorus member.

"I look forward to showcasing the concert to the community and would greatly encourage anyone interested in joining as a singer to inquire with us about our next season," Kashani-Gharavi said.

Registration for the fall season begins in August. More information will be posted online at grossepointecommunitychorus.org or scan the QR code.

"We don't audition people," Moulton said. "As long as you like to sing, that's great. If you can read music, too, that's even better."



The tenor section rehearses.



The soprano section rehearses.

St. Paul Lutheran Church rummage sale returns

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, at Chalfonte in Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts its popular rummage sale, which is back in full after a hiatus due to COVID and a catastrophic church flood.

The rummage sale offers something for everyone: clothing, shoes, books, toys, jewelry, household items, holiday décor, small appliances, linens and much more. The sale also features a boutique filled with new, collectible and name-brand items at bargain prices. Visitors are encouraged to come Friday

for the best selection, then return Saturday when items are half off.

The sale takes place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 3, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 4. The church offers handicap parking and an elevator to the basement sale.

St. Paul uses funds raised to assist many organizations in need, including ministries in metro Detroit and global outreach programs.

For more information, call the church at (313) 881-6670 during office hours Tuesdays through Thursdays.



Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
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Grosse Pointe Park,
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Masses
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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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www.christthekinggp.org

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

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

Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
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(United Church of Christ)

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

6B | FEATURES

SNOOPY:

Continued from page 1B

Snoopy on their menus and presented them to LeFevre; those are in the museum. Letters from his sister and other family members, written in the '70s and '80s, also dot the walls.

"I never threw anything out," he said.

Though just one of each item is showcased, LeFevre has numerous duplicates, which he sells for donations. A shelf just outside of the display area offers items for \$5, \$15 or \$25, the proceeds from which also go to the month's charity.

"I want to honor my sister with this museum," LeFevre said. "This restaurant happened because my sister became ill. My sister brought me to this project."

LeFevre and Susan Amine were inseparable their whole lives, he said. He was retired and traveling the world when he got word from his brother-in-law, Anthony Amine, that Susan had been diagnosed with cancer.

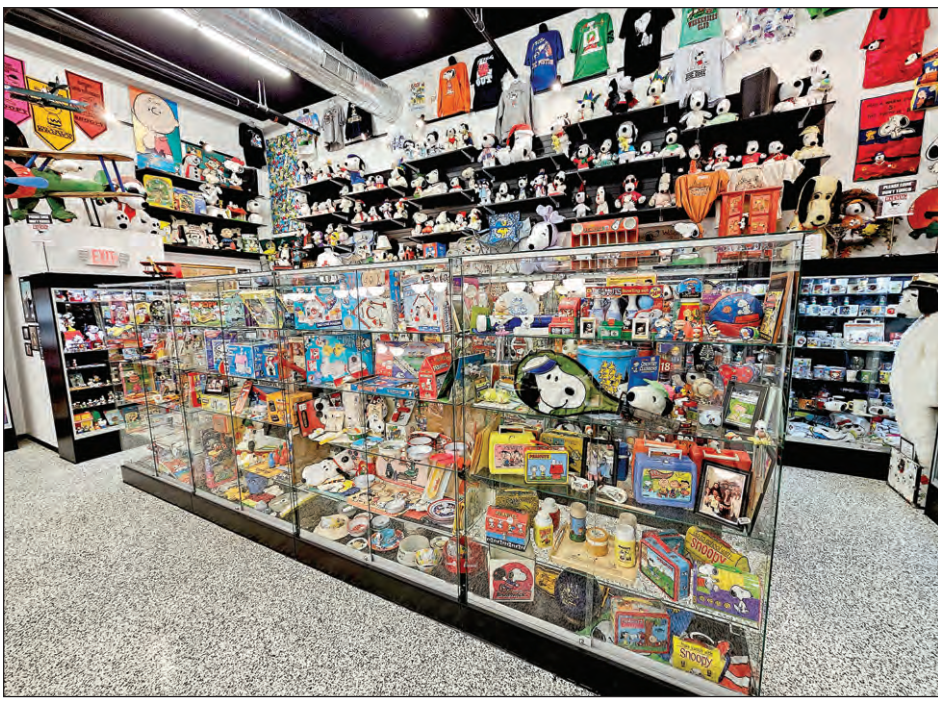
"He said, 'You beat cancer, now help fire her up to beat hers,'" he recalled.

LeFevre dropped what he was doing and came home.

"I never left her side through chemo," he said. "We played Scrabble every night to keep her mind off of it."

Though she passed away from breast cancer in 2012, her presence is evident throughout the museum.

"So many stories here are signs from my sister," LeFevre said.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Display cases, above, feature myriad Snoopy items collected over LeFevre's lifetime. Shelving units, right, show a selection of Snoopy dolls and books in LeFevre's collection. Below, LeFevre proudly shows off the museum space — which doubles as a banquet room — and a mural of his world travels.

Of all 16,000-plus items, LeFevre has a clear favorite. He's quick to point out the first Snoopy he ever received, when his sister was born in 1965. Though it's been stitched up several times, it sits majestically in a display case near the museum's entrance.

"I needed to do something so people could enjoy it," he said of his collection. "I think this is a destination."

And with available space next door — an additional 8,000 square feet to be exact — LeFevre has room to grow.

"It's a passion for sure," he said. "It's not what you have, it's what you give. I want people to see it and enjoy it."

Mike's on the Water is located at 24530 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. People who would like to book a

party or see the museum should call Mike's on the Water at (586) 872-2630 to reserve a time.



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Ford House wins 2024 Pure Award for sustainability efforts

Ford House, the historic residence of Eleanor and Edsel Ford, recently announced it received the 2024 Pure Award, recognizing its exceptional commitment to sustainability initiatives. Bestowed by Michigan Cares for Tourism, the Pure Award celebrates organizations within Michigan that exhibit exemplary natural, cultural and heritage stewardship practices as part of their daily operations.

The recognition underscores Ford House's unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and significant contributions to creating a more sustainable future. This accolade follows Ford House's receipt of a Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant in 2023, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The \$7 million federal grant supports the restoration of natural habitats surrounding Ford Cove and along nearly one mile of Lake St. Clair shoreline. This initiative aims to benefit native Great Lakes fish and other aquatic species by mitigating the impact of waves and flooding, reducing polluted runoff and nutrient loads, and enhancing recreational fishing opportunities. Furthermore, it seeks to increase public access to previously inaccessible shorelines for educational and recreational activities. NOAA has identified this project as one of Michigan's top priority coastal restoration



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORD HOUSE

From left, Paul Stansbie, associate dean of the College of Education and Community Innovation at Grand Valley State University and Michigan Cares for Tourism representative; Britta Riashi, Ford House's friendship and development specialist; and Mary Ann Bauman, Ford House's public events and engagement manager.

endeavors. To further strengthen its commitment to sustainability and ensure positive action, Ford House recently announced the appointment of its first sustainability coordinator. Alexis Armstrong, a Michigan State University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science and management and minors in environmental economics and sustainable studies, will begin in this newly established role this month and will be pivotal in ensuring that all sustainability efforts at Ford House adhere to the highest standards, solidifying its position as a leader in environ-

mental responsibility within the community. Continuing its dedication to sustainability, Ford House also announces the appointment of Cody Norman as Ford House's first artist-in-residence for the 2024 Detroit Month of Design. Norman, a distinguished artist, designer and educator based in Chicago, specializes in the innovative use of materials, particularly transforming used plastic into intricate works of art. His work, inspired by his experiences at Ford House, will be showcased during the Detroit Month of Design in September.

"Ford House is honored for this recognition and it truly is a testament to our ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship and our commitment to making a positive impact on the world around us," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House, of the 2024 Pure Award. "We are excited to continue our sustainability journey by hiring our first-ever sustainability coordinator and collaborating with Cody Norman, whose artistic vision will inspire and educate visitors during the Detroit Month of Design," he added.

Ford House remains committed to advancing sustainability initiatives and looks forward to leading by example to foster a more environmentally conscious future.

For more information about Ford House and its sustainability efforts, visit fordhouse.org/sustainability.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY NORMAN

Cody Norman



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

From left, "Odetta Holmes" by April Shipp, "Meditation" by Linda Ali and "AI created image" by Mary Hill.

'Soulful Stitches: 21 quilts/21 stories' in-person talk April 25

The quilters of Cr8tive Circles will be available in person 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 25, to talk about their work in the exhibition displayed in the Patriot Gallery, on the terrace level of the Fred M. Alger Center on The War Memorial campus, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The show is titled "Soulful Stitches: 21 quilts/21stories." Stories range

from family narratives to chronicles about the African American experience in America.

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association collaborated with the Cr8tive Circles members to produce the show.

More details are available on the association's website, grossepointeartcenter.org.

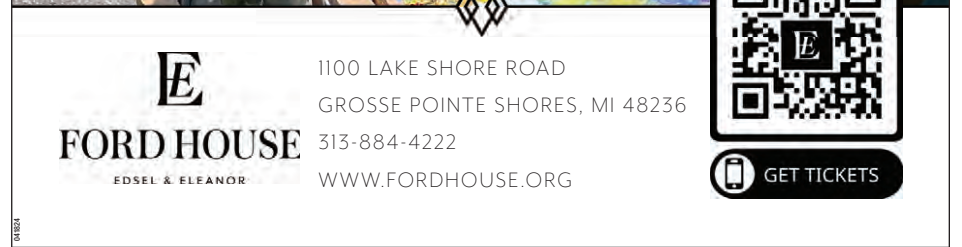


From left, "Mother and Child" by Sherrilyn Buyck, "Choose Freedom" by Shirley Phillip Horne and "Music Man" by Sharon Ray.



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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Binge watching favorite shows ahead of spouse

Dear Gabby: My husband and I have always watched the same shows at the same time.

However, he is capable of taking long breaks whereas I am not. I have gone ahead and binged and now I'm three seasons ahead and I'm afraid to tell him.

Do I have to suffer through the repeats or do

I fess up?

— Fast Forwarded in the Farms

Dear Fast,

Perhaps you and your husband should set up an agreement on how long you have to stall between shows. If one or the other breaches the "contract,"

all bets are off.

In the meantime, don't lie to your spouse over something so trivial. Otherwise, he might wonder what else you have to hide.

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



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: Over the years, I have worked in day care centers for 2-year-olds, and my husband is a speech therapist. I have a family friend who is raising a 2-year-old from the community. We see their child continuously and think that he is behind developmentally, especially in speech.

They could hypothetically wait until he is old enough to go to school and, hopefully, the school figures it out, but I have worked with those who have special needs and know that the earlier the intervention, the better the outcome.

The only issue is how to tell the mom that we think they should apply for speech therapy without freaking them out that their child is behind. I just know that with all of these therapies, it may help this child in the

future for success. He is an only child. — FAMILY FRIEND

DEAR FAMILY FRIEND: I would make doubly sure that you are correct in your diagnosis before you speak with your friend, but once you do, tell your friend your thoughts about the toddler's speech. You and your husband could even offer to help out while you find a good professional, assuming she is up for that. Friends tell friends the truth even if it is difficult. If she is truly a good friend, she will appreciate that you helped her get early intervention.

DEAR ANNIE: This is addressed to the many people who have written to you on the subject of being bullied.

Have you noticed that most, if not all, bullies

True gifts of love: creating memories

ply their trade to impress their peers? Bullies bully to gain the attention and approval of someone or some group. They usually pick on someone they think won't fight back — someone they consider weak.

Witnesses usually look the other way. The only way to stop bullies is for witnesses (in most cases, their own peers) to show disapproval in no uncertain terms. Don't encourage bullies!

When you witness bullying, speak up. If someone else speaks up, support them.

Unfortunately, the only way to stop a bully is to, for the moment at least, be a bigger bully. — GREAT GRANDPA BILL

DEAR FAMILY FRIEND: I love your analysis of bullying. Conventional wisdom is that the best way to stop a bully is for children who are being bullied to stick up for themselves. But that is often too difficult for them, which is why your analysis is so perceptive — to encourage others to stick up to the bully on behalf of the child being bullied.

My guess is that if the victim of the bully were to see his or her peers showing disapproval, it might give them a little courage to stick up for themselves.

At the end of the day, there is power in numbers, so let's put that power toward kindness and helping each other. One of my favorite quotes is by Albert Einstein: "The world will not be destroyed by

those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

DEAR ANNIE: This is in regard to your advice to "Sweet Tooth." My husband has diabetes. I had gestational diabetes when I was pregnant. I would not recommend honey or maple syrup or dark chocolate for people trying to cut down on sweets.

If you eat quantities of anything sweet, and you are at risk, you can get diabetes, even if you are eating "healthy sweets." When I had gestational diabetes, I could have two pieces of fruit a day. That was the extent of my sweet allowance. "Sweet Tooth" should get herself to a nutritionist or a dietitian to get sound advice.

Cutting down is hard; she will get a headache for a few days. And the cravings are real. But it's better than getting a chronic illness. — ALSO LOVES SWEETS

DEAR ALSO LOVES SWEETS: Thank you for your letter. I hope it inspires others in similar situations to cut down on sweets.

DEAR READERS: Many of you wrote in with tips on encouraging children to focus less on material items. Thank you for sharing these terrific suggestions. Here are some of my favorite letters:

DEAR ANNIE: I just read your letter from "Caught in the Middle," the parent whose daughter is being spoiled by



her grandparents and is looking for a polite way to call off the gifts. The letter writer should follow your advice and encourage her mother to start giving memories instead of presents. She should get on the floor with her granddaughter and play with her. Whether it's having a tea party or building a fort or going to the zoo, those are the things her granddaughter will remember.

She won't remember the gifts after a week or two, but memories of play dates and special times with her grandma? She'll remember those always.

My grandson has a family member who always gives gifts, and sometimes it's hard when I don't do that. But I'm determined to give him memories that will last.

When he remembers how he pet the baby deer at the deer farm, he'll remember that we took him there. Or how we were at every sporting event that he's played in, being his loudest supporters. He often brings up some of the things

we've done. That's when I know we've done the right thing.

Grammy life is the best life. — MEMORIES FOREVER

DEAR ANNIE: Many years ago, my grandfather insisted on gifting us something on every visit. This was in addition to taking us for treats and to the park to play.

He also kept a change jar, and while we would hold our hands over a bag, he'd pour change until it overflowed in our hands.

My mom tempered the generosity by letting us keep an age-appropriate amount to spend and taking us to the bank to deposit the rest in our savings accounts.

I'll always remember my grandfather's generosity, but I also remember my mom teaching us to save. Maybe this would help this family, too.

When we got overloaded with toys at Christmas, we chose several to keep and donated the rest to kids less fortunate or the local Y.

See ANNIE, page 3C



We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



It seems like fancy toilets and toilet seats are having a moment — at least on social media sites aiming to sell them. Although I hate to admit it, given it's a bathroom product, my interest was piqued and I had to try it.

Because of the thousands of 5-star reviews, my choice ended up being the Tushy Classic Bidet. There were other choices, but



this was listed as the "best deal" and was on sale for \$99. Spoiler alert: I should have splurged for the

"spa" version.

When it arrived, my husband installed it (very quickly and easily I might add) and it was ready to go. Because it was winter and freezing outside when I tried it, when I was blasted with ice cold water I nearly jumped in the air and let out an ear-piercing scream. What the heck? Who are these

16,000 people giving this thing a 5-star review? Unless I was in the desert in the middle of summer, that is not pleasant.

After realizing I purchased a terrible product, I looked on the website and found that you can, in fact, buy one that ties into your warm water line. It's only \$30 more. That would have been the move in this case.

However, overall, I don't think these seats are really that great. Although the expensive toilets — with all the bells and whistles like a heated seat, washing, drying, deodorizing and

more — are in a different price range entirely, my advice would be to save up for it and skip any of the Tushy products. When all something does is shoot water at you, it's nothing you need.

To this reviewer, this product is a sort of novelty one-off that won't stand the test of time and certainly is not something you would want to subject yourself to (at least in the cold Michigan winters) unless you are looking for a horrific and jarring burst of ice cold water on your nether regions. I'm giving

this two alligators because technically it does what it says it will, but buyers beware.

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

2 Out Of 5



Holding on to spring

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Spring pea soup with leeks, creme fraiche and mint is transcendent. They were all meant to be together and join forces. Pasta, risotto, soup, anything.

They just work together beautifully and adding lemon makes it so much more.

I added a dollop of creme fraiche on top to make it extra. Season with extra pepper and you are good to go.

Cheers, Mombeau

- Spring Pea Soup**
- 2 16 oz bags frozen peas
 - 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
 - 1 leek, sliced and washed
 - 1 tbsp butter
 - 1 tbsp olive oil
 - 1 tbsp fresh mint
 - 8 oz creme fraiche

juice from one lemon
Salt and pepper to taste

Start by sauteing the leeks in the butter and olive oil.

After about five minutes add the peas and broth. Stir together and let simmer for 10 minutes.

Once the peas are cooked, blend to a smooth consistency and add the mint and



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

lemon at the end. Serve with a generous dollop of creme fraiche and extra black pepper. Enjoy!

Lower alcohols

Wine is a simple beverage, primarily composed of the juice from grapes; the alcohol comes from the sugars in those grapes after fermentation.

Basically, that's it. Yeast is added to create the fermentation (Louis Pasteur discovered this in 1857), but it's removed before you buy a bottle. And yes, some wines (mainly reds) are aged in oak barrels to give the wine

maturity or flavor. But for the most part, wine's flavors come from the grapes that are used to make it. A gewurztraminer will be spicier than a pinot gris, which may be a bit spicier than a sauvignon blanc, which is a bit grassier than a chardonnay.

One element that can change a wine from being distinctively flavored is the alcohol. And though

most people can't discern the difference between a wine that's 13 percent alcohol and one at 14 percent, most people can detect the difference when the alcohols differ widely.

Over the last 30 years or so, most California wines have risen significantly in alcohol content. There are a number of reasons for this, and wineries seem not to mind the higher alcohols

even though the taxes they pay on wines over 14 percent are higher than for wines under that figure.

That may be changing, thanks in part to the demands of the youngest generation of wine drinkers, those aged about 21 to 35. Millennials, as these people are called, want more fruit flavors in their wine. And they see alcohol as covering up flavors.



As a result, in various interviews with winemakers over the last few years, I have heard almost all say variations on the same theme: "We're working to get our alcohol levels down."

One Sonoma County winemaker told me that 25 years ago, he thought it was fun to have a chardonnay with nearly 15 percent alcohol and that his marketing department was thrilled.

"But I couldn't drink it," he said.

Today, he and most winemakers say that 13.5 percent, which once was common with chardonnay, is again a target.

There are multiple ways to make wines with lower alcohol, and most of them entail picking the fruit with less sugar. Another way to drop the alcohol is to remove some of it after the fermentation by techniques such as reverse osmosis or the use of gadgets such as the spinning cone, an expensive device owned by only a few wineries in California.

The demand for lower-alcohol wines is evident in many areas

of the country. Major wine shops say they are increasing the amount of space they devote to German rieslings, most of which come in at 11 percent alcohol — and sometimes as low as 7.5 percent alcohol!

Alcohol levels in many wines are coming down, although a few zinfandels still are on store shelves with 16 percent and more. At that stage, most of the wines smell and taste more like raisins than fresh fruit.

Millennials seem to be driving this demand for better balance. They also say that less alcohol is more healthful.

Another trend in the last two or three years is the move by some wineries to make wines that actually have most, if not all, of the alcohol removed. Zero-alc wine is a growing category that is being developed as a significant trend throughout the state.

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

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Alcohol content is the main factor that changes a wine's body, which can make it feel thick and filling or smooth like water. Low alcohol content wine includes those with ABVs lower than 10 percent. Wines that are light in body and sweet is due to the alcohol content being low. The sweetness comes from the leftover grape sugar that remains in the wine after the desired alcohol-level is reached.

DEAR ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

I am 66 years old and very grateful for these early experiences. They taught me thrift, empathy and compassion and have kept me well-grounded through the years! — FEELING COMPASSION

DEAR ANNIE: I must preface my comment with the fact that I am a 64-year-old woman who has been reading advice columns in newspapers since I was a teenager.

I continue to learn while reading these columns, but every once in a while, I see a very black-and-white answer to what seems a complicated situation.

If "Caught in the

Middle" cannot get her mother-in-law to stop giving gifts, then she should accept them graciously.

My niece has dealt with this by talking to her now 5- and 8-year-old daughters and telling them they can only have as many toys or "stuffies" as can fit in the huge toy box in their room. As the toy box begins to overflow, they make decisions on what toys they are willing to give to other children. Plenty of charities are looking for "newer" toys.

There are variations on how this can be done, but it teaches children that when they are blessed with an abundance of things, it can feel good to give to children who don't have as much as they do. This will keep

the grandmother happy, as the daughter-in-law will stop nagging her, and peace will prevail.

DEAR READERS: Wishing you all a very Happy Passover and Happy Earth Day.

Here is a poem by a great lover of nature, Henry David Thoreau.

"O Nature! I do not aspire to be the highest in thy quire,

To be a meteor in the sky, or comet that may range on high;

Only a zephyr that may blow among the reeds by the river low;

Give me thy most privy place where to run my airy race.

In some withdrawn, unpublic mead let me sigh upon a reed,

Or in the woods, with leafy din, whisper the still evening in:

Some still work give me to do, only — be it near to you!

For I'd rather be thy child and pupil, in the forest wild,

Than be the king of men elsewhere, and most sovereign slave of care:

To have one moment of thy dawn, than share the city's year forlorn."

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

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANHINGA MEDIA, GREAT POINT MEDIA AND NIGHT TRAIN MEDIA

A sweet moment for Robert, played by James Norton and Alice, played by Gemma Arterton from the 2022 film "Rogue Agent," directed by Declan Lawn and Adam Patterson.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Rogue Agent"
2022 - Not Rated
1 hr 55 min
★★★☆☆

I've seen my share of movies about scam artists over the years. Obviously they fall into two camps — fictionalized ones and those based on true stories.

"Rogue Agent" falls into the latter category and it's a tale that'll have you scratching your head in disbelief. It confirms the old adage that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

The film is loosely based on real events and is co-directed by Adam Patterson and Declan Lawn, who wrote the screenplay. It's based on a magazine article penned by Michael Bronner who also worked on the screenplay. What a marvelous job they've done telling the story of a master of deception.

As the movie begins in 1993, we're informed that England has been

battling a wave of bombings by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

We meet Robert Hendy-Freegard (James Norton), a handsome young bartender in a small British college town. He convinces a trio of students to join him in penetrating a sleeper cell of IRA terrorists on campus by telling them he's an undercover agent for MI5. While doing this, a voiceover explains the methods employed by crafty agents like him.

Then suddenly, he tells them they're in grave danger and they need to flee. He promises them he'll keep them safe and they drive off into the night.

We cut to nine years later. Robert is now a luxury car salesman. One day Alice Archer (Gemma Arterton) encounters him on her daily walk to work. She's a highly respected solicitor at a big London law firm. When he starts coming on to her, she wants nothing to do with him and rudely blows

him off. Later she apologizes to him and agrees to go on a date.

Needless to say, she's a bit wary of him at first. However, Robert is so charming she starts to fall for him against her better judgment.

As their relationship gets more serious, the cautious Alice hires an old friend Phil (Julian Barratt), to do a background check on him. When she's informed that there's absolutely no information on Robert, and he's practically a ghost, she's not totally surprised.

She confronts Robert and he's quick to offer an explanation. He's an undercover agent and now that Alice is in his sphere of orbit, she'll have to be vetted by the agency. He's so smooth and quick on his feet he not only convinces her, but I almost believed it as well. It's fascinating to watch him in action. Whenever he's called out on a lie, he has a ready explanation and never even bats an eye.



Alice (Arterton) & Robert (Norton) out on the town.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



The real Robert Hendy-Freegard.

Robert does a masterful job of courting Alice, gradually gaining her complete trust. They go on romantic weekend getaways. She even begins to loosen up, shedding a bit of her businesslike persona, and letting down her guard.

He actually convinces her that maybe she might find other business ventures more rewarding than practicing law. Aha! Here it comes, you'll be telling yourself. The couple decides that maybe they should pool their money and look into starting a high-end auto leasing company together.

Then the highly anticipated bombshell drops. Alice gets an email from her bank thanking her for her patronage and they're sorry to lose her as a customer. Her account has been wiped out. This is where the film kicks into high gear.

Alice is now out for blood, not just to recover her money, but also to destroy Robert. She engages the help of a detective (Shazad Latif), who constantly reels Alice in because he feels she's going too far in her pursuit of justice. And as expected, Robert has already moved on to prey on a new victim. The tension slowly builds to a feverish pitch.

While all this is occurring, the story touches on the life of Sophie (Marisa Abela). She was one of the trio Robert recruited

back in 1993. She was basically brainwashed and is convinced that she's being molded to become an MI5 agent. The things she's had to put up with over the years is absolutely heartbreaking. And she figures into the climax of tale.

The filmmakers did a brilliant job with the pacing of the movie. At first, things move at a snail's pace. But by the end of the film, you're totally caught up in the action, keeping you fingers crossed that Robert will be nabbed.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this review, it's one of those stories that seems just too far-fetched to be true. If you're interested in this case, there's a three-part docu-series about Hendy-Freegard on Netflix called "The Puppet Master" that looks intriguing. I haven't seen it yet, but I've added it to my queue.

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

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also on AMC+, Hulu, IFC Films Unlimited, and to rent on Prime Video.

My rating system:

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



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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

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

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

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

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

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

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



Marisa Abela as Sophia Jones.



The couple visit the Longplayer musical clock.



Alice (Arterton) & Robert (Norton) hit the road.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 7:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EDT today (4:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Leo into Virgo.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 18, 2024:

You're energetic and dependable, and you have conviction. You stand by your beliefs. You are also confident and dignified. Lucky you! This is a playful, fun-loving year! Make time to let your hair down and enjoy yourself. Seek out pleasure, but don't lose sight of your goals.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Roll up your sleeves today, because anything that you do to get better organized will please you. With the Sun in your sign, you've got lots of energy. Meanwhile, Mercury is also retrograde in your sign creating hiccups, delays and goofy mistakes. Get busy! Tonight: Work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

This is wonderful day to socialize! There are many activities that you will enjoy pursuing -- sports events, movies, the theater, social outings, playful activities with kids, as well as chances to express your creativity. It's a happy day, but you might prefer to be private or low-key. Tonight: Play!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Welcome any opportunity to hunker down at home and relax among familiar surroundings. You might be involved in family activities. Old friends from the past plus people you know who are creative and talented might figure in your day. Tonight: Cocoon.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You'll enjoy talking to others today, especially bosses, parents and people in authority. In turn, they will be happy to talk to you. In fact, someone might want your advice about how to make something look more attractive -- be it a garden or a webpage. Tonight: Discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Travel for pleasure will appeal to you today. You want a change of scenery and a chance to explore more of the world and expand your horizons. Perhaps you see now that you can financially swing this. Tonight: Check your belongings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which will make you more emotional than usual. However, the good news is that when the Moon is in your sign (which happens for two and a half days every month), it will slightly improve your luck! Ask the universe for a favor. See what happens. Tonight: You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This has been a social time for you lately due to hanging out with creative friends, spouses, partners, as well as contact with people from your past. However, today you will welcome an opportunity to lie low and contemplate your navel. Chill out. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a friendly day. Make an effort to reach out to others and talk to them, especially female colleagues. You might be surprised to find that a discussion will prompt you to modify your future

goals. This interaction also might improve your job. Who knew? Tonight: Friendships..

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

People notice you today. This could be because personal details about your private life are available for some reason to some people. Some of you might want to do some damage control. Meanwhile, this is a playful, fun-loving time. Accept invitations to socialize. Tonight: Be courteous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Do something different today. You want to explore and learn something new. Your involvement with family and redecorating projects at home are time-consuming right now. You also might have family camped on your doorstep. Tonight: Explore!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is a busy, fast-paced week for you. Transportation delays and confused communications along with missed appointments might be maddening. Fortunately, Venus in your House of Communications will make you charming and diplomatic no matter what happens. Tonight: Check your finances.

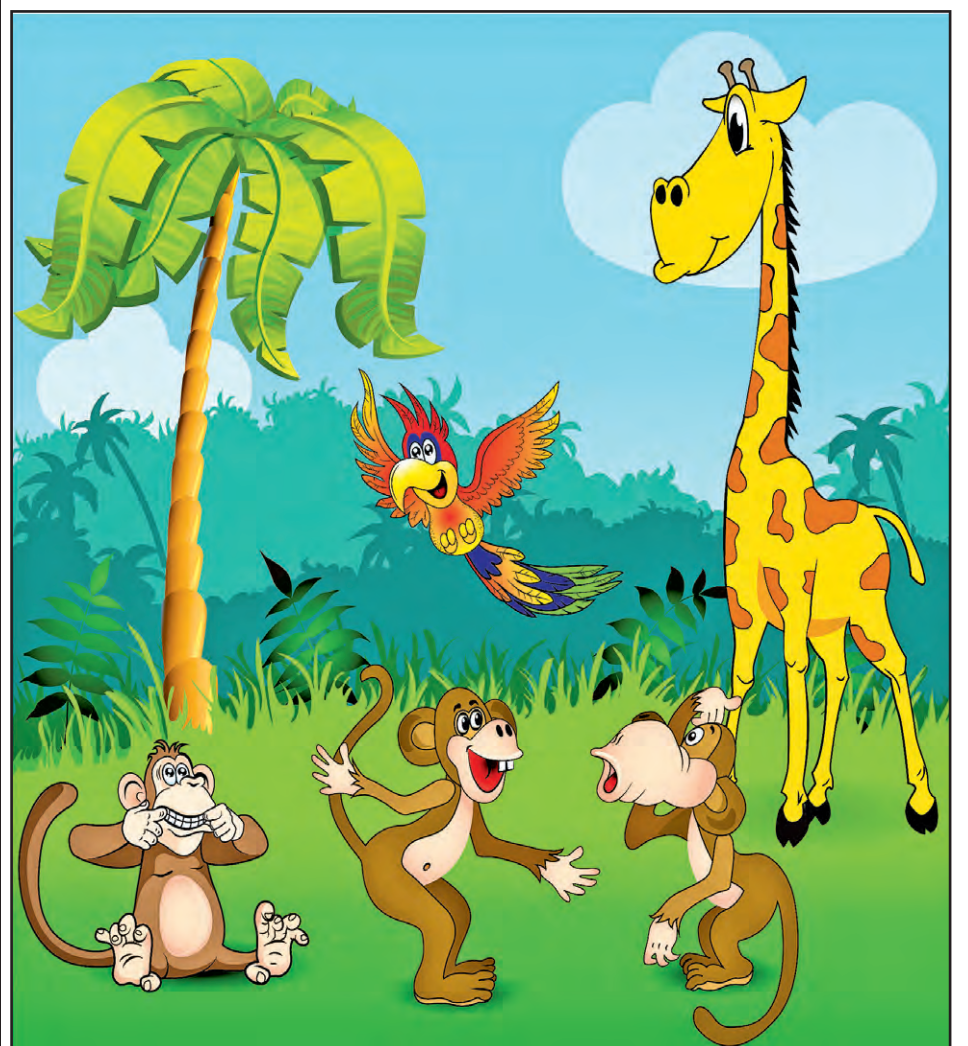
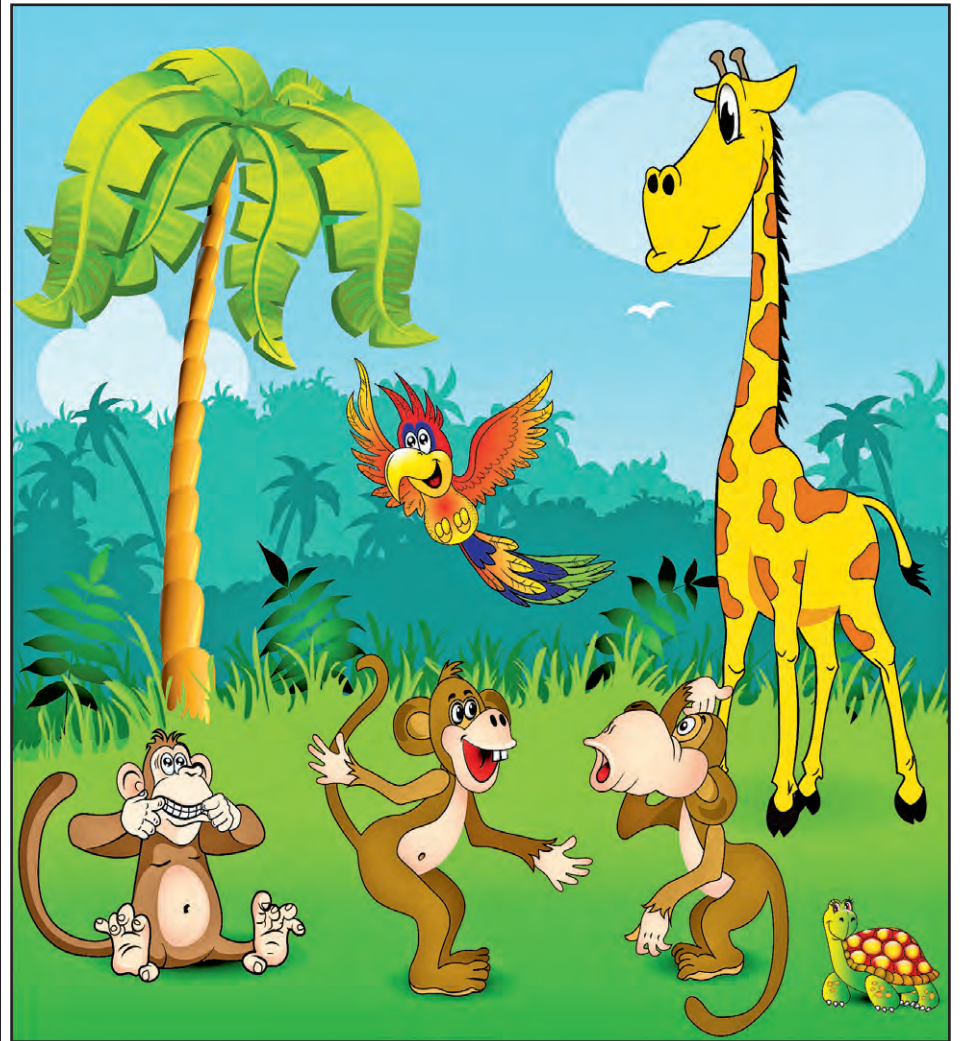
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Be open to the suggestions of others today, especially partners and close friends. This is the best way for you to make the most of this day because the Moon is opposite your sign. Moneymaking ideas along with shopping for beautiful things will appeal to you. Tonight: Cooperate.

BORN TODAY

Actor David Tennant (1971), actress Vanessa Kirby (1988), TV host Conan O'Brien (1963).

Find 10 Differences



Contract Bridge

SLOW — DANGER AHEAD

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 5
♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ K J
♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST

♠ 2
♥ K 10 9
♦ 8 6 5 4 3
♣ A K 10 2

EAST

♠ 8 6 3
♥ 3
♦ A Q 9 7 2
♣ J 9 5 4

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 9 7 4
♥ A Q J 4 2
♦ 10
♣ 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Some plays in bridge are not seen very often, largely because the opportunity to use them is relatively rare. But when they arise, they can spell the difference between success and failure, so the conscientious player must continuously be on the lookout for them.

Take this case from a team-of-four match. At both tables South got to four

hearts and West led the king of clubs. This was followed at each table by a spade shift at trick two.

At the first table, declarer won the spade with dummy's king and, in an attempt to reduce the possibility of a spade ruff, led a heart to the ace and continued with the jack.

This approach failed to produce the desired result when West took the jack with the king and shifted to a diamond. Declarer put up dummy's king, but East won with the ace and returned a spade, ruffed by West, so the contract went down one.

At the second table, West's spade shift at trick two was also taken in dummy, but South found a superior line of play that enabled him to make the contract. At trick three, he led the queen of clubs from dummy and, after East followed low, discarded the ten of diamonds!

West took the queen with the ace and switched to a diamond, but the bird had by this time flown the coop. South ruffed, played the ace and queen of hearts and easily scored the rest of the tricks. He had executed a "scissors coup" — a play designed to cut communications between the defenders in order to defuse an impending threat.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH — GET FOOD HERE!

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **What bird can be heard at mealtimes?**

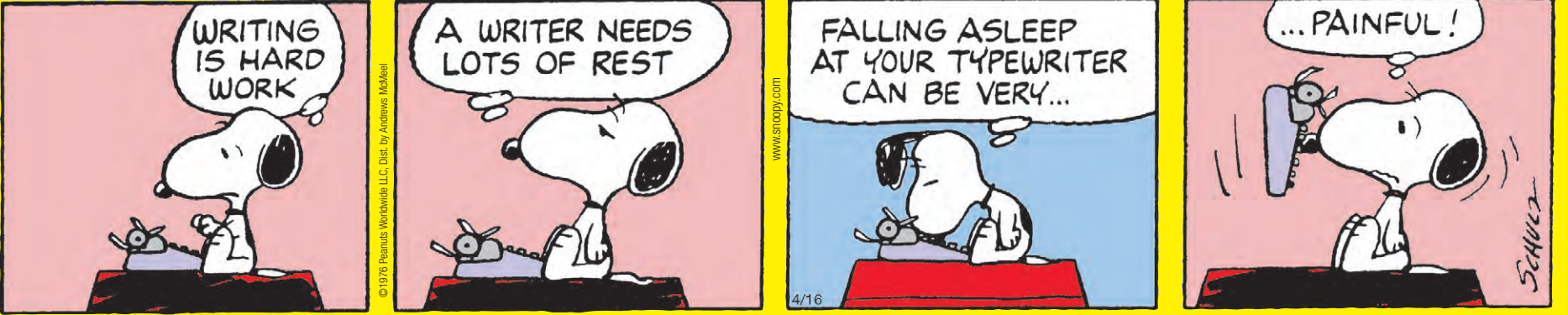
BARBECUE	R	A	B	I	H	S	U	S	T	A
CAFE										
CLAMBAKE	R	E	N	I	D	F	A	R	M	P
DELI										
DINER	B	C	S	H	O	P	A	S	R	O
EATERY										
FARM	A	L	W	T	A	C	I	L	A	T
FEAST										
HUT	R	A	B	D	A	L	A	S	B	S
KITCHEN	B	M	L	E	E	U	O	T	K	K
LUAU										
RESTAURANT	E	B	T	D	W	A	R	S	C	C
SALAD BAR										
SHOP	C	A	F	E	H	U	T	A	A	U
SNACK BAR										
SUSHI BAR	U	K	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	R
TEA CART										
TRUCK STOP	E	E	A	T	E	R	Y	F	S	T

Riddle answer: _ _ _ _ _ .

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



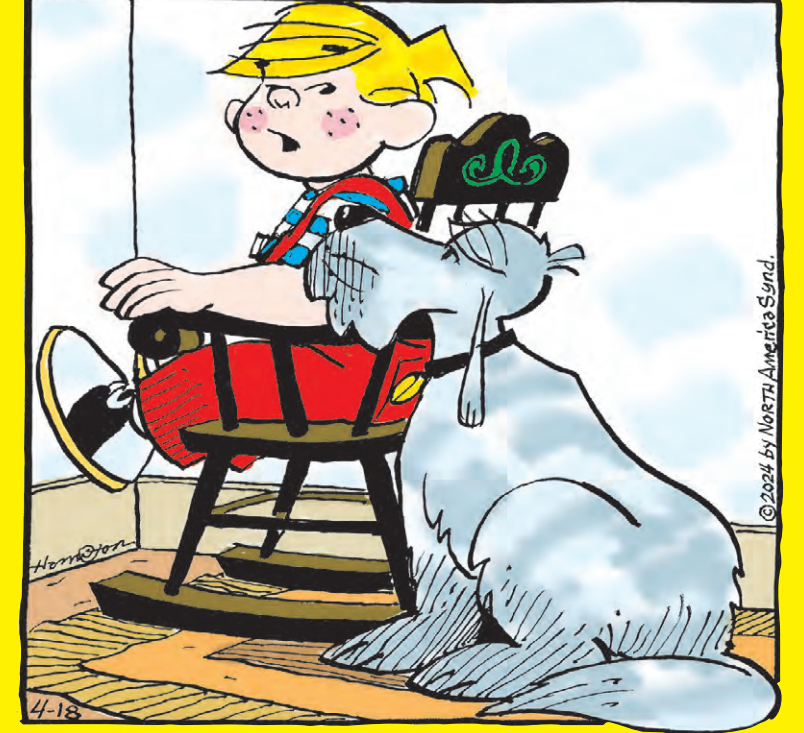
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



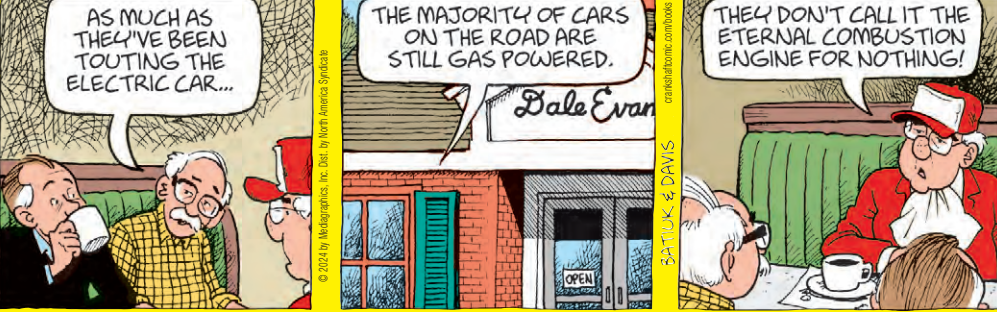
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



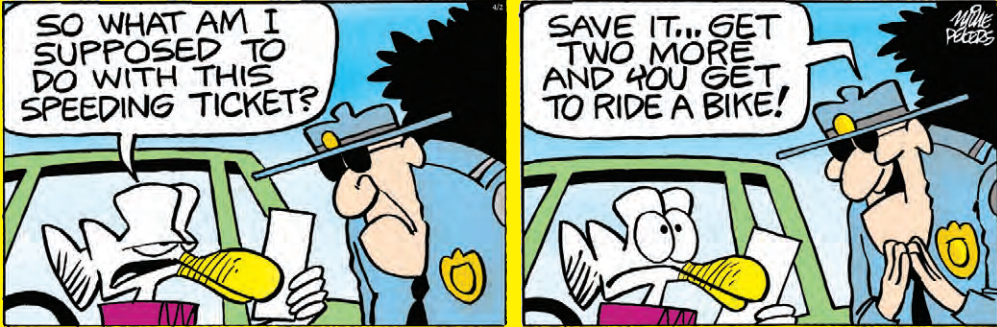
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



"THAT DIDN'T END WELL!"

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"I STILL CAN'T DECIDE WHICH ONE REMINDS ME MORE OF YOUR MOTHER."

Close To Home

John McPherson



"Thelma and Louise in previous lives."

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Are you buying, sniffing or planning a quick getaway?"

Kid Scoop

Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

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Kid Scoop Together

Corny Math

Work with a family member to use your math skills to reveal more facts about corn.

Each corn stalk usually grows _____ ear of corn.

12 - 11 = _____

The average ear of corn usually has about _____ kernels.

670 + 130 = _____

If you plant one kernel and care for it, you end up with _____ kernels!

400 + 400 = _____

If a farmer plants 30,000 kernels in one acre, how many will he plant in 100 acres?

About how many are there in two ears of corn?

800 + 800 = _____

If a giraffe is 16 feet tall, how much taller is the tallest stalk of corn ever measured?

If a corn plant grows 2 inches a day, how long until it is 12 feet tall?

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **STALK**

The noun **stalk** means the main stem of a plant.

The corn plant has one main stem called a **stalk**.

Try to use the word **stalk** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Write On!

Your Favorite Vegetable

Write a riddle for people to figure out your favorite vegetable.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.

Corn Seasons

Corn is used in more than 3,500 ways. To name just a few, there is corn starch, corn syrup, corn oil, popcorn and good old eating corn. Corn is even used to make a kind of fuel called **ethanol**.

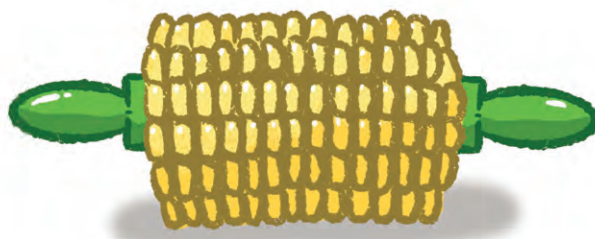


Which of these things are partly made of corn?

- Batteries Matches Diapers

ANSWER: All of them!

Two Kinds of Corn



Most of the corn grown is **dent corn**, also called **field corn**. Dent corn is picked dry and used mostly for livestock feed and ethanol.

Another popular corn is **sweet corn**. Sweet corn is sweeter and juicier than dent corn and is the kind we eat!

Replace the missing words.

Spring

Corn seeds are planted in the spring. Corn seeds are called **kernels**.

In the spring, farmers wait until the _____ is warm before planting corn. The corn kernels need warm soil and spring _____ to start growing.

EARS SOIL GROWING STALKS
WATER HURT FIX RAINS

Summer

During the summer, farmers care for their corn plants. They make sure they get enough _____. They check for weeds, diseases and insects that could _____ the plants. It takes science to grow healthy corn crops!

With water and warmth, corn grows about 2 inches a day. Corn _____ usually grow to about 8 feet tall. The tallest stalk on record was about 45 feet tall—nearly as tall as a four-story building!

Fall

In the fall, corn plants stop _____. The plants turn brown, and the _____ point down. Farmers wait for the ears of corn to dry, and then they harvest.

Winter

Farmers ship their corn to customers. They also _____ their equipment and get ready to plant again in the spring.

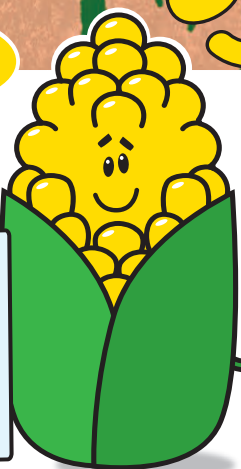


Corn was first grown in this country more than 9,000 years ago:

The letters along the correct path through the corn maze reveals the answer!

Use the code!

- = B
- = C
- = E
- = I
- = M
- = N
- = O



How Technology Helps Farmers

Corn for many centuries was picked by hand. But there have been many inventions that help farmers.

One machine combines several farming jobs in one machine. It cuts the corn stalks and then brings them through the machine. This machine then separates the kernels from the rest of the plant. The machine is called a:



Extra! Extra!

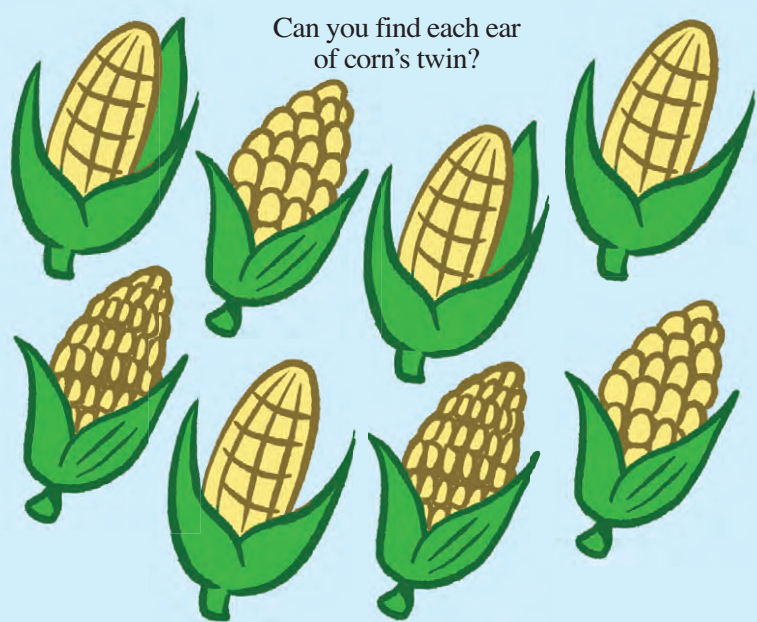
Make a Tall Corn Stalk

Roll up sheets of the newspaper to make long rolls. How long is one sheet rolled? Estimate how many more pages need to be rolled to make one long roll that is 45 feet long. Then keep rolling pages and lining them up until you make a 45-foot-long roll—the length of one of the tallest corn stalks measured.

Standards Link: Math: Estimate lengths.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you find each ear of corn's twin?



Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Life Cycle

Look through the newspaper for pictures that show people, animals or things at different stages of their lives. Cut them out to create a life cycle.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the natural life cycle of people and objects.



Why did all the farmer's jokes make everyone groan?

ANSWER: They were really corny jokes.

Write On!

Your Favorite Vegetable

Write a riddle for people to figure out your favorite vegetable.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write using descriptive details.



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2D BASEBALL | 3D SOUTH SOFTBALL | 4D-5D CLASSIFIEDS | 6D TRACK & FIELD

Ancona's 4 goals help ULS girls soccer summit Everest Collegiate

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After a stellar season on the ice with the University Liggett varsity girls hockey team, which included winning the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League's 2023-24 Miss Hockey award, senior Sofie Ancona has picked up right where she left off on the soccer pitch.

Ancona and the Knights hosted Everest Collegiate Thursday, April 11, in their third game of the young season and got a second win with a 4-2 triumph over the Mountaineers, thanks to four goals by Ancona.

"As she goes, we go," Liggett girls soccer head coach David Dwaihy said about Ancona's performance. "I think when she's getting on the ball a lot and can get into the offensive third, we're always going to have a chance to score, which I think gives the whole team a lot of confidence. She's also really unselfish and she doesn't miss an opportunity to play a pass that will set someone else up for a chance. She's look-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett senior Sofie Ancona gets the ball on a breakaway before scoring her third of four goals in a 4-2 win for the Knights over Everest last Thursday.

ing to make the right decision, not the decision that will only create a chance for herself." Ancona's first goal came 19 minutes into the game as the result of some crafty moves around a couple of Everest defenders before finding the back of the net. However, her second goal of the first half was arguably the

most impressive. It came on a long shot from over 30 yards out from the net. Ancona launched a shot nearly from the midfield logo on Liggett's field that made it over the head and off the fingertips of Everest's keeper to give the Knights a 2-0 lead going into halftime. It was not long into the second half when

Ancona and the Knights struck again. She completed her hat trick in the game's 46th minute while helping to extend Liggett's lead to 3-0. About eight minutes later, the Mountaineers scored their first of the game to cut into the lead. Liggett responded promptly with another from Ancona, completing her four-goal game.

Another tally from Everest later in the second half lessened the deficit once again, but it proved to be too late, as the Knights still ended the day with a two-goal victory. The win pulled the Knights to 2-1 so far through the team's first three games. While having capable scorers like Ancona up front can

certainly help lead to wins, it is the team's play in the midfield and defensive end after some early-season adjustments that has impressed the coaches the most in the first couple of weeks.

"We've brought Addison Hamilton a little further up the field and Kerith Short has pitched in and Sofie (Ancona) has dropped back into that area," Dwaihy said. "...We shifted Addie Ancona into our backline, and she and Elizabeth Dickey have formed a really good partnership as central defenders. Anna Gray and Elle Quinlan have been the marking backs that have got it done...And not to mention our goalkeeper Gabby Szajenko. The defensive part of our midfield has been better than expected and allowed us to get a good foothold in every game."

Liggett visited Ann Arbor Greenhills on Tuesday, April 16, after press time. The Knights return home for a game at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, against Lutheran North.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

South's Bachert using senior year to leave legacy on basketball court and soccer pitch

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Anyone who knows Elsa Bachert, especially her teammates and coaches, would say that she is probably one of the hardest-working athletes in all of Grosse Pointe. Now a senior at Grosse Pointe South, Bachert is in her final seasons of both basketball and soccer, two sports where she has been a fixture in the Blue Devils' varsity lineups for years.

Bachert has been on South's varsity girls basketball team since she was a freshman and on the varsity girls soccer team since her sophomore year. Being a multi-sport athlete was nothing new to Bachert coming into high school, as she grew up being used to doing just about anything and everything, which instilled in her the will-

ingness to take on any challenge.

"I've just been playing them my whole life and my parents are really supportive of me playing sports," Bachert said. "They've made it so that it's a part of my life. High

made the varsity team as a freshman which was a little scary, just like starting a new position in soccer was."

Bachert is one of the types of goalies in a sport like soccer who comes into the position out of coincidence or circumstance. For much of her youth soccer career, Bachert was used to playing out in the field, mainly on defense.

She stepped up to become a goalkeeper when there was a need on South's JV girls soccer team her freshman year. Bachert was put into the net and never looked back, making the move for the sake of the team and working ever since to become the best goalie she can be in order to help the Blue Devils win.

"Freshman year, there were no cuts and we had no goalie for the JV team, and I was the tallest so I kind of just got pushed into the position," she said. "But, I got a lot of training that year. Sophomore year, my coach really helped me a lot by focusing on helping me get better at the position. Before that, I was used to just running around on defense and kicking the ball, but (goalie) got a bit more technical and mental because



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Elsa Bachert has been the goalkeeper for South's varsity girls soccer team since her sophomore year.

you're more isolated and only you can make certain moves in that position."

In 2022, Bachert was named MAC Red Goalie of the Year while also helping the Blue Devils win a district championship. The 2023 season did not end with quite as much success as Bachert and South would have hoped. Now, a new season is just beginning, and Bachert has high expectations for herself and her team.

Bachert firmly believes that the Blue Devils are capable of recapturing the district title this year and going even beyond that in the state playoffs. She knows that in order to do that, she will need to be on the top of her game in net all season long. With the things she

See *ATHLETE*, page 6D



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Elsa Bachert
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Soccer
Sponsored by Expert Heating & Cooling

Elite Elsa

- 2022 MAC Red Goalie of the Year for soccer
- South girls varsity basketball co-captain for 2023-24
- Four-year varsity basketball player and three-year varsity soccer starter

Athlete Of The Week Proudly Sponsored By:



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2D | SPORTS

Baseball teams navigate early tests

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Baseball season in Grosse Pointe is in full swing and as always, the teams from Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett are not shying away from taking on challenging matchups early in the spring. The Norsemen, Blue Devils and Knights all faced some tough competition last week and all saw mixed results with some wins and also some early-season defeats.

Grosse Pointe North

Weather cut last week a bit short for the Norsemen, who ended up playing in only one game. That game was a home matchup with Lakeview last Wednesday, April 10, that ended in a 6-1 loss for North.

North went down 2-0 in the top of the first and was never quite able to recover from that early deficit. The Norsemen's only run of the game was scored in the bottom of the first when Brennan Hill got an RBI on a fielder's choice ground ball. North was shut out from that point on, with the Huskies adding four more runs to the scoreboard in the fifth inning



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BASEBALL

South's Henry Domzalski waits on deck while Jack Wiegand (No. 15), steps up to the plate during South's game against Mount Pleasant at Central Michigan University's Keilitz Field on Saturday, April 13.

to leave with the win.

North's scheduled game against Dakota the next day, Thursday, April 11, was postponed due to weather. That gave the Norsemen a slightly extended break, with the team's next game not until Tuesday, April 16, after press time when they took on L'Anse Creuse North.

The Norsemen get back to action at home Thursday, April 18, hosting L'Anse Creuse North with first pitch at

4:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils continued action last week with four games in five days, and after it was all said and done, the team split those four games with two wins and two losses.

The first was a 6-3 win at home against Marysville last Thursday, April 11. Down 3-0 after two innings, South exploded for five runs in the bottom of the third inning and never looked

back.

The third-inning rally was started with a double by Jake Kozel that brought two runs across the plate. Kozel then came in to score and tie the game 3-3 on an RBI single hit by Lucas Ogden. Caleb Eckert stepped up the plate later in the inning and put the Blue Devils in front with a single that drove in two more runs, making it 5-3.

Another RBI hit by Ogden in the fourth inning put one more run

in the Blue Devils' tally and ultimately helped make the final score 6-3. Griffin Szatkiewski spent five innings on the mound for South in the win, allowing three runs on six hits. Jack Ryan tossed two scoreless innings with only two hits allowed.

South traveled to Mount Pleasant over the weekend for two games on Saturday, April 13, played at Central Michigan University's Keilitz Field. The first

game was a harsh 11-1 loss to Grand Ledge where Szatkiewski knocked in the only run for South in the sixth inning.

The Blue Devils' second game in Chippewa country on Saturday was much more pleasant than the first for South fans. South took on the Mount Pleasant Oilers and ended the day with a 6-2 victory.

Adam Czarnik had three RBI in the win to help lead South's offense. On the mound, Charlie Michelotti threw four innings allowing one run on four hits. Dane Lezotte allowed one run on three hits in three innings of work.

Finally, South returned home Monday, April 15, for a MAC Red showdown against Henry Ford II. The first game of MAC Red league play did not end the way the Blue Devils would have liked, falling to the Falcons 4-2. James Michelotti and Luke Thomsson had an RBI each in the loss.

South faced Ford II again on the road Tuesday, April 16, after press time. They will host the Falcons for a third matchup on Thursday, April 18, starting at 4:30 p.m.

See **BASEBALL**, page 3D

Norsemen brave wind and rain but fall 3-0 to Country Day

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The conditions last Friday, April 12, were some of the roughest that players on the Grosse Pointe North girls soccer team might have to endure this spring before the weather gets warmer. Players, coaches and fans braved the strong, chilling winds and rain to watch the Norsemen host Detroit Country Day in an early-season showdown.

North's state championship defense has had its ups and downs so far, and last Friday's result was one the Norsemen would like to forget, as Country Day left Grosse Pointe with a 3-0 win.

"We've set a goal for the girls to be positive in all the games knowing that it's going to be tough

to face established programs like (Country Day)," North girls soccer head coach Thalu Masindi said. "I believe that within these games, I've learned a lot more about what we need to work on defensively. In order to win a game of football, you have to defend first from the front all the way back to the keeper. So now the focus has been on defensive principles as a unit."

All three goals for Country Day were scored in the first half on Friday. The first goal came just three minutes into the contest, giving the Yellow Jackets an early lead and momentum.

North had its opportunities in the first half, and throughout the game, yet was never quite able to convert. Country Day was able to break through

again in the 25th minute to extend its lead to 2-0. A third goal for the Yellow Jackets just three minutes before halftime cemented the lead 3-0 for the first half and for the game.

The loss dropped North's record to 1-2-1 so far this season. It was the second loss in a row for the Norsemen, who began the season with a 1-1 draw against L'Anse Creuse on April 2, followed by a 3-1 win over Stevenson on April 8.

The Norsemen are focused on consistency throughout the season and especially early on, and the mixed results so far have not seemed to bring down the team's spirits. The players and coaches are starting to feel the chemistry off the field coming together, and hope that chemistry

will give the team confidence to produce better results on the field.

"They're such a coachable group and are so willing to learn," Masindi said. "...I've been fairly impressed with all of them. It's not easy to start a season with try-outs then have a week off with spring break and come back and expect to be fit and play a full 80-minute game. It's not easy for these young athletes. Together, they're starting to gel and I see more confidence in some of the freshmen talking to the seniors and starting to build friendships, and if that gets better off the field then it's going to be even better on the field when they're playing together."

North visited Eisenhower after press time on Wednesday,



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North's Amelia Streberger keeps the ball in bounds along the sideline during a 3-0 loss to Detroit Country Day last Friday, April 12.

April 17. The Norsemen are back in action on Trenton for a game Friday, April 19, going on beginning at 6 p.m.

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**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY**

Regular Meeting	Monday April 8, 2024	7:00 p.m.
<p>A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms was held at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road and called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, by Mayor Louis Theros. Present: Mayor Louis Theros, Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad-Wilberding; Councilmembers Sierra Leone Donaven, John J. Gillooly, Neil Sroka, Joe Ricci and Lev Wood. Absent: None.</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024. 1. Council approved a contract to complete the Pier Park Pickleball Court project. 2. Council approved a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2024. 3. Board of Zoning Appeals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Board of Zoning Appeals postponed consideration of a dimensional variance for 117 Mapleton Road until May 20, 2024. 4. Council Approved the following items on the Consent Agenda. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consideration of a request from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce to hold the "Pointes Art Fest" on Kercheval Avenue August 3, 2024. b. Consideration of the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team Cooperation Agreement c. Request to set Public Hearing date for the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget to May 20, 2024. d. Consideration of a request to approve March 2024 Invoices. 5. Reports. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Council received the March 2024 Public Safety Report. 6. Other Business. 7. Adjournment. 8. Council held public comment. 		
<p>Council adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Derrick Kozicki, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk.</p>		
<p>Published: Grosse Pointe News 4/18/2024</p>		

South softball springs into action, racks up three wins to start year

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity softball team has wasted no time in getting into winning form during the first couple of weeks of the spring season. The Blue Devils came out of the gate hot and kept the momentum rolling last week, winning three of their four games to improve to 8-1.

The first game the team played last week ended up being its first loss of the season. South hosted Fraser on Tuesday, April 9, and came up short in an 8-5 result. Addison Waller and Lucia Gabel each had a pair of RBI for South in the loss, where the team found itself in a five-run deficit after the first few innings and never fully recovered.

South's scheduled game on the road against Port Huron Northern last Thursday, April 11, was postponed due to weather. The make-up date for that

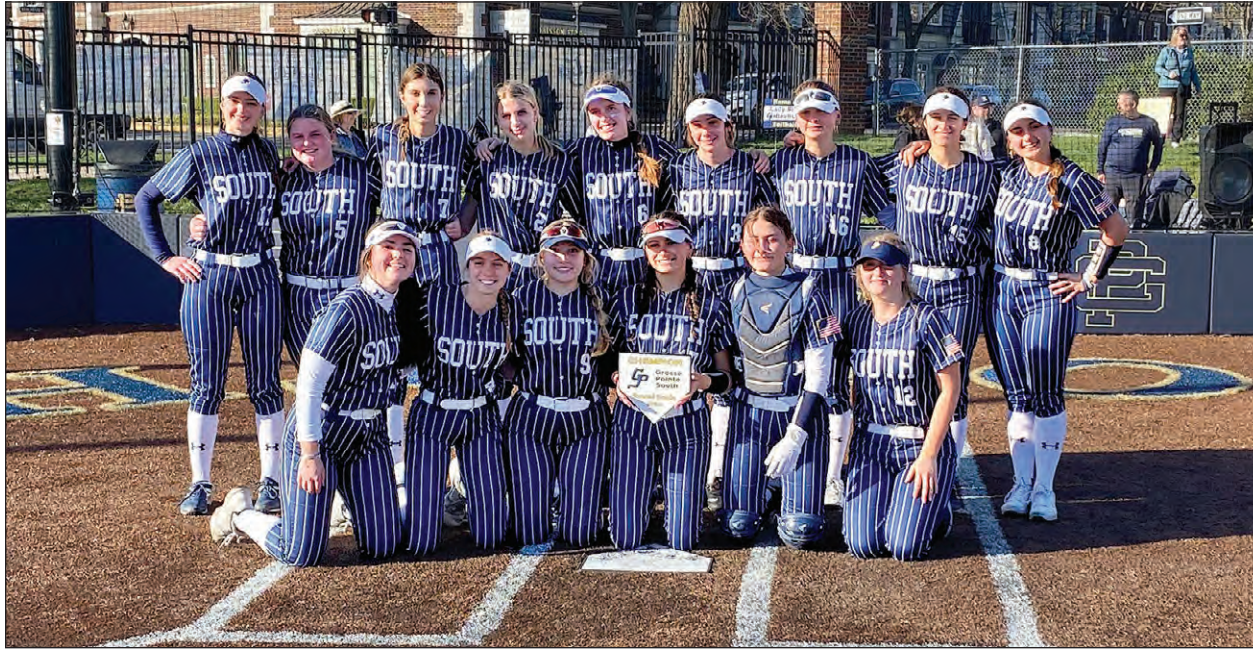


PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH SOFTBALL

The Blue Devils celebrate after winning three games on Saturday, April 13, to claim victory in their first Round Robin tournament of the spring.

game is set for Monday, April 29, and the postponement left the Blue Devils waiting until the weekend to get back into action.

Even after a longer break than expected between games, South came into its round-robin showdown on

Saturday, April 13, looking sharp. The Blue Devils hosted three games on the day and ended up with three wins by the time it was all said and done.

The first was a dominant 19-4 win against Westland John Glenn. South's bats were on

fire in the win, tallying 17 hits with nine players all recording at least one hit and one RBI. Outfielder Olivia Husek led the way with two hits in three at-bats with four RBI. Murphy Russell and Mackenzie Simon each brought in three runs.

That performance marked the fifth time in the team's first seven games, to that point, where South tallied double-digit runs. The Blue Devils' lineup has seen plenty of consistency from top to bottom so far, and their coaches believe it is a testament to the depth of talent the team has and how hard they are willing to work.

"Every single one of (our players) can hit the ball hard and we spend a lot of time working on what we call quality at-bats," South softball head coach Bill Fleming said. "...They've worked really hard at that and I think it's reflected in how hard they're jump-

ing all over pitchers and hitting the ball hard in just about every game."

Saturday's second game was another big win for the Blue Devils, taking down West Bloomfield 11-1. Junior catcher Luna Agosta sparked the offense with four RBI, while sophomore Viviana Ostrowski spent four innings on the mound, allowing just one run on three hits with seven strikeouts.

Ostrowski made South's varsity team as a freshman last season and has already shown potential to be a breakout star early in her sophomore year this spring. She plays the outfield when she is not pitching and has been given the top spot in South's batting order for several games already.

"We told (Ostrowski) this year that she's going to play center field and be our leadoff hitter and also pitch more than she did last year," Fleming

said about the sophomore. "...She's a very good hitter to begin with, but now with her speed, she can drop a bunt down. Teams are even playing her in and expecting a bunt, but with her speed and where she puts the ball, they can't get her out. Having someone at the top of the lineup who can get on base three or four times is huge. On top of that, her pitching has been lights out."

The third and final game on Saturday was a much lower-scoring for South than the first two. Despite that, the Blue Devils still came away with a 4-2 victory over Warren Woods-Tower.

South built an early lead that started in the second inning when Avery Harris crossed the plate on a wild pitch. The lead went up to 2-0 in the third inning on a solo home run from Avery Bellish and in the fourth Madeline Agnone added another run to the total for South with an RBI.

Woods-Tower scored twice in the fifth inning to pull closer, but an RBI single by Ostrowski in the sixth inning proved to be the insurance run that the Blue Devils needed as they went on to secure the win. Alexandra Lupo started on the mound for South, allowing just two hits in two scoreless innings. Murphy Russell finished the game, allowing two runs on four hits in four innings.

South hosted Berkley on Wednesday, April 17, after press time. The Blue Devils are on the road on Thursday, April 18, taking on Port Huron with first pitch at 4:30 p.m.

2024 Spring Sports Preview

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The GP News sports staff spoke to head coaches from the Pointe's high school spring sports teams to get the inside scoop on what fans can expect from some of their favorite squads this season. This week, we have a preview for Grosse Pointe North's girls lacrosse:

Girls Lacrosse

HEAD COACH: **EMILY TURNBULL** 1ST YEAR
Grosse Pointe North

2023 Record: 2-13,
Eliminated in first round
of regional playoffs

2024 season goals:
"Our big motto is always to have fun and grow the game within ourselves and in the community. A big goal for the seniors and juniors this year is to continue to look into their record and just increase their career wins. Last year, they doubled their wins, and hope that they can do that this year... We're always looking to make sure that we're driven by sportsmanship and grow relationships with other teams."

Players to watch: Ava Smarch, Josie Cueter, Joelle Latta, Paige Martin and Kate Kasuba

What fans can expect/look forward to from the team this season:

"The really good thing about this team is that there is no true starting lineup because we are running with a smaller roster this year... That is allowing us to change things up, and this team is very dedicated and everyone is equally talented and they're all supportive of each other in that sense because there is no real differential in the style of play between the grade levels or experience of the girls."



BASEBALL:

Continued from page 2D

Liggett

The Knights ventured into Catholic League play for the first time last week with two league doubleheaders. The first was a doubleheader with Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Saturday, April 13, where Liggett ended up dropping both games.

Game 1 was a 16-3 loss for the Knights. Gary Stacy, Jackson Fetter and Andrew Stalker each brought in a run with their bats in the lopsided loss.

Saturday's second game was a bit closer,

with the Knights even holding onto a brief lead after two innings. However, despite a pair of RBI from senior Preston Barr, Liggett fell to the Eaglets once again, this time 7-4.

Liggett was able to bounce back in its next Catholic League doubleheader, however. The Knights hosted two games against De La Salle Collegiate on Monday, April 15, and were able to get the sweep with two wins.

Game 1 was a close 3-2 win for Liggett that ended with a bit of drama. With the game tied 2-2 and in extra innings, Barr batted in the game-winning

run by reaching on an error by the De La Salle infield that helped Charlie Veitengruber cross the plate to end the game.

The Knights would go on to shut out the Pilots 3-0 in Monday's second game. Barr pitched the complete-game shutout on the mound, allowing only one hit with nine strikeouts. Stalker had two RBI to spark Liggett's offense in the win.

Liggett hosted U of D Jesuit Wednesday, April 17, after press time. The team then welcomes in St. Francis de Sales from Toledo, Ohio for a matchup on Friday, April 19, starting at 4:30 p.m.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold multiple Public Hearings on Tuesday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the following purposes: 1) consider rezoning of 20100-20102 Mack Avenue from RO-1 Restricted Office to C Commercial and 2) consider special land use for 20100-20102 Mack to be a children's event space.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmi.us. For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail building@gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:4/18/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council, meeting as a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) under the provisions of Michigan Compiled Laws, 125.3101 through 125.3702 as amended, to consider multiple variances for the property located at 20620 Fairway Lane. Variances are required for the side yard setback on the proposed renovation to the house. The ZBA hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council-Court Room of the Municipal Building, at 20025 Mack Plaza. The application is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's office, up to the close of business preceding the hearing. A group spokesperson is encouraged on agenda items concerning organized groups. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:4/18/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) to consider an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow for cosmetic microblading and permanent makeup services as an accessory use to salons and medical offices.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmi.us. For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail building@gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:4/18/24

4D | SPORTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the week's bonus highlights from around the Pointes:

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT GIRLS LACROSSE

The Knights' girls lacrosse team earned a dominant 16-1 win over St. Catherine's on Monday, April 15. Olivia Marcero had five goals and three assists in the win while Hallie Marcero, Fiona Sierens and Aliya Abraham all scored two goals apiece. Brynn Collins, Brooklyn Cole, Leighton Maltby, Madeline Hexter and Chloe McFarlane added goals to Liggett's tally as well.

Liggett's Olivia Marcero, pictured in a game against Regina, scored five goals for the Knights in a win over St. Catherine's Monday, April 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT BOYS LACROSSE

Liggett's Maksim Johns, left, and Landon Maltby celebrate a goal during the team's 13-0 blowout win over Bishop Foley last Wednesday, April 10. The Knights also went on to defeat Seaholm 7-4 on Saturday, April 13, to improve to 5-0 so far this season. Last weekend's event possible, Morrow said.

BOYS GOLF

In other boys golf action last week, the University Liggett team lost its season-opening match to Everest Collegiate 165-184 Wednesday, April 10. The Knights then went on to finish third out of ten teams in an invitational at the Washtenaw Golf Club on Saturday, April 13, with a team score of 353. Liggett finished behind first-place Ann Arbor Greenhills and Grosse Ile.

North's Mark Szymanski tees off during the Norsemen's opening match of the season against Eisenhower last Wednesday, April 10. North, who hosted the match at Lochmoor Club, fell to Eisenhower by a score of 157-196.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



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

PROM NIGHT

Wednesday, April 10 after the Liggett JV baseball game and the Liggett varsity girls lacrosse games ended, which were played side by side on two fields at Liggett, sophomore Liam Kurtz asked fellow sophomore Cami McClain, if he could "steal" her for prom, cleverly using a first base shaped poster board.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



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South bests North head to head, Norsemen host annual invitational

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was a busy week on the track last week for both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South. The week began with a head to head matchup between the boys and girls teams from both schools, with the Blue Devils emerging victorious and finished on the weekend with North getting to host its annual Norsemen Invitational with schools from around Metro Detroit.

North and South met face-to-face last Wednesday, April 10, with South winning both the boys and girls match-ups. The final points standings in the girls events ended 85-52 in

favor of the Blue Devils. South shined mainly in the distance races, sweeping all three events with wins in the 1600 and 3200 as well as the 3200 relay. South's top distance runners on the day included Morgan Deenik, Savannah Spangler, Chloe Caulfield, Sarah Koval and Rylee Piornack.

Grace Campbell, Molly Reynolds, Evie Wodzisz and Morgan Duff raced to a first-place finish for South in the 1600 relay. Duff also won the 400-meter dash and the long jump competition. Another victory for South in the field included Olivia Barba taking first place in the discus.

"Our team was at a new level with perfor-

mance and team support," South girls track & field coach Steve Zaranek said. "We are moving the right direction. We have tremendous competition ahead of us and I am confident we will be ready to give our best."

First place finishes for North included Sarah Westrick winning the pole vault and 100 hurdles. Liliana Ivanaj took first place in the high jump with Bailey Hopko winning the shot put. Dene McCall won the 100, Zofia Lutoborska took first in the 800 and Mimi Trupiano in the 200.

The team of Kimora Laster-Walker, Kymberly Walker, Ivanaj and Trupiano also won the 800-meter relay for the

Norsemen.

On the boys side for South, Onction Zape had a strong showing winning both the 100 and 200. Liam Raether took first in the 400 and Edmund Shall won the 100-meter hurdles. In the field, Jaiden Sprait finished first for the Blue Devils in both the high jump and long jump.

North's boys earned wins in the 800, won by Paul Stephens, and 1600 won by David Rochon. North junior Reinaldo Williams earned first place in the shot put and Clinton Allen won the discus. Also in the field, senior Keegan Westein took first in the pole vault for the Norsemen.

North hosted its home invitational on Saturday,



PHOTO BY GRACE GERSEY

South distance runners Morgan Deenik, Sarah Koval and Chloe Caulfield run the 3200 against North.

April 13, and had plenty to cheer about during its home event. Hosting six schools from around the area, North's boys team finished first and the girls ended up in second.

Stephens was once again victorious in the 800 for the North boys while Kyle Maloney won the 200. Rochon finished second in both the 1600 and 3200. In the field, Allen finished second in both the discus and shot put and Phillip Moore took second in the long jump.

High scorers for North's girls team in its second-place finish included McCall, who won both the long jump and the 100-meter dash. Lutoborska took first in

the 800 and second in the 1600. Hopko won the shot put and Westrick won the pole vault.

University Liggett's boys and girls teams also raced at the invitational last Saturday. The Knights' boys team finished third while the girls ended up sixth. Santino Cicarella had two of the top highlights for the boys team, winning both the 100 and 400.

North's boys and girls head to Woodhaven this weekend Saturday, April 20, to race in the Warrior Classic. South's boys and girls get a break before racing in a dual meet against Chippewa Valley, hosted by South, Wednesday, April 24.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC EPLIN

The North boys track & field team celebrates with its home trophy after finishing first out of six schools at last weekend's Norsemen Invitational.

North softball hopes to learn from early challenges

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The first couple of weeks of the 2024 season have not gone quite as smoothly as Grosse Pointe North's softball team likely would have hoped. While the Norsemen did pick up their first win of the season last week, the team continued to stack up early losses as well that have dropped its record to 1-7.

"We did not expect to have the start that we've had," North varsity softball head coach Ron Smith said. "...Our defense has not delivered as we've expected. That being said, we're early in the season and looking forward to the rest of our year and growing and learning from the things we haven't done well to make us stronger."

Last week's action for North began on Tuesday, April 9, as the team hosted Eisenhower. The Norsemen ended up securing the win in a high-scoring, back-and-forth battle that ended 14-12 after a walk-off home run.

The Norsemen found themselves down early in the game, trailing 4-0 in the second inning. However, they rallied back for three runs in the bottom of the second and then tied the game with a solo home run by Addie Wakefield in the

third inning. North would go on to take the lead 6-4 later in the third inning with RBI from Katie Stemmler and Elliot Jarvi.

North and Eisenhower continued trading blows for the next couple of innings until the Norsemen once again found themselves in a hole. Trailing 12-8 entering the seventh inning, North got a rally precisely when it needed it. An RBI single by Isabella Boedeker made the game 12-9, and then a two-RBI hit from Wakefield soon after cut the deficit down to just one. Charlotte Julien then forced extra innings with an RBI single that tied the game at 12 runs apiece.

The late rally seemed to put all the momentum on North's side, and in the eighth inning, the Norsemen completed the comeback. Jarvi reached base on a single to start the inning, which brought Abbey Scarsella to the plate for North. Scarsella launched a ball over the center field fence for a walk-off two-run home run for North's first victory of the new season.

North was not quite able to capitalize on the momentum from last Tuesday's win. The team traveled to Regina the next day, April 10, and suffered a 6-1 loss. Senior shortstop Natalie Babcock brought in the

only run of the game for North with one of just three total hits the team had that day.

North returned home on Saturday, April 13, for a doubleheader against Lake Orion and once again found itself on the wrong side of the scoreboard. North lost game one of the doubleheader 11-1, with Scarsella knocking in the only RBI of the game. Game two on Saturday saw North fail to bring anyone across the plate, losing in a shutout 6-0.

The Norsemen believe that they are on the path to righting the ship and picking up more wins as the season moves on. Coach Smith sees some of the early-season struggles as the result of simple errors and mistakes that can be easily cleaned up in practice. If the team can clean up those mistakes and get its confidence back, then Smith sees brighter days ahead for North as spring moves on.

"We have all good athletes and once it clicks and they start understanding and believing how good they really are I think we're going to have a great season," Smith said.

North visited Romeo on Tuesday, April 16, after press time. The team returns home to host Anchor Bay at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Bachert served as one of the captains for South's varsity girls basketball team this winter season.

ATHLETE: Continued from page 1D

has been working on in the offseason and even in the first few practices and games of the spring, Bachert is feeling confident that her senior season could be her best year yet between the pipes.

"I've been working on coming off my line a bit more and moving up the field with the ball more," Bachert said. "I'm supposed to be doing that, but the past few years I've been staying back more...It helps the defense because if the ball comes deep, the defense doesn't have to sprint back and I can be there and play it back up."

While she hopes that her play in the net can help lead the Blue Devils to plenty of wins this spring, another big thing that Bachert is looking forward to this spring is leaving a legacy at South. She already concluded her final varsity girls basketball season in March, where she was a co-cap-

tain of the Blue Devils while being the team's only senior.

that but it's us as a group." Being the lone senior in basketball this winter, where she received recognition from the MAC Red as an All-League honorable mention, taught Bachert a lot about being a leader. She also credits a lot of her leadership abilities to what she has learned from her coaches.

Kevin Richards, Bachert's girls basketball coach at South for four seasons, taught her things such as self-discipline and accountability. She credits her longtime soccer coach, Chris Bolio, with teaching her never to doubt herself and welcome any challenge. All of these lessons learned have helped turn Bachert into an extremely coachable athlete and a great teammate.

"She's a ton of fun and keeps all the girls in a good mood no matter the situation," South varsity girls soccer head coach Chris Bolio said about his goalkeeper. "(She's) super athletic and keeps us competitive in games that we could be very well getting blown out in. I'm very happy to have her for this last year before she graduates."

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