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VOL. 85, NO. 17, 36 PAGES
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BoE denies FOIA appeals

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education denied two appeals to Freedom of Information Act requests, which initially had been denied in March, during a special meeting Wednesday, April 17.

The district previously denied FOIA requests for the full report of an investigation into human resources complaints filed last year against Ahmed Ismail, who was then board president, including one request by the Grosse Pointe News.

Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent for educational services and the district's FOIA coordinator, said the request was turned down due to attorney-client privilege.

The Detroit News and The Tower, Grosse Pointe South High School's student newspaper, appealed their denials.

Chris Fenton, then interim superintendent, said in January he was maintaining attorney-client privilege for the 27-page report, but was relinquishing that privilege for a two-page executive summary of the report issued by the law firm Miller Johnson.

The complaints were filed last August by Kathryn Murray and Michelle Davis, the principal and assistant principal/athletic director, respectively, at Grosse Pointe North High School.

The board voted 4-2 to deny both appeals. President Sean Cotton, Secretary Lisa Papas, Treasurer Terry Collins and Trustee Ginny Jeup voted in favor of the denials. Trustees Colleen

See DENIED, page 10A

Ascension St. John ER staff strike

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — In a scene more reminiscent of blue collar workers picketing outside an auto plant, emergency room personnel at Ascension St. John Hospital in their blue scrubs went on strike for 24 hours last week.

The Greater Detroit Association of Emergency Physicians picketed from 2 p.m. Thursday, April 18, to 2 p.m. Friday, April 19.

"We were touched by the amount of support," said Michelle Weiner, M.D., an ER doctor and the union's president, from Grosse Pointe Park. "There's no class in medical school about picketing, so we got out there and it's like, now what? But we had random people just showing up and dropping off things like pizzas."

Weiner's group, composed of physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, filed a notice of intent to organize last May with the National Labor Relations Board and has been



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Ascension St. John physician assistant Nicolas Sadowski pickets along with his coworkers, other ER doctors and PAs.

working without a contract since.

Hospital employee unions are required to file a notice to strike at least 10 days prior to the planned action, which

GDAEP did.

"It was never our intention to shut things down and not provide care," Weiner said. "But there are issues our employer won't discuss. We union-

ized to get them to the bargaining table and get them to recognize the safety of our physicians, patients and staff."

That employer is TeamHealth, which is contracted to provide emergency room services at hospitals nationwide. TeamHealth is owned by the private equity firm Blackstone.

"Our goal since day one has been clear," Weiner said. "We will no longer accept 10- to 15-hour wait times and 50 people sitting in the emergency room waiting for care."

TeamHealth counters such claims, saying in a prepared statement that median "door to doctor" times at the Ascension St. John Hospital emergency room fell from 25 minutes in 2023 to 15 minutes this year.

Weiner said that is a bookkeeping trick.

"When a person comes in they're given a quick triage by a physician's assistant to make sure they aren't going to die or need immediate surgery," she said. "The PA

See STRIKE, page 2A

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See Section C

Sails and sparkles

With a resplendent April sun casting warm shadows and reflecting like diamonds on the surface of Lake St. Clair during a recent practice, sailors from Grosse Pointe South High School's varsity sailing team hosted a double-header regatta at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club to kick off their spring season. Rival sailors from Grosse Pointe North High School also competed over two days of competition. For race results, head to page 1D in Sports.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA NOLAND/GROSSE POINTE SOUTH VARSITY SAILING




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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Jack Webber
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Plans to study nuclear engineering at Penn State



DDA saves cash for civic campus

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — DDA trustees are keeping their eyes on the prize.

For the fourth consecutive year, they intend to set aside funds to renovate the civic campus.

The campus kitty currently totals around \$200,000, to which the Downtown Development Authority's proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25 adds \$35,000.

Trustees April 16 unanimously approved the budget, totaling \$122,500.

Their approval isn't final. City council has the last say. DDA Director and City Manager Nick Sizeland expects the issue to be on the council agenda Monday, April 29.

The budget is \$3,400 greater than currently

and \$5,763 more than the year before.

Funding comes from property taxes generated within the district that must be spent within the same area. Authority boundaries encompass commercial and public property on both sides of Jefferson from the Detroit border to Somerset.

A design team, contracted by the authority in late 2022 for \$15,000, engaged the public for proposals to improve the campus, located on Jefferson at Maryland and consisting of city hall, public safety headquarters and the neighboring Ewald branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

All are one block from the combined Grosse Pointes' biggest con-

See CAMPUS, page 2A

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City sewer rates to jump 28 percent

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Beginning July 1, City of Grosse Pointe residents are facing a 28 percent increase to their sewer charges. The new rate, though significant, is exactly half a 56 percent proposed increase initially presented to city administration.

It comes directly from the Great Lakes Water Authority, which up to this point estimated the City's amount of sanitary flow via a robust calculation in an attempt to equitably apportion its use of the regional system. Since 2003, a complex process has been underway to begin operating meters monitoring the city's sanitary flow at the Neff Road Pump Station.

In 2019, GLWA began to track metered data coming out of the City, but it wasn't applied to the city's charge until now, because the water

authority updates its member shares every three years. During the last update cycle, there wasn't enough historical metered data to make an accurate calculation.

"The actual metered flow indicates the City of Grosse Pointe contributes much more wastewater to the GLWA system than the prior estimating techniques, which were based upon historical assumptions regarding flow contributions from customers without wastewater meters," said Jody Caldwell, GLWA chief planning officer.

GLWA's chief administrative and compliance officer, Bill Wolfson, added, "You're being charged a dollar per unit, just like any other community would be. It's just that when we did this and started to see this data, we saw that the usage was more than we had anticipated, based on this historical data."

The City's soon-to-be

new rate is based on an average of the last five years of accurate metered data and the prior five years of estimated data, which then was negotiated by city administration down to the 28 percent increase for the time being.

Despite the fact the City's sanitary flow is fairly typical for a customer of its size, its rates trend higher than other GLWA metered municipalities, Caldwell said. He believes this could be due to groundwater finding its way into the system, such as through leaking pipes or a combined sanitary and stormwater system.

"As you find projects that are drying up the system or other improvements, that can be factored into modifying those shares, because we shouldn't use historical data if you're cleaning up and drying up your system," he said.

The City's inland district sewers were sepa-

rated in the 1960s. This year, it was awarded \$21.6 million in federal funding to separate a majority of the remainder of the combined system, but the work hinges on voters approving a \$15 million bond proposal in August, which is needed to cover the balance of the project cost.

"Certainly, it's never easy to accept increases in costs, particularly when they're as significant as a 28 percent increase," Councilwoman Maureen Juip said. "So that's certainly disappointing news, but I think it's our responsibility to look for places to contain costs in the long term."

"And so certainly, as we look at the bond proposal that will be on the ballot in August, that's one opportunity to reduce these types of costs in the longer term. And so I'm hopeful that our neighbors will consider that bond proposal carefully."

If there are no changes

to the city's system, residents can expect to see the full 56 percent increase added to their sewer charges in coming years.

"However, if we get stormwater out of the system and we get the system tighter — because we had back flow valve problems a couple years ago from the lake, when the lake level was high and that's in those historic numbers — I have a feeling it won't be that bad," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said.

Although GLWA typically updates its member shares every three years, it has committed to reevaluating the City's charges on an annual basis.

"We know there's system improvements that are occurring," Caldwell said. "We know there's an ongoing study to look at the data and to ensure the data is most accurate. And then with that information, we will potentially true that up

on an annual basis as we move forward.

"We realize that by now having accurate metering data, it does cause a hardship from a sewer share perspective, but we're committed to continue reviewing the data with administration and modifying sewer shares more frequently to account for the conditions within the city."

What the median household cost of sewer rates may be as of July 1 is not yet clear as there could be additional changes in the City's own charges for operations and maintenance of the sewer system.

The City's planned budget for fiscal year 2024-25 will be presented during a budget hearing at 7 p.m. Monday, May 6, in council chambers, 17145 Maumee.

Council then is set to formally approve the budget during its next council meeting Monday, May 20.

City crime trends largely stayed on track throughout 2023

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Although the City of Grosse Pointe's 2023 public safety report shows a jump to five forcible sexual offenses versus none from the previous year, the man

responsible for three of them has been identified and held accountable.

His assaults took place at The Village CVS, where on different occasions he exposed himself and attempted to make physical contact with others.

"We did have an inci-

dent that turned into three, but we have an arrest and charges on him," Public Safety Director John Alcorn said, adding the additional two reported offenses were unfounded.

Other serious crimes committed within the

City in 2023 were three aggravated assaults, four burglary/home invasions, 10 motor vehicle thefts and 62 larcenies.

"Over 30 of those (62) are larceny from automobiles and almost every one of those is from unlocked cars,"

Alcorn emphasized. "So, secure your car, don't leave anything valuable in visual view and spread the words to friends and neighbors on that."

For the fourth year running, the City didn't experience a single robbery.

"We've been able to keep that trend going," Alcorn said.

In the category of less serious crimes, there were nine non-aggravated assaults, 16 occurrences of malicious destruction of property,

See TRENDS, page 3A

CAMPUS:

Continued from page 1A

struction project in years, a privately funded, 424-seat performing arts center on which work halted this month due to the builder allegedly not obtaining sufficient Wayne County permits.

Campus renovations — mainly new landscaping — are intended to make the area more engaging.

Installation of so-called "green" anti-flood runoff infrastructure, such as permeable surfaces and bioswales, are designed to capture water that otherwise would flow into the storm sewer system and possibly contribute to backups during downpours.

All components are outgrowths of the prime motivating factor to expand parking facilities. "We have a memo of

understanding (with the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, backers of the performance center) that obligates the Downtown Development Authority to build a parking lot with approximately 50 spaces by the time they receive their certificate of occupancy," Sizeland said. "That certificate of occupancy is based upon their timeline. We're looking at, probably, the fall of 2025."

In return, the foundation agreed to reimburse the DDA \$200,000 for

parking lot construction costs.

"Each year, we've been trying to budget around \$40,000 or \$45,000 in reserve for the civic campus parking," Sizeland said.

DDA board member Mayor Michele Hodges asked about grant opportunities: "Are we supplementing the budget with grant dollars?"

"It is challenging right now for an organization to find grants for parking lots, but with the civic campus project all-encompassing, that does

open us to other opportunities," Sizeland said.

"Do we have any prospective funding sources that we can pursue?" Hodges asked.

"Green infrastructure is probably where we can see additional funding in the form of grants," Sizeland said.

More grants will be available if the city qualifies as a redevelopment ready community, which Sizeland said won't happen until the planning commission completes its update of the municipal zoning ordinance.

"That's one of the final legs to get us to the redevelopment ready community status," Sizeland said.

Allocations for FY 24-25

The biggest component of the proposed budget is a combined \$41,500 for landscaping, land maintenance and repairs.

"Two light poles, due to age, were crumbling at their bottom supports," Sizeland said. "We had to take them down."

One pole fell onto city hall outside the public safety director's office.

"I also budgeted an inflationary increase in funds for landscape and maintenance (on) the Jefferson traffic islands and right-of-way along the sidewalk to Westchester, where Backer Landscaping mows our grass and beautifies around city hall," Sizeland said.

◆ Next is the \$35,000 set aside for campus renovations, followed by \$18,400 for the portion of Sizeland's wages and fringe benefits attributed to DDA work.

◆ Engineering and professional services, such as design engineering for campus renovations, are allocated \$10,000.

◆ Some \$10,000 also is designated for green infrastructure.

◆ A total of \$7,000 pays for legal counsel.

◆ Sizeland designated \$500 for printing services.

"The DDA board is set to expire in 2026," said Sizeland, explaining the printing cost. "If the board would like to extend the DDA, it would have to issue notice in letters to the DDA district. We'll be talking about that process throughout the year."



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STRIKE:

Continued from page 1A

then assigns himself to the patient. The computer stops the clock, but they still end up waiting hours to be treated."

The GDAEP website says since TeamHealth took over management and staffing at Ascension

St. John Hospital in 2015, wages and benefits have fallen, staffing has decreased and investment in equipment upgrades has stalled.

"It's very frustrating when we can't do the job we were trained to do," Weiner said. "And it's frustrating for the patients because if they get tired of waiting and

leave, they still get billed for an emergency room visit."

Weiner said the next steps remain to be seen.

"We filed our 10-day notice hoping that would give them (TeamHealth) an incentive to meet," she said. "Their response was, 'See you May 12,' which is the next time we're scheduled to meet."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CORRECTION

The notice for Grosse Pointe Woods regarding multiple public hearings: 1) Consider rezoning of 20100 – 20102 Mack Avenue from R0-1 (Restricted Office) to C (Commercial) and 2) Consider special land use for 20100 – 20102 to be a children's event space, will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive. The original notice in last week's issue stated Tuesday rather than Monday, May 6, 2024.

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Defer class sweeps Arbor poster contest

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Three Defer Elementary School students swept this year's annual Arbor Day poster contest.

All attend Christine Bergeron's combined grades three-four magnet class.

Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission picked the winner and two runners-up last week.

Judging took place without commissioners knowing the identities of the submitters.

"My third- and fourth-grade class learned about the history of Arbor Day and that Arbor Week is the celebration of the value of trees," Bergeron said. "They understood the importance of trees and kept that in mind when designing their posters. All of the students worked hard and submitted thoughtful designs. They should be proud of their work."

Winners are scheduled to be announced publicly during the 7 p.m. Monday, May 13, city council meeting.



Park Beautification Commission Vice Chair Alicia Kline with this year's winning Arbor Day poster.

The first-place poster features a detailed pen and colored pencil rendering of two trees, from deepest roots to the highest leaves. An accompanying slogan quotes businessman Warren Buffett: "Someone is sitting in the shade today because of a thoughtful person that planted it long ago."

Two runners-up are variations on a theme. Both center on a tall, stately tree swarmed by multi-colored butterflies against deep blue skies and references to trees being the lungs of the Earth.

This is the 41st year of the commission's poster contest, held among Park third and fourth graders. The event is coordinated with Arbor Week, this year April 21 to 27, and Arbor Day Friday, April 26.

City Forester Brian Colter intended to plant a Snowdrift crabapple tree on Defer grounds near the corner of Kercheval and Nottingham Wednesday, April 24, after press time.

Pat Deck, a 37-year member of the commis-

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

See CONTEST, page 10A



The logo is meant to represent the relationship between healthcare and health coverage as two complementary elements in motion.

Permanent Corewell signage approved

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Just one month after city council shored up its signage standards for hospital facilities, Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital last week graced its agenda with aims of implementing permanent new signage at 468 Cadieux.

Following the merger of Beaumont Health and Spectrum Health in 2022, temporary sig-

nage promoting Corewell's new name was approved by council last May.

"While the hospital district does not have its own signage standards, it is your discretion as a council to evaluate these proposed changes based on most applicable district standards and general signage standards for the city," said Gage Belko, city planner with McKenna.

The Corewell team proposed four wall signs — two on the main building and two on the medical center — and five wayfinding ground signs placed at the corners of Cadieux at Maumee and Jefferson and at primary points of vehicle or pedestrian entry.

Council approved the signage 6-0, with Councilman Chris Walsh absent, in mid-April, with the condi-

tions that all post-mounted ground signs incorporate low-grow landscaping to conceal the posts; internally-lit wayfinding signage be limited to 25 percent of the sign's area; wall signs do not project more than 12 inches from the wall; and wayfinding signs be broken up visually by physical gaps and graphics.

— Laurel Kraus

TRENDS:

Continued from page 2A

16 cases of operating while intoxicated and 41 cases of fraud via identity theft.

"Protecting your personal information, shredding your mail, helping seniors that might not be familiar with computers, getting into questionable websites or clicking on links they shouldn't, all those really help knock down those crimes," Alcorn said.

The department saw a total of 4,265 calls for service in 2023 — up slightly due to additional patrols in The Village that officers also enter as calls for service — and 91 arrests.

While the Grosse Pointe Fire Prevention Team visited nine schools and performed multiple presentations each visit, the City department's Seniors and Law Enforcement (SALE) program assisted 32 residents in 2023.

"If you have a loved one — it could be a cou-

ple or a single senior — who lives in the city that might not be as mobile as they once were, we'll add their name to the list and we'll talk to them," Alcorn said. "It's as simple as after a storm we're going to check on them. If there's a power outage, we're going to check on them. And then some people just want to hear from

us every couple weeks. And we're glad to do everything in between.

"They also know they can call us for special requests whenever they have it."

Every supervisor in the City's department in 2023 also completed National Fire Protection Association Fire Officer 1 training, which is a relatively new state

mandate.

There were no promotions or retirements among City officers last year; however, two officers left for other departments, prompting the hires of officers Mark Dombrowski and Andre Jones.

"They've already been a fantastic addition to the department," Alcorn said.



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MONDAY, APRIL 29

◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Curriculum Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Pension Board meeting, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

◆ Drive-Thru Shred Day, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Osius Park. Open to all residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.
◆ SpringFest, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chene-Trombley Park, Grosse Pointe Woods.

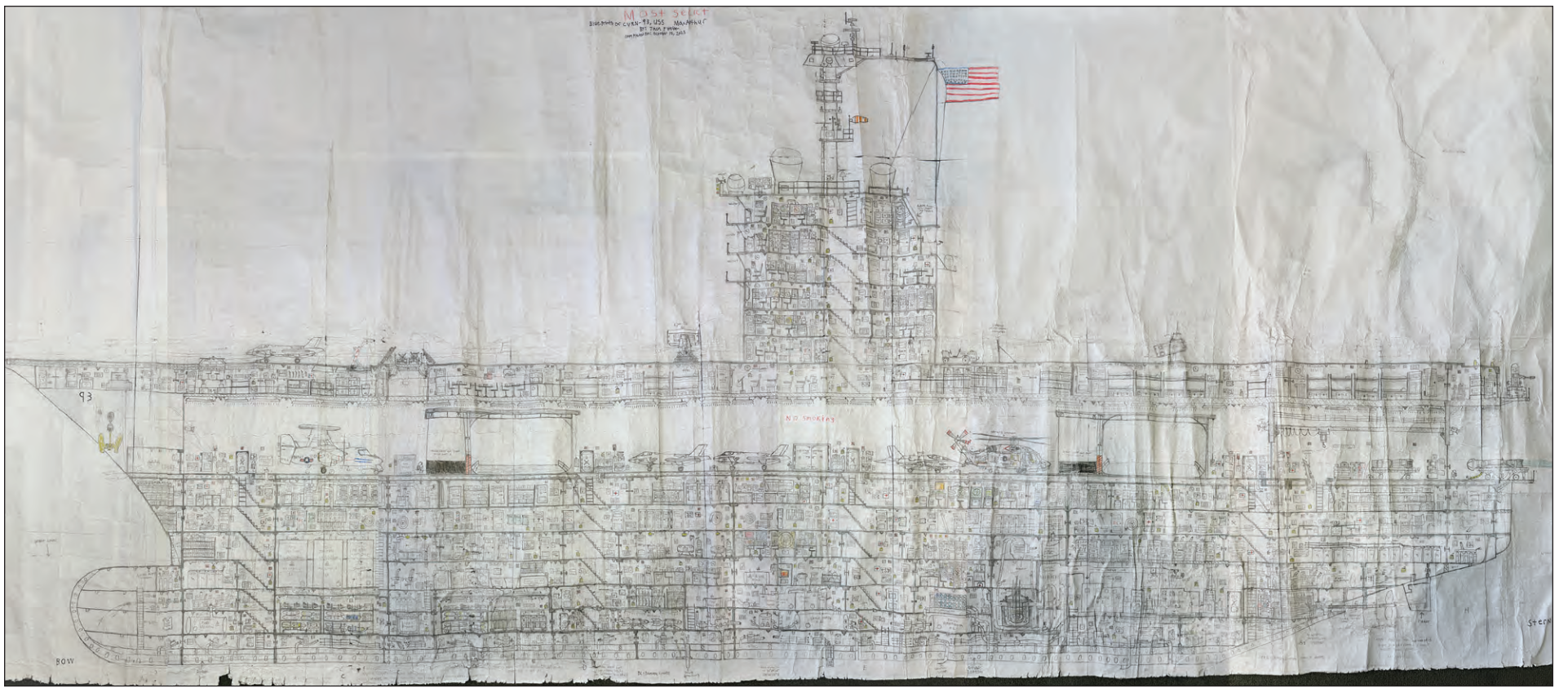


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Jack Webber spent four months on this drawing of a nuclear aircraft carrier that will be part of the Wayne County High School Art Exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts this summer.

South senior draws up big plans

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

By this time of year, most high school seniors who will be heading off to college in a few months have an idea of what they want to major in and a general idea of a career.

Jack Webber, about to graduate from Grosse Pointe South High School, has an even more specific plan. He wants to see DTE close its doors.

"I want to drive them out of business," he said. "That's coming from a very annoyed teen who's sick of all the power outages every summer. I want revenge for always having to find a place to

charge my devices." And he wants to use nuclear energy to do it. He already has a drawing of the plant he wants to build and a name for his company — Mass Fission.

The next step toward that goal is majoring in nuclear engineering at Penn State University.

"My application essay was basically a rant against DTE," he laughed.

Aside from Penn State, Webber considered University of Michigan, Purdue and MIT.

"I made a list of all the schools in the Midwest and out east that had working nuclear reactors and started checking them out," he said.

"When I went there for my visit, I was the only one in the auditorium who raised my hand for nuclear engineering, so it's not a huge field."

Although attending Penn State may have already been written in the stars for Webber.

"For our fifth grade school photos at Kerby, we sat in front of a green screen and they asked us what we wanted for a background," he recalled. "I said a nuclear reactor and when I got to Penn State, I realized that's the one in my photo!"

It's called the Breazedale Reactor, the nation's longest continuously operating research reactor. It was commissioned by the Atomic

Energy Commission in 1955.

Aside from the drawing of the plant he wants to build, Webber spent four months last year drawing a detailed cut-away version of a nuclear aircraft carrier. The full pencil-on-paper piece, at more than 6 feet long, has details right down to light switches and wall outlets.

"A lot of that information is classified, so I had to make guesses on what it would look like inside," he said. "I named it the USS Douglas MacArthur, because he never had a ship named after him and I'm a big WWII buff."

A scaled-down version of the drawing will be on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts as part of the Wayne County High School Art Exhibition June 21 to July 21.

"I'm not in any art classes, but I thought it would be fun to enter



COURTESY PHOTO

Jack Webber stands in front of the nuclear research center at Penn State University, where he will attend and study nuclear engineering.

and see how I did," Webber said. "I did it on a whim."

Aside from his interest in math and science, Webber is a member of the National Honor Society, South's Latin club, the Science Olympiad team and does the announcing for the school's unified basket-

ball games. Webber will take a summer class at Penn State during June and July before heading back full time in the fall.

"I got my acceptance letter the day before Christmas break, so I was pretty happy," he said. "It's a beautiful

Fox Creek site needs volunteers

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Phillip Morici, a landscape designer, can appreciate time-traveling Doc Brown's frustration with second-generation

high school slacker, Marty McFly, in "Back to the Future II": "Marty, you're just not thinking fourth-dimensionally."

"Right, right," Marty sloughed. "I have a real problem with that."

Morici thinks about the future all the time. It was foremost when he volunteered to draft a revamped landscape scheme for the Fox Creek Massacre historical marker on lower Windmill Pointe Drive at Lakepointe.

He considered not only how his proposed assortment of plants relate spatially, but also how much time and resources it would require of the city to maintain the site as years go by.

"I'm trying to keep in mind the ease of maintenance," he said. "I don't want to tax the city maintenance team any more than what's on their docket."

"We want this to be a long-term, low-maintenance, very fitting and purposeful space," said Park resident Jaime Rae Turnbull, making headway with Park administrators and the city's beautification commission to improve the loca-

tion's appearance. "The marker is overgrown and neglected. That's not appropriate for an historical marker. We need to exceed expectations."

"We can't dedicate a lot of city resources to it," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "Whatever we plan has to have absolute minimal maintenance."

Morici's site plan replaces overgrown bushes with four tiers of native redbud and pagoda dogwood trees, an understory of spicebush plants and, lastly, epimedium groundcover encompassing individual and irregularly shaped Bluffton sleeper stones.

"It's more of a native feeling without feeling native," said Morici, co-founder and CEO of fleurdetroit. "Not wild and crazy. "It's designed for longevity. As long as the initial season is watered with water trucks, it's pretty self-sufficient once everything's established."

The sign, erected in 1997 by the Michigan Department of State Michigan History Division, commemorates the deaths 311 years ago

See NEED, page 5A

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Drawing a crowd

A 39-year-old Farms man was arrested for drunken driving after officers were called to Merriweather around 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18.

He was found asleep in the driver's seat with the vehicle running as a crowd of neighbors gathered. The arrest came after he failed field sobriety tests and refused to take a Breathalyzer.

Three strikes

A 33-year-old Harper Woods man saw his black 2010 Chrysler 300 impounded after being cited for his third instance of driving on a suspended license.

He was pulled over around 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Mack and Kerby for having an unreadable temporary paper plate.

Go away

A 52-year-old Detroit man was cited for trespassing around 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, after officers were called to a business in the 18800 block of Mack for an unwanted person.

The man was found laying on the ground outside the door leading into

business.

—Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

City of Grosse Pointe

Fraud x 2

Two fraudulent checks were written from the Neighborhood Club's account for a total of \$4,950. The incident was reported at noon Tuesday, April 16. The investigation is ongoing.

An hour later, a resident in the 500 block of Notre Dame was duped by a "representative" after accessing a fake Blue Cross Blue Shield website. Her bank account was debited \$515 for a nonexistent policy.

Wrong way woes

At 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, April 17, police made a traffic stop at Maumee and Rivard for a vehicle going the wrong way. Officers learned the driver, a 27-year-old female Detroit resident, had an

invalid license plate and fraudulent insurance. She was cited and released. Her 2012 Ford Fusion was impounded.

Warrant

A 50-year-old male Detroit resident was stopped at Mack and Fisher at 3:20 a.m. Friday, April 19, for having a defective passenger-side brake light. He was found to have an arrest warrant for child neglect out of St. Clair County.

He was issued a citation for the brake light and arrested and turned over to St. Clair County.

Larceny

An unknown person stole several credit cards from the employee area of a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval sometime between 1:45 and 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 19. The cards were used at multiple locations in Macomb County. An investigation is ongoing.

Stolen auto

A 2022 Ram TRX, valued at \$70,000, was sto-

len from a driveway in the 900 block of University sometime overnight Saturday, April 20.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Rear-end wreck

Shortly after arresting a 76-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman last week for drunken driving, police released her to hospital personnel for treatment of injuries suffered in a car crash.

At 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 19, she rear-ended a vehicle stopped at a red light on Mack at Whittier, according to police.

"The driver of the responsible vehicle was determined to be intoxicated," police said. "The driver of the second vehicle was not injured."

Bike stolen

Flower blossoms and bicycle thefts are signs of

spring.

Video surveillance shows an unknown man stealing an unlocked Huffy bike parked in front of a business in the 15000 block of Charlevoix at 12:34 p.m. Sunday, April 21.

Police described the suspect as a black male wearing a black hoodie, blue jeans and black and white shoes.

Missing phone

In a cautionary tale, a get-together with an online acquaintance devolved into a crime scene early Sunday afternoon, April 21, when a Park man living in the 1000 block of Beaconsfield discovered his \$100 iPhone 10 missing and presumed stolen.

"(The victim) had a friend at his residence that he met on Instagram," police said. "(He) ordered an Uber for the suspect and was in the bathroom when the Uber arrived and the suspect left. (The victim) later discovered his cell phone missing."

The suspect is described as a 24-year-

old, 5-foot, 10-inch black female.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Hands off

A 17-year-old Dearborn Heights man was given a warning after being stopped on Lakeshore near Provencal around 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20, after an officer saw him talking on his cell phone while driving.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Short-term rules become long-term project

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The main result from this week's Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission discussion about Draft No. 2 of proposed short-term rental regulations is the need for a Draft No. 3.

Draft 2 didn't cut it, particularly the part designating where short-term rental properties would be allowed to operate.

Commissioners disliked how the draft clustered short-term rentals during an initial, three-year trial period mainly within existing multifamily, mainly rental neighborhoods such as the Cabbage Patch and on Harcourt and Trombley roads.

"It gives the impression of using the Cabbage Patch and Trombley as guinea pigs," Commissioner Devan Stachecki said. "That erodes trust in the com-

munity."

"There's a certain amount of unanimity about things that need to be addressed in a new revision," Chairman Patrick Coletta said. "Most importantly, how do we distribute the density of (short-term rental) properties throughout the city? We should scrap neighborhood limitations moving forward."

Other issues due for refinement are how to

enforce a short-term rental ordinance, establish parking requirements and, given that an estimated 30 short-term rentals already operate in the city on a freelance basis, how to accommodate existing proprietors while setting initial standards for newcomers.

"Those are things that should be addressed," Coletta said during a commission meeting April 22.

STRs are characterized as property — whether a single room, flat or entire house — available for rent from one to nearly

40 days.

If it were up to Coletta, the question would be

See PROJECT, page 8A

NEED:

Continued from page 4A

of more than 1,000 Fox Creek Indians repulsed by French forces and Indian allies of the Huron and Ottawa tribes defending Fort Pontchartrain.

"Soon afterward, French settlers began to develop the Grosse Pointes," according to the marker.

"It's fitting that such an important moment in our history, the Fox Creek massacre, be memorialized using the many talents of Mr. Morici and fleurdetroit," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "His willingness to share his time, talent and treasure will greatly benefit our community."

Redbuds grow 20 to 30 feet tall.

"Redbuds don't really have an 'off' season," according to an article on the Michigan State University website, canr.msu.edu/news. "They are attractive year-round and always have something to offer. It starts in late spring when beautiful pink flowers bloom on bare branches."

Spicebush grows up to 4 feet tall.

"Spicebush is a yellow-bloomer in spring," Morici said. "Epimedium, a medium groundcover, has nice foliage and a

nice, spring bloom. That's going to be the hug for the space because it's going to wrap around the stones."

He also offered to oversee the project, from removing existing plants to installing new ones.

His cost estimate for plant material, stone, top soil and labor totals \$36,445.

"We don't want any expenses coming from the city budget," Turnbull said. "Once the city has OK'd the plan, I'll socialize it. If the city is good with it, we would start prepping the site in May."

Members of the beautification commission voted unanimously April 17 in support.

"To our knowledge, we don't have any other historical markers in Grosse Pointe Park," Commissioner Pat Deck said. "The marker's become so overgrown, most people probably don't realize it's there."

"It's a fun project," Turnbull said. "I think the community will embrace it."

"Not everything has to be done immediately," Deck said. "We could do it in stages depending on how fundraising goes."

"In a perfect world, we'd love to have this done by Oct. 14, which is Indigenous People's Day," Turnbull said.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC
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OUR VIEW

Kaphar's artwork spurs meaningful action

We are pleased to see how the players involved in the hanging of a large painting by renowned artist Titus Kaphar, installed earlier this month in the lobby of Grosse Pointe North High School, are handling concerns surrounding it and are creating an empowering action plan as a result.

With several disappointed voices coming from among some black students and parents in the district, it's important to see these stakeholders are being heard, with some voicing their thoughts during public comments at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education's most recent meeting Tuesday, April 9.

Though the display of this particular piece resulted in some strife, we stand behind the idea of increasing our student body's access to world-class, thought-provoking art in our schools. At its heart, art poses difficult questions, pushes boundaries, challenges mindsets and gets people talking. It is the essence of what art is supposed to be.

As reported in the Grosse Pointe News April 18, students and parents reacted to Kaphar's untitled, oil-on-canvas painting that stands 6 feet, 8 inches tall by 6 feet wide and 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 piece is part of his series called "From a Tropical Space" that was on display at the Gagosian Gallery in New York in 2021, and then the Detroit Institute of Arts for two years until June 2023. It was based on similar paintings Kaphar did after the death of George Floyd that appeared on the cover of Time a month later.

He explained his inspiration for the piece, telling Time, "As I listlessly waded through another cycle of violence against black people, I paint a black mother ... eyes closed, furrowed brow, holding the contour of her loss."

The painting belongs to the personal collection of Grosse Pointe News owners Sean and Nancy Cotton.

We applaud the generosity behind the Cottons loaning the artwork to North and other art pieces of similar prominence to Grosse Pointe South High School in recent years. Their gesture provides what's arguably unprecedented access to internationally respected artists to students in a suburban public school setting. Overall, this is something we want to see more of and hope it can expand to many more buildings in GPPSS.

But the district also can further engage and empower its students as it determines how to best do this. It can learn from students who liked the work and from those who found it problematic to them, like North's Hope Watkins, who spoke against the painting at the most recent board meeting. She voiced her desire to see more uplifting art in her school, particularly when depicting imagery that resonates with her as a young black woman.

"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."

It was upsetting to hear how the art affected Ms. Watkins and other students and parents who found it similarly grievous. We agree with how powerful an



Pure GP

The Gleaners Food Bank collection box at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch is filled and ready to be emptied so more donations can come in. All three branches are collecting food donations until Friday, April 26. The program was coordinated through The Library Network and the Suburban Library Cooperative.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

uplifting piece of art can be and how that can play a valuable role within this landscape of placing art in schools.

But works of art also can be disturbing. Troublesome. Or jaw-dropping, distasteful, wonderful, puzzling, beautiful and haunting — it can even be all of those things at once.

How does one determine or define what's uplifting or inspiring art in a school setting? Or depressing and triggering? There lies the sticky wicket.

Minimally, the decision-making process must begin with a conversation between a cross-section of the building's students, teachers, parents and staff to give voice to it all. Based on a letter issued by the district, those wheels are in motion.

"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," read a letter from the district issued April 8, to North parents. "Caring for the educational goals and social-emotional needs of our students calls for balance and intention."

Cotton, who also is board president, said he spoke with a few concerned mothers before the main board meeting Tuesday, alongside Superintendent Andrea Tuttle. He then gave them Kaphar's phone number. The parents called the artist and spoke to him during the board's closed session. He described the interactions between all parties as productive, where "everyone assumed positive intentions."

Additionally, Kaphar is set to travel to Grosse Pointe to meet with students Tuesday, April 30. This is what effective conflict-resolution looks like. It required the leadership displayed from the superintendent, at North and from the board president.

The common goal of displaying art in GP's public schools should be to increase student access to them. This access should spur important discussions and prompt learning opportunities for students, staff and visitors alike to form their own opinions on a subject and lend them freedom to reach personal conclusions about it.

We are hopeful the resulting process improvements — whether the painting stays or goes — bring deeper, more nuanced cultural understanding districtwide, especially if the district is fortunate enough to have future additions as visible and significant as Kaphar's painting displayed at a GPPSS building. The concept also should help build appreciation for art itself.

We believe this painting is working to achieve that, despite any missteps it exposed within an underdeveloped decision-making process. Refreshingly, GPPSS is using this time to learn, not just react. It would be senseless to compromise or eliminate future opportunities and access to thought-provoking art.

Titus Kaphar: 'From a Tropical Space'

Artist Titus Kaphar wrote a poem inspired by his "From a Tropical Space" series, a collection of paintings that includes an untitled work that currently hangs at Grosse Pointe North High School:

*This black mother understands the fire.
Black mothers understand despair.
I can change NOTHING in this world, but in paint,
I can realize her...
That brings me solace...
not hope,
but solace.
She walks me through the flames of rage.
My black mother rescues me yet again.
I need to be sure that they can see her.
I want to be certain that her story is told.
And so this time, America needs to hear her voice.*

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.

Let a true expert decide

To the Editor:

Since the Grosse Pointe News' March 21 reporting on the denial of its FOIA request, the Board of Education has voted to reject appeals by The Detroit News and Grosse Pointe South's The Tower, of their own FOIA request denials.

Many community members — including armchair attorneys — have subsequently opined on whether the 27-page report from the independent investigation into a complaint by two Grosse Pointe North administrators against the former board president should in fact be released.

While not an attorney, I do know that transparency is one of the most important functions of a governmental entity. The moment the public thinks information is being withheld, trust is eroded.

Client-attorney privilege is indeed important, but when it has been waived in certain circumstances and not others, invoking it as a shield becomes suspect.

Also spurious is the claim that "the administration" has denied the report and the board is protecting that administration now and in the future. FOIA requests should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Denying one to prevent others down the road sets a dangerous precedent.

Furthermore, the interim superintendent who responded to the executive summary using cherry-picked facts from the full report — and waived privilege to do so — is long gone. Allegedly no one else has read the report. Who exactly is being protected?

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST April 25 - May 1

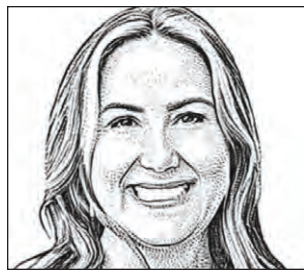
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
57° 38°	66° 57°	77° 66°	76° 62°	75° 56°	69° 51°	72° 53°
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Showers	Scattered Showers	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
0%	0%	50%	30%	80%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 6:34 am SUNSET 8:25 pm	SUNRISE 6:33 am SUNSET 8:26 pm	SUNRISE 6:31 am SUNSET 8:27 pm	SUNRISE 6:30 am SUNSET 8:28 pm	SUNRISE 6:29 am SUNSET 8:30 pm	SUNRISE 6:27 am SUNSET 8:31 pm	SUNRISE 6:26 am SUNSET 8:32 pm

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

See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Meg Leonard

Thoughts and prayers to Class of 2024 parents



It's the end of April and the school year is flying. Feels just like yesterday we were all taking the requisite "porch picture" of our littles and not-so-littles-any-more before they scooted off to their first day of school nearly eight months ago.

But here we are — figuring out summer schedules, booking camps, driver's training courses and vacations, the last of which might wrap in a college campus tour depending on our kids' ages — while we race to sign them up for junior sailing or swim teams and high schoolers pound the pavement for summer employment.

Having gone through three high school graduations and two college commencements with my kids so far, with a few

more yet to go, my heart is with parents who have a graduate this year.

Back in the Stone Age, graduations were solely reserved for high school or college students. But now it seems like these rites of passage happen at every level, starting with preschoolers, then kindergartners, then fourth graders, then middle schoolers and so on. They can mask these graduations by calling them "promotion" ceremonies, but seasoned veterans know the real deal — you are on the hook for a requisite gift of some sort, like toys for the younger ones or a Lululemon, Lilly or Vuori something for your middle schooler.

At no matter what age, these events always are followed up by a dreaded trip during prime time to TCBY, Ashby's or Cold Stone Creamery (Our local ice cream establishments = we love. Midtown Manhattan-level crowds vying for said ice cream at the same time = hard pass.)

But my thoughts and prayers actually go out to the set of parents going

through high school graduation season, or #grad-SZN as the kids say, especially those embarking on their inaugural trip on this particular roller coaster ride.

Two words: buckle up. Yes, college decision day is just days away on May 1, and whether your senior is heading to college, studying a trade, enlisting or working next fall, you might think you can finally breathe for a minute now that the stress of figuring that out is over.

But time's up and the locomotive that is senior year is plowing down the track, full steam ahead.

Senior year is a season of mixed emotions that is almost always combined with a frequently moody and entitled near-high school graduate. It is not for the faint of heart. There will be lots of award ceremonies, final games, final theater/choir performances and sporting events to fill up your calendar in a blink. These events will alternate with scholarship ceremonies and senior nights of nearly every manner.

Let's not forget the

"promposals" going on. This modern concept is something altogether different and creatively next level than when boys used to stop girls in the halls after school to see if they wanted to go to prom with them. Or wrote the request in a cave drawing like back in the Paleolithic Age.

The pressure is on the boys to do something clever, while a lot of young women either hope to be asked or are firmly committed to go with a group of friends. Naturally this is somehow up for the boy to vet in advance when he sends his friends to do some reconnaissance.

Of course either way, the girls were already preemptively buying their dresses before deciding and posting them on a "prom 2024" Facebook/Instagram page that lets others know they have staked their claim on that particular gown. Other young women henceforth do not dare to copy the same dress.

Between all the pre-graduation celebrations and events and promposals in April and May, some

parents go to sleep at night wishing they could transport back in time to live alongside the Waltons. I have two boys and two girls, so I experience both sides of the coin. Trust me, living on rural land with no electricity and everyone going to bed by 9 p.m. at times sounds like a nice alternative to the rat race of senior year. "Goodnight, John-Boy!" has a nice ring to it.

Also at this point of senior year, there's a pretty good chance a lot of you wish you could flat out stop time, for a variety of reasons. Not the least of which is forgetting to put an event in your calendar. Just as you are considering slipping into your favorite cozy loungewear after a long day, your senior comes in asking where his only pair of dress shoes are or if her dress is back from the dry cleaner. Panic mode sets in as you feign that you totally remembered the umpteenth senior night is tonight (and as if you remembered to pick the dress from the dry cleaner!) and you were just about to freshen your

makeup for the event you completely forgot about.

I have been there and I see you.

Senior parents, you are simply running the gauntlet for the next two months. You will feel sad, happy, depleted and overwhelmed, often all at the same time. Part of you will feel ready for the next chapter, while the other half of you wishes it was Kindergarten Round-Up again.

I think I will save tips on how to mitigate the fun/dread that is the endless stream of graduation parties that swiftly turn into the unending parade of "goodbye" bonfires for later this summer. Yep, this ride continues until you whisk them off to college.

In the meantime, senior parents, just keep doing the best with what you've got. It's a special and wonderful time for your grad, but it's OK to feel like it's a circus and your house is center ring. Just be sure to play some good '80s music as much as possible. Might as well make a party out of the whole crazy thing.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

CITY STUDIES PROPOSAL TO BUILD POOL: It looks as if Grosse Pointe City might be the

second community in the Pointe to have a safe and sanitary enclosed swimming pool, permitting public swimming throughout the hot season without regard to the conditions of the lake water. Engineer Preston G. Brown proposes a pool made of

interlocking sheet steel piling, capable of accommodating 600 persons at one time.

1974

50 years ago this week

BON SECOURS FUND OBTAINS OVER \$1

MILLION: The Special Gifts Committee for the Bon Secours Hospital Building Fundz opened its phase of activity with a name selection meeting at the War Memorial where it was announced that two advance committees have already obtained signed subscriptions totaling more than \$1,000,000. Mrs. Hans Gehrke Jr.,

fund chairman, emphasized these are progress reports and committees will be making further announcements as they continue their work.

1999

25 years ago this week

ARCHITECT HIRED TO CONCEPTUALIZE MACK-MOROSS: Despite having no approved plans or a mandate from residents, the Grosse Pointe Farms city council has hired an architect to make concept drawings of a proposed 77,000-square-foot recreation center at the corner of Mack and Moross.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

The best path forward to transparency is to let a true expert decide — a judge.

SUSAN COPPA
Grosse Pointe Woods

Re: The beautiful Titus Kaphar painting at GPN

To the Editor:

I am dismayed there is any controversy surrounding the painting at Grosse Pointe North. Students being exposed to the beautiful work of an elite artist like Titus Kaphar is nothing short of a privilege.

I wish the painting had been introduced to students with a presentation about the artist and his creations, as well as analysis of his intent in painting this tribute to his mother within the body of work, "From a Tropical Space." After educating students in this way, an unveiling to small groups with a teacher present to answer questions would have been the appropriate process for cultivating interest and curiosity.

I'm a retired engineer, not an artist

and not qualified to judge art, but if anything, art is personal. This painting evokes strong emotions and allusion to the struggles of motherhood and all mothers' greatest fear: losing a child. Is this painting appropriate for a high school? Yes, for the many opportunities to inform about art techniques, explain how the artist's expression shows respect for his mother and enlightening them on what a daunting task parenting is.

I am in awe of its vibrant beauty and see in its subject a photo I have of my own mother, in which she is surrounded by her six children holding the youngest, a baby, in her lap. Like the woman in the painting, her face is serious, with hints of worry and stress, a face somewhat forlorn. The painting implores me to understand more clearly my own mother's difficult journey raising our large family, even if her worries and the worries of the woman in the painting differ.

As a staff member at North, what a blessing for me to see the painting every day. As we approach Mother's Day, I can pause in front of this magnificent creation and whisper a thank you to my mother.

CHRISTINE MORRISON
Grosse Pointe Woods

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Sunday
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Woods business wins pitch award

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer



Bri Muhammad

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — In her very first attempt, Bri Muhammad of The Beaute Loft took third place in a small business pitch contest sponsored by local investors.

"I had no idea what to expect, but I learned quite a bit," she said. "I definitely plan on doing more. I had no idea it was a thing."

The money comes from the BasBlue Foundation and its BasBlue's Founders and Fund(Her)s Pitch Day.

"At BasBlue, we're committed to leveling the entrepreneurial playing

field," said BasBlue co-founder Nancy Tellem in a press release. "We believe in equipping women founders, especially women of color, with more than just financial backing. We provide the resources, mentor-

ship and a supportive community necessary for them to thrive personally and to help ensure they leave a transformative legacy for themselves and future generations."

Business owners were chosen after filling out an online application and the top five gave their pitches. Muhammad took third place and received \$2,500. First place received \$10,000 and second got \$5,000.

"I'm part of an entrepreneur's cohort and they suggested looking at local pitch competitions," Muhammad said. "I Googled it and BasBlue was the first one that popped up."

Muhammad said she plans to use the money to widen the entrance to her shop at 20957 Mack and install railings in the restroom to make it more handicap accessible.

She started The Beaute Loft after her second child was born with atopic dermatitis, commonly known as eczema. When doctors suggested treating the condition with steroids, Muhammad decided to put her chemistry degree to use to make an herb-based cream.

That led to her making a solution for her daughter's thick hair. After blogging about the process, people reached out

to her wanting to buy her clean beauty products. She was making them in the basement of her St. Clair Shores home, but after it flooded twice in 2021, she moved her lab to the Mack location.

The shop sells cleansers, scrubs, serums, soap, bath bombs and lip butters, among other items.

"On the day of the pitch, we met with a start-up coach to go over our presentation," Muhammad said. "Afterward, the judges gave us some really constructive feedback. One thing I learned is to focus the pitch on one thing, because you only have five minutes." The Beaute Loft cur-

rently is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Muhammad hosts make-and-take workshops the first and third Friday of the month 6 to 8 p.m.

"We're expanding our staff, so we'll be able to offer more workshops on the weekends," she said. "The reception has been great. Grosse Pointe really embraces small businesses."

Private workshops also are available.

"They're great for things like birthday parties, date nights, team-building events," Muhammad said. "It's a different layer of fun and people really like it."

Farms couple are James Beard nominees

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The husband and wife team of Nadia Nijimbere and Hamisii Mamba have been named finalists for best restaurant by the James Beard Foundation.

They own Baobab Fare at Woodward and East Grand Boulevard, which according to its website is a "celebration of East African food and culture."

"It's amazing," Nijimbere said. "We are grateful for such a big honor."

They also own Waka Street Food, a food truck that among other events has

been making regular appearances at Little Caesar's Arena for Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Pistons games.

The couple opened Baobab Fare in 2021 because they missed the food of their native Burundi. They recently closed on a second location on East Warren at Grayton and Cadieux and expect to open later this year.

"This is an honor not only for us, but for everyone who has helped us," Nijimbere added. "The whole community has played a big role in our success. It's all happened so quickly, it's not easy to explain."

Nijimbere arrived in Detroit alone in

2013. She found out she was pregnant shortly after and gave birth to twin girls later that year. Mamba, who had twice been denied a visa, was able to join them two years later.

Both were helped by Freedom House Detroit, which helps refugees and asylum seekers with things like shelter, food, legal aid, English classes and job training. When Mamba won an episode of "Chopped" a little more than a year ago, he donated half of the \$10,000 prize to Freedom House and the other half to a children's organization in Burundi.

They chose the restaurant name for a

very specific reason. In Africa, the baobab tree is a sign of humility and resilience. Its bark and fruit offer more than 300 life-sustaining uses and it is part of many indigenous remedies, traditions and folklore.

"It's called the tree of life because it can survive in the desert without water," Nijimbere said. "It's like us, because when we came here we didn't have anything and now we are sustainable and provide for the community."

They are competing against restaurant owners from Washington, Colorado and Washington, D.C. Winners will be announced in Chicago June 10. Winners receive a medallion, a certificate and recognition on the James Beard website. Nominees and winners can use that fact in promotional material.

PROJECT:

Continued from page 5A

moot.

"I don't want Airbnbs anywhere in the Park, but, don't think that's realistic," he said, citing a company (founded 15 years ago with 2023 sales approaching \$10 billion) that has become synonymous with short-term rentals in the same way Coca Cola is for soft drinks, Chapstick is for lip balm and Q-tips are for whatever other things that do what Q-tips do

are called.

Commissioner Jimmy Saros also opposes short-term rentals, but knows they're here to stay.

"I look at SRTs as a commercial use," he said. "It shouldn't be in residential districts. I'm not opposed to a complete ban, but I don't think that's realistic."

In August 2023, City Manager Nick Sizeland urged the city council to authorize an update of the zoning ordinance to get a handle on short-term rentals.

"The state has been

talking about short-term rentals since 2016, when I arrived here," Sizeland said at the time. "I recommend moving forward with considering further clarity for short-term rentals in the Park. It is better that we be prepared than not prepared."

Main revisions contained in Draft 2 include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ reducing the number of STR licenses from 30 to 20,

- ◆ requiring licensees to post a \$1,500 cash bond with the city,

- ◆ defining maximum occupancy as the lesser of two occupants per bedroom, plus two additional occupants per finished story and

- ◆ requiring licensees to develop a nuisance response plan, including posting contact information online for anyone to access and lodge complaints.

Nothing is expected to be resolved soon.

"Any amendment to the zoning ordinance requires a public hearing by the planning commission before the amendment can be considered by the city council," Warren Rothe, assistant city manager, wrote in a memo to commissioners. "Amending a zoning ordinance can take months."

Discussions are occurring as the latest legislation in Lansing, House Bill 5438 — which is still in committee and, like its predecessors, may never

get out — prohibits banning short-term rentals, yet establishes annual statewide registration, safety standards and more.

Park resident and STR-opponent David Douglas said he lives next to a short-term rental in the 1400 block of Bedford. As such, he said, he's familiar with the problem of late-night comings and goings of lodgers.

"This transient nature can weaken the community," Douglas told the commission.

He said short-term rentals benefit their proprietors at the expense of long-term rental housing stock.

"Families, young professionals and seniors find it harder to secure longer-term leases," Douglas said. "We must strike a balance. (While) short-term rentals can boost tourism and provide additional income for homeowners, we must safeguard stability,

affordability and the character of our neighborhoods. Let us engage in thoughtful dialogue and explore policy solutions that address these challenges."

David King, a short-term rental operator in the Park, has a different perspective.

"My experience here, and working with other Airbnb owners, is most people (using) these properties are not here to throw wild parties," King said. "That's fear mongering. Guests coming to use Airbnbs are (for) weddings, graduations and family gatherings. This is not a tourist community. (STR) property values change slightly, but they change in a positive (way) because Airbnb owners are investing in their property more than long-term rental owners. We're updating with amenities that people want. The property we purchased locally hadn't been updated in 50 years."

Anecdotes aren't good enough for Tony Braun, a Park resident.

"What do we know about how Airbnb — short-term rentals — has conducted itself recently?" he asked commissioners. "We've heard from two gentlemen tonight. Have there been any adverse incidents or not? There's a lot of discussion about what could happen. I'd be interested in what has happened."



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New autism clinic opening

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — GBC Autism Services, founded 10 years ago in Illinois, is expanding its footprint as it prepares to open an office on Mack near Vernier.

GBC offers applied behavior analysis therapy for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder.

“At GBC Autism Services, we are dedi-



Danika McGandy

cated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with autism and their fami-

lies,” said Danika McGandy, president of GBC Autism Services. “Bringing our high-quality services to a community I grew up in, and where I’m now raising a family, has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Grosse Pointe is a tight-knit community and I’m honored to be helping increase access to care in a community that I am so deeply connected to.”

See CLINIC, page 10A

GPPSS survey now live

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System community engagement survey was released Tuesday, April 23. It can be accessed using the QR Code at right or go to tinyurl.com/gppsssurvey.

The survey was developed by Hanover Research, a Virginia-based company that specializes in collecting data for school districts across the country.

The survey will stay open through Tuesday, May 7.

The Board of Education’s Community Engagement Committee began discussing the survey in February.

“We had everyone go through the old survey and break it down as to what they liked and didn’t like,” said Chris Stanley, the district’s executive director of learning technology and strategic relations. “A majority of the committee liked the same ques-



grades they teach and how long they’ve been with the district.

Students, limited to sixth grade and above, will indicate which school they attend and parents can indicate what school their child attends.

Questions include topics such as academic rigor, safety, cleanliness and bullying.

“Student perceptions are generally more negative,” said James Kornegay, content director for Hanover. “You might think the kids enjoy what you’re doing and they might not be as much.”

Kornegay added that if parents have more than one student in the district, they’ll only be able to complete the survey for one of them.

“You don’t want respondents to give two sets of data,” he noted. “Limiting them to one will make answers more randomized.”

Community members

See SURVEY, page 10A



Chef John Sugimura of Taher, the Minnesota-based company that handles food services for Grosse Pointe Public Schools, visited Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools earlier this month to serve students authentic, third-generation Japanese food.

PHOTO BY
RENEE LANDUYT

Students get a taste of Japan

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Students at Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools were treated to authentic Japanese food in early April from recipes dating back 100 years.

John Sugimura, a third-generation Japanese-American, visited the district for three days, including making lunch at each school. Sugimura is part of the chef’s council at Taher, the Minnesota-based company that handles food service for GPPSS. “That’s all I do is Japanese food,” he said. “We have other chefs on the council who specialize in French food, Italian food. It’s in our DNA to be authentic and use multi-generational recipes.”

For the two lunches, he made yakitori and yakisoba, grilled chicken skewers and grilled noodles with vegetables.

“I want to make food interesting and give the kids options,” Sugimura said. “Food that is low in allergens and low in fat. That way the students are filling up on proteins instead of starches.”

“This opens up their world so they’re not having chicken patties on Monday, chicken nuggets on Tuesday, chicken tenders on Wednesday,” he laughed. “A lot of them came back for seconds and even thirds. That’s the best testimonial. I don’t want to just feed them, but give them food their bodies like.”

On the third day of his visit, Sugimura made gyoza, a traditional Japanese dumpling, for a combination of culinary arts and social studies students at North. The dumplings hold a special place for the professionally trained sushi chef who holds a master’s degree in sushi and Japanese food from Kagawa University near

Tokyo.

“This is food my grandmother made and it helps me tell her story,” he said.

His grandparents immigrated from Japan to Sacramento, Calif., in 1917. After his grandfather died, his grandmother opened a restaurant in the 1930s. Then came World War II.

“They lost everything,” Sugimura said. “They were sent to Tule Lake.”

Tule Lake was the largest of 10 internment camps into which the government ordered some 120,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast.

“Obviously my grandmother couldn’t take a recipe book to the camp, so everything had to be recreated from memory,” he said. “I’ve made more than 1 million of them.”

Sugimura has been touring schools for Taher for five years.

“I’ve been on the road every day since August,” he said. “I’ve fed more than 200,000 students in

170 schools this year. I fly home Friday night and fly back out Sunday every weekend.”

While preparing lunch at South and North, yakitori and yakisoba were the only options aside from the salad bar.

“We did have a pizza in the oven for an emergency in case someone was going to be really thrown off,” he said during his visit to South. “Only two slices were requested. When everyone is eating the same thing, it brings a real sense of community.”

Sugimura said he’d like to come back to the Pointes and cook at every building.

“We recently were in a district in Texas where we fed 5,000 in one day,” he said.

Fans of “Sushi Master,” an Iron Chef-style show on Roku, will recognize Sugimura, who was a contestant on season one.

“We had 70 million viewers,” he said. “It’s the most-watched streaming show ever.”

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10A | SCHOOLS

CLINIC:

Continued from page 9A

McGandy grew up in the Park and now lives in the Farms. She met the founder of GBC when she moved to Chicago in 2014, where she received a master's degree in applied behavioral analysis from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

"I started off as an intern doing field work to get hours for my degree," she said. "I moved from the clinical side of things to admin-

istration in 2019, when I became chief operating officer."

Now president, McGandy and her husband moved back to the Pointes in 2021.

"We pride ourselves on being owned and operated by board-certified behavioral analysts," she said. "Everything that shapes our policies and culture comes from that perspective."

GBC offers a range of services, including in-home and center-based therapy, school consultation, social skills groups and its pre-

school-like program.

"It's called our Caterpillar Autism Learning Center and is the most popular offering at our three locations in Illinois," McGandy said. "It includes things like routines, group activities and transitions in order to acclimate the kids for going to school."

The program is geared toward children ages 3 to 7 and is available half day or full day.

Located at 20535 Mack, GBC will hold an open house 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, May 3. Once open, its hours will be 8

a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We're waiting on our final building inspection, but we can offer in-home therapy right now," McGandy said. "We are accredited with Aetna and United Healthcare and should be soon with Blue Cross and Medicaid."

Visit gbc-autism-services.com or call (312) 882-1024 for more information. Note the area code is 312, in the Chicago area, despite the familiar 882 exchange, as all calls go through GBC's clinic there.

SURVEY:

Continued from page 9A

will be asked about their overall perception of the district and how they rate GPPSS leadership.

Parents with students not attending the district also can take the survey.

"I'd love to see some narrative questions as to why they didn't choose GPPSS or, if their children are too young, if they intend on enrolling them here," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said. "I'd also like to see if they left the district, why? If they never

enrolled here, why?"

Kornegay said invalid surveys won't be counted.

"You might get some ninth grader who answers 'strongly disagree' on every question," he said. "That wouldn't be included."

Once the survey closes, Hanover will compile the data, put together an executive summary and present its findings.

"We'll have charts and graphs that will be easy to understand," Kornegay said. "We'll also create a dashboard so you can see how each group responded."

CONTEST:

Continued from page 3A

sion, chairs the poster contest. She called it "our favorite event."

She said, "I was very pleased with the response. Out of 179 potential par-

ticipants in third and fourth grade together, we had 108 responses, about 60 percent. We had something from every single teacher. I'm always pleased when every school and teacher participates."

Choosing a winner wasn't easy.

"We do this in rounds," Deck said, laying out the posters on the floor of the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park.

Ten commissioners mulled through the field, picking their favorite three, whittling choices until, at the end, seven

agreed on the winner.

Commissioner Cheryl Gauss voted for the winner:

"I really liked it, the detail and the message," she said.

So did Commission Vice Chair Alicia Klein.

"The art technique stood out from the rest — all the very fine penwork," she said.

So did Chairwoman Lisa Kyle.

"It is beautifully drawn," she said. "A tremendous amount of effort went into drawing that poster."

Kyle also sided with the runners-up.

"Butterflies are colorful and cheerful," she said. "The commission has been working to support pollinators."

Colter appreciated the

winning poster's detail, including fibrous roots.

"Those are the most important," Colter said. "They suck up moisture. And I agree with Warren Buffet's quote. There are a lot of similar proverbs. A Greek proverb is, 'A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.'"

As someone who spends a lot of time trimming and cutting down trees damaged by high winds, Colter also voted for a poster containing the slogan, "A tree with strong roots laughs at storms."

Commissioners noted a poster with lines of an original poem spread among a verdant collage of trees, blooming flowers, green grass, blue

skies and rainbows:

"It can be tall, it can be small,

"It can be yellow, green or red.

"Under its shadow I like to eat bread.

"So many kinds, so many types.

"Baby birds sleep in their nests on the branches during the darkest night.

"I lift my foot, stretch up my hands,

"Strong as can be, I'm in a yoga position called a 'tree.'

"Trees, trees, they help us breathe with their kindly leaves.

"I love them all, whether big or small."

"That was clever and creative," Commissioner Armen Gulian said. "He or she took time and wrote a cute poem."

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DENIED:

Continued from page 1A

Worden and Valarie St. John voted to uphold the appeals. Ismail abstained on both votes. The votes came after the board met in closed session for about 30 minutes with an attorney from the Clark Hill firm.

Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, said at the board's meeting Feb. 27, the district would not be releasing the full report on the advice of counsel.

"It contains the names of the interviewees, which could chill future

investigations," he said. "That could breach expectations of confidentiality in such important matters."

Both entities have 45 days to file suit in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"We're coming up on budget season and facing costly cuts," Worden said. "The last thing we need to spend money on are costly legal appeals. The law doesn't favor us because the courts favor disclosure."

In its summary, Miller Johnson determined Ismail had made comments about wanting to "push out" Murray and Davis and had taken retaliatory measures against them after the complaints were filed.

Miller Johnson also said the board had taken no action regarding the employment of Murray and Davis and Ismail had not engaged in gender bias/harassment. The summary made no comment regarding racist remarks, although St. John at the board meeting Feb. 6, said Ismail made "racist and sexist comments."

St. John later responded via email to questions from the Grosse Pointe News, saying, "You are correct that the executive summary does not mention the allegations of racism. The complainants did not have grounds to bring that particular matter to HR, even though it was one of their concerns."

In a three-page determination letter the district made public, Fenton said he disagreed with the finding Ismail took retaliatory measures against Murray and Davis, writing, "In support, he (the Miller Johnson investigator) cited two instances — one with respect to each complainant — that could be explained as retaliatory conduct, but could also be explained as simple communications failure.

(The investigator's explanation for his conclusion is not well-documented or persuasive.)

Miller Johnson said Ismail, now board vice president, made his comments to an administrator who is no longer with the district as that person was considering another job offer. Ismail has said he was trying to convince the person to stay, as there might be room for advancement due to possible retirements.

The summary also said Ismail's comments were "in response to actions taken against Mr. Frank Sumbera," and referred to Sumbera as having been terminated. The district in 2018 said Sumbera retired.

In a timeline of events Cotton laid out at the board meeting Feb. 27, the board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at Grosse Pointe South High School, requesting the athletic fields at North be named in honor of Sumbera. He coached baseball and football at North for 49 years and is in the coaching hall of fame for both sports.

It was co-signed by Gary Bennett, North boys basketball coach; Tim Brandon, former South football coach; Russ Hepner, former South football coach; Chad Hepner, South football coach; Steve Zaraneck, South cross country/track coach; Gary Spicer, attorney; and Bill Babcock, former North baseball player. Ismail has said he favors the move.

The complaints were filed Aug. 27 and 28.

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

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Extra! Extra!

'Newsies' closes out GPT's 76th season

Children's toys, items being collected for Detroit Goodfellows

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Theatre closes out its 76th season with a bang, as Disney's "Newsies the Musical" takes the stage May 3 to 12.

"Grosse Pointe Theatre is one of the first community theaters in the area to perform 'Newsies' and we look forward to welcoming families and audiences of all ages to see this uplifting story filled with rousing songs,

high-energy dance numbers and an inspirational message about the power of unity," said Tim Higgins, director.

Higgins said "Newsies" struck a chord with him the first time he saw it; signing up to direct was

an easy decision.

"First, it's the story," he said. "You see a very credible story, historically based. Then, you add music, choreography and dance. It's right in my bailiwick."

Inspired by the newspaper strike of 1899 in New York City, "Newsies" tells the tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who leads a group of young newsies to take on powerful publishing giants to fight for fair conditions.

"Musicals tend to glamorize an ugly situation," Higgins said. "But what brought them together and kept them together was camaraderie — the power of unity."

Leading the cast of 37 is Charles Kruse, taking on the role of Jack Kelly.

"Jack Kelly is a 17-year-old street rat," Kruse said. "His best friend is Crutchie. ... The show starts with me and him in what I call our penthouse — on a rooftop. I'm a dreamer and an artist and I want to leave New York City."

"... It's a huge part and I love a challenge," he added. "Hopefully I'm living up to that challenge."

Co-starring as Jack's love interest is Kristina Kamm Mardlin, who portrays journalist Katherine Plumber.

"I love 'Newsies,'" she said. "It came out when I was 15, and was one of the first musicals I was super obsessed with. I love Katherine. She's super smart, funny and fun."

"Katherine is a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DALE PEGG

Kristina Kamm Mardlin plays Katherine Plumber and Charles Kruse plays Jack Kelly in Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of Disney's "Newsies the Musical."

reporter," she continued. "She has a dad she doesn't get along with. She's trying to figure out her own thing. She writes for the social pages and decides to write about the newsies. She falls in love with Jack along the way."

Several members of the GPT "Newsies" cast already have performed in the musical, which debuted as a Disney film in 1992, then was performed on Broadway beginning in 2012.

"It's the biggest musical we've done in a few years," Higgins said. "It rivals when, 24 years ago, we did 'West Side Story.' Because we're trying to emulate Broadway, we rented a Broadway-like set from a company out of Cleveland. We want it to be grand, bigger. How do we up our game?"

"Harvey Fierstein kept a lot of songs from the movie," he added. "The songs in here are so well written, I just love it. Combined with these kids, the numbers and dances are inspiring. ... This is much bigger than theater; it's bigger than the stage. Every day it gets better."

"Watching the cast perform, seeing how far they've come, is awesome," said Patricia Ellis, GPT publicity and community engagement chair. "The dancing and singing, their relationships, their chemistry is just amazing."

Added Kruse, "That's what's special about Grosse Pointe Theatre. There are people in it I've worked with before and people I've never worked with before. You grow together as a cast on and off the stage. It happens every show."

Both leads were quick to audition for their roles for personal reasons.

"From the first time I watched it, I was super jazzed about the show in general," Kamm Mardlin

said. "It made me decide to do theater in school. For younger kids, when they see this show, maybe they never thought of (acting) before. It's cool for younger people to realize they can do it too."

Added Kruse, "Being a newbie to theater, anybody can do it. I never formally trained. I was singing in high school and college because I was the worship leader at my church."

"... This is only my fourth show," he added. "I did 'The King and I' when I was 11, then didn't do another show until 'Joseph' two years ago, then 'Something Rotten' last season. I'm ready for Jack."

Higgins is working with apprentice director Joanna Panagos for "Newsies." Though it's her first time as apprentice, the two have known each other many years.

"I cast her in 'Grease' in 2010," Higgins said. "I love and respect her. Her novice view, all due respect, she's seeing what it takes to put a musical together. It's a process you learn over time and she will. Quoting her, she said, 'I didn't know this was a 24-hour-a-day commitment.'"

"Director has always been a fascinating role," Panagos said. "You take a person who's extremely creative and not only creative but a project manager as well. It's a big job. Tim is fantastic. He's the most organized and brilliant person I've ever met, which I know sounds dramatic, but it's true."

"I've learned a lot through this process, starting with a creative vision for 'Newsies' 12 months ago and seeing it come alive right before my eyes," she added.

"Every day is an exciting new challenge. This is a

See NEWSIES, page 8B



Kyle O'Donnell, far right, plays publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer, who tries to control the newsies' fight for fair wages and conditions. Portraying the newsies are, from left, Mack Kohler as Les, Ryan Roetker as Davey, Charles Kruse as Jack Kelly and Alex Quinlan as Crutchie.



From left, Alex Quinlan, Charles Kruse, Ryan Roetker and Mack Kohler rehearse a scene — leading the 1899 newspaper strike to fight for fair wages and conditions for all kids trying to survive by selling newspapers — from Disney's "Newsies the Musical."

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The members of Blue Delta, the United States Air Force Band ensemble, will perform a free concert at The War Memorial at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

Blue Delta to perform at The War Memorial

The United States Air Force Academy Band ensemble, Blue Delta, is performing a free concert Sunday, April 28, in the ballroom of the Fred M. Alger Center at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., followed by the concert at 6:30 p.m.

Blue Delta is the commercial music ensemble of the United States Air Force Academy Band. These full-time, active-duty bandmen are committed to enhancing community relations and instilling the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence in the nation's youth and beyond.

Delta also includes deployment, military support and troop morale. The group performs high-energy music from a variety of genres and its versatility and dynamic stage presence enables it to tell the Air Force story to audience members of all ages. Tickets are free, but registration is requested at warmemorial.org.

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 Amy-Kish-2 or Zelle 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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
 ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 25,

Lakeview High School 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, Jefferson Masonic Lodge 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 16, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 17, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 17, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

Register at redcross blood.org.

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.

The Helm

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

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

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

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

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

◆ Golden and Graceful Ballet, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays, May 2 to June 27, with Carolyn Bradt. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Cooking with the

See EVENTS, page 6B



Bird walk attendees, Laura Hazlett and Dianne Dossin.

Bird Walk this weekend

This Saturday, April 27, is National Go Birding Day.

Two local establishments — Ford House and Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe — have been enabling birding to happen for decades.

"For 29 years I have been leading bird walks at the Ford House, with 204 species being sighted over those years," said Rosann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited of Grosse Pointe. "Birding as a hobby is growing and I am ecstatic about that, having started birding as a teenager, inspired by my high school science teacher."

Spring bird walks at Ford House currently are being offered. The next one is planned 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 27 — National Go Birding Day.

Participants take an engaging stroll through Ford House grounds, during

which they have the chance to see many birds. Afterward, guests unwind with a cup of coffee or tea while compiling a list of the birds found.

Birding expeditions span approximately one and a half to two hours, navigating both paved and unpaved paths. Guests should dress appropriately for the weather, including comfortable waterproof shoes. Those who don't have binoculars may borrow a pair from walk organizers.

Bird walks continue 7 to 9:30 a.m. Friday to Sunday, May 3 to 5. Additionally, an Explorers: Bird Walk, for ages 6 to 10, takes place 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4.

Admission is \$8 for Ford House members, \$10 for nonmembers. Those interested may sign up online at fordhouse.org/events/bird-walk-april-2024/

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Guests spot something interesting during a bird walk at Ford House.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSANN KOVALCIK

Jim Szelc and Rosann Kovalcik during a bird walk.

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TO READ CLIENT REVIEWS

SCAN ME

May is Mental Health Month

The Family Center offers mental wellness lineup

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods carries out its mission of building happier, healthier families throughout the year, but is focused on mental health as next month nears.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and The Family Center has a lineup of events that zero in on mental wellness, including the continuation of its Mental Health Matters lecture series, which kicked off in April. “We’re so excited about it,” said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center. “Our programming committee reached out to therapists in our network to see if they would talk about different themes. They’ve been talking about topics of their choice each week. We got a great showing of therapists — seven weeks worth. If it goes well, we’ll continue it in the fall.”

Bingaman said the sessions have been great, starting with Thad Galvin’s April 1 lecture, “What to Expect from Therapy and What is Good Therapy?” April 8 welcomed Sarah Emmerson, who pre-

sented “Child and Adolescent Mental Health,” while April 15 featured Susie Rohde, presenting about emotional triggers during “Why is Everyone Driving Me Crazy?” and on April 22, Sarah Kost-Cox presented “The Neurodivergent Brain.”

Remaining Mental Health Matters lectures include:

◆ April 29 — “Understanding Trauma’s Presence in the Body,” with Gabrielle Deschaine

◆ May 6 — “The Gift of Grief,” with Frank Wilberding

◆ May 13 — a to-be-determined topic presented by Megan Gunnell

◆ May 20 — a to-be-determined topic presented by John George

Lectures take place 7 to 8 p.m. at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“Everything is free and open to anyone — other therapists, parents, educators, the medical community,” Bingaman noted, “anybody who would benefit from these topics; they’re all interesting.”

“Frank Wilberding, our program chair, is thrilled with this series,” she added. “It was his idea. He said, ‘We’re building community, just like with

our other programs, and if you build it, they will come.’”

QPR

The Family Center offers another session of QPR Suicide Prevention Training at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ages 15 and older are welcome to attend this program, which provides training to help participants recognize suicide warning signs, as well as learn ways to initiate conversation and direct someone to the appropriate resources.

“It’s open to anybody,” said MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration with The Family Center. “It’s basic training on how to question, persuade and refer someone if they’re going through a mental health crisis.”

“People talk about the importance of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), that everyone should know CPR,” she added. “Everyone should be QPR trained, too.”

The Family Center offers QPR training twice a year at different locations throughout the community. Sessions are always well attended.

“I’ve seen people come to more than one,” Harris said.

“You get something new out of it every time,” Bingaman added.

Walk/Fair

The eighth annual Suicide Prevention Walk & Mental Health Fair takes place 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.

The event is offered in conjunction with the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods Coalition, Henry Ford Health, Grosse Pointe Public School System, The Helm at the Boll Life Center and Kevin’s Song.

Students in South’s Wellness Club, as well as Grosse Pointe North High School’s Peer to Peer Club, are involved in all aspects of the event — planning, setting up, assisting participants and vendors and cleaning up afterward.

“It’s great to have student involvement,” Harris said. “Students will be speaking on mental health and wellness and what the schools are doing to promote mental wellness.”

“We typically have one to three student speakers at the event,” said

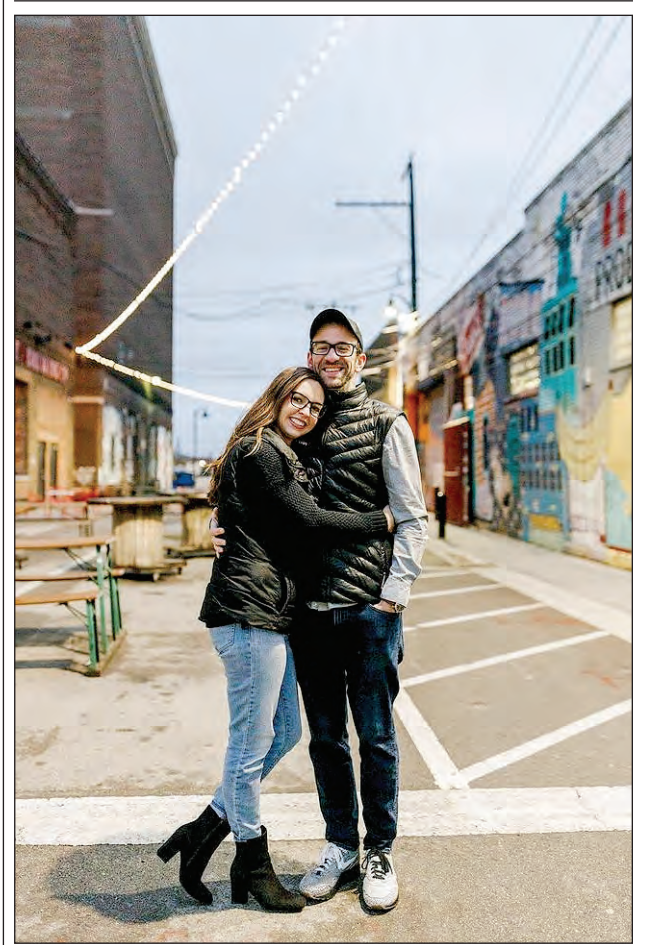


Christine Kuhl, school psychologist at North and co-leader of Peer to Peer. “In the past, students have talked about the importance of bringing the community together to support mental wellness. Students often speak about the impact of mental health issues in their own lives and friend groups. They focus on decreasing the stigma around mental health and encourage people to ask for help

when they are struggling. “Our Peer to Peer students focus on creating a unique mental health campaign each year,” she continued. “The campaign is created by students for students. This year our campaign slogan is, ‘Understanding Starts with You.’ Our P2P members create events, social media posts and marketing materials that aim to decrease the

See HEALTH, page 8B

ENGAGEMENT



Sara Gariepy and Matt Prigorac

Prigorac—Gariepy

Barb Thomson of Grosse Pointe Park, on behalf of her late husband Mike Prigorac, announces the engagement of her son, Matt Prigorac, to Sara Gariepy, the daughter of Chris and Dawn Gariepy of Brighton.

Mr. Prigorac earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Wayne State University. He is a software engineer for General Motors in Warren.

Miss Gariepy earned a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy from Western Michigan University. She is an occupational therapist in St. Clair Shores.

A May 2024 wedding is planned.

WEDDING

Brennan—Mahoney

Alexander Colleen Mahoney and Daniel Richard Brennan were married Aug. 12, 2023, at St. William Catholic Church in St. Simons Island, Ga. The ceremony, officiated by the Rev. Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, was followed by a reception at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Ga.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Mahoney of Raleigh, N.C. The groom is the son of Mr. Vincent and the Hon. Megan Brennan of Grosse Pointe Farms.

The bride wore a stunning A-line gown of fine silk faille with an exquisite ruffled bodice designed by Markarian. She carried a bouquet of soft pink and yellow dahlias, garden roses and ranunculus with dark greenery, designed by The Vine of Sea Island.

The bride’s sisters, Mary Kate and Megan Mahoney, served as co-maids of honor. Bridesmaids were the groom’s sisters, Marijane Brennan Crocker and Margaret Brennan. They wore vibrant yellow floral gowns, each differing in design and hue.

The bride and groom also included close cousins and friends in their bridal party, with the women wearing floral gowns, each varying in vivid tropical colors and styles.

The groom’s brother, Dr. Vincent Brennan Jr., served as best man. Groomsmen were the groom’s brother-in-law, Edward Crocker, and the bride’s brother, Sean Mahoney.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Washington and Lee University. She will graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from New York University Law School in May. Alex has accepted a position as an associate attorney with the New York law firm, Davis, Polk & Wardell.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration-finance and a Master of



Daniel and Alexander Brennan

Business Management degree, both from Fordham University. He is an associate with the investment firm, The Carlyle Group, in New York.

The couple reside in Manhattan and honeymooned in Belize.

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BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINE & MONAGHAN REALTY

This home on Kensington with the picture-perfect exterior, above, sold last year. The exquisite curb appeal of this beautiful home no doubt helped it to sell fast.

A breath of spring

Spruce up your home — for selling or enjoying

By Shana Sine Cameron
Guest Writer

Spring is the season of new beginnings. For young couples just starting a new life together in their first lovenest to empty nesters looking to downsize, growing families considering up-sizing to homeowners ready to remodel, it's the perfect season to rejuvenate a home's exterior and, for some, prepare it for sale.

Whether looking to enhance curb appeal for your own enjoyment or make a lasting impression on potential buyers, taking the time to spruce up your home's outdoor spaces can yield significant benefits.

Here are some practical tips to get your home's exterior in "spring shape" and ready for the real estate market.

Landscaping and garden refresh:

Spring is synonymous with vibrant blooms and lush greenery. Take advantage of this natural beauty by investing time in landscaping and gardening. Trim overgrown bushes, weed flower beds, and add fresh mulch for a polished look. Consider planting colorful flowers to create an inviting atmosphere. Well-maintained gardens not only boost curb appeal but also convey a sense of care and attention to detail.

Clean and repair exteriors:

Winter weather can take a toll on your home's exterior surfaces. Inspect the siding, trim, and windows for any damage. Power wash the siding to remove dirt and grime, giving your home a fresh appearance. Repair any peeling paint, loose shingles, or damaged gutters. A well-maintained exterior not only enhances visual appeal but also indicates a property that has been cared for over time.

Upgrade outdoor lighting:

Adequate outdoor lighting enhances safety and adds a touch of elegance to your home. Consider updating or adding lighting fixtures to highlight architectural features, pathways, and landscaping. This not only creates a welcoming atmosphere but also showcases your property's best features during evening showings.

Deck and patio maintenance:

If your home features a deck or patio, spring is the ideal time for maintenance. Sweep away debris, power wash surfaces, and inspect for any signs of wear or damage. Consider applying a fresh coat of stain or sealer to protect and revitalize the wood. Clean and arrange outdoor furniture to create an inviting space for potential buyers or for your own enjoyment.

Inspect and clean the roof:

The roof is a crucial element of your home's exterior. Inspect for missing or damaged shingles, and clean out gutters to prevent water damage. A well-maintained roof not only protects your home but also adds to its overall visual appeal.

Enhance the front entrance:

The front entrance sets the tone for the entire home. Consider repainting the front door, adding a new welcome mat, and installing updated hardware for a fresh look. A well-designed and inviting entrance makes a positive first impression and can significantly impact a potential buyer's perception of your home.

Declutter and depersonalize:

Before putting your home on the market, decluttering and depersonalizing are essential

steps. Remove any personal items, excessive decorations, or clutter from outdoor spaces. Potential buyers should be able to envision themselves in the space, and a clean, organized exterior contributes to a positive first impression.

Spring offers the perfect opportunity to breathe new life into your home's exterior, making it not only a welcoming haven for your family but also an attractive prospect for potential buyers. By following these tips and investing time and effort into your home's outdoor spaces, you can maximize its curb appeal and position it for success in the competitive real estate market. So, take advantage of the spring season, roll up your sleeves, and get ready to showcase your home in its best light.

Shana Sine Cameron is a REALTOR® with Sine & Monaghan REALTORS® in Grosse Pointe. She specializes in the Grosse Pointe market and is ready to assist you with buying or selling your next property. She can be reached by phone at (313) 530-7705 or at shanasinecameron@gmail.com.



Shana Sine Cameron, above, is an expert on Grosse Pointe area real estate.

Quick tips for making home exteriors shine



Cleaning gutters thoroughly brightens the whole exterior.



A variety of perennials adds depth, texture and color to the view.



Fresh paint makes your entry door look brand new.



A clean garage is a must for sellers.



Rent or hire a power-washer to really clean patios and walks.



Fresh, clean outdoor furniture is welcoming and inviting.

With a few easy moves, you can get your home ready for spring entertaining, selling or just enjoying. Your entryway and patio are two focal points that deserve special attention. The front door makes an instant and lasting first impression and the patio is the place sellers envision themselves welcoming family and friends all summer. Either of these two areas of your home appearing unkempt is not going to serve you well.

A visit to the garden center or hardware store (and very little elbow grease) will have your exteriors looking magazine-ready and fill you with restored

eagerness for all the fun and beauty of the warmer months ahead.

Not handy? No green thumb? No worries! Grosse Pointe has so many great home improvement companies, garden services and home businesses that are ready to work with you that it will be a breeze to get the assistance you need. You can even hire someone to straighten up and organize that too-full garage you've been avoiding.

The main thing is to get going now, so that by the time it really warms up everything will already be in tip top shape for you to enjoy – or sell!

FRESHEN UP CURB APPEAL

- Clean out gutters
- Trim and remove dead tree limbs
- Add or refresh dirt and mulch in plant beds
- Plant colorful perennials to spruce up green areas

Fresh paint and hardware make doors pop, right, and add an air of newness to your entrance.



A new welcome mat, above, lends personality and warmth to your doorway. Planters of flowers add color.



Green planters, above, for patio or entry make the home look fresh and inviting. Wood, terra cotta and ceramic planters bring style and coziness.

CREATE A GRAND ENTRANCE

- Repaint your front door in a modern color
- Replace worn-out door knockers, locks and handles
- Plant colorful flowers along the walkway
- Add a planter or two by the front door
- Roll out a fresh, new welcome mat
- Sweep and clean the entire entry area and doorway

CLEAN AND ORGANIZE THE GARAGE

- Purchase storage bins with labels
- Go through all your items
- Discard or donate items you don't need any more
- Replace items you want to keep in organized bins, putting most-used items up front for easy access
- Sweep floors
- Hose and soap floors, rinse and dry



GET THE BACKYARD SPRING-READY

- Wash the deck, patios, driveway and walkways
- Wash outdoor furniture, umbrellas and awnings
- Replace furniture cushions and rugs as needed – a fresh set of cushions or pillows makes everything look new
- Choose some inviting lighting for evening ambiance like solar spikes, table lanterns, candle groupings or white or golden string lights
- Add colorful planters around the patio
- Power wash the siding



6B | 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.

Joan Margaret DeWitt McKean

Joan Margaret DeWitt McKean died peacefully at home Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in the company of her beloved dogs.

Joan was born Dec. 26, 1936, in St. Louis, and was the eldest daughter of William Orville DeWitt Sr. and Margaret Holekamp DeWitt, both of St. Louis. Joan was a 1954 graduate of Mary Institute in St. Louis, now known as MICDS, and Briarcliff Junior College in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. She finished her college education at Vanderbilt University, Class of 1959. In addition, Joan completed a year of graduate school at Peabody Teachers' College in Nashville, which now is part of Vanderbilt.

Certified in both mathematics and English, Joan began her teaching career at Maplewood Richmond Heights Junior High in a suburb of St. Louis and also taught junior high school in St. Clair Shores. Joan then moved to Chicago, where she pursued a career writing math textbooks at Scott Foresman Publishing Co. She also obtained a stock broker's license and sold limited partnerships, primarily oil and gas, private placements and new issues for Reynolds DeWitt & Co. While in Chicago, Joan also became involved with various charitable organizations and chaired many events. Joan was on the board of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse among many others. She was the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award in Chicago.

Joan was widely respected within the international bridge community and won four national championships. She also represented the United States in five world championships and was a member of one of the two teams represented in China's

International Tournament in 1961. In addition, she participated in many tournaments with world-renowned players such as Omar Sharif. She was the recipient of the Michigan Bridge Association Goodwill Award and also received the 1984 American Contract Bridge League Presidential Citation for volunteerism. She was president of the ACBL Charity Foundation for six years.

Her marriage in 1987 to George Edwin McKean II brought Joan back to Grosse Pointe. She immediately immersed herself back into the community and became active in many civic, social and charitable organizations. Joan was a Lifetime Benefactor of Beaumont Hospital and Country Club of Detroit member. She continued to pursue her love of bridge by giving private lessons and was selected several times by exclusive cruise companies such as Seabourn to be the bridge instructor.

Joan also was an avid gardener and became well-versed in the field of orchid propagation. She was a member of the Michigan Orchid Society and maintained a sizable greenhouse which enabled her to not only furnish her own home with exquisite flowers, but also to put together arrangements for friends who were sick or bereaved.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, Margaret and Bill; and her husband, George. She is survived by her sister, Donna DeWitt Lambert of Vero Beach, Fla., and brother, William O. DeWitt Jr. of Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as eight beloved nieces, nephews and their families. Stark Langs Holekamp, Joan's cousin, was her most loyal companion in her later years.

A graveside service in St. Louis has been planned for late May. In

lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her honor to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org/donate.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Louise Christine Lindsey

Louise Christine Lindsey, 76, of Mukilteo, Wash., died Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in Seattle, due to cancer complications, with her friend and companion, Mike Lindsey of Poulsbo, Wash., by her side.

Christine was born in 1947, in Grosse Pointe, to Alfred J. and Margaret Mayer. Chris studied art at Wayne State University, then transferred to the WSU School of Engineering, graduating in 1978, with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. She then moved to Seattle to begin her engineering career with Boeing.

Chris enjoyed sailboat racing and cruising on the waters of Puget Sound. She sailed in the 1994 Pacific Cup race from San Francisco to Hawaii. She also enjoyed gardening, biking, hiking and traveling. After retiring from Boeing, she pursued her artistic interest and studied glass-blowing, setting up her own home studio to make glass beads.

Chris was predeceased by her parents and her siblings, Margaret, Alfred and Annette Knoll. She is survived by her nephews, Barry Knoll and Peter Knoll; and friend and companion, Mike Lindsey.

A private service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Everett Animal Shelter in Everett, Wash., cityofeverett.formstack.com/forms/animalshelter_give today, or the Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle, pratt.org/donate.



Joan M. DeWitt McKean



Louise Christine Lindsey



Russell P. Luttinen

Russell "Russ" P. Luttinen

Russell "Russ" P. Luttinen, 85, of Grawn, Mich., passed away peacefully Saturday, April 13, 2024, at his home.

Russ was born May 9, 1938, in Mass City, Mich., to the late Otto and Mayme (nee Kulppi) Luttinen. He married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Carole Juntunen, Sept. 5, 1959, in Hancock, Mich.

Russ graduated from Hancock High School in 1956, where he earned seven varsity letters in alpine skiing, football and track. He competed in collegiate alpine skiing while attending Michigan Technological University and Northern Michigan University, graduating in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in education. He later earned a master's degree in secondary education administration from Wayne State University.

Russ began his career in education as a math teacher in Traverse City in 1960. In 1966, he moved to teach in Grosse Pointe. From 1968 to 1970, he left education to be general manager at Cliff's Ridge ski area in Marquette and head coach of the Northern Michigan University ski team. Later, in 1970, he returned to Grosse Pointe, where he served at Grosse Pointe South High School in teaching and administration, retiring as assistant principal in 2000.

Russ also was a successful high school skiing coach. From 1962 to 1966, he coached five straight Michigan skiing state championships for the Traverse City High School ski teams. He was named Michigan High School State

Skiing Coach of the Year in 1965 and 1966, and was inducted into the Grand Traverse Ski Club Hall of Fame in 2018. His love for skiing continued until age 80. Among his other interests, Russ enjoyed deer hunting with family and friends in the woods of northern Michigan.

He was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and past president of the St. Clair Shores Lions Club and Sun Plaza West Condominium Association in Anna Maria Island, Fla. He loved his family and attended all school graduations and many events and activities.

Russ is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Carole; son, Lindsey Luttinen (Kelly); daughter, Summer Kolka; grandchildren, Nathan Kolka, Sarah Wilson (Jeff), Megan Essensa (Joshua), Rebecca Luttinen and Luke Luttinen; great-grandson, Clark Wilson; brother-in-law, Jerry Juntunen (Karyn); and many extended family members. Russ was predeceased by his parents; and brother, Robert Luttinen.

A funeral service took place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Love Thy Neighbor Grand Traverse Region, lovethyneighbor.org/donate; Goodwill Inn Emergency Shelter, goodwillnmi.org/donate; or Hospice of Michigan, hom.org/donate/.

Share thoughts and memories with Russell's family at his tribute page, reynolds-jonkhoff.com. The family appreciates all the services Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services has provided.



Isabel P. Saigh

Isabel P. Saigh

Isabel P. Saigh, 87, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

She was born May 6, 1936, in Detroit, to Fadel and Samha (nee Sfier) Ganem, both now deceased. Her family and church were the most important parts of her life. While at home, she loved having her family with her while she watched "Shark Tank."

She was the devoted wife of Paul for 63 years, before his death in 2023; beloved mother of Lisa Saigh and Steve Saigh (Wendy); loving sitte (grandmother) of Victoria Smith, Sophia Smith, Lily Buckner (Brian), Samantha Saigh, Alexandra Saigh and Nicholas Saigh; great-sitte of Blaine Buckner; and dearest sister of Leila Fuher (the late Richard) and Philip Ganem (Charlotte). She also is survived by her loving nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her sisters, Esther Michael (the late Eddie) and Janet Ganem (the late Fued).

Visitation took place at Chas. Verheyden Inc. Her funeral was held at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, saintmaron.detroit.org/donate-online.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Platinum Chef, 11 a.m. to noon Monday, May 6, with personal chef and nutritionist Rhoda St. Luce. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members.

Library

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

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Teen Yoga, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, May 3, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Ford House

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

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Ballroom Dance: Foxtrot, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1. Cost is \$40 for members, \$48

for nonmembers. For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

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.

- ◆ 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.

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.

- ◆ Springtime Stress Break, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, 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 mental health will be on hand.

Learn more by calling (313) 447-1374.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Rotary member Todd Litton will give a new member presentation. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe host "Assessing the Risks to American Democracy," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms. Guest speaker include former Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer and former Republican Party Executive Director Jeff Timmer, who host the weekly podcast, "A Republic, If You Can Keep It." The program is free, but registration is required as seating is limited. Visit lwvgrossepointe.org to

register or for more information.

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Life Line Screening

Affordable health screenings will be available Saturday, May 18, through Life Line Screening at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in one's arteries, which relates to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function and more. Advanced registration is required. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will create a package tailored to each individual. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com.

CMSC presents 'Janacek!' April 28

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club presents the next concert of its 25th season at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

CMSC will highlight the music of Czech composer Leoš Janáček, who lived from 1854 to 1928. The Detroit Opera will present Janáček's opera, "The Cunning Little Vixen," on May 11, 17 and 19. CMSC's program serves as a Janáček "appetizer," showcasing the chamber music of this original and talented composer mere weeks before the opera opens. In past seasons, Detroit Opera has collaborated with CMSC to familiarize audiences with works by less familiar composers.

Janáček's music always has a strong connection to folk song, spoken language and nature. The CMSC program features Janáček's String Quartet # 1, "Kreutzer Sonata," which is considered one of the masterpieces of the string



COURTESY PHOTOS

The string quartet performers for this concert are, from left, violinist Velda Kelly, cellist Ivana Biliskov, violist Scott Stefanko and violinist Laura Roelofs.

quartet literature. It demonstrates the composer's love for Russian literature, since the quartet was inspired by Tolstoy's novella, "The Kreutzer Sonata."

Fittingly, the string quartet performers for this concert are all members of the Detroit Opera Orchestra: violinists Laura Roelofs and Velda Kelly, violist Scott Stefanko and cellist Ivana Biliskov. Pianist Mary Siciliano also will perform during this program, joining violinist Kelly in Janáček's

"Sonata for Violin and Piano."

Additionally, the musicians will present a string trio by Antonín Dvořák, another Czech composer who had a great love and affinity for folk song.

Detroit Opera Resident Artists and baritones Ben Reisinger and Rolfe Dauz will perform several Janáček folk songs, as well as favorite arias from other opera composers. Their collaborative pianist is Nathalie Doucet, director of the Detroit Opera Resident Artist Program.



Ben Reisinger, right, and Rolfe Dauz.

Tickets are \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance and \$10 for students. Purchase tickets online at tinyurl.com/3bbv4v9v. For more information, visit scarabclub.org or call (248) 921-3193.

Vintage Store now open twice monthly

The Vintage Store located in the Provencal-Weir House of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society will now be open for business twice each month — the second and fourth Saturdays — from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, is the next opportunity to visit the shop, organized and supported by the Fox Creek Questers. Jewelry, books, linen, glassware and porcelain are featured in the shop. Tours also are available.

All proceeds are earmarked for the preservation and restoration of the 200-year-old farmhouse.

War Memorial partners with American Legion Post 372

The War Memorial has a new partnership with a local American Legion Post.

American Legion Post 372 is now headquartered and will have its regular meetings at The War Memorial.

Previously, the post did not have an official meeting space.

"The War Memorial is open to all veteran groups," War Memorial President and CEO Maria Miller said. "With our reinvigorated focus

on veterans' initiatives, The War Memorial is excited to be a new home for American Legion Post 372."

Now with the partnership in place, American Legion Post 372 will hold events

and meetings at The War Memorial. Its meetings are held 5 to 8 p.m. the third Thursday of each month.

"The partnership is a way for us to re-establish our post, promote the values of The War

Memorial and the mission of the American Legion," said David Douglas, commander and adjutant at Post 372.

The post is now one of nearly 70 organizations with which The

War Memorial is proud to partner. Others include The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe Garden Center and Grosse Pointe Artists Association.

JLD Designers' Show House opens with preview party May 3

The Junior League of Detroit will host a preview party for the Designers' Show House from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, May 3, in a tent on the lawn of the house, located at 315 Lakeland in the City of Grosse Pointe. Tickets for the preview party are \$150 and available at jldetroit.org.

Partygoers will be able to tour the completed Designers' Show House from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. that evening before it opens to the public the next day, Saturday, May 4. Guests are invited to dress in spring cocktail attire. The party will include heavy appetizers, an open bar and signa-

ture cocktails from Detroit's Two James Distillery, a DJ and dancing until 10 p.m. Valet parking will be available.

Guests also can look forward to a silent auction of unique and curated gift packages for bidding, as well as a raffle wherein the grand prize is a vacation package at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island valued at more than \$2,000. Other prizes include cash, tickets to a University of Michigan football game, an original piece of art and a David Yurman bracelet.

Since Feb. 20, interior designers and artisans have been transforming the nearly 8,500-square-

foot Tudor into a designer showcase. The house was designed by renowned architect George D. Mason and built in 1929, for Dr. J. Milton Robb.

"I am thrilled by the community support and the volunteer leadership that brings the Designers' Show House into full bloom," said Mary Hollens, JLD president. "With the help of our supporters and our generous corporate neighbors, these events help families in Detroit who count on us as a committed partner working hard to make a real and sustaining difference. We look forward to everyone joining us to celebrate

this beautiful show house and support our mission of doing good in the community. We have incredible plans that will allow the Junior League of Detroit to more fully invest in projects and programs that continue to change lives."

Held biennially since 1976, the Designers' Show House is a significant fundraiser for the JLD and a longtime favorite event of the metro Detroit community. This will be the final Show House for the JLD as it looks to other projects that will continue to make an impact on the community.

The Designers' Show House will be open for

public tours Saturday, May 4, to Sunday, May 19. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, and may be purchased at jldetroit.org or Village Palm, 17121 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

The Show House also will feature a café and garden market.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday evenings, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

The house is not handicapped accessible. Children younger than age 8, including babes in arms or strollers or pets will not be permitted into the decorated home.

Since its inception, the

Designers' Show House has raised more than \$5 million for programs, projects and partnerships in Detroit. To learn more, visit jldetroit.org.

Proceeds from the 2024 Designers' Show House will support the JLD's partnership with Brilliant Detroit, a nonprofit organization that addresses early childhood development and kindergarten readiness through the establishment of family centers in underutilized housing stock, developed and designed by the neighbors themselves. The homes provide a place for fellowship, activities, learning and support for families and neighbors.

Worship Service



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

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

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

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

April 28 ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sing To The Lord A New Song

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

20475 Sunningdale Park
Grosse Pointe Woods
313.884.4820
stmichaelsgpw.org

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

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

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

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

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

8B | FEATURES



COURTESY PHOTO

Pregnancy Aid Detroit Executive Director Nancy Anter, left, and Julie Baumer, president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

Pregnancy Aid presents to Lakeshore Optimist Club

Nancy Anter, executive director of Pregnancy Aid Detroit, recently was a guest speaker at the Lakeshore Optimist Club. Pregnancy Aid is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Christian organization that aids expectant mothers. Services include pregnancy testing, counseling, material support and educational programs to promote health and well-being for the moms and their newborns. Through donations from supporters, it provides maternity clothing, baby clothing and diapers to augment its testing and education services. For more information, visit pregnancyaid-detroit.org/index

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

HEALTH:

Continued from page 3B

stigma around mental health, increase awareness about common mental health issues like anxiety and depression, and increase help-seeking among their peers at Grosse Pointe North. The walk is one of their favorite events each year because it targets their goals so well.”

The event begins with keynote speaker Scott Teichner.

“Scott spoke at the Kevin’s Song annual conference,” Harris said. “He’s a dynamic speaker who will be talking about his lived experience and how we need to support each other so we decrease the number of people who lose their lives to suicide.”

Following Teichner’s address, attendees will walk along Kercheval, from Fisher to Neff, to show community support to those affected by suicide.

After the one-mile walk, visitors are encouraged to visit close to 20 mental health and suicide prevention vendors who will be on hand to share resources.

“The walk is not long, so people can visit the vendors under the tent and talk to others who are there,” Harris said, noting participants can add a colored heart to their name tags signifying what — or who — brought them to the event. A yellow heart, for example, signifies the loss of a spouse while a red heart signifies the loss of a parent.

Bracelets, designed by North students and printed with the words, “You are not alone” and “You are loved,” also will be handed out.

The event traditionally draws excellent participation.

“Some people marked their calendar and came,” Bingaman said, “and others saw the signs as they were driving by

Each color represents our personal connection to suicide and helps identify those who understand our experience.

- Loss of a Spouse or Partner
- Loss of a Child
- Loss of a Parent
- Loss of a Sibling
- A Personal Struggle or Attempt
- Supporting Suicide Prevention
- Supporting Someone Who Struggles or Attempted
- Loss of a Relative or Friend
- Loss of a First Responder/Military
- Honoring the LGBTQ+ Community

and pulled over and participated.”

The event is free and registration is not necessary.

“It really is a very uplifting event,” Harris said. “People leave feeling supported, knowing there are different resources out there. That’s important to get across to the community.”

Kuhl agreed: “You can see and feel the difference made by coming together for the good of the community. P2P is honored to assist The Family Center in hosting this event each year.”

The community already has benefited greatly from The Family Center programming since the start of 2024.

“We helped over 1,200 people in the first quarter alone through a wide variety of community- and school-based programs,” Bingaman said.

For more information, visit familycenterhelps.org/ or email harris@maryjo@familycenterhelps.org

By the numbers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 54 percent of Americans are affected by suicide in some way. In the last year, 22 percent of high school students seriously considered suicide. Among those who identify as LGBTQ, almost one in two seriously considered ending their life. According to the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the CDC, the number of Gen Z-ers reporting persistent sadness or hopelessness has been on a decade-long climb. It now sits at 42 percent, with a solid majority of young females expressing such concerns. Suicide among black youth has risen faster than any other racial or ethnic group, with suicide rates among black males ages 10 to 19 increasing by 60 percent. The rate of suicide is highest in middle-aged white men.

About Peer to Peer

In 2019, a group of Grosse Pointe North staff members — Christine Kuhl, Kelly Osborne and Lauren Klein — attended the Kevin’s Song conference and a breakout session by the University of Michigan during which the Peer to Peer program was presented. When the idea of bringing this program to Grosse Pointe North was presented to Principal Kate Murray, she supported it wholeheartedly and approved piloting the program the following year, 2020-21. P2P has been at North ever since.

“Each year, our students impress us with their creative ideas and passion for the cause,” said Kuhl, a school psychologist who leads North’s program with counselor Jessica Turner. “It is an amazing group to lead.”

For more information about P2P, visit depressioncenter.org/outreach-education/youth-mental-health/peer-peer-depression-awareness-program

NEWSIES:

Continued from page 1B

large show and there is so much to do. Facilitating clear communication between all our volunteers is extremely important. We are fortunate to have a lot of incredibly skilled volunteers helping to make this show a success.”

Among volunteers are 22 crew members who manage things behind the scenes. Higgins, who typically takes on dual roles as director and choreographer, is splitting choreography duties with GPT veteran Christine Campbell-Cormier.

“It’s been a joy and a pleasure to work with Christine Campbell-Cormier,” Higgins said. “I see that as a partnership with a future. I really enjoy her; she knows how to teach. And we have a dance captain, Emily Rusnak, who is very good at teaching.”

“... It’s incredible to see the collaboration with the production staff in both the artistic and technical aspects of the show, resulting in a high-quality production,” he added. “Top that off with a stellar cast who continually work hard to present their best performance. Audiences will be wowed, uplifted and inspired as they experience the joy of the triumphant newsies.”

Seize the Days

Grosse Pointe Theatre is hoping to finish its season strong with community support not only for “Newsies,” but also with its Seize the Day campaign, benefitting Detroit Goodfellows.

“We feel blessed to be able to entertain and inspire audiences through theater,” Ellis said, “and what better way to continue to spread the joy, hope and humanity conveyed in ‘Newsies’

— even after the curtain closes — than to engage audience members to help us support the kids served through the Old Newsboys’ Goodfellows Fund of Detroit.

“Just as the newsies of 1899 fought for equality and fair conditions for children, similarly, the founder of Detroit Goodfellows brought together business leaders — many of whom delivered newspapers as children — to help kids in metro Detroit who might otherwise feel forgotten during the holidays, a tradition that continues 114 years later.”

Collection bins will be in the lobby at each “Newsies” performance to accept new children’s winter hats, gloves, mittens, socks, crayons, coloring books, colored pencils, washable markers, small stuffed animals and lip balm. The items collected will be part of the gifts distributed by Detroit Goodfellows to help brighten the 2024 holidays, so “no kiddie is without a Christmas.”

“The Detroit Goodfellows is thrilled to partner with the Grosse



The band of brotherhood in Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of Disney’s “Newsies the Musical” is led by the charismatic Jack Kelly, played by Charles Kruse, center; with Les, played by Mack Kohler, seated; Davey, played by Ryan Roetker; and Crutchie, played by Alex Quinlan.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIA ELLIS

Pointe Theatre for their production of ‘Newsies,’” Goodfellows President Rick Pacynski said. “The show is relevant to the history of our organization, which started when a group of old newspaper boys gathered together at their old corners to sell newspapers to raise money for kids’ Christmas presents. They did so for the first time on

the Monday after Thanksgiving in 1914, and the tradition has continued for over 100 years. “We are grateful to the cast and crew of ‘Newsies’ for helping to raise awareness about the Goodfellows program and collecting small toys, hats and gloves to help us better serve the community for the upcoming holiday

season.”

Higgins said he’s grateful to Ellis for pitching the idea.

“I couldn’t think of a more connective partnership,” he said. “What a perfect fit — Goodfellows, the Old Newsboys. ... I appreciate what Patricia does to connect a community in need. We’re doing that in Grosse Pointe with this show.”



Rachel Williams, playing the role of Medda Larkin, is surrounded by newsies, from left, Ryan Roetker as Davey, Mack Kohler as Les, Charles Kruse as Jack and Alex Quinlan as Crutchie.

The details

What: “Disney’s Newsies the Musical,” presented by Grosse Pointe Theatre

When: May 3 to 12
 ◆ 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4
 ◆ 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5
 ◆ 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 and 9
 ◆ 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11
 ◆ 2 p.m. Sunday, May 12

Where: Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

Tickets: \$35
 Visit gpt.org/NEWSIES or call (313) 881-4004

Discounts are available for blocks of 10 or more tickets for the same performance. Special school discounts for blocks of 10 or more tickets are available at \$15 per ticket for the 7:30 p.m. performances May 8 and 9. Call the ticket office for details.

More: Theatergoers can help “Seize the Day” for kids served by Detroit Goodfellows by bringing NEW children’s winter hats, gloves, mittens, socks, crayons, coloring books, colored pencils, washable markers, small stuffed animals and lip balm to help brighten the 2024 holiday season. Collection bins will be in the lobby at “Newsies” performances.

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Four outdoor concerts headline Ford House's summer lineup

Ford House recently announced an outdoor concert lineup that will grace the historic estate's grounds this summer. With a diverse range of musical styles and talents, the Outdoor Summer Concert Series promises something for everyone to enjoy under the summer sky.

"Eleanor and Edsel Ford were well known for their hospitality and support of the arts. We embody that spirit in welcoming such phenomenally talented artists with diverse musical styles and from varying cultural backgrounds," said Ford House President and CEO Mark J. Heppner. "Whether you're a fan of brass, prefer a throwback to the neon-infused 1980s, want to dance the night away to your favorite Motown hits or relish in the symphonic delight of the acclaimed Michigan Philharmonic, each performance promises to be an extraordinary and unforgettable experience."

We invite music lovers of all ages to join us for these special evenings under the stars at Ford House.

Kicking off the series at 7 p.m. Friday, June 28, the renowned, Detroit-based Gabriel Brass



COURTESY PHOTO

Music lovers of all ages are invited to gather for special evenings under the stars this summer at Ford House.

Band will take center stage. Known for its infectious New Orleans energy and vibrant performances, this ensemble promises to get toes tapping and audiences grooving with its up-tempo traditional jazz with funk and hip-hop.

Next, at 7 p.m. Friday, July 19, is a high-energy performance from The Killer Flamingos, Detroit's biggest and best party band. The Killer Flamingos present unforgettable performances

that have kept Detroit on the cutting edge of current music. An explosive live show packed with outstanding musicianship and high energy has made Killer Flamingos a household name.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, guests will groove to the sounds of Motown as the Dave Hamilton Band pays tribute to the legendary genre. With soulful rhythms and timeless classics, this performance promises to capture the essence of

Detroit's rich musical heritage.

Wrapping up the summer concert series at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, the Michigan Philharmonic will take the stage for a grand finale: "Car-Tunes!" Led by acclaimed conductor Nan Washburn, the orchestra will enchant

audiences with a captivating repertoire, highlighting favorite car-inspired music from popular movies, television series and other pop culture icons like "Grease," "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "Disney's Cars," "Back to the Future" and more.

Package tickets to all

four outdoor summer concerts at Ford House will be available for purchase by Friends of Ford House only, now through Monday, May 13. Package tickets are \$145 per individual for VIP seating and \$75 per individual for general seating.

Tickets for individual concerts go on sale to Friends of Ford House Tuesday, May 14, and will be available for purchase by the public Tuesday, May 28. Friends of Ford House receive a discounted ticket rate of \$40 per individual for VIP seating and \$20 per individual for general seating. Public tickets are \$50 per individual for VIP seating and \$25 per individual for general seating.

Once on sale, tickets may be purchased at fordhouse.org/concerts. To request an email reminder for on-sale dates, guests may sign up for the Ford House email newsletter at fordhouse.org/email. For more information and to stay updated on all upcoming events, visit fordhouse.org.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Sarah Emmerson

When does a child need therapy?

Mental health is a big topic recently. It's great to see people understanding and paying attention to the emotional state of their children more, but public attention to a topic can also create an over-response approach. Parents want to know: When does a child need therapy?

Anxiety is a person's underestimation of their ability to handle a situation, a helplessness. Depression results from the suppression of feelings. As parents, we should try to teach our children skills, trust that they can do things themselves and help them express and regulate their emotions. A certain level of anxiety is normal and necessary. Feelings are normal and necessary. No one can be happy all the time. It's not the goal; our goal is to have trust in ourselves that we can overcome adversity and know when to ask for help.

Parents want to know how they can support their children. Teach them how to identify, express and build skills around feelings. Parents will need the following skills:

- ◆ regulate their own emotions
- ◆ validate their child's emotions — let them feel heard
- ◆ set boundaries — empowering doesn't mean they are in charge
- ◆ listen — no fixing necessary
- ◆ allow a child to solve an issue on their own (unless not developmentally appropriate)

These steps are simple, but not easy, as they require adults to do the work and be present and connected with their children. This is a way to build a foundation for children to feel confident and resilient when facing challenges, throughout their lives. When parents jump in and fix or save their children, the child begins to believe they are not capable (i.e. anxious/helpless). When a parent cannot tolerate their children's feelings and react based on their intolerance, the child begins to believe their

feelings are not to be shared (i.e. depressed/suppressed).

Parents know their children best, so when we stay connected to them as they grow we will be able to recognize the following signs that may be indicators that therapy or other interventions would be helpful or an issue is clinically significant:

- ◆ Distress, duration, disruption: How intense is the disruption, how long does it last and how much does it affect their daily functioning? Look for patterns.
- ◆ Understand child development basics: Know what is considered typical for their age group.
- ◆ Look for signs: Changes in appetite, sleep, social life, interest in activities.
- ◆ Trust your gut.
- ◆ Traumatic event: A significant life change or trauma.

We won't get it right every time, but a framework helps us continue to improve in supporting our children.

Sarah Emmerson provides therapy services to adults, children and families using Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy and other modalities including mindfulness, relational and attachment-based therapies. Her experience includes working with at-risk youth, children and families impacted by trauma and working with schools to support students. For more information visit sarahemmerson.com.

This column is part of The Family Center's Mental Health Matters series on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. at The War Memorial, featuring a discussion by a local therapist on a different topic each week. All programs are free and registration is appreciated but not required. For more information visit familycenterhelps.org

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

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Encouraging your kids to do better in school



Dear Gabby: How do I motivate my kids to improve their grades after a not-so-impressive showing on the Q3 report cards?

I feel like spring fever is really getting to my kids, and every grade in high school counts.

— “C-ing” red in the City

Dear “C-ing,”
You are not alone — most kids get spring fever and the struggle is real to keep the grades up until the bitter end (or blissful end) in June.

The good news is that the Grosse Pointe Public Schools have an impressive lineup of help before and/or after school available for everyone!

The high schools offer tutoring from teachers as well as honors students

most days — North even has options during the day while a student has lunch or a tutorial.

The beauty of these opportunities is that the parents don’t need to be involved. Wash your hands of it, and let them figure it out with help from very qualified teachers and students. Planning which days to go and sticking to a schedule will ensure that no matter what happens at home,

they are getting some solid studying time before, during and after school. Consistency is key.

Talk to your teachers to find out the dates and times. They have all of the details. Just 35 more school days to go. But who’s counting?!

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

Connection in the digital age

DEAR ANNIE: I was very happy to receive a lovely bridal shower invitation in the mail this week.

Last year, I went to a total of four baby/wedding showers. Three of those invitations were sent via text, one by email. I took umbrage by the impersonal, thoughtless manner in which they were sent.

After all, I will be setting

an afternoon aside from my schedule and spending \$50-\$100 on a gift.

Am I old-fashioned, or is this rude? — ANNOYED BY THE INVITES

DEAR ANNOYED: It is acceptable to send out a beautiful paperless post via email. A text message, less so. The invitation sets the tone of the shower.

If it is to be very casual, then a text could suffice,

but if it is very over-the-top, then a paper invitation, or a very nice paperless post, is better. What is rude is not saying “thank you” for your gifts.

DEAR ANNIE: The recent letter about giving children experiences instead of things really struck a chord. When the writer said, “One of the most beautiful sounds in the world is the laughter

of a child. You can almost hear their brain enjoying life,” it nearly brought me to tears.

I’ve been a “recess teacher” at the local primary school (kindergarten through fourth grade) for nearly 32 years. I’ve spent countless hours on the playground, watching and listening to those priceless little ones, and one of our favorite games is when I look at them real serious



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

and say “Don’t laugh!” Of course, we all start laughing. — LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN

DEAR LAUGHTER: Your letter put a smile on my face. Thank you for sharing how grateful you

feel getting to work with children. Laughter is the same in all languages.

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

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



You know you have hit middle age when a Dustbuster type of product becomes high on your list of exciting things to buy. It seems like none of the products I’ve purchased the last five years have been very good, so I went on the hunt again.

Now, I’m not an engineer, but I don’t understand the design of most products on the market. I have spent more time than I care to admit picking dust, LEGOs and pretzel pieces out of the teensy tube that separates the sucker-upper part from the

dirt chamber (follow me for more high-tech product discussions).

I should know by now not to rely too heavily on reviews, as I find a lot of



times they lead you astray. However, the Shark Cordless Handheld Vacuum had more than 17,000 almost-five-star ratings, so I had to try it.

The vacuum came in a matter of days (thanks, Amazon) and I was completely underwhelmed by its size and simplicity — but it

definitely is good looking for a vacuum. It took all of two seconds to get it ready for use. The dirt/dust chamber looked TINY and my initial thought was that this would never work for my family. Regardless, I set it up on my counter and waited for the opportunity to use it. Lucky for me, my family was up to the task within minutes. After-school popcorn snacking ensued and I was ready for action.

I’m shocked to report that the suction was stellar and the tiny dirt reservoir somehow is not as tiny as I

thought. In addition, the one-touch emptying is handy and takes two seconds. The battery life is long enough that I have yet to run out of juice mid-task. Since it now lives on the counter, it is always charging.

The Shark is available on Amazon for \$99 and comes in multiple colors. I ordered it in black since I assumed it would live in darkness in a cabinet under the sink; however, next time I will spring for “slate” (it’s about \$20 more) to match my kitchen.

If you are in the market

for something lightweight, easy and effective, this is for you! We are giving it 5 alligators.

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

5 Out Of 5





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Mombeau's in Paris

While she gathers new inspiration and has an amazing springtime in the city of lights, our staffers are contributing this week in her absence.

By Anne Gryzenia

When my first born was just a baby, I had just quit my job and was home trying to figure out how this new stay-at-home mom gig should go. I felt like a fish out of water — had no clue what to do other than walk around aimlessly with him in the stroller around town, which happened to be Charlestown, Mass.

One day I reluctantly joined the Charlestown mothers' club, on the advice of someone I met while bleary eyed at a

coffee shop wearing my son in one of those Baby Bjorn contraptions.

Soon after, I went to a coffee breakfast meet up with moms with babies born in the month of November.

A few of the other moms and I clicked immediately and we became inseparable. We talked and played and walked to parks and occasionally left the babies with their dads to go out for drinks. Having that was one of the best times of my life.

Three or four of us came up with the idea for a dinner club. For us, this meant that once a week each of us would make a dinner and triple or quadruple it, then deliver via stroller to the others. It was genius and gave all

of us a few days of a cooking break along with a slew of new ideas.

Anyway, this recipe is not one of the dinner recipes, but it is from one of the moms I learned how to be a mom with.

These muffins are delicious, and to me are the perfect easy breakfast for the kids on their way out the door to school.

They keep well for days and also make a nice snack or something to bring to a friend when they are having a hard time.

Thanks for allowing me to walk down memory lane. And thank you to Rebecca, Sarah and Coleen who made life infinitely more fun during a crazy, yet too-short, time in our lives.

Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins (makes 12 muffins)

3 or 4 large bananas, mashed (the more bananas the more moist they get, so I would use 4)

½ cup white sugar (original recipe calls for 1 cup, but I don't like them too sweet)

1 slightly beaten egg

⅓ cup melted margarine or butter

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

1 ½ cups flour

1 cup chocolate chips



PHOTO BY ANNE GRYZENIA

Mix the mashed banana, sugar, egg and margarine together. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, mix together baking soda, baking powder, salt and flour. Mix wet

and dry ingredients all together then fold in chocolate chips. Pour into greased muffin tins, and bake in a 350 degree oven for approximately 20 minutes. Enjoy!

Lesser-known white wines

Quality white wines are a relatively new development in the wine world, and this category is really quite a recent addition to our dinner-time beverage choices.

For centuries, white wine wasn't produced very widely because it was fragile: It deteriorated fairly quickly. Since biblical times, most table wines have been red wine.

Red wines could be made that would last until they could be delivered to distant customers because they had constituents that protected them. White wines had no such substances and were often ravaged by ruinous oxidation.

The wide use of glass bottles and corks, of

course, allowed some white wines to be produced and distributed to distant consumers, but few of these wines were fresh and appealing because they were fermented in vats at temperatures that were not always appropriate for making white wine.

To be made properly, white wines have to be protected from oxygen, and fermentations for quality wines should be very cool so the fruit is protected. It wasn't until about 1965 when closed-top stainless steel tanks with glycol jackets for cooling began to be widely used that whites came of age.

Among the first to take advantage of this modern idea were the

chardonnays of France's Burgundy district. To this day, white Burgundy is one of the world's finest whites.

Today, we can buy a plethora of white wines that use modern technologies benefiting the wines by protecting delicate fruity elements. But rarely does the consumer venture beyond chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, riesling and pinot grigio. But there are so many additional choices!

Gruner veltliner: An Austrian grape that some people compare with riesling, gruner is a fascinating, slightly sweet wine with a faint leafy aroma. Although it can age for a few years, it usually is best when

youthful and fresh. One of the best is from Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyards in southern Oregon's Umpqua Valley.

Garganega: This is a light, delicate, usually dry Italian wine grape that is the main variety used to make Soave and other white wines. It can be almost austerely dry and is best served with light seafood dishes.

Grenache blanc: This popular white wine grape has nothing to do with the red version (grenache noir) that is at the heart of so many red wines from southern France. This wine has an intriguing mineral, chalky component that makes it fascinating with



many kinds of light foods. Ridge Vineyards makes one from Paso Robles fruit.

French colombar: This normally simple, high-acid grape produces exceptionally interesting dry versions. One of the best is from Marchelle, Russian River Valley, off 100-year-old vines.

Ribolla gialla (\$22): Made from a rare floral Italian grape, one version by Miro Cellars is completely unique. There is almost nothing like it — a dry wine that tastes

sweet! It is wildly fruity in aroma and has hints of lemon curd, pineapple and Bartlett pear.

Arinto: This is made from a very rare Portuguese grape that has orange peel and spice aromatics. One version by Sierra Foothills producer Andis (\$25) is fascinating.

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

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Food Gossip

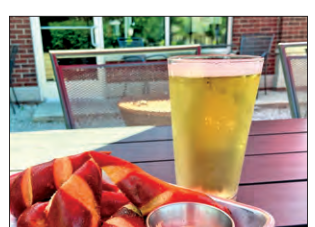
by Nina Taormina

April showers bring May flowers. So what do May flowers bring?

Patio season of course! The Pointes have come a long way in outdoor dining over the last few years. Get comfy, because there's more than you realize.

The Park appears to have the most to choose from. On Charlevoix, you can shoot pool inside and shoot hoops outside Excalibur Bar. This patio is always a fun summer spot while socializing over games and beverages. Its neighbors at The Charlevoix have big garage doors that open on beautiful days to create an indoor/outdoor atmosphere that is not to be missed. And if you're lucky, you can snag one of the tables in front of O'Flaherty's.

Anchoring the corner of Beaconsfield, the patio at Howlers & Growlers has wraparound built-in booth seating, along with multiple free-standing tables. With live music or tunes inside, this corner hot spot of the street is even hotter this time of year. Grab a cold



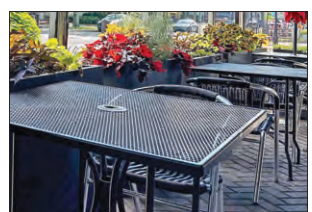
COURTESY PHOTOS

Howlers & Growlers

one and some board games and enjoy the fresh air.

You also may have noticed some outdoor construction happening down the street. Stay tuned on that. It's going to be great!

Head east a block or so and you're on Kercheval. Jump on the trolley and take your pick of patios to visit for food, drinks or both.



The Bricks Pizzeria

The Bricks holds the corner location on Lakepointe and the only all-season patio in the area. There's nothing better than a great pizza pie on its open-air covered patio in the summer.



Atwater in the Park

It's even better if there's live music kitty-corner at Atwater in the Park. The brewery packs in great summer crowds on its front patio biergarten. With plenty of seating at the long tables, as well as seats at the bar, it's a great place to

catch up with friends while enjoying some delicious shareables and "exclusive to The Park brews."



Cellar 313

If wine is more your thing, you're in luck as the Park has the best wine bar with Cellar 313.

Cellar was one of many that either created or expanded its patio area because of the pandemic. It's a great happy-hour spot during the week to share a flatbread and some vino. Last summer, it even offered patio karaoke Tuesday nights. You might catch some live jams from the balcony across the street at Brine Oyster House too. Park Grill also offers outdoor seating and there's al fresco dining at Antonio's in the Park.



The Whiskey Six

From warm evenings to coffee and croissants outside on a summer morning at LeRouge Boulangerie, the Park is a great place to be during this time of year. The City and Farms are just as busy in The Village and on The Hill. The patio at The Whiskey Six is a favorite on my list. It's a

great space for groups of any size and the perfect way to end a day of shopping our small businesses down the street.

Like your eggs sunny-side up? How about enjoying breakfast in the morning sun? SideStreet Diner is where you want to be. Happy hour on the patio of Old Pony Martini Pub is always a good idea if you can grab a coveted seat.

It offers great specials and I hear you can bring your pups with you, too. On The Hill, take your pick between Luxe for great lunches or The Bronze Door for Sunday brunch or a special dinner for two. Both offer outdoor seating on Kercheval Avenue.



Little Tony's

Looking for burgers and more on Mack Avenue? Irish Coffee, Little Tony's and Telly's Place are the menus you want to check out.

For a finer outdoor dining experience in the evening, Da Edoardo is ready to serve you in its cozy outdoor evening atmosphere. Salvatore Scalopini has a quaint covered patio, as does Champs Rotisserie and Seafood.

Looking for grab-and-go meals? While you can dine inside as well, Zestia Greek Street Food has arranged the perfect space out front to enjoy a yummy gyro and feta fries, while Licavoli's Market has tables outside

where you can indulge in one of their 18 delicious made-to-order sandwiches and a San Pellegrino.

Speaking of sandwiches, in case you missed it, Uncle Harry's Deli has a great courtyard set up to enjoy the best reuben and deli sandwiches this side of town. A tad farther up on Greater Mack, Firehouse Pub has added garage doors that open to a new patio space in front. Don't forget about breakfast sandwiches and delicious coffees on Caffé Far Bella's sweet patio either. And, always check the weekly food truck lineup that will be parked at the amazing Copper Hop Brewery. Its

patio is hopping when the sun is shining.

Last but not least, my favorite for so many reasons: Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen Cafe. If you haven't eaten its fresh, hand-rolled sushi while watching Detroit Tigers baseball on that patio, you're missing out. Trust me. There's more to come at this location too.

It's a long list, yes, but only half of what you can find. Some of the best to highlight still remain. Once boating season is in full swing, which, if Mother Nature has a good Mother's Day, hopefully will be soon!

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

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The MOTHER LODE

of great gifts for Mom!

We searched the Pointes for cool, unique ideas for your best Mother's Day gifting...



WARM WHITES

Show mom you think she's still got it! Pair the creamy white ribbed mock turtle sleeveless slim dress, left, with a black wraparound bag, both from **The Corner Studio** – and you have one of the hottest looks for mom this year!

Add gorgeous Julie Vos rounded square white and clear gemstone earrings from **Capricious**, above, and this outfit is next level. Matching Julie Vos necklace, at bottom, for the duo set. Simply lovely!

FOR A GEM OF A MOM

When Mom just oozes class, she'll love this elegant and delicate Julie Vos pendant necklace from **Capricious**, left. **Capricious** is a great place for fashions and accessories for moms who adore Grosse Pointe style. Run, don't walk – to check out the latest in trending and classic spring looks for mom (or you)!

By Olivia Monette and Donna Zetterlund
Special Writers

Moms often seem to possess a kind of magic that goes far beyond the everyday. They can turn ordinary days into memorable adventures and soothe troubles with just a hug or a kind word. This "magic" is really a combination of endless love, deep empathy, and an unwavering commitment to their children's happiness and well-being.

Why do moms make things extra special for their families? It's because they inherently understand the importance of creating joy and nurturing a sense of wonder in their children. Whether it's baking a cake from scratch for a birthday party, staying up late to help with a science project, or turning a rainy afternoon into a cozy storytelling session, moms have a unique way of making moments special and heartwarming. They invest time and effort, often sacrificing their own needs, to enrich their children's lives and ensure they feel loved, valued, and supported.

Celebrating mothers on Mother's Day is

our opportunity to recognize and appreciate the boundless efforts and the often unnoticed "behind-the-scenes" magic they perform every day. It's a chance to say thank you for the sacrifices they make, the life lessons they impart, and the unconditional love they provide. This day invites us to express our gratitude in tangible and intangible ways, ensuring that moms everywhere feel as special and cherished as they make their loved ones feel all year round. By celebrating Mother's Day, we acknowledge that while motherhood may often be a thankless job, it is undeniably one of the most impactful and meaningful roles in our lives.

In these pages, you'll discover a carefully curated selection of presents, all sourced from the wonderful shops right here in Grosse Pointe. Whether you're looking for something modest to show your appreciation or an extravagant gesture to make this Mother's Day unforgettable, our range of gifts meets every need and budget.

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mothers of Grosse Pointe, and happy shopping to everyone looking to make this day as exceptional as the mothers we honor.

GO-GO GIRLS



For moms on the go, the clothing has to be from **Corner Active & Leisure**. The beloved neighborhood athleisure boutique outdoes itself in providing comfortable, quality activewear that is also beautiful. Busy moms will love the comfort and versatility their activewear provides.

Check out the white hoodie with cuffed and pocketed active jeans, at left, teamed up with a rose mauve puff purse with gold trim. The pieces are flexible enough to work with all the pieces in your activewear wardrobe, and pulled together create a look that epitomizes Grosse Pointe cool.

Corner Active & Leisure is your go-to place for clothing that keeps you comfortably and stylishly on the go!



SUMMER PREVIEW

Give your mom an edge on summer with cute and colorful walking and workout gear from **The Corner Studio**, below. Cotton stretch shirts, shorts and camis look sweet with an adorable sunrise fanny pack. Mom can watch the sun rise on Lake Shore as she power walks the shoreline of Lake St. Clair. Perfection!



JUMP INTO SPRING

Casual comfort for Grosse Pointe living is what a mom wants. **Corner Active & Leisure** in Grosse Pointe Park has it! Born as a natural extension of their two Grosse Pointe fitness studios, **The Corner Studio** and **The Corner Studio Pilates & Lagree**, the activewear boutique offers lifestyle apparel for men and women, like the attractive cream white ribbed pants and top, left, paired with a handy chain crossbody bag.

From performance wear to denim and outerwear, plus seasonal accessories, you'll find a highly-curated selection of the chicest, comfiest, and largely USA-made brands Grosse Pointers love to live, lounge and move in every day.

GREAT GIFTS FOR MOM ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



What better place to find a great outfit for your mother than family-owned and family-run **Corner Active & Leisure**? This Mother's Day their friendly staff will be dedicating themselves to helping moms look and feel their very best. So whether you choose a gift card or select a great ensemble that is just her style, the style team at Corner Active & Leisure will make sure she looks fantastic!

The sweet sweater and jeans outfit, at left, consists of an amazing cuffed rose pink ribbed sweater with a zip front, comfy pre-washed stretch jeans and a perfect little crossover purse to tie it all together. It's a lovely get-up for transitioning into spring while there is still a little chill in the air. Mom will love it, and you'll love how happy it makes her.

WANNA SAUNA ?



There are so many benefits to time spent in an infrared sauna! Lucky for us, we have a few amazing local facilities that house these wonderful machines, like **The Corner Studio**. Used for detoxification, relaxation, pain relief, skin purification and so much more, this magnificent sauna will have Grosse Pointe moms saying, "ahhhhh..." If your mom has any aches and pains, sauna time can provide relief she'll be grateful to have. It's great for the skin and can also assist with weight loss.

Schedule a session for mom or give it a try yourself. Sauna is a gift that gives on so many levels with lasting effects. Make it a regular place to spend time with mom year round and enjoy the benefits together.

The Corner Studio is the place that promotes vibrant health and beauty from the inside out!

SIMPLY "SPA-VELOUS!"



Pamper Mom with relaxing gifts from **Taylor Reese**. The adorable "swim lanes" frame, above, will have her dreaming of refreshing waters (with a photo of you, of course!)



Every woman loves a spa experience, even at home. A bubbly tub, soft music and candlelight all create a zen-like atmosphere that makes Mom feel like the queen she is.

Treat Mom to pretty silicone wine glasses, left center. Unbreakable for sipping in the bathtub or on the deck or boat. It's a great gift for a wonderful spring and summer ahead. From **Taylor Reese**.

Add texture and style to your home with a new limited edition collection of best-selling scents, left, fitted with a stylish rattan sleeve. Available from Taylor Reese in a candle or diffuser in Cedar Leaf & Lavender, Grapefruit and Bamboo. Set Mom's mood to "chill" and make her Mother's Day scent-sational!



TAYLOR REESE

A gift certificate to the **Taylor Reese Beauty Bar** is the ultimate relaxation experience for Mom. Better yet, join her for a mother/daughter day she will always remember!

Taylor Reese is a favorite Grosse Pointe lifestyle boutique and beauty bar offering manicures, pedicures, facials, waxing, permanent makeup, massage, eyelash lifts, makeup and laser services for ladies who want to look and feel their best.

Every aspect of this beautiful space was thoughtfully designed from the very beginning with the client in mind. When Mom walks through the door, she will feel relaxed and confident that she is going to receive the utmost attention and service she deserves. Book Mom's appointment today for a truly happy Mother's Day!

MOM

ONE-OF-A-KIND MOTHER

Mama loves **AHEE!** That's where you'll find this exquisite fluted ring, below, in 18K yellow gold, with its dazzling array of round brilliant-cut diamonds.



GOLDEN LADY

Mom's heart of gold deserves this gorgeous Roberto Coin Designer Gold Collection necklace from **edmund t. AHEE**. It's a bold yet delicate statement in elegant duotone gold.



The classic styling of this beautiful necklace blends precious 18K yellow gold with a touch of sparkling diamonds to embody Mom's sophistication and style. Can you say, "favorite child?"



LOVE IS A ROSE

Flowers say it best, especially when they are from **Viviano Flower Shop!** When Mom sees the Viviano tag or signature box, she knows you think she deserves the ultimate in high-quality floral gifts.

From lush bouquets in stunning glass vases – to colorful and cute arrangements – to potted plants that will eventually make their way to her garden to remind her of you all season, you simply cannot go wrong with a Mother's Day selection from Viviano Flower Shop. Stores located in St. Clair Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods for your convenience.

BURST OF SPRING



Spring is in full swing at **Viviano Flower Shop!** A beautiful basket of springtime blooms, left, is the ideal gift to delight moms all across Grosse Pointe.

For the gardening mom, choose live plants from Viviano's that she can lovingly tend and enjoy throughout the summer.

One thing's for sure, a floral gift from Viviano Flower Shop is the way to Mom's heart.

RAMP UP HER FITNESS GAME



Give Mom the gift of great health! **RAMP Athletics** is an elite athletic performance and recovery facility. They offer strength coaches, athletic trainers and massage therapists using innovative, science-based methods to help you achieve your goals. All fitness levels and ages are welcomed.



RAMP is a great way to show mom you care and allow her some time for self-care and rejuvenation. Try their saunas, hot and cold plunge pools, IV therapy, performance bodywork and stretching, and tune-ups to get mom back on track and feeling her best.

WHERE TO SHOP

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLEEKER STREET MEDIA AND LD ENTERTAINMENT

Megan Leavey played by Kate Mara on patrol with Rex in the 2017 film “Megan Leavey,” directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite.

MOVIE REVIEW
 “Megan Leavey”
 2017 - Rated PG-13
 1 hr 56 min
 ★★★★★

There’s been a wave of war movies focused on our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past several years. They’ve largely been of the “support our troops” variety.

However, “Megan Leavey” is a bit different. It’s not a slick Hollywood film, instead opting for a gritty, boots on the ground treatment. It also presents a unique side of war — the relatively unknown role our K-9

dogs and their handlers play behind the scenes. Director Gabriela Cowperthwaite (“Blackfish”) is an accomplished documentarian and brings her practical sensibility to this film.

The approach lends itself well to movies of this ilk, as does the writing team of Pamela Gray, Annie Mumolo and Tim Lovestedt. Collectively they deliver a very realistic presentation of a story based on actual events.

Megan Leavey lives in a small town in Upstate New York. She suffers from depression in the aftermath of her best friend’s death from a

drug overdose. She gets fired from a dead-end job. Most of her days are spent sleeping late and doing almost nothing. And her mother, played by Edie Falco, is constantly on her case to make something of herself. In other words, her life is going nowhere.

Then one day on a whim, she enlists in the Marines.

The film takes us through the usual grueling rigors of boot camp. Fortunately, it doesn’t belabor this. We’ve seen this overdone cliché a thousand times before.

After a night of drinking with fellow soldiers, Megan gets caught relieving herself outside the barracks. Her punishment is cleaning out the kennels in the K-9 unit. A crappy job (pun intended) to say the least. However, while she’s toiling away, she observes a dog training session and her interest is piqued. Could this be her true calling?

After asking Gunnery Sgt. Martin (Common)



Gunnery Sgt. Martin (Common).



The real Megan Leavey with Rex.



The real Megan Leavey in a cameo role as a drill sergeant.



Megan Leavey (Mara) with her faithful companion Rex.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



informed that it’s a rigorous vetting process. Against all odds, she’s dead set on becoming part of the team.

As expected, she passes with flying colors. She’s now part of the elite K-9 unit, tasked with sniffing out bombs and arms caches.

Megan notices a handsome German shepherd named Rex. He’s a super aggressive dog that doesn’t seem to get along with anyone.

I’m not a dog person, and there were a couple times that startled me when the dog snapped at the camera.

Just like Megan wasn’t a people person, Rex mirrored her personality perfectly. During a training session, Rex bites his trainer and breaks his arm in six places. So Megan is assigned to take over for him. At first, she’s walking on eggshells with the dog., however the two eventually become best buds.

Rex easily learns the skills needed to work out in the dangerous war zone. It’s early on in the Iraq War, and danger lurks around every corner. While out on a mission together, a bomb explodes underneath them, sending them both to the hospital.

It’s shot in a super realistic manner and gives one the sense of foreboding and tension that soldiers must feel out on patrol.

As a result of her injuries, Megan is shipped home for Christmas for some much needed R&R. There, the usual strained relationship between Megan and her mother resumes. Nothing’s changed for the better. Adding to the story is a

friendship that develops between Megan and fellow dog handler Matt Morales (Ramon Rodriguez). Their relationship, while romantic, never gets too sappy — they’re both pragmatic about their circumstances. I enjoyed the good-natured ribbing they exchange when they discover she’s a Yankee’s fan and he’s a Met’s devotee.

The final chapter of the film is focused on Megan’s fight to take care of Rex once he’s “retired” from active duty. Because of his aggressive nature, the Marines have classified him as “unadoptable” so she truly has an uphill battle. I’ll warn you right now, be sure you have some tissues handy. The film had this jaded viewer puddling up more than once.

I found Ms. Mara’s performance absolutely career defining. She played the role perfectly, very nuanced and never overacting. And she made the film one you won’t soon forget.

Streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla with your library card. Also on Netflix and to rent on Prime Video.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

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

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

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

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com.

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

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



Leavey in boot camp.



Megan’s friend Matt Morales (Ramon Rodriguez).



The real Megan Leavey at Rex’s retirement ceremony.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. EDT today (4 p.m. to 7 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 25, 2024:

You are energetic, determined and have a strong desire to succeed. People notice you. This year is a time of new beginnings, adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities and be ready to act. You might take on a leadership role.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Since April 1, Mercury has been retrograde in your sign. Today it "stations direct." Yes, this means Mercury retrograde is over. However, today in particular is a good day to make plans, because your discussions with others will be powerful and direct. "Now hear this. Now hear this." Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Because Mercury retrograde is over today your intellectual ability to do research and ferret out answers to old problems will be excellent. Stay on your toes. Secrets might be revealed. Look for answers in unlikely places. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
A conversation with a friend, perhaps someone who is creative or artistic, will be direct and meaningful today. You have something to say, and they will listen to you. It also might be a meaningful exchange for you because you see ways to modify future goals. Tonight: Cooperate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Mercury has been retrograde since the beginning of the month, and this has been taking place at the top of your chart. Today Mercury "stations direct." Give serious consideration to ideas you have about your direction in life. Likewise, a conversation with a boss or parent will be meaningful. Tonight: Work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
This is a great day to study and learn new things. It's also a wonderful day to focus on important papers, and manuscripts. Legal matters might come to a resolution, along with medical situations. New travel ideas might be exciting! Tonight: Play!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Conflict with partners and close friends, especially about taxes, debt, inheritances or shared property, might be resolved today. Suddenly everything falls neatly in place. This might free up opportunities to travel or explore avenues in higher education, publishing and the law. Tonight: Cocoon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Since April 1, Mercury has been retrograde opposite your sign, which has certainly attracted opportunities for you to reconnect with ex-partners, ex-spouses and friends from your past. Today Mercury "stations direct." It's a great day to make plans! Tonight: Conversations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Issues related to your work and your health have been dogged by errors and goofy mistakes, as well as delays due to Mercury retrograde, which has been at play since April 1. Today

Mercury "stations direct." It's a great day to get stuff done! Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a powerful day for discussions between romantic partners. It's a solid day to make plans for the future or to put your cards on the table and get realistic about where a relationship is headed. This is also a great day to make vacation plans or deal with your kids. Tonight: You win!

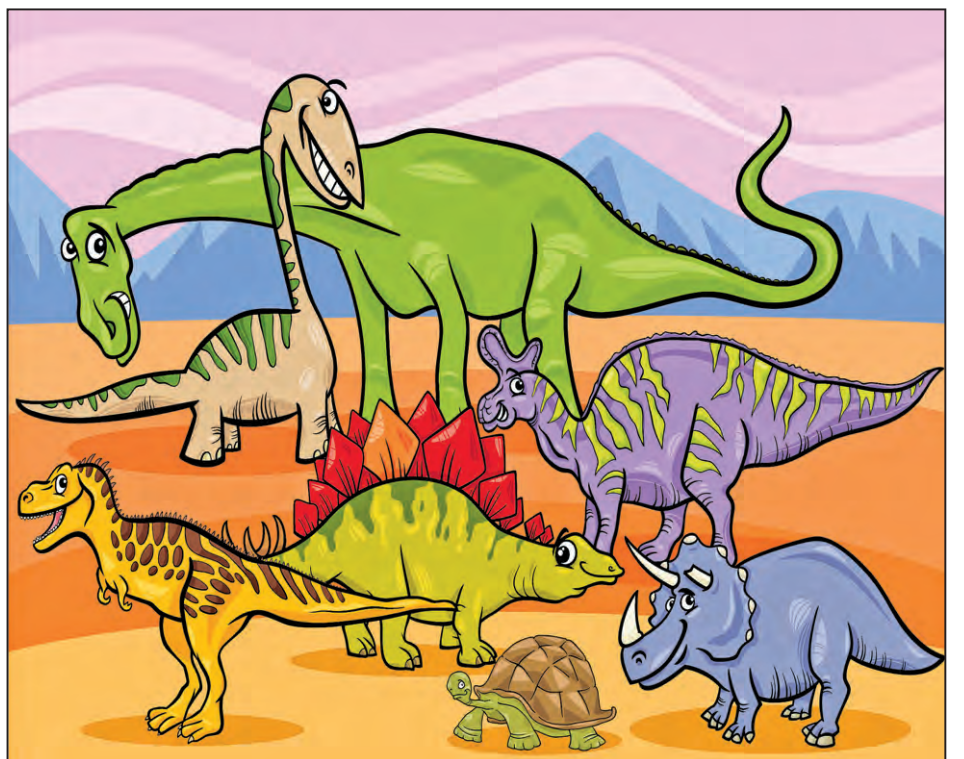
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Family reunions and increased involvement with domestic and family issues has been a theme for this month. Today, however, it's time to tidy up things, restore order to your home. This might include real estate decisions. Tonight: Solitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Good news! Transportation delays and goofy mistakes, as well as mixed-up communications that plagued you this month, will be over as of today. In fact, ironically, today is a powerful day to make plans, to study and learn, or to have important discussions with relatives and siblings. Tonight: Socialize.

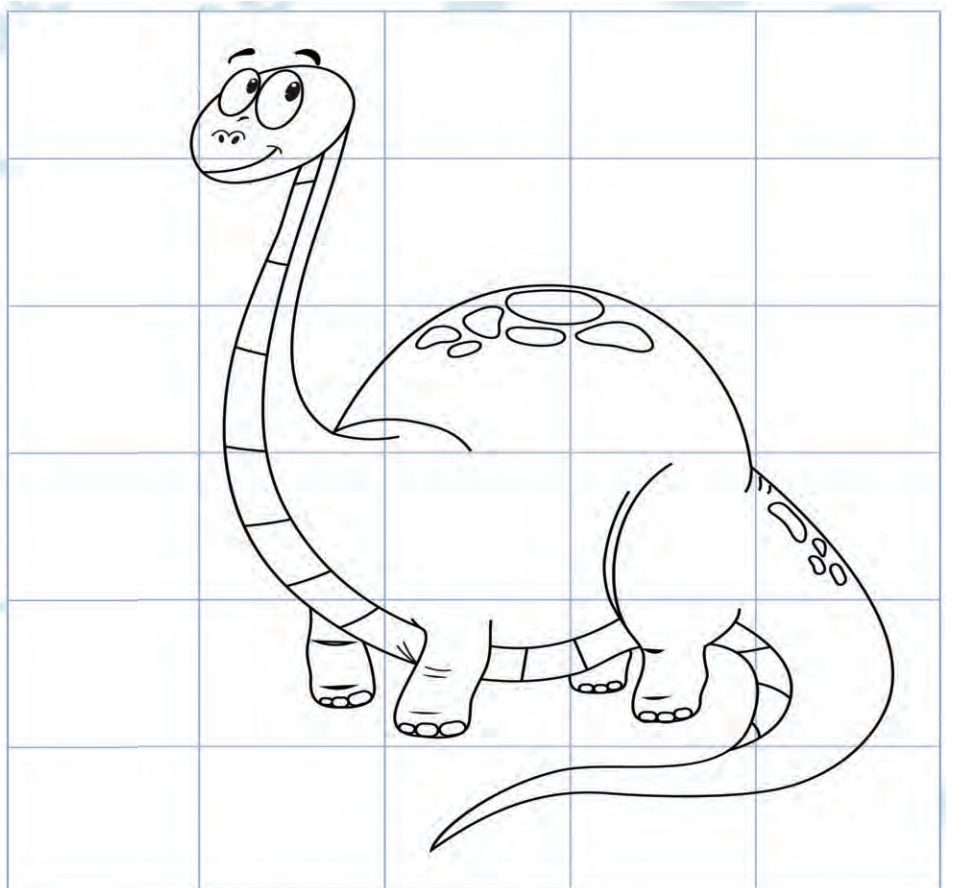
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Since April 1, Mercury has been retrograde in your Money House, which has created financial delays for you. As of today, this is over. In fact, today Mercury "stations direct," which means it's a good day to make financial plans for the future. Your confidence is strong, plus you are optimistic and purposeful. Tonight: You are admired.

BORN TODAY
Actress Renee Zellweger (1969), actress Adria Arjona (1992), actor Al Pacino (1940).

Find 10 Differences



Copy the Picture and Color



Contract Bridge

A VERY SOPHISTICATED PLAY

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 10 9
♥ 4 2
♦ Q J 10 9 2
♣ A Q J

WEST

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ 5 3
♦ K 8
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

EAST

♠ 7 4 3
♥ K Q J 9 8
♦ A 7 4
♣ 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A Q J
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ 6 5 3
♣ K 10 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
1NT	Pass	3NT	

Opening lead — five of hearts.

It is said that there's no such thing as inventing a new play in bridge. And, taking into account the billions of hands that have been played through the years, this is probably true. Even so, every once in a while someone seems to come up with something that has not been seen before.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. Declarer ducks East's jack of hearts and wins

East's king continuation with the ace. South now leads a diamond, and it does not matter how East-West elect to defend. The best they can do is to score two heart tricks and the A-K of diamonds to hold declarer to nine tricks.

This scenario seems altogether normal, and it appears that South must make the contract, come what may. However, three notrump can be defeated if East does something very unusual. All he has to do is to play the eight of hearts instead of the jack at trick one! This might look very peculiar, but it has a dramatic effect on the outcome, since South can no longer make the contract.

Declarer is forced to win the eight of hearts with the ten. Whenever he leads a diamond, West wins with the king and returns a heart. South can take the ace of hearts whenever he pleases, but he cannot score more than eight tricks.

East's play of the eight of hearts is not, strictly speaking, a brand-new play in bridge, since there are variations of it that arise under many different circumstances. But it is the right thing to do here, because East's only real chance of stopping the contract is to find his partner with the king of diamonds.

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by Steve Becker

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



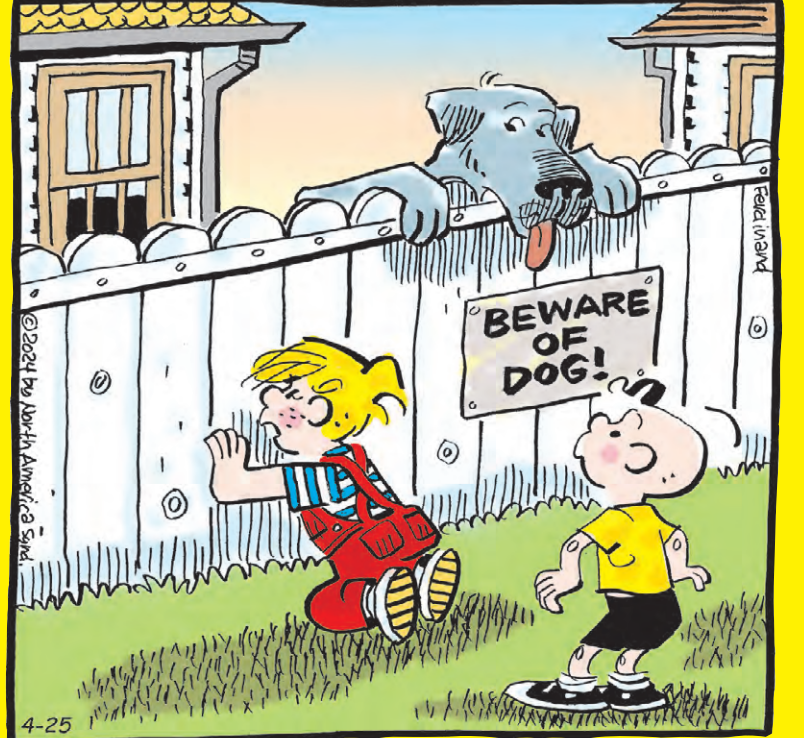
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



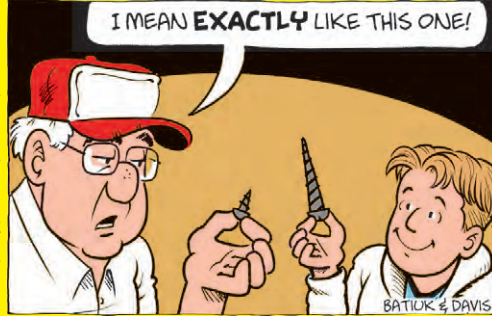
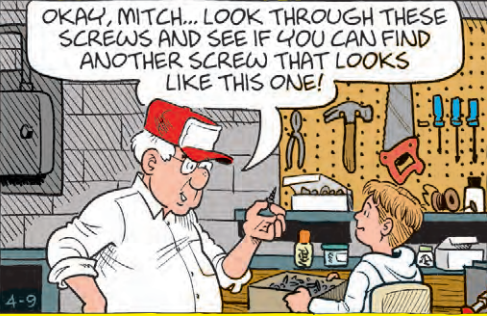
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



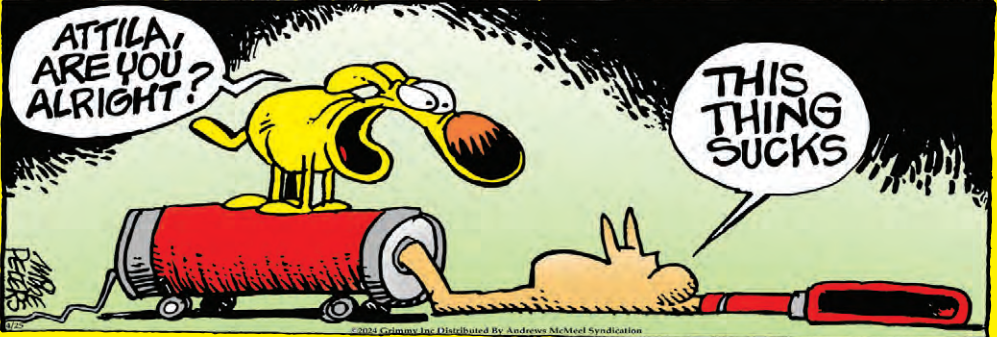
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



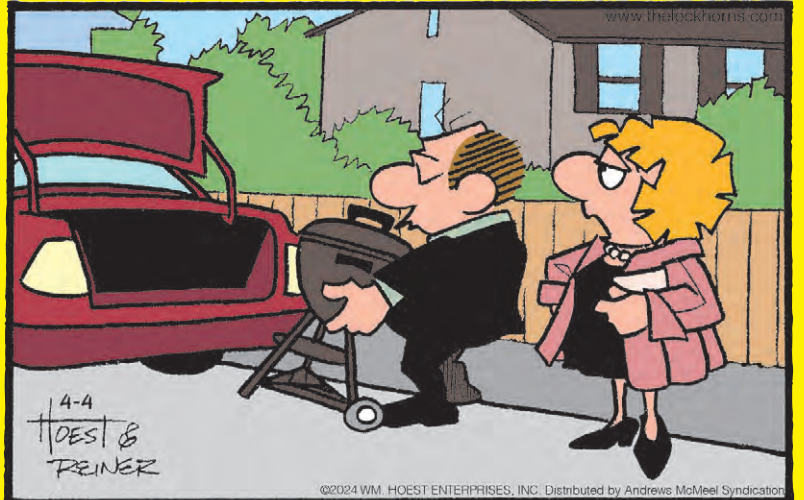
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



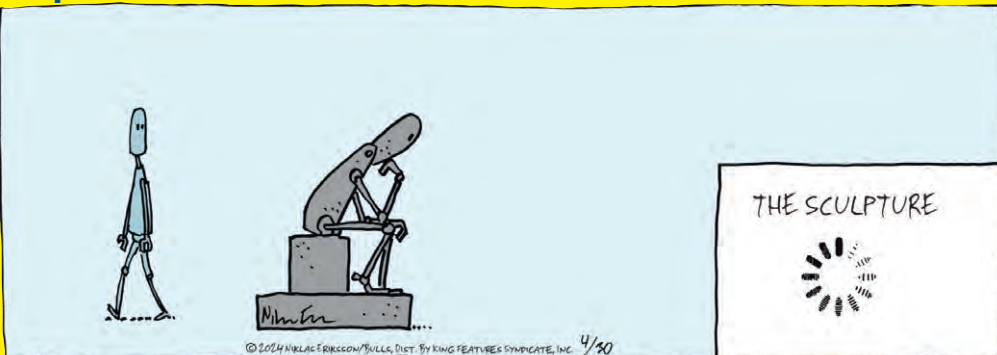
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



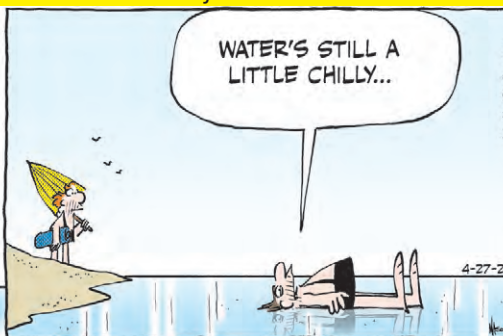
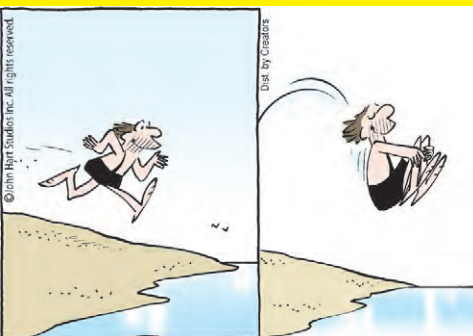
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Close To Home

John McPherson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



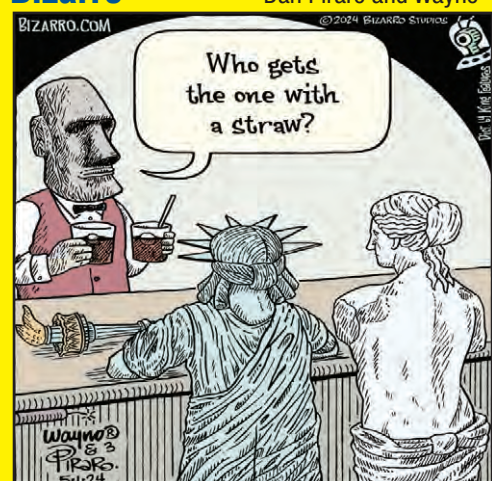
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



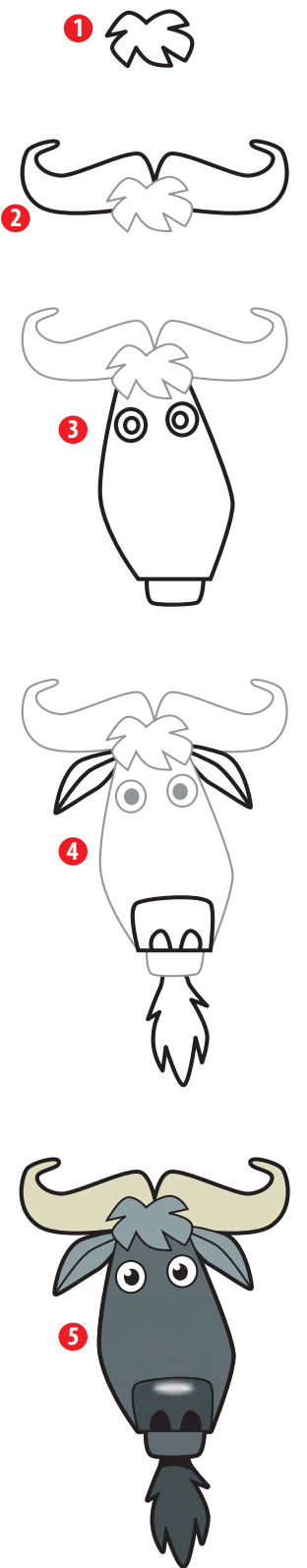
Kid Scoop

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

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Kid Scoop Together

How to Draw a Gnu

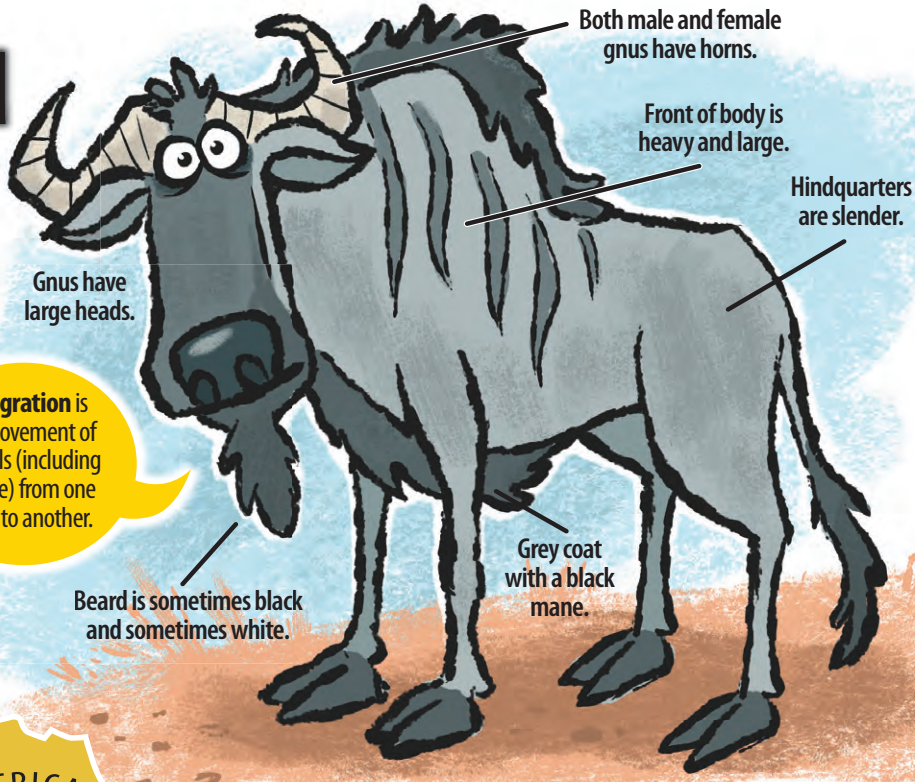


The Great Gnu Migration

There is an African animal that travels about 1,000 miles every year in what is known as the world's largest animal migration.

This migrating animal is called a **gnu**. They travel in one large herd that has a million gnus! They travel to find food and water. Some people call this enormous migration one of the "Seven Wonders of the Natural World!"

Standards Link: Animals move from place to place for survival.



A migration is the movement of animals (including people) from one place to another.

What's a gnu?

It is a member of the antelope family which includes hooved animals with horns that graze. There are about 135 different kinds of animals in the antelope family.

Unscramble the letters to reveal other members of the antelope family.

PHESE

TELACT

TSGAO

The G is silent in the word gnu. It's pronounced like "new."



Extra! Extra! Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A word with a silent letter
- A word that describes a gnu
- An example of the way people travel today

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Gnu name?

Use the code to discover another name for gnus.

- = B
- = E
- = L
- = T
- = D
- = I
- = S
- = W

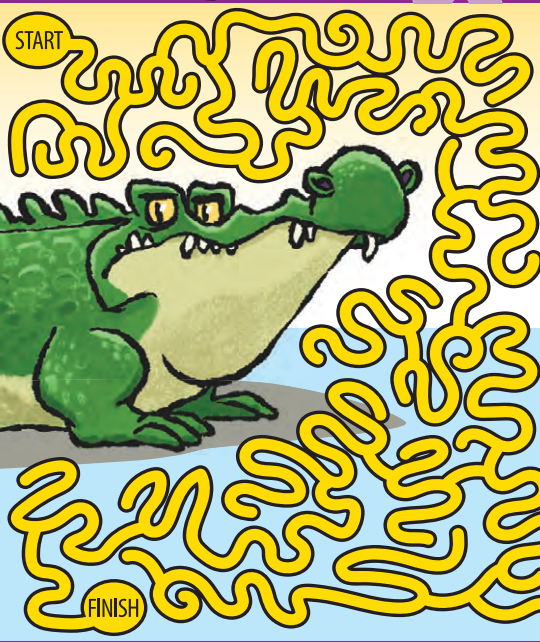


Baby Gnus

Since gnus travel nearly every day, baby gnus must get up and walk right away. The babies, called calves, start walking within minutes after they are born.

Standards Link: Young animals have features that aid in survival.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Travel Troubles

Gnus face many dangers as they travel. In the grassy plains, they are hunted by predators like lions, cheetahs and hyenas.

Along their migration loop, they cross large rivers filled with crocodiles.

Follow the maze to avoid this hungry crocodile!

Double Double Word Search

- ANTELOPE
- BEARD
- COAT
- FAMILY
- FOOD
- GRAZE
- GNU
- HERD
- HOOVED
- HORNS
- LARGE
- MANE
- MILLION
- NAME
- TRAVEL

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



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

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **MIGRATION**

The noun **migration** means a long journey from one place to another.

The gnu **migration** happens as these animals search for fresh, green grasses.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Migration in the News

Look through the newspaper for restaurants, foods, businesses and names that show that some of your neighbors moved from far away to live in your community.

Standards Link: Social Science: Understand day-to-day activities in your community.

Why don't gnus like to play cards in the grasslands?

ANSWER: Too many cheetahs.

Write On! My Amazing Life

Write about the most amazing thing about your life.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using a main idea and supporting details.

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South girls tennis tears up competition

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South's girls varsity tennis team has started its spring season by tearing through the competition. The team is 10-1-1 through the first few weeks of spring, earning some big wins over its rivals.

"The kids have really stepped up and have gotten more experience," South girls tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski said. "...I really like that we're pretty mentally strong. It's so important in tennis...Tennis is a game of mistakes. This team is pretty resilient and they keep battling and fighting."

The Blue Devils earned a rivalry showdown win Monday, April 15, against Grosse Pointe North. South was victorious 5-3 in the dual meet, using some especially strong showings in the singles matches to help seal the win.

North's No. 1 singles seed Laila Aslam beat South's Olivia Kowal. But South swept the remaining three singles matches after that. Charlotte Kowal got the win for South in No. 2 singles over North's Katie Scott. Taylor Lewis for the Blue Devils won No. 3 singles over Natalie Grillo, and South's Maddy Youngblood beat Genevieve Hardy in No.

4 singles.

Maeve Hix and Katelyn Strong reigned supreme for South in No. 1 doubles, defeating Kristine Bonnell and Stephanie Karoutsos. Maggie McSkimming and Aakanksha Nagori won No. 2 doubles for North and the team of Gianna Roux and Paige Lefevre also took No. 3 doubles for the Norsemen. A victory by Mia Fakh and Ella Brennan for South in No. 4 doubles made the doubles matches a split.

South then went on to host a quad meet Saturday, April 20, taking on Grand Blanc, Rochester and Regina.

See TENNIS, page 4D



COURTESY PHOTO

South varsity girls tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski, pictured with current Blue Devils' player Katelyn Strong, strong earned his 700th career win as a head coach this week. Sobieralski also serves as the head coach of the University Liggett boys varsity tennis team.

South sailing takes 2nd, North 10th on Lake St. Clair



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH VARSITY SAILING

Teammates from Grosse Pointe South varsity sailing hit Lake St. Clair.

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

With the wind in their sails and berths in state and national championship regattas on the line, Grosse Pointe South's varsity sailing team hosted a double-header regatta on Lake St. Clair April 13 and 14, and took second-place finishes in both the Michigan Baker and Mallory pre-qualifying races to advance the team to district rounds later this month and in early May.

Spectators were treated to some speedy sailing off of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club beginning Saturday, April 13, for the Michigan Team Racing Championship. According to South's head coach Christina Noland, the race involves a head-to-head format of three boats for each school racing a tight course that requires a lot of technical skill and

strategy.

Seven competing schools completed the race in a full round-robin format, with West Bloomfield High School taking first place overall (with a perfect 6-0 record), followed closely by South in second place, with the Blue Devils only loss coming in a tight race against West Bloomfield. Troy High School finished in third (3-3) and clinched the final berth for the Midwest Team Race Championship in Minneapolis May 4 and 5.

After nine hours of racing Saturday, the teams met Sunday morning for the Michigan Fleet Racing Championship. The regatta featured 10 schools in a fleet racing format (10 boats at a time) with an A team and B team competing for each school and the combined scores determining an overall winner.

After 20 races, West

Bloomfield and South again finished first and second respectively, followed by East Lansing High School in third place. Grosse Pointe North's varsity sailing team finished in 10th place. The top six schools qualified for the Midwest Fleet Racing Championship, which will again be hosted by South at the GPYC Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28.

"The entire team performed at a high level the entire weekend," Noland said. "The conditions were very challenging both days with gusty winds to over 30 mph, which allowed us to showcase the depth and experience of our team. I'm super proud of the full team effort. We're looking forward to representing South at the two Midwest championships in the next several weeks with the potential to qualify for nationals."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

North's Hill aces senior season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For the past few seasons, Brennan Hill has been a mainstay on Grosse Pointe North's varsity baseball team. This spring, he has finally reached his final season in a Norsemen uniform.

While he plays his last season for North, plenty of baseball is still in Hill's future beyond high school, keeping the game in his life just like it always has been.

"I've been playing baseball my whole life," Hill said. "My dad and

my brothers always played and my dad had me practicing and playing since I was a kid, so it's always just been part of my life."

North fans know just how much of a family affair the game is for Hill. He and his brother Drew, who now plays collegiate baseball at Wayne State University, both played varsity football, basket-



ball and baseball together at North.

"It was always good because we could always talk about our team and how we could help each other get better," Hill said. "There was good competition just to try and one-up each other in all the sports...There was an extra bit of competition in there with not only winning games and

competing for yourself but having a bit of sibling rivalry in there."

With his older brother now graduated, Hill has stepped up into the leadership role for North that his brother once held. Hill is a co-captain for the Norsemen team this spring, a position he seemed almost destined to have over the past few seasons.

Hill has been named All-MAC and All-State in his high school career and helped lead the Norsemen to a Division 1 state runner-up finish in 2022. He certainly will not complain about receiving accolades from the league and state, but the honor of being a team captain this year has been one of the best for Hill. He shares the honor with fellow seniors Rocco Cardinale and Bobby



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Hill, joined by North baseball coaches and teammates, signs his official letter in November to play college baseball at the University of Michigan.

Rhodes.

"Me and my fellow captains have a nice dynamic," he said. "We don't have too much control, but all the younger kids look up to us...We always know what we have to do and that kind of feeds off onto the younger players."

One thing that Hill hopes to pass on to the

next generation of North baseball players is his mental approach to the game. Baseball is a sport that is very much as mental as it is physical, and Hill has perfected his perfect mindset over the years. For him, it all comes down to never doubting himself.

See ATHLETE, page 3D

On The Hill

- 2023 All-MAC and 2nd Team All-State Selection
- Led North baseball in wins and strikeouts last season
- Signed to play college baseball at University of Michigan

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2D | SPORTS

Knights boys lacrosse continues hot start

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School boys lacrosse team probably could not have asked for a much

better start to the season. The team is 6-1 through its first seven games, the only loss coming to Divine Child on April 16, and earned another big win last week with a

dominant 14-3 showing against Riverview Gabriel Richard on Thursday, April 18.

Two early goals by Nick Gould helped the Knights jump out to an early lead. Landen Maltby also scored twice in the first quarter as Liggett showed signs of dominance right out of the gate. By the time the first 12 minutes were up, the Knights had already built a 5-0 lead.

Ian Flynn added another goal for Liggett, making it 6-0, before the Pioneers finally got on the board. Maksim Johns scored and Maltby found the back of the net once again to close out the first half with the Knights in front 8-1.

Liggett continued to be in the driver's seat in the second half. Kobe Donaldson, Luke Slanec, Niko Thansas and Johns

all scored in the third quarter to put the Knights up 12-2 going into the fourth and final frame. After that, Riverview Gabriel Richard added one more goal, but the Knights were already easily cruising to victory as the clock ran down.

Maltby finished the game with four goals, leading the team. The two goals by Gould helped bring his season total to a team-high 21.

The Knights have seen an increase in scoring this year, tallying double-digit goals in four of their first seven games. An improved offense has certainly helped Liggett get off to such a strong start this spring, and the coaches hope that the skill and maturity of their players will only help it to keep getting better.

"They move without the ball really well, especially our attack, and they're always looking for one another," Liggett boys lacrosse head coach Mike Costanzo said. "The attack really sets the tone for the whole team. When they're moving and working off the ball to get open and they're cutting, it sets the tone for the offense and we've been able to score more this year than in the past because of it."

The offense is not the only driving force for the Knights, however, during this opening 6-1 stretch. Liggett has held its opponents to five goals or less in four games so far this season as well, showing plenty of strength defensively and with goaltending.

Sophomore goalie Ryan Cordero has definitely impressed his

coaches so far this season, and a strong lineup of defenders in front of him has provided great support.

"Our long poles have been so good, but Cordero is maybe one of the most important players on our team," Costanzo said. "If you have good goaltending... it's such a game changer. He's such a leveler if you're going up against a team with a good offense and as a coach, you're counting on (Cordero) to make some good saves and even maybe a few saves he has no business making."

Liggett faced off against Shrine Catholic after press time on Wednesday, April 24. The Knights take the field at home again on Friday, April 26, at 5 p.m. when they host L'Anse Creuse North.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett's Landen Maltby scoops up a loose ball and heads toward the net against Riverview Gabriel Richard last Thursday, April 18. Maltby scored four goals in the Knights' 14-3 win.

Blue Devils get rivalry win over North

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The first few weeks of the spring lacrosse season saw the Grosse Pointe South boys lacrosse team working to find its footing. The Blue Devils dropped their first four games of the year before picking up a win over Eisenhower April 15. South then looked to build on that momentum in a rivalry game against Grosse Pointe North last Wednesday, April 17, and earned a second straight win with a 14-2 victory over the

Norsemen.

South looked dominant right from the start. Senior Seamus Doyle opened the scoring for the Blue Devils just about 30 seconds after the opening faceoff. By the end of the first quarter, South was up 8-0 with goals by Doyle, Drake Gram, two by Jack Cotton, two by John Monaghan and one by John Puzzuoli.

Before the first half was over, South added three more goals to the scoreboard. Doyle scored his third of the game and Eugene

Agnone found the back of the net twice to put South up 11-0 going into the break.

To start the second half, North's Joe Ban finally got the Norsemen on the board for their first goal of the game. Cotton and Doyle each scored again to make it 13-1 in favor of South going into the final quarter. Ban tallied another goal for North in the fourth quarter while Gram added to the Blue Devils' lead before the clock ran out.

South played again last week on Friday, April 19, losing to Divine Child 15-4. The team was not quite able to capitalize on the momentum from back-to-back wins over Eisenhower and North, but the Blue Devils' coaches know that they have a young squad this year that is still learning and maturing. Despite some struggles early on, South's head coach Justin Macksoud said.

"This team has intensity and attitude," South boys lacrosse head coach Justin Macksoud said. "What we're talking about is everybody has to be locked in and focused down to the last man on the bench. We need

everybody engaged and being positive...Our intensity as a team has gotten so much better already."

For the Norsemen, they bounced back last Thursday, April 18, with a 10-1 win over Bishop Foley. North played again Monday, April 22, losing a close 7-3 game to Troy Athens to move its record to 3-6 this season.

North plays again on the road at Eisenhower at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25. South is also in action on Thursday, hosting Port Huron at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Robert Tiderington makes a move past North defender Tommy Moreland.

North threesome makes 'FORE!'



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

This spring is a special one for the Hansinger family, as three generations of their family tree are represented on Grosse Pointe North's 2024 boys varsity golf team. From left to right are senior team co-captain Jackson Hansinger, North boys head golf coach Jim Hansinger Jr. and assistant head coach Jim Hansinger Sr.

When Jim Hansinger became North's head coach six years ago, he asked his dad to assist him. A 2001 Ferris State University grad, Hansinger Jr. played collegiate golf there and also went through FSU's PGA Program, where he earned a degree in Professional Golf Management. Hansinger Jr. worked for Coca Cola for 10 years and now works for a tool company. He considers golf his "side gig."

Hansinger Sr. taught social studies at L'Anse Creuse for 10 years before becoming a counselor, and then an associate principal there. He retired in spring of 2002. He was called back to school in fall of 2002 and from 2002-2006 served as interim principal at several elementary schools in the district. Hansinger Jr.'s son, Jackson, has played golf at North all four years of high school. He will attend Michigan State University next fall to pursue a degree in business.

North is 1-2 on the season and hit the links Wednesday at Lochmoor Club after press time to face backyard rival University Liggett. The team heads to Timberwolf Golf Course in Ray Township at noon Friday, April 26, for the Gil Evans Tournament.

—Meg Leonard

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2024-2025 BUDGET

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget including the general and enterprise funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

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

The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers, 15115 E Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan on **Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm.** All interested citizens will have an opportunity to give oral or written comments.

Further notice is hereby given that a true copy of the proposed budget will be on file in the office of the City Clerk and is open to public inspection.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (313) 822-4267 or via email, bowdlerb@grossepointepark.org, at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

G.P.N.: 04/25/24

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?
Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put
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All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year
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Grosse Pointe News

Teams ride early-season seesaw

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

While getting bitten by the injury bug is never an excuse, Grosse Pointe South's varsity baseball team has had to swat away more than a few pests buzzing around their dugout in this young season. Losing both their Nos. 3 and 4 hitters to injuries in the preseason — including losing one for the year — another starter to an emergency appendicitis and a fourth to a hip injury is just among the many challenges the Blue Devils have faced early on and factored into the team's .500 record and tough start in the MAC Red.

"We're kind of getting over the injury bug right now, for sure," said South head coach Dan Griesbaum Sr., while noting every team has to deal with it at some point in a season.

With good news coming Monday that injured starting catcher and pitcher Andrew DiLodovico has been cleared to hit and pitch, Griesbaum emphasized that his team has kept it competitive in league games, noting strong defense and outstanding pitching performances.

"If you look across the MAC this last week, every single game was 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, 4-3," he said. "Every single game was very close. We were just a couple hits away from winning all three. Instead we lost all three. We just couldn't put anything together in terms of timely hitting. We ended up losing three, but even the last game was 4-0, but it was 2-0 in the top of the seventh."

Griesbaum is referring to a 4-0 loss Thursday, April 18, against Utica Ford that saw freshman



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South pitcher Dane Lezotte throws in a game against Utica Ford.

Charlie Michelotti stand tall on the mound through five innings. He allowed just two runs (only one earned) on six hits and two walks. It completed a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday home-and-home series versus the Falcons that saw South go 0-3, starting with a 4-2 loss at home Monday, April 15, and a 2-1 road loss the next day.

The team bounced back Saturday, April 20, in Game 1 of a double header at Jimmy John's Field against L'Anse Creuse.

Senior pitcher Jack Ryan provided one of South's biggest highlights of the week, if not the young season, by producing a no-hitter in a 7-0 win. Ryan pitched ultra efficiently in the 10:30 a.m. start, with temperatures hovering in the 40s.

Ryan allowed no walks and struck out six batters while throwing only 61 pitches.

Griesbaum praised Ryan's performance and noted the support of the team's strong defense throughout the game.

"Yeah, no doubt, he just threw a great game," Griesbaum said. "Very, very efficient. He didn't throw many pitches, didn't necessarily have a ton of strikeouts, but we

played very good defense behind him, made some great plays."

South had 10 hits in the win. Senior Joey Michelotti had three singles, while fellow senior Jake Kozel smacked a double in the first to open up the scoring for 1-0 lead.

Hayden Vinyard also added a double in the second to put South up 3-0, giving Ryan all he would need to work with through seven complete innings.

South let Game 2 of Saturday's double header against the Lancers get away after the Blue Devils relinquished a 5-2 lead heading into the bottom of the fifth. L'Anse Creuse opened things up by scoring five quick runs on two hits to go up 7-5. South added another run in the top of the seventh but failed to push across the tying run in a 7-6 loss. All seven L'Anse Creuse runs were unearned.

Jack O'Keefe led South with two hits and South's offense earned six walks and four stolen bases.

"We played terrible defense (in Game 2)," Griesbaum said. "That was just an abomination in comparison to what we had been doing."

Griesbaum acknowl-

edged his team's inexperience, along with the need to develop offensively, adding that hitting will come as his players adjust to facing high-level pitching in the MAC Red.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South shortstop Jack Lupu fires the ball to third.

"Obviously, our inexperience is showing early on. ... Remember last year we lost 15 seniors. So even a lot of the guys that came back didn't see a lot of action last year and a lot of these guys played JV last year ... so they didn't see this kind of MAC Red pitching. And that's what we're playing."

Despite a 7-8 start, Griesbaum said he remains optimistic, pointing to the potential for any team to get hot and make a run. He wants his team to focus on bouncing back, continue developing and to

compete for the league title in the tight race.

"We're not striking out a ton. It's just a matter of hitting the ball a little bit more solidly and hitting the ball more on the line, hard ground balls, line drives rather than fly balls and that's, again, something that I think will work out, especially with warmer weather."

"... You know, it's gonna be a dogfight for everybody till the very end."

South lost 7-3 to Romeo on the road Monday. They hosted the Bulldogs at home Tuesday after press time, before finishing out the series on the road at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25.

inning three-run homer to right field. He added a walk in the top of the fourth. Trevor Lipscomb had a double in North's go-ahead sixth inning.

Rocco Cardinale got the win with five and one-third innings of work on the mound, allowing four hits and three runs, only one of which was earned. He gave up three hits, struck out four and walked two.

The Norsemen lost 1-0 to the Crusaders at home Thursday, April 18, before bouncing back for a 4-2 on the road Friday, April 19.

Lefty Hill dominated on the mound for North, dialing up 13 strikeouts while allowing just a single hit and three walks.

The Norsemen got things going when senior Luke Shanley singled to right field, knocking in two runs for a 2-0 lead. Cardinale singled to left to bring Shanley around to score for a 3-0 North lead heading into the top of the third.

North tacked on its final run in the top of the seventh when Shane Armbruster singled to center field to drive in Lipscomb.

Henry Rocho closed out the bottom of the seventh for a 4-0 North victory.

The Norsemen closed out the week with a double header against the MAC Red's Utica Eisenhower Saturday, April 20. North hung tough with the Eagles in Game 1, falling just short 13-11. Armbruster had three hits and four RBI in the loss. The Eagles were in control throughout Game 2 and cruised to a 12-2 win.

North played Utica on the road Tuesday, April 23, after press time. They host Utica at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 25.

Knights baseball battles through early season gauntlet

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Three weeks into the season, University Liggett School varsity baseball is in the unusual position of looking up in the standings instead of standing on top of them.

Currently sitting at 5-8, the team already has faced some giants in Michigan's high school baseball scene — Brother Rice, St. Mary's Prep, University of Detroit Jesuit and De La Salle Collegiate among them — but the Knights have shown resilience in the face of such elite competition, according to the team's first-year head coach, Jay Ricci.

"We have the toughest schedule in D2 and I want to say we were third overall in the whole state," Ricci said, referring to a recent scheduling ranking from a baseball website. "So you know, it's tough to judge exactly right where we are because of how difficult the schedule has been."

Ricci added that heading into the season, only three of his players on his current roster had four or more varsity at-bats.

"So if I'm really look-

ing at it objectively ... I think we're doing just fine. We are facing the toughest pitchers, the toughest lineups and the toughest teams in the state, day after day after day. And while one day we might get it handed to us, the next game we're competing and we're right there."

The teams on the Knights' schedule last week alone illustrate the caliber of competition the team has regularly faced this season.

They hosted DeLaSalle Collegiate in a double header Monday, April 15, winning both games. The Knights took a 3-2 win in Game 1 and blanked the Pilots 3-0 in Game 2.

Preston Barr had two hits and a walk in the Game 1 victory. Reliever Eddie Narva earned the win for Liggett, allowing no hits, no walks and no runs in two-thirds innings.

Barr started Game 2 on the mound, recording 15 outs while giving up a single hit and no runs over five innings. He

struck out nine batters and gave up two walks. Andrew Stalker, Nick Greene and Andrew Johnson each had a hit.

Thursday, April 18, Liggett hosted U of D, and the Cubs made it a quick visit with a 9-1 win. Liggett's lone run came in the bottom of the seventh when Javion Gray singled on a line drive to

Crane allowed just three hits over seven innings, striking out eight and walking three.

"You know, we faced Bobby and he shut us out. I think we had (three) hits and three walks, which, you know, not terrible," Ricci said. "But we hit his fastball pretty hard. And so then he started going to the

conceding," he said.

"I think on some level, they understand what we're dealing with and they do see the light at the end of the tunnel. And I think that that's good because they're staying together as a team."

Ricci also praised his team's defense, which has been an asset despite

the intensity of stepping in that batter's box with a man on first and third and two outs and trying to get that run home.

"They're all learning how to succeed. They're all learning how to fail. They're all learning how to come back from failure and success in all aspects of these games."

The gauntlet of April continues for Liggett. They faced Catholic Central on the road Tuesday, then hosted Brother Rice Wednesday, both games after press time.

The team plays away at 4:30 p.m. at De La Salle Friday, April 26, before playing in a double header away again at Brother Rice Saturday, April 27, beginning at 11 a.m.

"I think at times, it's frustrating for everybody, but I still do think once we get through this run of the Orchard Lakes and the Brother Rices and the Catholic Centrals and we start playing the teams that we will match up against when it counts, I think we'll be just fine," Ricci said. "I'm not saying we're going to win every single game, but I think we will be right where we want to be."

"We are facing the toughest pitchers, the toughest lineups and the toughest teams in the state, day after day after day. And while one day we might get it handed to us, the next game we're competing and we're right there."

JAY RICCI, LIGGETT HEAD VARSITY BASEBALL COACH

knock in a runner from second.

A 7-2 loss Friday, April 19, to St. Francis de Sales brought Liggett to a weekend series with U of D once again and it was a double header the Knights would like to soon forget.

The Cubs blanked Liggett in both games, 4-0 and 8-0. Liggett bats were cool in both contests with only Barr and Johnson each getting a hit in Game 1. Greene recorded two hits and Ravi Hines added a hit in Game 2 against Cubs pitcher and Notre Dame commit Bobby Crane.

off speed and his off speed is very good. We had a little trouble with his off speed. But you know, there's no dude that shows up there throwing 78. I mean, you don't see that in this league."

Despite the early season struggles, Ricci also is beginning to identify some team strengths, noting his team pitching. He also said he appreciates his players are not getting down or giving up against tough opponents.

"I think they're getting mad, but they're not getting down. They're not

team and our defense has definitely been a strong suit. We were not sure where our defense would be because we pretty much lost our entire infield except Preston (Barr)."

However, Ricci said he has identified areas for improvement, such as throwing strikes consistently and improving the team's hitting against quality pitching.

"... These kids, for the most part, have never been in these situations. They've never had meaningful at-bats. They've never seen these pitchers. They've never felt

4D | SPORTS

Norsemen, Knights dash to fast finishes

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe North's boys varsity track and field team braved an unseasonable chill to earn 42 points and placed seventh overall among a field of 16 teams Saturday, April 20, at the Woodhaven Warrior Classic.

North's first top 10 finish on the day came in the 800 meter race thanks to Paul Stephens, who finished sixth in the event (2:07.37). That finish was immediately followed by teammate Sam Parish, who nearly broke the five-minute mark in the mile run and took seventh place in the 1600 (5:01.21).

North's relay teams helped score points, including its 4x100 relay team of Ben Koenigbauer, Phillip Moore, Jackson Shepherd and Lucas Jambekar finishing seventh in 47.68. Jaden Laster, Koenigbauer, Lucas Jambekar and Elijah Sewell finished 10th in the 4x200 relay, while Parish, Neil Orłowski, Laster and Stephens finished sixth overall in the 4x800 relay in 9:07.00.

Earlier in the week, University Liggett School's boys varsity track and field team hosted a quad meet Tuesday, April 16, and finished second overall

with 91 points. The Knights fell just shy of first place at the meet, which Lutheran High School Westland won with 97 points.

In the 100 meter race, Liggett's Marvin Hartfield outpaced the field, taking first with a personal best in the event in 11.33. Teammates James McCullough and Necos Davis finished in third and fifth, respectively.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Knights runner Marv Hartfield outpaces the field, taking first with a personal best in the 100 meter dash in 11.33.

In the next event, Liggett swept the top three spots in the 200 meter dash, won by Santino Cicarella (22.41), followed by Hartfield (23.07), then McCullough (24.16).

Several other notable finishes for the Knights included:

- ◆ Jake Juip (1st) in the adaptive 100 meter and adaptive 200 meter;
- ◆ George Caudle (4th), Thomas Howlett (5th) and Cole Whitten (8th) in the 400 meter;
- ◆ De'Von Abbott (2nd) in the 800 meter;
- ◆ Michael Darlington (3rd) in the 1600 meter and (2nd) in the 3200 meter;
- ◆ Graham Griffioen (4th) in the 3200 meter;
- ◆ J e r m a i n e Calloway Jr. (2nd) and Howlett (6th) in the 110 meter hurdles;
- ◆ Calloway (1st), McCullough (2nd) and Hartfield (5th) in the 300 meter hurdles;

Liggett won the 4x100 relay and 4x200 relays; and

Jordan Stephanides won the shot put and discus.

North hosted Dakota Tuesday after press time. The team heads to Romeo for an evening meet at 7:50 p.m. Friday, April 26, for the Barnyard Invitational.

The Knights host a Catholic High School League matchup at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Katie Scott from Grosse Pointe North returns a volley during a match against Grosse Pointe South on Monday, April 15.

TENNIS:

Continued from page 1D

The Blue Devils found plenty of success for the day, ending the competition with two wins and one draw in three matches.

The first match was a 7-1 win for South over Grand Blanc. The Blue Devils dominated across nearly the entire board, especially in doubles, where the team swept all four matches.

The draw came against Rochester, with the team splitting the matches 4-4. Youngblood in No. 4 singles was the singles player to win her match for South in the matchup with Rochester. Three wins in four doubles matches for the Blue Devils helped to force the draw.

South then went on to sweep Regina 8-0 for another win on Saturday. The two victories during Saturday's quad meet were also a milestone for coach Sobieralski as he achieved 700 career wins as a coach.

Sobieralski's wins

total includes his work coaching both South's girls team and the boys varsity tennis team at University Liggett School. The benchmark made him only the fourth coach in Michigan high school tennis history to surpass 700 wins, and he is the only one to do so that is still active.

"When I first think about it I think that I'm getting old after 42 years of coaching," Sobieralski said about the milestone. "I've had great parent support letting me work with their kids and we create a family tradition...I'm fortunate to have had so many great players, but the parents have been so supportive too. We think that it's so important for everyone to get along and if you have the athletes and the parents all on board then it's like a perfect marriage."

South was on the losing side of a MAC Red division match on Monday, April 22, losing 6-2 to Port Huron Northern. The Blue Devils were swept in singles matches while the

pairs of Hix and Strong and Mimi Mager and Grace Vollmer won their doubles matchups for South.

North was also in action on Monday in a MAC Red showdown against Eisenhower that saw the Norsemen fall 8-0.

University Liggett competed on Monday as well, taking a 5-3 win over Everest Collegiate. The Knights swept all four singles matchups as Audrey Didio, Claudia Haouillou, Alexandra Larrea and Nina Shanidze were all victorious. Avery Slanec and Harper Wallace won their No. 1 doubles matchup to help secure the win for Liggett.

The Knights hosted Shrine Catholic on Wednesday, April 24, after press time. The team then heads just across town to Grosse Pointe North to face the Norsemen on Thursday, April 25, at 4 p.m.

For the Blue Devils, they are scheduled to host Eisenhower on Thursday, April 25, at 4 p.m.

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6D | SPORTS

Softball teams add big wins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The last week of softball action was filled with tallies in the win column for the teams from the Pointes. Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School both continued their strong starts to the season with some big wins over the weekend, while Grosse Pointe North picked up a much-needed boost of momentum with a win last week as well.

Grosse Pointe South
Through its first 13 games of the season, Grosse Pointe South softball has just one blemish on its record, and that was a loss to Fraser that came back on April 9. Outside of that single loss, the Blue Devils have looked largely dominant throughout the season so far and continued that last week by adding four more wins to improve to 12-1.

Last week began for South Thursday, April 18, with a MAC Blue Division showdown on the road at Port Huron. An early lead and more hot hitting from South's bats helped the Blue Devils earn a league win with an 8-3 victory.

South jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning thanks to RBI from Addison Waller, Avery Bellish and Mackenzie Simon. Port Huron scored twice in the bottom of the first, but the Blue Devils continued to stay out in front and build on the early lead to get the win.

Waller, Bellish and Simon would all end up



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Liggett senior Tori Nugent earned a win on the mound and had a crucial three-run home run in a game against Lakeview on Saturday, April 20.

finishing with a pair of RBI each. Alexandra Lupo got the win on the mound, pitching five innings allowing two runs on four hits. Murphy Russell threw two innings of relief and gave up one run on six hits.

Saturday, April 20, South hosted its second Round Robin tournament of the season, and once again was able to hoist its trophy after winning all three matchups. The first was a 14-5 win over Warren Mott where the Blue Devils' bats were once again on fire racking up 13 hits.

South exploded for nine runs in the bottom of the third inning, which helped propel the team

to a big win. Lucia Gabel had three RBI while Waller and Kelsie George also added two as well to power the Blue Devils' offense. Viviana Ostrowski pitched five innings and allowed five runs off of six hits.

The second game that South played on Saturday was nearly the opposite of the first. The Blue Devils did not produce as much on offense, but the pitching and defense came through in a 1-0 win over Lakeshore.

The only run of the game was scored in the bottom of the third inning when South's Maddie Agnone scored when Gabel hit into a fielder's choice. Russell's

performance on the mound made it so that a single run was all the Blue Devils needed. Russell threw six shutout innings and tallied nine strikeouts.

The bats came alive again for South in the third and final game on Saturday, a 10-0 win against Birmingham Seaholm. Waller and Bellish had two RBI each for the Blue Devils in the win as the team finished with a total of 13 hits. Lupo earned the shutout win on the mound giving up just five hits in five innings.

South hosted Marine City Tuesday, April 23, after press time. The team is back in action at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, going on the road to face New Haven.

University Liggett
The Knights picked up three wins last with explosive offense leading the way in all three. Liggett scored a total of 53 runs in just three games last Friday and Saturday.

Liggett picked up two big wins in a Catholic League doubleheader last Friday, April 19, against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard. The Knights rolled in game one of the doubleheader, ending up on top 17-1.

Margaret Weiss had four RBI for Liggett in the win and Isabella Nihem added three more. Tori Nugent had eight strikeouts and allowed no hits but one run in four innings on the mound.

The second game of Friday's doubleheader had a final score that fans would expect to see more in football than in softball. Liggett displayed potent offense



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY ZARANEK

Casey Dawn Gaidis, 9-month-old-daughter of Grosse Pointe North varsity softball assistant coach Amy Zaraneck, sits at home plate of the Norsemen's softball field earlier this week.

once again, but Gabriel Richard's bats got hot too. The teams combined for 40 runs with the Knights winning 26-14.

Liggett's Isabel Jenkins had four RBI during a big day for the team's offense. Constantina Bournias also helped lead the team by bringing in three runs.

Saturday, April 20, Liggett moved on to a non-league matchup with Lakeview that the Knights narrowly won 10-9. Nugent had four RBI at the plate, including a crucial three-run home run in the sixth inning, while also getting the win on the mound. Sasha Deimel contributed three runs to the total with her bat as well.

The Knights crossed the border to Toledo Tuesday, April 23, after press time to take on Central Catholic. The team is back home Saturday, April 27, for three games against L'Anse Creuse North, Cousino and Royal Oak beginning at 9 a.m.

Grosse Pointe North
Last week was a relatively quiet one for the Norsemen, but the team

still managed to pick up a win after a slow start to the season. North hosted Anchor Bay Thursday, April 18, in a MAC Red showdown and earned a league win 4-2.

Down 2-0 after three innings, a solo home run in the fourth inning by Addie Wakefield sparked North's comeback. In the fifth inning, Eva Borowoski tied the game for the Norsemen with an RBI single. Borowski would then come in to score, along with Addie Molitor, on a two-out hit by Natalie Babcock that would eventually end up being the game-winning runs.

Claire Swiatowski got the win on the mound and allowed two runs on nine hits through six and 1/3 innings. Kate Stemmler came into the game with one out in the seventh inning and earned the save, getting the next two outs while Anchor Bay had a runner on base.

North visited Dakota after press time Tuesday, April 23. The Norsemen come back home at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, to host Chippewa Valley.

Barba throws career bests

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South junior Olivia Barba threw career bests in the discus and shot put with distances good enough to finish first in both events over Dakota and Romeo in a tri-meet Tuesday, April 16, but the Blue Devils girls varsity track and field team still fell short to the Cougars and Bulldogs in its latest test in the MAC Red.

On Dakota's home track, Barba's discus throw of 119 feet, 11 inches is second best in South history. Former Blue Devil great Kayli Johnson still holds the record of 136 feet, 8 inches, set in 2015. Barba also won the shot put with a toss of 34 feet, 11 inches.

Despite the losses, South raced to 52 season best performances at its most recent meet.

Catherine Pattie took first place in the high jump, Morgan Duff won the 200 meter dash and long jump and Anne Wayman won the pole vault. South's 1600 meter relay team of Adelina Parikh, Leah Sonnenberg, Lorelei Carr and Audrey Reynolds also finished in first place.

The losses bring South to 4-2 on the season. Dakota and Romeo stand at the top of the MAC Red division.

That same day, just down Lakeshore Drive in Grosse Pointe Woods, University Liggett School's girls varsity track and field team hosted a quad meet April 16, facing Lutheran High Northwest, Ann Arbor Greenhills and Lutheran Westland.

The Knights finished second overall with 53 points.

Colette Peabody won the 100 meter dash in 13.63, followed in second place by teammate Mychala Penn (14.82). Peabody also won the 200 meter race in 28.27.

Aisha Minneh won the 100 meter hurdles in 21.24, and came in

second in the 300 meter hurdles (59.33). Mychala Penn, Aisha Manneh, Elizabeth Gough and Collette Peabody won the 4x100 relay in 56.37. The Knights scored another first-place relay win in the 4x200 when Elizabeth Gough, Jaeli Velez, Nyia Novak and Eva-Sarai Vesprini finished it in 2:05.52.

Rounding out the week, Grosse Pointe North's girls varsity track and field team competed in the Woodhaven Warrior Classic Saturday, April 20, finishing seventh among 16 teams with 37 points.

Top results came from Norsemen Mimi Trupiano, who took fourth overall in the 200 meter dash (28.13) and fifth in the 400 meter race (1:05.40). Ashlei Anatalio finished fifth in the 800 meter (2:45.70) and fourth in the 1600 meter (6:01.31). Katie Madigan took sixth place in the 3200 meter race (13:47.71), while teammate Mary Bentley finished in eighth place.

In field competition, North's Bailey Hopko finished second overall in shot put, with a throw of 33 feet, 5 inches. She finished third in discus with a throw of 99 feet, 4 inches. Dene McCall and Dakota White finished 10th and 11th, respectively, in long jump.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

ULS's Collette Peabody cruises to one of her wins in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes last week.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

"I always have confidence in myself," Hill said. "I always go out there thinking that I'm better than the other team and can pitch well. The confidence I have to go out there and perform well every game is something I don't think everyone has so it's nice that it's a part of my game that I can have."

Hill will certainly need to have that confidence in the future beyond high school, as he is set to play college baseball at the highest level. Following his sophomore season in 2022, Hill committed to play baseball at the University of Michigan and officially became a Wolverine a few months ago when he signed his National Letter of Intent.

Going from Grosse Pointe to Ann Arbor felt like an almost obvious choice for Hill. He has already built valuable connections with the Wolverine coaches and knows that he will be ready to compete and play his hardest as soon

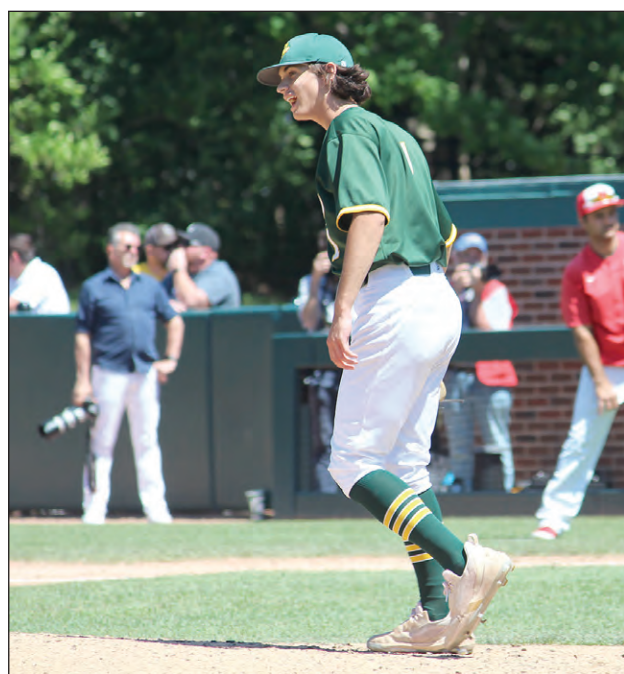


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Hill takes the mound for the Norsemen during the 2022 Division 1 baseball state championship game.

as he steps on campus.

"Obviously it's close to home and I have a great relationship with the pitching coach (Brock Huntzinger," Hill said. "He always wants to talk to me not just about baseball stuff but just about life and how I'm doing...I know when I go there I'm going to be developed and really get my chances to play."

Nominate!

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, scan the QR code below. Or visit our website grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week/



Grosse Pointe South's Olivia Barba now holds the second best discus throw in Blue Devil history after recording career bests in discus and shot put April 16.

PHOTO BY GRACE GERSEY