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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

BoE releases full report on HR complaints

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System

Board of Education, against the advice of its attorney, voted 4-2 Monday, Feb. 10, to release the full report outlining human resource complaints

against former board member Ahmed Ismail. The vote came after a nearly hour-long closed session with the district's attorney, Mark

McInerney, and attorney Kevin Sutton of the law firm Miller Johnson, who conducted the investigation. Voting in favor of waiv-

ing attorney-client privilege was President Colleen Worden, Trustee Clint Derringer, Vice President Laura Hull and Treasurer Tim Klepp.

Trustee Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, and Trustee Ginny Jeup voted no, cit-

See **REPORT**, page 9A

Senior services commission established

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE CITY AND FARMS — Though The Helm was the petitioning agency for the six-year senior services millage that passed the November ballot in four Pointes and Harper Woods, the cities maintain the authority to contract with any provider and oversee usage of the taxpayer money.

City councils in the City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms last week unanimously voted to execute an interlocal agreement for senior services, establishing an Active Adult Commission made up of one representative from each participating community. Its purpose is to serve as the collective fiduciary of public funds for the 2A

See **SERVICES**, page 2A

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Caylie Cass, Eva Guzman and Leah Dobrovolschi took advantage of a snow day Thursday, Feb. 13, by making run after run down the hill behind Grosse Pointe Shores City Hall. The trio laughed every trip down the hill, no matter how many times they were sprayed with snow. Find more sledding photos on page 10A.

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Theater up and running

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The show goes on at Okulski Family Theatre with a stop-gap movie projector. The old one broke down from more than a decade of operation, including showing first-run movies. Repairs to the commercial-grade, digital projector could cost \$15,000. The price of replacement ranges more than twice that amount. Shows resumed Friday, Feb. 14, with "Dog Man," an animated feature about a half K-9, half male human police officer bringing a criminal cat to justice. Projector problems began a week earlier. They forced a shutdown of the theater Feb. 7. Okulski is one of two

See **THEATER**, page 4A

Pointes, HP gain co-responder clinician

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES AND HARPER WOODS — A recent hoarding situation in the City of Grosse Pointe served as the first case management opportunity for Saranda Conn, who will officially start in March as the Pointes and Harper Woods' first co-responder clinician.

Pointes, Harper Woods Co-Responder Clinician Saranda Conn

"You wouldn't believe how many times we do get a call within code enforcement and you go to a house and you see (a hoarding situation) and we don't have any resources," City Public Services Director Pete Randazzo said. "This is absolutely amazing to have that resource and somebody to call instead of just putting the hammer down. It's a code enforcement issue, but there's also the human issue." Working in conjunction with the public safety departments, the implementation of a co-responder clinician serves as the final piece to the six communities' joint Crisis Intervention Team, which aims not only to properly equip

See **RESPOND**, page 3A

Parks & Rec seeks master plan

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Recent discussions about repairing the Patterson Park gazebo evolved even more recently into discussions about the overall role of the municipal parks system. The city has two parks, twice as many as any

other Grosse Pointe. One of the parks has two theaters, infinitely more than any of the other Grosse Pointes, which collectively have none. The recreation department's \$2.1 million annual budget is third highest in the Park, behind public safety and general operations, but more than twice the amount for public works.

Special events organized by the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Parks and Recreation extend beyond the residents-only park system to the pleasure of non-residents. Primary examples to which the general public is invited are summer-time street parties on Kercheval and Charlevoix, plus the annual winter

celebration, Chilly Fest. Municipal officials promote street parties as lures and possible tipping points for people living outside the city to consider shopping and setting up residence in the city. All those issues and more are things the recreation commission and city council think could be addressed more contextually.

See **PLAN**, page 8A

Grosse Pointe Home

LOOK

at what's on the market

and what's new in home improvement!

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Obituaries	4B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	4D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Darraugh Collins

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Marina report is late

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A report detailing the structural layout and integrity of the municipal marina is behind schedule.

Findings must be completed prior to drafting construction specifications for marina renovations at Windmill Pointe Park.

The city’s design contractor, Abonmarche, a nationally known firm based in Benton Harbor, was supposed to submit the report to Park officials either by the end of 2024 or last month, according to various members of the recreation commission and administration. Commissioners oversee marina planning and operations funded by boat slip rentals.

“I followed up (and) they apologized for the delay,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

The lag gave Commissioner Christina Buchanan an opportunity this month to propose expanding renovations.

She said the marina entrance to Lake St. Clair needs more than renovation. It needs to be completely rebuilt.

“It’s falling apart,” Buchanan said during a commission meeting Feb. 12. “It’s hard to navigate.”

“My guess is that would (cost) around \$500,000,” Craig said.

His estimate dwarfs the marina fund’s \$75,000 reserves.

In May 2021, consulting engineers at the firm of Hubbell, Roth & Clark judged the marina in

poor condition. They also rated it functionally obsolete for the needs of larger, wider craft typical of modern-day boaters.

A top-tier modernization would cost \$10 million to \$15 million, they said, which Park officials rejected as lofty.

The following year, the city contracted marina specialists at Abonmarche to redesign the facility without frills. The response, reported at the time, consisted of:

- ◆ widening boat slips on Pier 1, which forms the marina’s eastern, outer breakwall and main walkway, from the current 8½ feet to 10 feet, resulting in the elimination of 12 wells;
- ◆ replacing dockside electrical and water lines and outlets on all five piers,
- ◆ raising the marina’s inner wall to better protect the mainland against flooding during high lake levels and

making structural improvements as needed, including those revealed by divers.

Wells in Piers 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to remain configured as of now.

The first of two mutually exclusive underwater surveys of the marina revealed pier underpinnings to be in surprisingly good shape.

A second survey to pinpoint the location of submerged support structures was delayed due to excessive growth of marine vegetation, which is why the latest report hasn’t been finished and delivered to city hall.

“We’re at the stage where they will propose a buildable design?” Recreation Chairman Mike Hindelang asked Craig.

“Yes,” he answered.

See MARINA, page 5A



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Worn seats in the Carol C. Schaap Theatre should be replaced this spring.

Movie seats maybe due by May

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — New seats for the Carol C. Schaap Theatre at Windmill Pointe Park are being matched to the red coloration of the originals, but will be of slightly different design, allowing increased capacity.

A \$65,000 donation from resident Paul Schaap, in the name of his late wife, for whom the theater is named, pays for the 77 new recliner seats. Seats replace the originals, the coverings of which became worn, torn and cracked from more than a decade of patrons watching first-run films in laid-back luxury.

New seats are being purchased from and installed by Irwin Seating, a more than 100-year-old provider of theater and classroom furniture based in Grand Rapids.

“With the style they are proposing to us, it will be a singular seat, not a love seat like we currently have,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. “There will be fewer (mounting) brackets, which is most likely going to allow us to add additional seating.”

Irwin edged out a competitor from a state bordering the Gulf of America.

“Part of the reason we chose to go with (Irwin) is they are closer,” Craig

said. “Another company we were looking at is based out of Mississippi.”

Paul Schaap’s donation to replace the chairs was announced last October.

“What is the biggest hold up, the design?” Christina Buchanan, a member of the recreation commission, asked Craig during a Feb. 12 meeting. “(Is Irwin) not getting back to you?”

“We went back and forth a couple times with measurements,” Craig said. “The measurements we were taking didn’t seem to align with what they proposed. I didn’t feel comfortable with what they were putting in place, so I requested they have a site visit. I don’t like to rush. I don’t want to miss small pieces that come back after six months and say, ‘I wish we had done that’ or ‘We should have changed this.’”

Discussions with the manufacturer involved the type of seats, covering material and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Craig said, “If everything goes as planned and depending on the cost for removal and installation, I don’t anticipate we’ll have any issues (with) seats being replaced at the latest in early May. Part of that depends on the color of the material.”

Schaap Theatre opened in 2015 at the Lavins Activity Center.

SERVICES:

Continued from page 1A

multi-community millage and it is expected to execute a service agreement with The Helm.

The interlocal agreement also outlines that the commission will meet at least four times a year, with all meetings complying with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and will provide an annual report to the respective member communities.

“There’s been a collective effort to prepare this agreement for this new group to really manage and oversee the funding that’s coming in and the contract that they’ll be administering,” City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine expressed. “... Effectively from the onset it was collectively decided that it would be most beneficial on behalf of the city managers to have one of the city council members elected to this board as the initial representative. That, I think, carries forward the importance of

managing the public funds that are involved and also lends itself to having some assistance with the city managers as this is being started.”

Set to serve a three-year term, Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak put forward Councilwoman Maureen Juip to be the City’s representative on the commission. In the Farms, Councilwoman Sierra Donaven nominated Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding, citing her expertise and dedication to upholding the highest standards of fiduciary management.

Both representatives were unanimously approved by their respective councils, with Konrad Wilberding’s appointment conditional upon her remaining on council, as her seat will be up for election in November.

“This is an issue that I followed very closely, because it’s a first for all of our communities,” she said, “to have something like this that is going to be supported by taxpayers, plus there is some

other funding with it.

“So I plan to be very — not necessarily just judicious — but I plan to be diligent as far as watching over the funds with this, the process and the way and how we navigate this new endeavor to help our senior citizens.”

Anticipated revenue to be generated by each participating community in 2025 is:

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe — \$163,639;
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms — \$362,110;
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park — \$278,850;
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods — \$322,199;
- ◆ Harper Woods — \$98,906.

“Although the millage rate is the same for each of the communities that approved the millage, there’s different taxable values for those communities,” Farms City Manager Shane Reeside noted. “Hence, Grosse Pointe Farms, having the highest taxable value of the Grosse Pointes, would be contributing the largest dollar amount.”

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City scores perfect on post-election audit

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “The city was lucky enough to be randomly selected for a post-election audit of the

November presidential election,” said Chris Hardenbrook, city clerk/assistant city manager. He’s held the position two years, while his predecessor, who ran the city’s election opera-

tions since 2001, wasn’t once subject to an audit. “While the audit was a little bit of an annoyance, it is kind of a nice way of getting a gold star and reassurance that we actually know

what we’re doing and we’re doing it properly and correctly,” he said. Conducted by the Wayne County Election Division Monday, Feb. 3, the City of Grosse Pointe specifically was selected

for a post-election audit of precinct 1’s early voting site, which was held in city council chambers. It concluded with a perfect evaluation, finding no errors.

“Awesome job,” read a comment left by the auditors. “Perfect EV early voting audit. Hats off to the clerk, inspectors and all that work to make early voting a success.”

Post-election audits are split between two components — procedural and the balance.

The first is an audit of the poll book, which catalogs the day-to-day opening and closing procedures conducted by the election inspectors.

Auditors evaluated whether the oaths and preparation certificates of oaths were conducted, zero tape was printed out and opening and closing procedures were conducted properly. For the security aspect, they assessed whether all voting equipment materials were properly

sealed and documented and that the day-to-day security verification of sealed numbers was conducted and recorded properly.

The second component of the audit is a hand count of the presidential race, comparing it to the daily hand-recorded counts in the poll book tallied by the election inspector, as well as to the total verified by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers.

“Those all balanced and matched,” Hardenbrook said.

He credited the election workers and fellow city staff, as election preparation typically is an all-hands-on-deck operation in the small municipality.

“I think that speaks volumes,” City Manager Joe Valentine said of the auditors’ comments, “in terms of the attention to detail, the effort that’s put in (and) the caliber of people we have working on behalf of the elections.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI KORTE

Woods recognizes volunteers

Grosse Pointe Woods held a reception Friday, Feb. 7, at Lochmoor Club to recognize volunteer members of the city’s commissions, committees and boards. Pictured from left are Mayor Pro Tem Todd McConaghy, Mayor Arthur Bryant, Councilman Michael Koester, John Nichols (30 years on the planning commission), Laura Gaskin (10 years on the community tree commission), Councilwoman Vicki Granger, Councilman Jim Motschall, Councilwoman Angela Coletti Brown and Councilman Kenneth Gafa. Not pictured: Rebecca Veitengruber (10 years on the historical commission) and Barbara Janutol (20 years on the citizens’ recreation commission).

RESPOND:

Continued from page 1A

officers for interactions with individuals in mental health crises, but also to provide viable options for de-escalation and connection to treatment other than arrest.

For the time being, the position will be funded via a two-year community policing grant through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

“We probably have enough (CIT cases) that she’s going to be doing the work of two or three people,” said John Alcorn, City public safety director, who spearheaded the effort on behalf of the six communities. “It can vary. We could go six months and not have a CIT-related run and then we could have 10 in the next six months.”

“What we find often is that we’ll get a person in mental health crisis and we’re there a lot for a long period of time and then it slows down again.”

Conn has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Calvin University, as well as certifications as a qualified intellectual disabilities professional and children’s mental health professional. She previously served at a children’s residential facility in Lansing, as an emergency room mental health technician at Beaumont Hospital in Taylor and as a wrap-around facilitator at The Guidance Center in Southgate.

“I have always been really interested in the way that law enforce-

ment and mental health work together, which wasn’t very closely,” she said. “I even took a couple of law classes while I was in college and I was just hoping one day there would be some kind of push for the creation of a job, kind of like this one, that would be able to give individuals who are experiencing mental health crisis an opportunity to get treatment instead of ending up in jail and possibly experiencing even further (physical) or mental health risks.”

Based out of the City’s headquarters on Mack, Conn will spend the majority of her time on the road with an officer responding to mental health-related calls and connecting those in need with resources available through the county and state.

She anticipates a significant percentage of cases regarding hoarding, given the large senior population, and homelessness.

“She’s going to work with us to train us, so we know some more about those resources in case we can’t get funding (following the two-year grant),” Alcorn said, adding the intention is to secure future grants to maintain the program.

An additional benefit, he noted, will be the tracking and collection of CIT-related data in the communities.

“My biggest hope is just to leave what I found better and have the police department feel more confident in their ability to service individuals who are having mental health crises,” Conn said. “Honestly,

opening their eyes to a more collaborative way to work with these individuals when it comes to their community. Having those resources in their back pocket and feeling confident and like, ‘Hey, I’ve got something for this,’ so that we can keep individuals who need that mental health help out of jail.”

To seek help regarding

a mental health crisis, residents should call 911 or their station’s non-emergency number.

“... I’m really excited to see where this takes Grosse Pointe,” Conn said, “and hopefully it bleeds into the cities surrounding them and this could be something that becomes a regular position for the entire state of Michigan.”

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The Week Ahead

MONDAY, FEB. 24

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council rescheduled meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

- ◆ Great Lakes Water Authority public hearing, 2 p.m. via Zoom or in person at 735 Randolph, 5th Floor, Detroit.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Skilled Trades Career Night, 6 to 8 p.m. at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Left behind

The driver’s side front window of a vehicle parked on the street in the 100 block of Ridge was smashed between 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, and 1:26 a.m. the next morning.

A backpack containing clothing was removed but left in the middle of the roadway on Ridge.

Ride to jail

A Lyft driver whose vehicle was stationary in the middle of Moran for an extended period of time around 2:49 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, caught an officer’s attention due to ongoing vehicle break-ins in the area.

Though the 44-year-old Detroit woman explained she was waiting for a passenger, a LEIN check showed the woman had an active warrant out of Warren for an assault and battery charge.

She was arrested and turned over to Warren officers.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

City of Grosse Pointe

Nice try

Two checks bearing the name of an organization in the 17000 block of Mack were fraudulently attempted to be cashed at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Intoxicated

A 46-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for driving while intoxicated at 1 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, after being pulled over at Jefferson and University for driving without headlights and multiple equipment issues.

Happy Valentine’s

Four bottles of Jack Daniel’s honey whiskey, totaling \$112, were sto-

len from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 10:25 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

The thief appears to be the same suspect who stole liquor from the business on two occasions in December, and is described as a white man around 50 years old.

An investigation is ongoing.

Counterfeit bills

A man passed 10 counterfeit \$100 dollar bills over the course of three transactions at Lululemon in The Village at 2:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

Consequences

A 54-year-old Grosse Pointe woman was arrested for drunken driving while at home at 11:55 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, after officers received a report of a hit and run accident.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Unlocked entries

A small black flashlight was stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked overnight Monday, Feb. 10, in the driveway of a house in the 700 block of Trombley.

That same night, \$5 in change was taken out of an unlocked vehicle parked in a driveway in the 1300 block of Audubon.

Porch pirate

A package containing an Apple iPhone 16 was stolen off the porch of a house in the 1300 block of Yorkshire the morning of Friday, Feb. 14,

according to police.

Warrants, etc.

Shortly before 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, public safety officers responded to a report of a man sleeping in a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of Three Mile Drive.

Officers identified him as a 42-year-old resident. “(He was) found to have a Park warrant for his arrest,” police said.

The next day in the lobby of the public safety building, officers arrested a homeless, 43-year-old male visitor.

“(He was) found to be an absconder from parole,” police said.

ID thefts

Two residents reported being victims of identity theft last week.

One discovered charges totaling \$2,952 for fraudulent purchases made on an account at Green Mountain Energy

in Houston.

The other discovered an unauthorized \$200 transaction on her bank checking account for a purchase at Walmart.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

CDBG funds vs. senior millage

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Because use of Community Development Block Grant federal funding is significantly restricted, the Pointes long have passed along their annual allocation to local senior service providers, but officials in the Farms are predicting a coming change in the status quo.

Though communities at one time received as much as six figures in CDBG funding, recent years have seen each Pointe split its \$20,000 allocation between The Helm and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services, or PAATS, which provides transportation for seniors.

Farms city council last Monday unanimously voted to do so again in

2025, with the caveat that next year it will explore other options.

The catalyst is November’s passage of a six-year, 0.35-mill senior services millage, which is expected to bring in around \$1.2 million of taxpayer money annually to The Helm.

“We had that discussion this year knowing that additional dollars were coming in for The Helm through the senior millage that was recently approved,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “However, that millage will be levied with our summer taxes, so those dollars really will be made available at the very tail end of the calendar year. So the thought was that this (CDBG) allocation, in a sense, will make them whole for the cur-

rent fiscal year.”

Because it has the highest taxable value among the Pointes, the Farms will contribute the greatest dollar amount to the millage — \$362,110 in 2025.

“I am totally a major supporter of The Helm with my mother going there several times a week for their wonderful programs,” Councilman John Gillooly said, “However ... I ask the administration to definitely explore alternative use of the block grant funds, especially as the city of Grosse Pointe Farms is

expected to contribute more than \$362,000 and that number is probably going to go up, quite frankly, given the likelihood of taxable values in our good city increasing.”

Other council members echoed the same sentiment, including Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding, who was appointed during the same meeting as the city’s representative to the Active Adult Commission, which will oversee use of the senior service millage funds.

She stated intention to broach the topic of

CDBG funding during the commission’s first meeting, which has yet to be scheduled.

“This is appropriate I think,” Councilman Lev Wood said of this year’s CDBG allocation to The Helm. “This time next year, I guess I would have an opposite feeling. I think that The

Helm probably doesn’t deserve it because, frankly, they’re getting all that money from the millage.”

The CDBG grant’s main purpose is to be used to benefit areas of the community that are considered low and

See FUNDS, page 8A

MARINA:

Continued from page 2A

“We should be pretty close. Part of that’s going to be with the structural survey and seeing results on how many pilings we have, if any additional need to be had.”

“This is kind of an intermediate step before we get to a (buildable) plan?” Hindelang asked.

“Yes,” Craig said, adding, “We’ll have the structural survey draft within the next week or two to review. A joint permit application is underway.”

Abonmarche’s designers haven’t been commissioned to redesign the entrance.

“It’s crumbling,” Buchanan said. “If that could be rebuilt now, you’re not spending good money after bad. It would be part of (overall renovations). It’s getting worse every year.”

“It’s worth talking about,” Hindelang said.

“That should be pitched to the company,” said Commissioner Michael Bannon, elected Feb.3 as vice chairman. “Is there

anything that precludes doing it?”

“The cost difference — if we’re doing it all at once versus piecing it going forward,” Hindelang said.

Grosse Pointe News

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“JUST THE FEELING OF KNOWING YOU’RE NOT ALONE IN THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN A BIG HELP.” — SANDY

MEET ME AT THE HELM

Sandy joined the grief group at The Helm shortly after her husband, Tom, passed away. In addition to finding others who could support her and she support in return, Sandy made new friendships and discovered activities (especially field trips!) at The Helm that help her stay social and get out of the house.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Remembering MLK in GP

(Editor’s note: In recognition of Black History Month, the Grosse Pointe News is honored to reprint the speech Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered in Grosse Pointe March 14, 1968, which was exactly three weeks before his assassination in Memphis, Tenn. Here is Part II. Part I appeared last week and Part III will be printed Feb. 27.)

The ultimate logic of racism is genocide, and if one says that one is not good enough to have a job that is a solid quality job, if one is not good enough to have access to public accommodations, if one is not good enough to have the right to vote, if one is not good enough to live next door to him, if one is not good enough to marry his daughter because of his race. Then at that moment that person is saying that that person who is not good to do all of this is not fit to exist or to live. And that is the ultimate logic of racism. And we’ve got to see that this still exists in American society. And until it is removed, there will be people walking the streets of life and living in their humble dwellings feeling that they are nobody, feeling that they have no dignity and feeling that they are not respected. The first thing that must be on the agenda of our nation is to get rid of racism.

Secondly, we’ve got to get rid of two or three myths that still pervade our nation. One is the myth of time. I’m sure you’ve heard this notion. It is the notion that only time can solve the problem of racial injustice. And I’ve heard it from many sincere people. They’ve said to the negro and/to his allies in the white community you should slow up, you’re pushing things too fast, only time can solve the problem. And if you’ll just be nice and patient and continue to pray, in a hundred or two hundred years the problem will work itself out. There is an answer to that myth. It is that time is neutral. It can be used either constructively or destructively. And I’m sad to say to you tonight I’m absolutely convinced that the forces of ill will in our nation, the forces on the wrong side in our nation, the extreme righteous of our nation have often used time much more effectively than the forces of good will and it may well be that we may have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words of the bad people who will say bad things in a meeting like this or who will bomb a church in Birmingham, Alabama, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say wait on time.

Somewhere we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability, it comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. And so we must always help time and realize that the time is always right to do right.

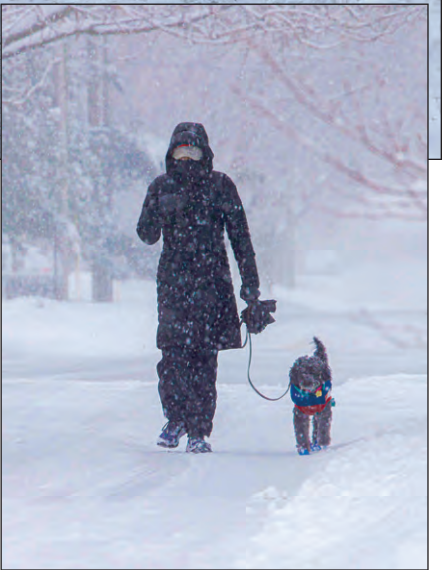
Now there is another myth and that is the notion that legislation can’t solve the problem that you’ve got to change the heart and naturally I believe in changing the heart. I happen to be a Baptist preacher and that puts me in the heart changing business and Sunday after Sunday I’m preaching about conversion and the need for the new birth and re-generation. I believe that there’s something wrong with human nature. I believe in original sin not in terms of the historical event but as the mythological category to explain the universality of evil, so I’m honest enough to see the gone-wrongness of human nature so naturally I’m not against changing the heart and I do feel that that is the half truth involved here, that there is some truth in the whole question of changing the heart. We are not going to have the kind of society that we should have



Pure Grosse Pointe

James A. Brown submitted these photos following last Sunday’s snowfall, which dropped around 3 inches of the white stuff on the Pointes. Above, plows were in full force following Sunday’s burst of snow. Right, an anonymous dog walker in the Farms bundled up during the weekend to make sure her furry friend got some exercise.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES A. BROWN



until the white person treats the negro right — not because the law says it but because it’s natural because it’s right and because the black man is the white man’s brother. I’ll be the first to say that we will never have a truly integrated society, a truly colorless society until men and women are obedient to the unenforceable. But after saying that, let me point out the other side. It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless. It may be true that the law can’t make a man love me, but it can restrain him from lynching me, and I think that’s pretty important also.

And so while legislation may not change the hearts of men, it does change the habits of men when it’s vigorously enforced and when you change the habits of people pretty soon attitudes begin to be changed and people begin to see that they can do things that fears caused them to feel that they could never do. And I say that there’s a need still for strong civil rights legislation in various areas. There’s legislation in Congress right now dealing with the whole question of housing and equal administration of justice and these things are very important for I submit to you tonight that there is no more dangerous development in our nation than the constant building up of predominantly negro central cities ringed by white suburbs. This will do nothing but invite social disaster. And this problem has to be dealt with - some through legislation, some through education, but it has to be dealt with in a very concrete and meaningful manner.

Now let me get back to my point. I’m going to finish my speech. I’ve been trying to think about what I’m going to preach about tomorrow down to Central Methodist Church in the Lenten series and I think I’ll use as the text, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

I want to deal with another myth briefly which concerns me and I want to talk about it very honestly and that is over-reliance on the bootstrap philosophy. Now certainly it’s very important for people to engage in self-help programs and do all they can to lift themselves by their own bootstraps. Now I’m not talking against that at all. I think there is a great deal that the black people of this country must do for themselves and that

See MLK, page 7A

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to editor@grossepointenews.com or by filling out the letters form on our website, grossepointenews.com.

Valued

Dear Writers & Editors:

Yesterday I sent in my renewal for the next three years. In times of national chaos it is grounding every week to have your collaborative, creative efforts land on my doorstep. Too many Michigan towns have lost the connectivity only possible through a good, local paper. Although my husband and I subscribe to several national news sources, we want to know what our neighbors are thinking and accomplishing. Independent, quality local news sources with your public pledge of providing balanced journalism are becoming dangerously extinct. As a liberal, I sometimes chafe over the conservative slants in the Grosse Pointe News, but the “Letters to the Editor” section is our community’s open forum for any corrections or counterpoints.

Years ago, I’d flip to the obits and do a quick scan. Now, my family and I watch the movies, prepare the recipes, book the plays, try the restaurants, clip/stack the comic and puzzle pages for our younger visitors. Although we may disagree, we read your editorials, features and news coverage, understanding that our area has a blend of views. This is our home.

Our block is half Harris supporters and half Trump supporters. My half is in serious mourning mode, but was relieved to see a liberal shift reflected in your city-by-city local and national election reports. It was a close election with shockwaves continuing to touch both sides. Yet, on our street, we still gather together at neighborhood parties, exchange food/gifts, take joy in each other’s kids and animals. We all pitch in when there is trouble. Small towns, city neighborhoods and volunteerism are the core strength of everything good about America and your publication fosters that at a time when both sides need it most.

For many of us, the national news is chilling and well, we aren’t sleeping well at night. I thought about all of this but then felt at my core that it’s the writers, the fine and performing artists that will interpret this moment with us. We don’t know the future, but history shows the creative arts open our eyes and hold our hands through uncertainty and chaos. Both political sides are in for the long haul. We have a good source of local news with comforting features while we keep our eyes wide open for what is to come.

See LETTERS, page 8A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
February 20 – 26						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
24° 10°	28° 12°	27° 12°	31° 25°	33° 26°	33° 27°	37° 17°
Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
10%	0%	10%	10%	0%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 7:21 am SUNSET 6:20 pm	SUNRISE 7:20 am SUNSET 6:11 pm	SUNRISE 7:18 am SUNSET 6:12 pm	SUNRISE 7:17 am SUNSET 6:13 pm	SUNRISE 7:15 am SUNSET 6:15 pm	SUNRISE 7:14 am SUNSET 6:16 pm	SUNRISE 7:12 am SUNSET 6:17 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



I'll miss the penny. I'll miss it as I would other things that are expected to be constants in life. I'll miss once or twice per year pulling out my gallon jar of loose change and counting stacks of 10 pennies each, lining them up in rows of five on a level surface and stuffing them into penny rolls still given out at the bank at which I've had an account since

grade school. President Donald Trump said it no longer makes sense to mint pennies. Production costs exceed three cents per penny, a waste of money. Discontinuing pennies has been talked about for years, but with Trump, action can be expected to follow. It always amazes me how much money I accrue each year by emptying my pockets of coins each day and dropping them in that jar. After wrapping coins, I have to wash my hands. Coins are dirty, apparently, as is paper currency, supposedly. Ever soak an old, tarnished penny in Coca-Cola? They come out shiny. Doesn't take long,

Pennies

either. After one of my grandmothers died, I was surprised and touched to discover she'd collected one penny minted and stamped for each year of my life. We always got along. Many of my best memories are of spending summers with her in a small, crossroads town on the edge of nowhere. It was a great town. There were three railroads, a river that ran in all kinds of directions, a dam, covered bridges, an old stone works and a state park with a fire lookout tower. But I never suspected my grandmother regularly rummaged through bunches of dirty pennies to tally my existence. I learned a major lesson from her which I employ to this day: Never climb or descend stairs empty-handed. There's always something that needs to be taken up or down stairs. Those country boys from my youth were forces of nature. There were three of them. Confident, independent and self-reliant. We explored together, shot BB guns together, went to the Dog 'n' Suds together for the best root beer I've ever had and played golf at a nine-hole course down a hill, across a railroad track at the edge of town. They had the

most fluid swings I've ever seen. Two became pros. One is the women's golf coach at a Big Ten university. Not a fake Big Ten school that joined the conference to feed off television revenue. A real one. I'll miss wrapping pennies in the same way I miss making mix tapes. You know what I mean. Going to the store to buy a package of blank cassette tapes, preferably 90-minutes long each side. Then spending hours planning and implementing recording sessions of songs with a particular theme or mood. An upbeat tape was for parties. A collection of songs with steady, almost windshield wiper cadences fit the bill for playing while driving long distances. Those were essential when heading out West or back East. Maybe I'm thinking about this now because the other day I found myself looking at satellite imagery of a rest stop on eastbound I-70 near Idaho Springs, Colo. I'd stopped in town on a summer afternoon to buy gasoline and be interviewed by pay phone for a job in the marketing department of an area department store chain, not Hudson's. I didn't get it, which was fine because I had a job. Of greater importance was wetting my feet in what I presumed were cold waters of the swiftly moving Colorado River a few feet off the rest stop. My guess about the water temperature was right, but I had the wrong

See PENNIES, page 8A

MLK:

Continued from page 6A

nobody else can do for them. And we must see the other side of this question. I remember the other day I was on a plane and a man starting talking with me and he said I'm sympathetic toward what you're trying to do, but I just feel that you people don't do enough for yourself and then he went on to say that my problem is, my concern is that I know of other ethnic groups, many of the ethnic groups that came to this country and they had problems just as negroes and yet they did the job for themselves, they lifted themselves by their own bootstraps. Why is it that negroes can't do that? And I looked at him and I tried to talk as understanding as possible but I said to him, it does not help the negro for unfeeling, sensitive white people to say that other ethnic groups that came to the country maybe a hundred or a hundred and fifty years voluntarily have gotten ahead of them and he was brought here in chains involuntarily almost three hundred and fifty years ago. I said it doesn't help him to be told that and then I went on to say to this gentlemen that he failed to recognize that no other ethnic group has been enslaved on American soil. Then I had to go on to say to him that you failed to realize that America made the black man's color a stigma. Something that he couldn't change. Not only was the color a stigma, but even linguistic then stigmatic conspired against the black man so that his color

was thought of as something very evil. If you open Roget's Thesaurus and notice the synonym for black you'll find about a hundred and twenty and most of them represent something dirty, smut, degrading, low, and when you turn to the synonym for white, about 130, all of them represent something high, pure, chaste. You go right down that list. And so in the language a white life is a little better than a black life. Just follow. If somebody goes wrong in the family, we don't call him a white sheep, we call him a black sheep. And then if you block somebody from getting somewhere you don't say they've been whiteballed, you say they've been blackballed. And just go down the line. It's not whitemail, it's blackmail. I tell you this to seriously say that the nation made the black man's color a stigma and then I had to say to my friend on the plane another thing that is often forgotten in this country. That nobody, no ethnic group has completely lifted itself by its own bootstraps. I can never forget that the black man was free from the bondage of physical slavery in 1863. He wasn't given any land to make that freedom meaningful after being held in slavery 244 years. And it was like keeping a man in prison for many many years and then coming to see that he is not guilty of the crime for which he was convicted. Alright good night and God bless you. And I was about to say that to free, to have freed the negro from slavery without doing anything to get him started in life on a sound economic footing, it was almost like freeing a man who had been in prison many years and you had discovered that he was unjustly con-

victed of, that he was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted and you go up to him and say now you're free, but you don't give him any bus fare to get to town or you don't give him any money to buy some clothes to put on his back or to get started in life again. Every code of jurisprudence would rise up against it. This is the very thing that happened to the black man in America. And then when we look at it even deeper than this, it becomes more ironic. We're reaping the harvest of this failure today. While America refused to do anything for the black man at that point, during that very period, the nation, through an act of Congress, was giving away millions of acres of land in the west and the mid-west, which meant that it was willing to under gird its white peasants from Europe with an economic floor. Not only did they give the land, they built land grant colleges for them to learn how to farm. Not only that it provided county agents to further their expertise in farming and went beyond this and came to the point of providing low interest rates for these persons so that they could mechanize their farms, and today many of these persons are being paid millions of dollars a year in federal subsidies not to farm and these are so often the very people saying to the black man that he must lift himself by his own bootstraps. I can never think ... Senator Eastland, incidentally, who says this all the time gets \$125,000 a year, not to farm on various areas of his plantation down in Mississippi. And yet he feels that we must do everything for ourselves. Well that appears to me to be a kind of socialism for the rich and rugged hard individualistic capitalism for the poor.

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Kyle Hecht, MSF

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FUNDS:

Continued from page 5A

moderate income — meaning, in which 51 percent or more of the households earn less than 80 percent of the area’s median income.

There isn’t such a census track in the Farms, though senior services also have been an allowable CDBG category.

“In the past, barrier-free access was something that it could be used for,” Reeside noted, “so if you put in a barrier-free ramp somewhere in the community, that might be an eligible expense.

“We will definitely explore other options going forward.”

The Farms has allocated a portion of CDBG funding to The Helm, formerly Services for Older Citizens, since at least 2009. Since Wayne County modified the program significantly in 2019, it annually has allocated \$14,000 to The Helm and an additional \$6,000 to PAATS.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

So after waking up this morning and making my decision to renew for another three years, I wanted you to know why. Your work is valued. If the small towns across Michigan and the other 49 states regained an independent, balanced, fact-based, non-partisan weekly paper, geared to their regions like the Grosse Pointe News is trying to provide for us, America truly would be great again. That is my hope.

TUDI HARWOOD
Grosse Pointe Farms

Gratitude

To the Editor:

With the recent storm and multi-day snowfall, I want to express my gratitude to the staff and crews at the Grosse Pointe Park DPW and the Parks and

Recreation Department. Their dedication to keeping our roads and parks clear for several consecutive days has not gone unnoticed. Their tireless work ensures the safety and accessibility of our community, reflecting the strong sense of commitment that makes this city special.

Their efforts highlight the outstanding leadership of City Manager Nick Sizeland, DPW Director Tom Jenny and Parks and Recreation Director Chad Craig. Thank you all for ensuring that the city’s roads remain safe and that our parks are well-maintained throughout the winter.

PATRICK GLEASON
Grosse Pointe Park Recreation
Commission Secretary

Eternally grateful

To the Editor:

On Sunday afternoon last week, a section of Lewiston Road experienced a water stoppage

due to a broken underground pipe. Of course, worse things can happen; however, this was a huge inconvenience (especially since most of us heat with steam) and an effective reminder of how many blessings we regularly take for granted.

When the stoppage was discovered, I called the police department to make a report. They immediately contacted the water department and a few minutes later, a truck was on our street and two men started the long and cold process of fixing the problem.

Unfortunately, the leak did not want to be easily found. On Monday morning, several trucks and what seemed like countless workers were back on Lewiston doing their best to find the right spot to begin digging. Several holes and many hours later, the broken pipe was located. Wasting no time, these workers dug with machinery and by hand to do

what needed to be done. They finally finished the job around 10 p.m.

The wind chill made the temperature feel like 17 frosty degrees, yet through the entire process every one of them was willing to talk with me or my neighbors and keep us updated on their progress, explain what was being done and, when the leak was corrected, offer advice on turning on our water again. Compared to what these workers went through to bring us water, our discomfort was minimal.

I cannot thank them enough for their diligence, dedication and perseverance. We and our neighbors feel so fortunate to live in a community where this is even possible. Many thanks to everyone involved in this event. You are all angels and we will be eternally grateful for you.

YOLANDA & CHARLES
TURNER
Grosse Pointe Farms

PENNIES:

Continued from page 7A

river. Clear Creek is in Idaho Springs. The Colorado River doesn’t come down from the north and guide the high-

way until Dotsero, more than 100 miles west. I filled an empty Pepsi bottle against the current. Within a few hours, as I drove east down the Rockies past Denver toward the flat, open plains, a thin layer of sed-

iment settled on the bottom. I emptied it in my parent’s garden, where I often deposited little geological keepsakes, including a foot-wide, heart-shaped rock from the dry riverbed of Rio Salado, the Salt River,

under the Scottsdale Road bridge in Phoenix. I’ll miss making mix tapes of one-hit wonders, new wave music, hair metal, art rock, alternative and sometimes with a little funk thrown in — can’t do without Midnight

PLAN:

Continued from page 1A

ally and effectively within the framework of a park system master plan.

Master plans are required of Michigan municipalities, but not for parks departments.

“A master plan is a high-level document,” said Mike Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission. “The intention of this project is to strategically look at where we want the city’s parks

and recreation offerings to be in 10 or 15 years so that we can make more informed decisions and (the recreation director) can ensure we’re making the best use of the resources we have.”

“This is going to set the way,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

It is almost certain that an outside consultant will be retained to help draft the department’s first master plan.

“Realistically, this would fall into next (fis-

cal) year’s budget,” Hindelang said.

The fiscal year starts July 1.

“If we had our master plan finally approved 12 months after we started, I would be very pleased,” Hindelang said.

Master plans are malleable. They can be changed with the times.

“There are many things we rightfully take pride in,” Hindelang said. “Now we have to figure out how to keep them and (decide if) we need everything we have. Is there a desire to

change?”

He cited the relatively sudden demand for pickleball courts.

“Pickleball didn’t exist 10 years ago,” Hindelang said. “Now, we’re converting tennis courts to pickleball courts. The desires of the community will change. We want to make sure we have flexibility for that while keeping everything in the best shape we can.”

As with the city’s master plan, which was updated in 2022, the parks system plan is expected to benefit from recommendations by members of the public during community engagement sessions in addition to commission and council meetings.

Stakeholders also will have a say. Chief among those is the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, a non-profit, privately funded charitable organization founded in 1984.

The foundation has donated most of its resources to facilities in Patterson and Windmill Pointe parks. Witness the Tompkins Center and Lavins Activity Center at Windmill and Patterson’s ice rink and boardwalk.

The lack of an overall, cohesive vision for the parks system is one reason foundation members found themselves at cross purposes last year regarding the replacement of an aging wooden playscape at Patterson. It didn’t

require much resistance from preservationists to convince the foundation to change course and donate a new one to Windmill Pointe Park, but the dustup was loud and emotional.

“With the kindness of the foundation and the projects they take on, they will be able to see what (the parks are) able to handle, what it will need and what they can help us with,” Craig said. “(The master plan) will help give the foundation ideas for future projects, figure out what we need to work on and what our residents want.”

“This ties in with some of the things we talked about tonight,” said Hindelang during the Feb. 12 commission meeting. “How (does) the boardwalk fit into the long-term plans of the future? Do we want to keep it as it is and rehab it? Do we want to expand it, remove it or turn it into something else?”

He also cited the gazebo; some of the concrete steps, decorative Pewabic tiles and wood roof supports are cracked, missing and decayed.

“The gazebo: Are we going to look at this as an event venue or as a part of the passive park that is Patterson?” Hindelang said.

That led him to a more fundamental issue. “Does Patterson remain

a passive park?” Hindelang said. “Is there a different vision for it? Do we have the right amount of parking? All these things are issues we heard about tonight that a master plan will help us make recommendations to Chad and the council.”

“It will be a tremendous educational tool for residents,” Commissioner Mike Bannon said. “Everyone will understand what things cost and that we have to make priorities, just like your home budget. I don’t think people think about that much.”

Another planning matter is the long-term cost of maintaining donated items, such as the Patterson boardwalk and Windmill fountain.

“We have to keep in mind to maintain the things we choose,” Commissioner Christina Buchanan said.

“We’re at a time now when quite a lot of things are aging,” Craig said. “We are near the end of life spans or major refreshes on a lot of significant items, which makes it all the more important to do the master plan now,” Hindelang said. “How we address those and what type of things we’re looking for and coordinating all of that on the master plan front will help give (the recreation department) guidance.”

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GPPSS forming bond committee

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is accepting applications for a bond advisory committee.

The district is considering asking voters in November to extend a facilities and security bond originally approved in 2018.

“We’re looking for people who have a vision of the district in mind, not just a singular passion or interest,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told the board of education at its meeting Monday, Feb. 10. “We’re looking to have 25 to 30 people to help us decide which projects the money should be spent on.”

The application, which can be found at shorturl.at/R46C7, asks about things such as professional experience that could benefit the process, children who attend or have attended GPPSS, volunteer involvement with the district and community involvement. District employees also will be selected.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24. Those selected will be notified Friday, Feb. 28. The committee will meet two to three times a month through the end of June. Moving forward, the district would need to submit language to the county clerk by Aug. 11, in order to be on the November ballot.

The \$111 million bond originally was approved by 55 percent of voters in

November 2018. The district can collect up to 3.14 mills if the debt service schedule justifies that amount. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value.

Tuttle said bond elections across Michigan that do not include a millage increase have an 84 percent chance of passing, on average, while those that include a millage increase pass at a 51 percent average. If approved, the bond would bring in \$120 million over 20 years to use on facility upgrades.

The sinking fund millage, approved by 66 percent of voters in November, will bring in \$111 million over the next decade.

The need for the committee is because while sinking fund money can be spent on any project

allowed by state law, bond money can only be used on projects laid out in the ballot language.

Consultants at Plante Moran two years ago said GPPSS had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next 10 years, including \$150 million in critical needs that should be addressed in three years.

Tuttle, who has been referring to it as “the 252 list,” said it has been updated — including details about work already completed — and is being reviewed by the administration.

“This should be a heavy focus for the board,” then-President Sean Cotton said when the bond was first discussed in

See BOND, page 10A

GPPSS hosting skilled trades night

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System will host its biannual skilled trades night 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Grosse Pointe North High School gym.

The event is open to all middle and high school students in GPPSS and Harper Woods Public Schools.

“We’ve even had some adults ask if they could drop in,” said Jill Davenport, a counselor at North helping coordinate the event. “That’s fine, as they may be underemployed or looking to change careers.”

The district hosted two

such events pre-COVID, one at each high school, that Davenport said were well attended. The program resumed in 2023.

“It’s important for the district, and families, to encourage students who want to pursue a trade,” Davenport said. “They can earn a significant salary and the trades are experiencing a lot of retirements, so there are a lot of opportunities available.”

Davenport said around 30 organizations will be present. That includes technical and community colleges, culinary institutes, the military, first responders and unions. The U.S. Border Patrol, Detroit Police Department

See TRADES, page 10A

REPORT:

Continued from page 1A

ing the advice of McNerney and potential liability for the district. Secretary Valarie St. John was absent.

At the conclusion of the Feb. 10 board meeting, Worden said there were “multiple reasons” to release the report, adding it is an example of “bad governance” the board should learn from. The report was given to the HR complainants, Kate Murray and Michelle Davis, former Grosse Pointe North High School principal and athletic director, respectively, the night of Feb. 10, and was posted to the district’s website Wednesday, Feb. 12.

It can be found at shorturl.at/9K6La.

McNerney in February 2024, also had advised the board not to waive attorney-client privilege due to liability concerns. Worden and St. John at the time voted in favor of releasing the report to board members, with Cotton, Jeup and former board members Lisa Papas and Terry Collins voting no. Ismail recused himself from that vote.

Ismail, contacted by phone Feb. 12, said he had no comment, “based on the advice from our attorney when I was on the board and from my own attorney.”

Ismail, who chose not to run for re-election, made a motion at the board’s meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9, to give the report to board members. “I want the board to know what’s in it,” Ismail said of his motion. “I’ve been maligned. I’ve been slammed in public without a chance to defend myself.”

It passed 7-0.

In what is being called the “Sutton Report,” Davis filed her complaint Aug. 27, 2023, with Murray filing hers a day later. Both made claims that Ismail was trying to “push them out,” that he engaged in retaliatory behavior and that his actions were due to gender harassment.

The complaints came the same week the board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at Grosse Pointe South High School, requesting the athletic fields at Grosse Pointe North High School be named in honor of Frank Sumbera, who 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.

In an addendum to her complaint, Davis said she “terminated” Sumbera in June 2018, at the direction of then-Superintendent Gary Niehaus. In a letter to North baseball and football families that same month, however, Murray signed a letter that said, “Dear baseball and football parents and players, today, we received notice of the retirement of Grosse Pointe North High School head baseball and head football coach Frank Sumbera, effective June 29, 2018.”

Brian Summerfield, then board president, told the Grosse Pointe News, “the board was made aware of the retirement announcement shortly before it was made. It is unfortunate that social media is spreading misinformation, particularly in this offensive manner.”

Niehaus said, “I stand by the statements of our board president and Principal Kate Murray.”

In an unpublished interview with the Grosse Pointe News from February 2024, Sumbera said he was asked to attend a meeting June 27, 2018, thinking it was to discuss budget matters.

Murray and Davis were in the meeting, along with Nicole Pilgrim, then the district’s human resources director.

He said he was given until 3 p.m. that day to resign, but he refused to sign the paperwork. He also was told a folder, which he described as “thin,” contained complaints against him regarding verbal and physical abuse of players, although he was not allowed to read the alleged complaints.

As for the claims that Ismail was trying to push out Murray and Davis, Ismail previously said that stemmed from a conversation he had with a former district employee who was considering taking a job with another district. Ismail said he thought the person should stay because several senior administrators were close to retiring. He mentioned several names, Murray and Davis among them.

Sutton went on the write “Witness #5 (the employee Ismail was talking with) confirmed that he contemporaneously shared the comments made by Mr. Ismail via text message with another witness. The text messages, a copy of which had already been obtained by the investigator, were reviewed with Witness #5 and confirmed as authentic.”

In his summary, Sutton said he did believe Ismail made comments to “push out” Murray and Davis.

“Mr. Ismail denied making these comments. The staff member to whom the comments

were allegedly made asserted that they were, in fact, made by Mr. Ismail. In one respect, therefore, this becomes a ‘he said-he said’ situation without a definitive answer. But the fact that the staff member shared the comments attributed to Mr. Ismail contemporaneously with another staff member in text message adds credibility to the notion that they were, in fact, made by Mr. Ismail. Those text messages were confirmed as authentic by both staff members involved in the exchange. There appears to be no obvious basis for those messages to have been fabricated or comments attributed to Mr. Ismail for no reason.”

Sutton further said

Ismail’s “comments ... and/or associated actions” were in response to the Sumbera situation.

“Based on the evidence collected, it would be hard — if not impossible — to dismiss the termination of Mr. Sumbera as a significant moment in the employment trajectory of both complainants. While Mr. Sumbera’s termination likely did not color every action which followed it, the perception of complainants was undoubtedly impacted, even if they both continued to maintain their employment with the district.”

Sutton also determined Ismail did not engage in gender bias, but that he did take retaliatory measures against Murray and

Davis. He cited two instances for his decision, Murray being left off an ad hoc committee and Davis not being told about the recognition of a retiring North coach.

Chris Fenton, interim superintendent at the time he received Sutton’s report, disagreed. Writing in his determination, Fenton said, “In support, he (the Miller Johnson investigator) cited two instances — one with respect to each complainant — that could be explained as retaliatory conduct, but could also be explained as simple communications failure. (The investigator’s) explanation for his conclusion is not well-documented or persuasive.”



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Snow business

Thursday, Feb. 13, was a cold and windy day. Schools in Grosse Pointe closed for a snow day because of the accumulation of snow from the night before, but that didn't stop people from going sledding on the hill behind Grosse Pointe Shores City Hall.

Kids screamed with laughter as they flew down the hill when snow sprayed in the face of whoever was first on the sled. Kids going solo sailed down the hill as well, stopping just in time at the bottom only to climb up again on the snowy, somewhat icy hill.

Fun was had by all and people left the hill exhausted but happy.

— *Renee Landuyt*

Theodore Londo and his sister, Eliza, are towed from the hill back to the car by their mother, both of them tired and ready for a snack. Theodore happily kicked back in his dino sled while Eliza was cold and ready to go home.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Shane O'Mara and Coleman Connolly decided to go down the side of the hill, because it was bumpy and made sledding down more fun.



Laila Holguin took a timeout from sledding by relaxing backward on her sled, her polar bear hat keeping her warm.



Left, Patti O'Keefe and her sister, Andi, couldn't get enough of snow day sledding and tried both the front and the bumpy side of the hill. Above, Shores residents trudged up and slid down the hill much of the day Feb. 13.



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BOND:

Continued from page 9A

December. "It's going to be a large lift and the entire board has to be for it."

Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, added the board must make "very strong statements" that it will not reconfigure the district or close any additional schools.

TRADES:

Continued from page 9A

and Wayne County Sheriff's Office also will have representatives.

"We even have an attorney coming in, not to talk about law school, but about bartending," Davenport added. "He does bartending on the side and there are even training requirements for that."

Several businesses will be on hand as well, ranging from roofers to HVAC to plumbers. One such business is McCarver Mechanical Heating and Cooling, owned by Grosse Pointe Chris McCarver. The company offers an apprenticeship through Macomb Community

College.

"The apprenticeship program at our company presents a unique opportunity for a new generation to acquire skills that are needed on a daily basis, from HVAC to plumbing to electrical," McCarver said. "This opportunity is outstanding and it's rare to find companies offering training of this caliber nowadays."

Davenport recommends attendees bring a resume, ask questions and take notes.

"They should dress as if they were going on a job interview," she said.

New this year will be a summary sheet with contact information for each presenter for those interested but unable to attend.

FEATURES



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Pointers invent seatbelt aid for breast cancer patients

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. That was certainly the case with Lynn Simoncini, a Farms resident who was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2022. “I had to undergo chemotherapy first to shrink the tumors, then I was scheduled for a double mastectomy later in the year,” she said. “I had never had major surgery, so I went online and started reading forums to find out what it was like.” A common theme kept popping up — how uncomfortable a vehicle’s seatbelt was against the incision. “Women were using all kinds of things like rolled



COURTESY PHOTO

marked 30 years of Ford Warriors in Pink, which has donated more than \$139 million to breast cancer research. “They don’t just talk the talk, they walk the walk,” Simoncini said. “I was excited they wanted to be part of this.” The SupportBelt is black leather with padding and has a concave back. It uses Velcro straps to attach to a seatbelt and can slide up and down. “I’m glad it’s not pink so it doesn’t scream, ‘I have breast cancer,’” Simoncini said. “Ford intentionally left the patent open so other car manufacturers can make their own,” Mersch noted. Simoncini said the product also has other uses.



PHOTO BY TED O’NEIL

From left, Pointers Sue Mersch, Lynn Simoncini and Chad Woolums helped create the Ford SupportBelt, made to ease seatbelt discomfort for breast cancer patients.

A closer look at the Ford SupportBelt.

up towels, stuffed animals,” Simoncini said. “Some said they didn’t wear their seatbelt or stuck the top part behind them.” Simoncini, a creative director at VML, Ford’s marketing partner, shared the idea of a manufactured product with fellow creative director Chad Woolums, a Park resident. “It evolved from being a ‘what if’ project to a better way to do something,” he said. The two wrote up their ideas and emailed Sue Mersch, also a Park resi-

dent and executive creative director at VML. The idea sat for a while as Simoncini went on medical leave in late 2022. “Jan. 23, 2023, was my first day driving after the surgery,” she said. “I knew we had to make this happen.” They eventually were connected with Ford’s Human Centered Design Team. “Their daily job is to make the driving experience better,” Mersch said. “Their initial feedback was that they loved it. They decided to bring

in Lynn and other patients, doctors and engineers.” What followed was more than a year of design and testing. “We also had to come up with a name for it and everything had to go through legal,” Simoncini said. “It definitely went through a lot of tweaks,” Woolums added. “But everyone pursued it with passion and persistence.” The Ford SupportBelt was released Oct. 1, 2024, to coincide with the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It also

“Aside from mastectomies, women can use it after breast reconstruction surgery,” she said. “It can also help people who, say, have a medical port in their chest or have had shoulder surgery.” As Woolums pointed out, 300,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year and 100,000 have a mastectomy each year. “Everyone knows someone who has been affected by this,” he said. “I’m glad the conversation got things going.” More information can be found at ford.com/supportbelt/. There is no charge to order one other than shipping fees.

Chamber awards young entrepreneurs, small businesses during annual breakfast

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual meeting Jan. 30, over breakfast at The War Memorial. Chamber President Jennifer Boettcher and Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull shared about the chamber’s successful 2024 — which included the addition of 70 new chamber members, bringing its members total to 557 — as well as what’s ahead for 2025. Along with a morning meal, guests heard from three young entrepreneurs — one from each local high school — who were awarded scholarships for their businesses. “We are so pleased to be able to award three Young Entrepreneur Scholarship Awards

this year,” Turnbull said. “As always, all of the applicants are impressive individuals who show a great balance of a passion for entrepreneurship and ability to also manage busy school and extracurricular schedules.” The winners were Alexandria Noyd from Grosse Pointe North High School, Adelina Parikh from Grosse Pointe South High School and Blake Shock from University Liggett School. Noyd presented her plan for a business called the Hygiene Haven, a resource to be placed in schools that makes available to students products like toothbrushes. “Alexandria is a proud member of the No Cavity Club and her passion for oral hygiene sparked her interest in dentistry as she plans to become a dentist,”

Turnbull said. “While presenting, she shared that oral health for children impacts their entire life and dental issues can go beyond the mouth and impact a child’s comfort and, in turn, have a potentially negative impact on their ability to succeed in school.” Parikh presented a business plan for a bio-filter that provides communities with an inexpensive resource that will clean water. “Her passion for science and clean water stems from her roots where she grew up in Minneapolis,” Turnbull said. “Their tap water was highly rated and made her wonder why that clean water isn’t available everywhere.” Shock is the owner of Shock’s Lawn and Snow. Since a young age, Shock was interested in entrepreneurship and knew he

wanted to build his own business. He currently provides lawn services and snow removal, but plans to continue to grow this business to more intricate services and eventually pursue real estate development, Turnbull noted. “We hope to continue to grow this scholarship opportunity and continue our wonderful relationships with the school counselors who share this with students starting at the beginning of the school year,” Turnbull added. “We are part of an incredible community and the more we can encourage the leaders of tomorrow with opportunities like this, the more sustainable a successful future will be for the Pointes.” In addition to youth awards, four small business owners applied for grants through the chamber: ♦ Andreas Browne of



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREAS BROWNE/YELLOW DOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2025 Young Entrepreneur Scholarship Awards were presented to, from left, Grosse Pointe North student Alexandria Noyd, University Liggett School student Blake Shock and Grosse Pointe South student Adelina Parikh.

Yellow Door Photography & Imaging ♦ Naszreen Gibson of The Rendezvous with Tea ♦ Betsy Rossman of The Lon Next Door ♦ Joyce Wagner of Kid & Play “Each candidate delivered See CHAMBER, page 6B

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AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

- ◆ **Nonfiction Book Club**, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **Reader Dog**, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group**, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up**, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ **Teen D&D**, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **4th Monday Book Discussion**, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **Dream Lab Senior Open House**, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **You Kill Me: The True Crime Book Club**, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **5th & 6th Grade Book Group**, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ **Detroit's Olympic Uprising: A Documentary Film**, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ **PBS Kids Party**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ **Capturing Photography** with Monica Morgan, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **Shelf Indulgence—Chapter 2**, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **Pokemon Day Celebration**, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **Saturday Drop-in Storytime**, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ **OpenSpot Theatre Workshop**, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 1, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ **OpenSpot Theatre Workshop**, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Ford House

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

- ◆ **Head Over Heels Guided Tour**, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in February. Admission costs vary.
- ◆ **Storytime: "Crocodiles Need Kisses Too,"** 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in February.
- ◆ **Trivia Night**, 6 p.m.

See EVENTS, page 6B



COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees roam the Alger Center ballroom during last year's fair.

Special Needs Resource Fair is Feb. 25

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Special Needs Resource Alliance presents its third annual Special Needs Resource Fair 3:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Nearly 60 vendors are confirmed for this growing event, which is open to all members of the community and particularly to parents and caregivers of neurodivergent children.

"This is such an amazing community of people — the vendors and the attendees," said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of The Family Center, facilitator of the alliance, which also includes Grosse Pointe Public School System Transition Services, Full Circle Foundation, Kids on the Go and The Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods. "You just walk around with a smile on your face the whole time because everyone's happy to be together. The vendors get to explain

the opportunities and resources they have and the attendees are not just finding resources and opportunities, but connecting with other families. I think that's maybe something I didn't understand would happen when we started this, but it's wonderful."

With a growing number of vendors, Bingaman said she hopes to reach a growing number of attendees as well. More than 300 made their way through the fair last year.

"It's grown every year," she said. "... It's building a good reputation."

Vendors provide educational, recreational and occupational resources, as well as job opportunities and mental health, legal and government services. New this year, the fair welcomes a company that trains therapy dogs for families with special needs. Two or three therapy dogs will be in attendance, Bingaman said.

The grant-funded fair offers free admission to attendees and free participation for vendors as well. Families are wel-

come; strollers are permitted. A quiet room is available should attendees feel overwhelmed during the fair.

"Many of the vendors say it's the most beautiful location they've ever been invited to," Bingaman said. "There's free parking, it's a straight shot into the building, it's accessible. You walk right into the community room and into the ballroom. The passageways are wide. They're always impressed with how beautiful it is."

She added that the fair is a can't-miss opportunity for any family with special needs.

"I think back to our first one," she said. "A family with a child who was 20 years old came. They said they couldn't believe how many resources and opportunities there were — and they felt they were in the know. You just see so many things you never thought of. It's just incredible."

"On the other hand, for families who've just received a diagnosis,

they're overwhelmed," she added. "They had this idea of what life with their child would look like and now it's different. This shows them a whole world of resources and opportunities they probably weren't aware of. And there's a sense of community alongside all the opportunities that are available."

For more information, visit familycenterhelps.org, email hello@familycenterhelps.org or call (313) 447-1374.

Looking ahead

The Family Center finalized plans this week for its next Special Needs Parent Workshop, which takes place 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 10, at The War Memorial.

The workshop features an expert panel that will discuss the best ways to coordinate applied behavior analysis, speech and occupational therapies.

"They'll be speaking about how to coordinate services for your child so the left hand knows what the right hand is doing," Bingaman said.

Popular breeds enjoy the limelight

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

People choose pets for various reasons, including the size or appearance of an animal or even a natural affinity for a certain type or breed. Cats and dogs are wildly popular pets, and many households even have both.

When it comes to selecting a breed of kitty or pup, certain options seem to be more popular than others. Across the globe, these breeds of canine and feline have recently been listed as top breeds, courtesy of The Cat Fancier's Association and Highland K-9 Training.

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Dogs

Bulldog

Most popular in the United Kingdom and growing in the United States, this muscular, medium-sized dog once was bred for fighting. Selective breeding has transformed adorable bulldogs into calm, loveable companion animals.

Labrador Retriever

Whether they're chocolate, black or yellow, labs have been loved for decades. Originally called the St. John's Water Dog, Labs originated in Newfoundland, but have since loved their ways into homes across the globe.

German Shepherd

The German Shepherd's popularity shows no signs of waning. It's the third-most registered breed in the United States and its high trainability, speed, agility, and other traits make it a popular family pet.

Cats

Ragdoll

This longhaired cat with a soft, plush coat has gained popularity in recent years. It was recognized as an official breed in 1998, and its mellow disposition and bright blue eyes have made it a favorite among cat lovers.

Maine Coon

This is the largest of all pedigree cat breeds, and is considered the "gentle giant" of the feline world. Shaggy-coated and attractive, these cats are quite popular around the world.

Exotic

The Exotic was developed as a more easily maintained alternative to the Persian (also a top breed). A short, dense coat with a variety of patterns has inspired the admiration of cat lovers across the globe.



Top breeds: Bulldogs — such as the French Bulldog, far left, and the Maine Coon cat, left, are just two breeds that bring joy and companionship to people and families.

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Volunteers needed for food-packing event

Memorial Church leads 10th annual Kids Coalition Against Hunger project

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Nearly 400 volunteers are needed to participate in Grosse Pointe Memorial Church's 10th annual Kids Coalition Against Hunger project, slated 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

"We're excited that we're partnering with The War Memorial again," said Julie Huellmantel, Memorial's director of outreach. "They're allowing us to use their space, which is great because this is a big operation. There are a lot of volunteers that will be in place, so we can spread out, with the incoming shift in one area and the working shift in another."

KCAH works with different organizations to produce food packets, each of which provides enough nutrition for a family of six. Memorial's outreach ministry pays for the materials, amounting to 35 cents per person.

"It's a great organization and a great opportunity for families, for anybody, to come out and volunteer," Huellmantel said. "And it's so easy. You just need to be able to pour something in a bag — measure and pour."

Working in an assembly line, volunteers measure out specific amounts of rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and powdered vitamins, then add them to each bag as it passes by.

Each complete bag is heat sealed, then packed in boxes for delivery.

Meals are created simply with the addition of boiling water.

This year's goal is to package 50,000 meals. Of that total, one-third stays local, one-third goes to international sites and one-third stays in storage for disaster relief. The



Michael Burwell, Michigan director of KCAH, rallies volunteers before last year's event.

local portion is significant to volunteers, Huellmantel noted.

"Out of all the counties in the U.S. — out of more than 3,100 in the U.S. — Wayne County is No. 8 in the amount of children suffering from food insecurity," she said. "That number is from last year, so it may be better, but it may be worse. One in eight kids nationally experience food insecurity. They may not always be hungry, but at any given time they do not have enough food to live comfortably. That affects everything about their daily living, including functioning at school."

KCAH's Michigan Director Michael Burwell will be on hand to rally volunteers.

"We've always had Mike with us," Huellmantel said. "He's so amazing and so dynamic. He usually gets here around 8:30 a.m., when we start to unload the trucks. It's a long

day."

In addition to 160 volunteers per shift, a team of core volunteers is needed for tasks like refilling bins so there's no break in production. Set-up, clean-up and other jobs are available as well. The church council, as well as local scout troops, will assist, but more help is needed.

The process will include two shifts — from 10 a.m. to noon and noon to 2 p.m.

"There's a waiting list for first shift and second shift is quickly filling," Huellmantel said. "The problem we had last year was we had 75 people who just didn't show up. The second shift was operating on a skeleton crew and worked hard to finish the meals. So this year, we have a waiting list; that's new this year."

Ages 5 to 105 are welcome to participate, she added. Bags of rice serve as booster steps for the littlest volunteers; how-



Hundreds of volunteers participated in last year's food-packing event.

ever, those ages 5 to 7 must have an adult with them.

The focus this year is on family, Huellmantel added.

"We have a push on family volunteering," she said, noting she also serves on the board of The Family Center. "Healthy families do things together. One of the ways we create healthy families is by volunteering together."

Those interested in volunteering can sign up via SignUpGenius, the link to which is available online at gpmchurch.org/kids-against-hunger/.

More information also is offered on the KCAH website, kidscoalition-againsthunger.org.

"We do have to have more help," Huellmantel said. "Sign up. We're excited to have families come and volunteer together and do whatever it takes. We're looking forward to a good event."



A sample of packaged meals.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elsie MacKethan and Rosemary Bay received honorary member status in 2024.

Quester members receive honorary member status

Questers Grosse Pointe Chapter 147 recently gave honorary membership status to Rosemary Bay and Elsie MacKethan, both longtime Questers members — Bay since 1981, and MacKethan since 1985.

Both have served as presidents of the chapter, on its executive board and on countless committees over the years. They attend monthly meetings and give interesting and fun presentations from their personal collections. Chapter members look to Bay and MacKethan to remind them where their focus should be in regard to research, presentations, projects and donations.

"We are so thankful to have their love of Questers inspire us," said Cynthia Read Miller, historian and publicity chair of Chapter 147.

MCMM hosts red carpet event for 'No Address'

About Motor City Mitten Mission

The Motor City Mitten Mission hosts a red carpet event for "No Address" Thursday, Feb. 27, the day before its nationwide release.

The film, produced by Robert Craig Films, sheds light on the experiences of those facing homelessness and inspires viewers to take action to support local nonprofits.

The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Emagine Royal Oak Theater, with a VIP pre-party from 6 to 7 p.m. and a Q&A at 7:15 p.m. Attendees will get an exclusive first look at "No Address" while learning about the work the Motor City Mitten Mission does every day to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout metro Detroit.

"MCMM is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with Robert Craig Films to help bring to light the seriousness of the homelessness epidemic that is plaguing our country that continues to be on the rise," said Gail Marlow, MCMM executive director and co-founder. "Our hope is to both educate and inspire others to help those struggling with homelessness and realize that any of us is but one step away from becoming unsheltered."

In collaboration with Robert Craig Films, MCMM aims to amplify awareness of the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness and encourage the community to take meaning-

The Motor City Mitten Mission is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to helping those struggling with homelessness, as well as housing and food insecurity.

The MCMM Street Outreach Team operates 365 days a year to bring all of the social services that are provided by a shelter or drop-in center directly to those who are unsheltered and incapable of navigating their current chronic homelessness by themselves.

Its goals include building trusting relationships to engage clients in services, treatment plan development, receipt of food, basic needs, acceptance and follow-through on referrals for services that are outside MCMM's scope of services.

The MCMM Street Outreach Team also provides regular response and deployment to provide crisis intervention and problem solving for law enforcement, various medical facilities, schools and other groups and municipalities to ensure those who are homeless and in crisis are treated with compassion and provided with the necessary resources.

The MCMM Transitional Support Services program provides support and advocacy for individuals and families that are transitioning from homelessness to housing, as well as those on the edge of becoming homeless. MCMM works closely with clients and housing providers to ensure their transition into being housed is as easy as possible, while also providing client advocacy to ensure the required supportive services are provided by their housing provider and other entities. One of the main services MCMM provides free of charge is delivering household furnishings, household items and groceries to ensure clients have a comfortable transition into their new home.

For more information, visit motorcitymittenmission.org.

ful action. As part of the Big 5 GIVEBACK initiative, 50 percent of net profits from "No Address" productions will be shared with nonprofits addressing homelessness, including MCMM.

"No Address" was created to inspire empathy and a deeper understanding of the homelessness crisis," said Jennifer Stolo, CEO and producer at Robert Craig Films. "We're honored to partner with the Motor City Mitten Mission and other organizations making a tangible difference in

their communities."

Guests can purchase tickets for the exclusive event at motorcitymittenmission.org/event-details/no-address-red-carpet-premiere. Proceeds directly support MCMM's mission to continue the critical and vital services needed that provide support, compassion and advocacy for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Watch the official "No Address" movie trailer at tinyurl.com/bdy4487b

4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Paul Mabarak

Paul Mabarak, 94, passed away Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, in Grosse Pointe Park.

Paul was born June 29, 1930, on Cadillac Street in Detroit. The doctor came to the home and delivered Paul in the upstairs bedroom. Paul’s family moved to Grosse Pointe Park in 1941, and he remained a Grosse Pointe resident his entire life, living near Kercheval Avenue since birth.

He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1949, and attended the Detroit College of Business. Paul started working at his father’s real estate office in summer 1949, selling real estate and managing properties, eventually opening his own location in 1963. He worked in the real estate business until 2012. From 1952 to 1954, Paul served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and earned the Bronze Star Medal for his service.

Paul married Mary in 1969, and had one of the last wedding receptions to take place at the Whittier Hotel. Paul and his wife loved going out after dinner for walks around the block when he lived on Three Mile Drive. Soon after he bought the house, he built a jogging track behind it, which became an attraction for the neighborhood children who would come over and ask his son if they could ride their bikes around the track. Paul was a member of the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club in the 1980s. He also was a member of the downtown YMCA running club, meeting every weekend for a jog around Belle Isle in the 1960s.

Paul loved to read and took up cooking in his later years. He was an avid collector of cookbooks, which he would buy at Borders in The Village. Paul loved World War II history and traveled to the beaches of Normandy to visit historic sites. He loved to travel and visit many places around the world and took many weekend trips to Atlantic City, N.J., with family and friends.

Paul was known for his kindness and generosity. He always was ready to entertain friends and family at home or one of many restaurants, recounting his early years going to the original Joe Muer Seafood, Carl’s Chop House, Roma Cafe and Detroit’s many fine establishments from the era. His family hopes his memory brings comfort to those who knew him.

Paul was predeceased by his parents; wife, Mary; sisters, Theresa Wheatley and Nora; and brothers, Anthony, John, Philip, Edward and Michael. He is survived by his son, John Paul Mabarak; sisters, June, Helen and Janet; and brothers, James, Robert and Charles.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorial donations

may be made to the church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, bit.ly/4jV1aKk.

Cecelia Elizabeth Forinash

Cecelia Elizabeth (née Vaughn) Forinash, 36, and her unborn child of 19 weeks passed away suddenly Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, surrounded by their loving family.

Cecelia was born Oct. 10, 1988, to Tom and Patti Vaughn. She was a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Woods. Cecelia attended Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School and Regina High School, where she made lasting friendships. She pursued a degree in education at Aquinas College and obtained a master’s degree from Grand Valley State University.

Cecelia was drawn to children and her nurturing personality made her the perfect fit at St. Joan of Arc School, where she spent six joyful years teaching. Cecelia was a natural athlete who brought grace and skill to every sport she tried. She played tennis for Aquinas College and coached volleyball and track at St. Joan of Arc and Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Cecelia’s dream to have a family of her own was realized when she married her husband, Brian. They created a beautiful, close-knit family and spent most of their time creating memories at home and in the local community. Cecelia was a stay-at-home mother and doted on her three children with kindness, love and patience. She found fulfillment in the simple pleasures of life with her children. Her legacy will live on through them. Cecelia, Brian and their children were overjoyed to be expecting their fourth child. Her family mourns the loss of this child, but are comforted that Cecelia and the baby are together.

Cecelia had a strong faith and modeled it by being gentle, kind, approachable and a loyal friend. She will forever be missed by her husband, Brian; her three young children; mother, Patti Krausmann-Vaughn; siblings, Catherine Vaughn-Gillman (Eric), Patrick Vaughn (Jason Kim) and Audrey Vaughn (Brett Fleischer); in-laws, Glenn and Sharon Forinash; and an extended family of in-laws, nieces, nephews and a multitude of people who loved her. Cecelia was predeceased by her loving father, Thomas S. Vaughn.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores. The funeral Mass will be live-streamed at sjascs.org/st-joan-live. Immediately following Mass, the family will greet guests in the gathering space at St. Joan of Arc.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to education funds for Cecelia’s children. Donations may be made

through UGift529.com with code 78K-60F.

Patricia J. Bower Clarke

Patrica J. (nee Macdona) Bower Clarke, 78, passed away unexpectedly and peacefully Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, in her home.

Born in New York City, Patti graduated from Grosse Pointe High School and attended Ferris State University, where she met and married Kenneth Bower. Her many friendships grew into a community of support, love and engagement while raising her children.

Patti established a printing business, Print Matters, and later married Robert Clarke. Following the loss of her eldest child, Katherine “Katie,” she immersed herself as a full-time listener and in an unconditional supportive role to her children and grandchildren.

Patti is survived by her children, Matt Bower (Jahna) and Julie Bower; brother, Harding Macdona Jr.; and numerous grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents; husband, Robert Clarke; sister, Nance Piggins; and daughter, Katie Adams.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Sharon Rose Walter

Sharon Rose (nee Beattie) Walter, “29 again,” of Manistee, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, surrounded by her family.

Born to William and Edna Beattie in Detroit, Sharon graduated from Saint Anthony’s High School (now Detroit East Catholic High School). While working at JL Hudson’s department store, Sharon met the love of her life, Frederick Walter. Together, they celebrated 71 years of marriage and raised 11 children in Harper Woods and Manistee.

Sharon was the beloved mother of Patrick, Richard, Annmarie, Karon, Joseph, Michael, Robert, Colleen, Kevin, Shawn and Megan. Additionally, she was cherished by her 31 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren. She was the sister of Bill, Bob and Connie, and the aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Sharon was predeceased by her parents; brother; two great-grandchildren; her son, Joseph; sister-in-law, Emily; and daughter-in-law, Irene.

Sharon and Fred relocated to Manistee in spring 1976. By that time, several of their older children had families of their own. In Manistee, Sharon quickly became part of the community fabric, joining the altar society and enjoying the friendliness of the small town.

After raising 11 children, Sharon went to college, studied nursing and became a registered nurse. She took a certain pride in the rewarding career nursing provided.

Sharon’s hobbies were many, including playing



Paul Mabarak



Sharon Rose Walter



Cecelia E. Forinash



James Stevenson



Patricia J. Bower Clarke



George Bonin Evans



Barbara Ann Nickles

cards, quilting, reading and gathering with family.

Sharon loved life and treasured the time spent with her family and grandchildren.

A memorial service will take place this summer in Manistee.

James Stevenson

James Stevenson, 70, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, after a brief illness.

James was born in Detroit and was a former resident of Grosse Pointe. He served in the U.S. Army and enjoyed playing baseball and fishing.

He is survived by his brothers, David and Kirk.

George Bonin Evans

George Bonin Evans, 73, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away peacefully at home Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, with Wendy, his loving wife of 50 years, and his cherished daughter, Jenny, by his side.

Born Sept. 21, 1951, in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, George made the first of many moves in his life in 1957, when his family moved to Columbia, Conn. He graduated from Bates College in 1973, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Other places he lived over his lifetime included Willimantic, Conn.; Los Angeles; Normal, Ill.; and Springfield, Ill., before moving to Grosse Pointe Park in 1993.

George was active at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, where he sang in the church choir, taught Sunday school and helped with church rummage sales. He served as treasurer of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Academic Enrichment and coached his daughter’s Neighborhood Club basketball team. He loved attending the theater and movies and watching sports, especially baseball and the UCONN Huskies basketball teams. He also enjoyed a wide range of music and television shows and loved spending summers at the Windmill Pointe Park pool and vacationing in Atlantic City, N.J. His family and friends will never forget the humorous stories and jokes he shared with everyone and anyone who would listen.

Above all, George was a family man. A loving and supportive father, he attended all of his daughter’s sporting and music events and volunteered at

Trombly Elementary School, Pierce Middle School and Grosse Pointe South High School. As a loyal and caring husband, George valued any time spent with his wife, so even ordinary tasks were memorable when shared with her. He also spent several months a year in Connecticut caring for his parents and brother, and helped his mother-in-law in Illinois while she was recovering from surgery.

George was the beloved husband of Wendy Evans; dearest father of Jenny Evans; and loving brother of John Evans. He was predeceased by his mother and father, Mary B. and George K. Evans.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. Memorial donations may be made to the church, 240 Chalfonte Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, bit.ly/4k1bYGG.

Barbara Ann Nickles

Barbara Ann Nickles, 80, died peacefully at her home in Grosse Pointe Farms Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, after a period of declining health.

Barbara was a compassionate and caring woman with an abundance of faith and courage. She was an anchor for her family, a force for good in the community and a source of inspiration for all who knew and loved her.

Barbara was born Dec. 20, 1944, in Champaign, Ill., to Dr. Robert and Marjorie Jones, both now deceased.

She lived with her family in Virginia, New Jersey and Michigan before attending Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. During her senior year in 1966, she won first prize in Vogue magazine’s “Prix de Paris” career competition. Her reward was a job as a junior editor at Vogue and a trip to Paris. She turned down those honors, however, because she had promised to marry aspiring physician Peter Nickles that year. They enjoyed a loving 61-year partnership during which they lived in California, New York and Massachusetts before settling in Grosse Pointe Farms, where they lived for nearly 50 years.

In summer 1974, Dr. and Mrs. Nickles traveled to Greece to adopt their two beloved sons, John and Michael. The family was heartbroken when

Michael died in 2001.

Barbara had two very successful careers. The first was in the publishing field, where she was an editor of textbooks. After she earned a master’s degree in computer science from Wayne State University, she began a second career with Detroit Edison (now DTE), where she worked for many years.

As an active member of Christ Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Barbara was the producer of a special presentation of “Noah’s Flood,” which was one of the highlights of her years of service to that faith community.

She was a gifted pianist, accomplished artist and always a strong supporter of the arts. As a co-founder and benefactor of WRCJ-FM classical and jazz radio station in Detroit, she was honored to receive the station’s Crystal Microphone Award in 2012.

Barbara also was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was an avid reader and an enthusiastic travel companion. She and Dr. Nickles traveled extensively over the course of their long marriage.

In addition to her husband, Peter, and son, John, Barbara is survived by her sister, Patricia Jones Ladew (Stephen) of Merrimack, N.H.; sister-in-law, Demetra Nickles Kates (George) of Newport, R.I.; sister-in-law, Carol Moss Jones of Wyoming, Mich.; aunt, Beverly Haubrock of Tempe, Ariz.; and eight nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; son, Michael; and brother, the Rev. Robert Jones Jr.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Church Grosse Pointe in March or April.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, bit.ly/4b92ANh; or 90.9 WRCJ, 48325 Alpha Dr., Ste. 150, Wixom, MI 48393, donate.wrcjfm.org/wrcj/donate.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Grace L. Wade

Grace L. (nee Vickers) Wade peacefully passed away Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, after a prolonged illness.

Grace was born in Detroit to James C. and Mildred P. Vickers. She spent her early years in southwest Virginia before returning to Detroit and graduating with honors from Mackenzie High School. Grace began her career at the Detroit Edison Co. (now DTE), where she met and married the love of her life, John Wade. Their marriage was a special and enduring relationship that lasted until John's passing in 2021.

Grace and John raised a family in Grosse Pointe, where Grace was deeply involved in her children's, and later her grandchildren's, lives. She was extremely proud of her family and was the biggest supporter of the many events in which the family participated. She served as a room parent, scout leader, "cookie cupboard" coordinator for the Girl Scouts and field trip chaperone, as well as attended numerous concerts, sporting events and religious ceremonies.

When Grace returned to the workforce, she spent more than 20 years in the insurance industry. Upon retirement, she worked part time in the Grosse Pointe Public Library system and was a devoted volunteer at Bon Secours (now Corewell) Hospital.

Grace is survived by her children, Patty Snider, John (Maureen Wade), Debbie (Mike Rude), Susan (Dan Crane), James (Laurie Marcus-Wade) and Julie (Bob Moesta). She was a loving grandmother to 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She also is fondly remembered by cousins, neighbors, coworkers and the many friends she made throughout her life.

A memorial Mass will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m. with Mass at 10 a.m. A columbarium committal service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made in Grace's memory to the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation, 10



Grace L. Wade

Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, my giving.net/donate/Support-GPLF.

Her family expresses heartfelt gratitude to the many caregivers who provided loving care.

Stefanie Lynn Driscoll

Stefanie "Anie" Lynn Driscoll, 35, passed away Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.

Anie was born Dec. 6, 1989, at St. John Hospital in Detroit. She was the beloved second-born daughter of Gary and Krista Driscoll. She was predeceased by her father, Gary; grandparents, Frank and May Krager; as well as Thomas and Bette Driscoll. She will be deeply missed by her mother, Krista Driscoll; sister and brother-in-law, Alix and Michael Rourke; adoring nephews, Miles and Landon Rourke; uncles and aunts, Franz Krager (Deborah), Karla Derkacz (Jim) and David Driscoll (Kathleen); as well as all of her other wonderful family members and friends.

Anie, who was nicknamed by her sister shortly after her birth, grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods. She attended Monteith Elementary School, Parcels Middle School and Grosse Pointe North High School. She was a joyful and immensely talented child, particularly when it came to music. She worked with her grandmother, May, a music teacher, to learn several instruments, but found her calling with the trumpet. At just 7 years old she was invited to participate in the high school honors and jazz bands and studied privately with a music professor at the University of Michigan.

After losing her father following her high school graduation, she postponed her planned enrollment at the University of Michigan. She later attended college there with the intent to major in English due to her love of



Stefanie Lynn Driscoll

writing. Not for a lack of ability, she decided to drop out and move to Traverse City, where she had spent summers with her family for many years. There she began her quick ascent to executive chef at the Grand Traverse Resort's Aerie Restaurant and Lounge. Her ability and enthusiasm in the kitchen were astounding for someone so young, and several features were published in northern Michigan periodicals regarding her prowess in the industry.

She continued her career in the food industry at several locations, including as executive chef at the Stony Point Pub in Suttons Bay and Bronze Door in Grosse Pointe Farms. Her latest endeavor was making and distributing homemade soups to her "Souper Group" of family, friends and neighbors.

Anie was a skilled artist and enjoyed drawing in her sketchbook. She later developed a love of photography, particularly of the city of Detroit, which she showcased at a local art show at St. Andrew's Hall in 2019.

More than anything, Anie loved spending time with her family, particularly her nephews, Miles and Landon. She had an incredible sense of humor and always was armed with a joke or witty comment. She enjoyed sports and politics and could carry on a conversation with anyone.

She had a deep and unrelenting love for animals, particularly her own: Kevin, her English bulldog that passed away in 2024; Harley, her adopted cat; many colorful and exotic fish; and most recently, Ozzy, a French bulldog and her loyal companion during her most challenging last months.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. The family will begin to receive guests at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers,



Donald Joseph Messing

memorial donations may be made to Motor City Mitten Mission, 24623 Harper, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, motorcitymittenmission.org/donate; or Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202, bit.ly/3QnIVRa.

Donald Joseph Messing

Donald Joseph Messing, 85, peacefully passed away Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, after a long battle with dementia and Parkinson's disease.

Donald was born May 11, 1939, in Grosse Pointe Farms, to Frank J. and Alma (nee Treppa) Messing. He was a devoted husband to Nancy (nee West) and a loving father to Tim, Caroline Smith, Kristin (Paul Kolinski) and Ryan. He also is survived by his grandchildren, Meghan Hinds (Troy), Annie, Wyatt, Jack and Lilly; as well as his great-granddaughter, Hallie Elizabeth. His family was his greatest joy and he cherished the time spent with them.

Donald was predeceased by his parents, Frank J. and Alma; sister, Alma Marie, O.P.; and brother, Frank J. Messing.

Donald was known for his gentleness, humor, wisdom, kindness and love of education. He will be remembered for his passion for golf and dedication to his work in education. He made a lasting impact on everyone who knew him and his memory will live on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have shared his life.

A celebration of Donald's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to a charity or organization of the donor's choice.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to those who have offered their love and support during this difficult time.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



Memorial Church's new minister of music, Logan Hamilton.

COURTESY PHOTO

Music at Memorial concert is Feb. 23

The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church choir and its new minister of music, Logan Hamilton, along with a group of Detroit-area jazz musicians, will provide an afternoon of gospel and sacred jazz at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

Works by American jazz giants like John Coltrane and Duke Ellington will be presented, along with new works by sacred jazz composer Will Todd.

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church is located at 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The concert is free.



DCC presents 'Music of Triumph' March 15

The Detroit Concert Choir, led by Michael A. Mitchell, presents "Music of Triumph" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

An additional concert will be performed at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2225 E. 14 Mile, Birmingham.

The performance includes George Frideric Handel's Coronation Anthem, "The King Shall Rejoice," with members of the Michigan Sinfonietta, as well as music from beloved composers Britten, Vaughan Williams, Victoria, Hassler, Moses Hogan and others, as well as a tribute to DCC founding conductor Gordon Nelson.

The internationally recognized DCC features singers from more than 35 metro Detroit communities, including Grosse Pointe residents Robert Acton, Michael Auty, Stan Harr, Rachel Hutchinson, Judy Jogan, Joseph Lucido, Michelle Metes, Veronica Smith and Marie Zacny.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Tickets may be purchased through Eventbrite; the DCC website, detroitconcertchoir.org; by calling (313) 882-0118; or at the door one hour before the start time.

For more information, email dcc@detroitconcertchoir.org.

Worship Service



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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, 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

6B | FEATURES

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Thursdays, Feb. 20 and March 13.

◆ Family Workshop: Maple Tapping, 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Admission costs vary.

◆ Maple Syrup: Tapped, Shaken and Served, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. Admission is \$30 for members, \$35 for guests, adults only.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Act 2

Grosse Pointe Theatre's Act 2 Senior Readers' Theatre presents "Tales and Tunes," at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Visit gpt.org/Act2.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, Redeemer United Methodist Church, 20571 Vernier, Harper Woods.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

The War Memorial

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

tion on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Dave Bennett Winter Brunch Series featuring Sean Dobbins, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. VIP, general admission and concert-only tickets are available.

◆ Conflict and Healing Lecture Series—Part One: The Psychology of Trauma, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

◆ Climate Change and Gardening: What Does it all Mean?, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. Admission is free for Grosse Pointe Garden Center members, \$10 for nonmembers.

◆ Premier World Discovery Trip Presentation, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26. Trips to be discussed include an eight-day Music Cities Tour and a nine-day Burgundy & Provence River Cruise.

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.

◆ Dyeing with Indigo and Other Natural Dyes with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

◆ Needle Felting Small Creatures with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

◆ Japanese Woodblock Print Workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 8 to 22. Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 21.

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:

◆ Restorative Evening Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, through March 20, with instructor Allie Short. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.

◆ Upscale Jewelry Design for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays, through March 3, with instructor Kathleen Robinson Young.

◆ The movie "Rescued by Ruby" is shown at noon Friday, Feb. 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Melanie Markowicz with Greektown Neighborhood Partnership, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.



Oudolf Garden offers virtual public lecture series

Oudolf Garden Detroit will host a series of virtual public lectures in February, March and April, presenting different aspects of the garden.

The first takes place 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24. "The Technology of Oudolf Garden Detroit" will be presented by Duncan Campbell, Sean Loos and Chuck Milligan. The lectures includes a tour of the behind-the-scenes technology that supported the 2020 planting and supports the ongoing management of Oudolf Garden Detroit. The speakers will explore the geographic information system (GIS) database system that not only tracks plants, trees and scrubs but also maps infrastructure, irrigation and plant growth patterns and water usage. See our plants grow before your eyes with our drone imagery.

The second lecture, "Beauty in Four Seasons at the Oudolf Garden Detroit," takes place 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 10. Richard Thomas and Ryan Southen

will present "a visual romp through four seasons of texture, bloom and beauty at the Oudolf Garden Detroit."

Guests will see the garden through Southern's professional eye while Thomas provides narration during this hour-long program aimed at enlivening memories and re-kindling joys of discovery and volunteering in the garden.

The final lecture, "The Oudolf Native Meadows," takes place 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, and will be led by Meredith Simpson. She will provide an overview of the Jean Wright Hudson Peace Meadows — a lakeplain wet prairie habitat. She'll discuss the who, what and how of efforts made so far to rehabilitate the low-lying area surrounding the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon, while highlighting some of the native plants in the plant palette.

For more information or to sign up, visit oudolfgardendetroit.org/lecture-series.

CHAMBER:

Continued from page 1B

ered a one- to three-minute presentation, followed by a 30-second video showcasing their amazing business and the incredible work they are doing," Boettcher said. "The audience at the breakfast had an important task of watching each presentation and downloading a QR code provided by the chamber. The QR code allowed them to vote for their No. 1 business — the one they believe is most deserving of a grant. The first-place winner received the top grant amount, while the runner-up businesses received smaller grants. Everyone is a winner at the chamber's annual breakfast and we are thrilled to show our support for the businesses."

Wagner of Kid & Play earned the most votes.

The chamber's Small Business Grant opportunity is available to all chamber member business. Boettcher encouraged more businesses to apply.

"The next round of grants and Young Entrepreneur Scholarships will be in January 2026," she said, noting the chamber foundation's Legacy on the Lake event will be even more impactful this year, "as more funding from the proceeds will go toward supporting" the scholarships and grants.

Legacy on the Lake will take place June 18, but there are plenty more chamber activities to look forward to before then. Restaurant Week takes place March 2 to 8; the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast is slated May 1; and the chamber's first Community Impact Day is planned May 14.

Later this year, the Grosse Pointe Art Festival is Aug. 2, Power of Pink is Oct. 14 and the 50th annual Santa Claus Parade is Nov. 28.

Visit grossepointechamber.com for more details.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREAS BROWNE/YELLOW DOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

From top, first-place winner Joyce Wagner of Kid & Play; runner-up Andreas Browne of Yellow Door Photography; runner-up Naszreen Gibson of The Rendezvous With Tea; and Adrian Reetz, on behalf of runner-up Betsy Rossman of The Lon Next Door.

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Discovering the history of GP homes



Dear Gabby: I want to know more about my house in Grosse Pointe, but I don't really know where to start. What's the best way to get the info? — Curious

Dear Curious: Thank you for your inquiry about researching your home's history! The Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS) is a fantastic local resource that can assist you on this exciting journey. The GPHS archivist is a wealth of knowledge

and can help you explore a variety of materials related to homes in the Pointes. These include real estate files, photographs and even a collection of blueprints. While they may not have blueprints for every house, they often have other valuable resources that can shed light on your home's provenance and evolution, such as information about the architect, builder and original owners. If you're interested in

learning more about the family that built your home, the GPHS has a treasure trove of additional resources that can aid your research. Their collection includes scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, school and club yearbooks, pamphlets and other historical ephemera. To get started, you can contact the archivist directly via email at archivist@gphistorical.org. And even better, if you're a GPHS member, your

initial research request is completely free. To learn more about the GPHS and its resources, visit its website at historic-grossepointe.org/research and reproductions. I hope this information proves helpful. Wishing you the best of luck with your research.

— Gabby

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

Struggling with screen time

DEAR ANNIE: I never thought I had a screen time problem until my daughter called me out. The other night, we were sitting on the couch together, and she was excitedly telling me about her day. Without thinking, I picked up my phone to check a notification. She stopped mid-sentence and sighed, "Never mind, you're not even listening." That hit me hard. I realize now that screens are pulling me away from the things that matter most. I scroll through social media

when I should be sleeping, leaving me exhausted the next day. I respond to work emails during family dinner, making my loved ones feel ignored. Even when I try to unwind with a show, I find myself mindlessly scrolling at the same time, not really present in anything I'm doing. I don't want to be that person anymore. I want to be more engaged in my own life instead of just consuming content. But every time I try to cut back, I feel restless — like I'm missing something. How can I set better

boundaries with my screen time without feeling disconnected or giving in to the habit all over again? — Trying to Log Off and Tune In

DEAR TUNE IN: It must have been painful to hear your daughter's disappointment, but oftentimes, those wake-up calls serve as the best catalysts for change. You are not alone. Screens were designed to take our attention. They have a way of being in our lives every moment, often without us realizing it. The fact

that you're aware of the problem and want to make a change is already a big step in the right direction. Start small. You don't have to go cold turkey on screen time, but setting gentle boundaries can make a world of difference. Try establishing "screen-free times" -- like no phones at the dinner table or putting your phone in another room when spending time with loved ones. Even just 30 minutes before bed without screens can help you sleep better and wake up



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

feeling more present. Brainstorm things you enjoy doing that don't involve screens, and make them a priority. Pick up that book you've been meaning to read, go for a walk or start a new hobby that keeps your hands busy. The more fulfilling your off-screen moments are, the less you'll feel like you're missing out. And when the urge to

check your phone creeps in, pause and ask yourself: "Is this adding value to my life right now?" Over time, this simple habit can help you become more intentional about how you spend your time. *Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.* **COPYRIGHT 2024 CREATORS.COM.**

Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week (part 1)

Since we last sipped, we watched another (boring) Super Bowl that wasn't ours, had some not-so-fun "sick days," a couple worthy "snow days" and shared Valentine's Day with our friends and loved ones. The shortest month of the year is winding down, which means spring training has started and March Madness is right around the corner. The town is about to embark on its own version of March Madness with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's Restaurant Week. Who, what, where and when? Food Gossip will be dishing out your options in two parts so everyone is ready to dine out and support local restaurants come Sunday, March 2. That's the "when." Let's start with the beauty that is The Continental at Ford House. This historic property, located on the famous curve of Jefferson that connects Grosse Pointe to St. Clair Shores, is joining the fun this year, as well as being one of many sponsors. Its beautiful dining room with stunning views all the way around will be offering a three-course dinner special that sounds delicious: a mushroom crostini starter, followed by a grilled salmon dish and finished with a fabulous butter cake dessert, for \$48. Live music is enjoyed every Thursday and a fresh fish or seafood dish is offered every week. If you have not dined at this estate, Restaurant Week is the perfect opportunity. Reservations are preferred and may be made online at fordhouse.org



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pendy's skillet tenderloin tips.



Pendy's PEI black mussels.

Pendy's on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods is offering a three-course meal as well. For \$38, one can enjoy an entrée course that features a choice of skillet tenderloin tips, sizzling PEI black mussels or cavatelli pasta with vodka sauce. While you are there, make sure bartender Sarah makes you a delicious cocktail. Also on Mack Avenue, Champs Rotisserie & Seafood will be offering three different options. First is its famous rib snack, served with cottage fries and your choice of soup, salad or coleslaw. Second is a half rotisserie chicken, also served with soup salad or coleslaw. The third option is any of their entrée salads served with a broiled chicken breast. Each of these entrées are \$20 per person and you can add a bottle of ANY house wine for only \$15. Those are some excellent deals. Irish Coffee is in the mix and has quite a variety planned for the week — beef, chicken and fish. "Two things that are specials we run weekly," owner Mike Kennedy said. For its beef option: "The French dip — which is something we have recently added to the menu on Saturdays and Sundays — we will have all week during Restaurant Week. It's been a fan favorite, served with fries." Its chicken option is a crispy chicken sandwich, served with fries. The fish option is its tuna melt, which also



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

has been a longtime favorite, normally served Fridays and Saturdays only. They'll be served all week long, with fries as well. But what about their burgers and perch? No worries, Mike said. "We will still be including our \$5 one-third-pound burger special every week, Mondays from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays noon to 4 p.m., as well as our award-winning perch all Lent long." Phew!

Over on Fisher Road,

and another sponsor of this great event, is High Pointe Burger Jointe, which has an excellent week planned with something for everyone. Its Girls Night Special for \$20 includes two dirty smashers and a dirty martini. Dinner with Dad for \$30 includes six classic smashers, two Miller Lites and two dollar Icees. Its Family Fun special for \$50 includes 12 classic smashers and

See **FOOD**, page 3C



COURTESY PHOTO

High Pointe Burger Jointe.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

New year, new organizing projects

In our house, spills are pretty much inevitable. From dips and yogurt containers to salsa and milk, messes happen. Enter refrigerator shelf liners, the solution I never knew I needed but now cannot live without.

These liners from Linda's Essentials have completely changed how we handle fridge spills. Instead of scrubbing sticky yogurt out of cracks or dismantling the entire shelf to clean up spilled milk, I can simply pull out the liner, rinse it in the sink and put it right back. It is a game changer for anyone who dreads cleaning their fridge.

The installation was a breeze, taking about 10 minutes total. You just trim the liners to fit your shelves and you are good to go. They are made of BPA-free, food-grade EVA material, so they are completely safe to use around food.

The liners are textured on one side to prevent food from slipping and sliding around and smooth on the other for easy removal.

Not only are these liners incredibly practical, but they also help keep the fridge looking neat and clean. Their clear design is sleek and unobtrusive, blending seam-



lessly with any fridge interior. And the best part is they are versatile. These liners can be used in drawers, cabinets and anywhere else in need of a little extra protection from spills or scratches.

These liners are a lifesaver and can be found on Amazon.

They make maintaining a clean fridge so much easier and eliminate the dread of tackling sticky spills. I give them a solid 5 out of 5 alligators. Whether you are gearing up for a new year of organiz-

ing or just looking for a simple way to make life easier, these refrigerator shelf liners are absolutely worth it.

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



Lunch lady peanut butter bars

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Here is a recipe that involves few ingredients and you may already have them on hand. It's definitely a nostalgic one that many remember from those lovely school cafeteria lunches from so many years ago. This is a retro dessert from the 60s and 70s that was prepared with love by your local lunch lady.

The ingredients are simple, cheap and it can easily be made in bulk.

Chocolate and peanut butter go hand in hand and they work their magic in this recipe as a sweet treat finger food.

Shortbread cookies are crushed up and added to the peanut butter which gives it a hearty grit and helps to bind the bars

together. If you can't find shortbread cookies, you can swap for graham crackers but I do like the buttery shortbread in this recipe. I melted chocolate chips with some extra peanut butter and poured it over the top. It creates a nice thick chocolate topping.

This recipe is so perfect to make with the kids. Though keep napkins on hand for messy fingers. Speaking of fingers, I spy two anxious ones in the picture trying to steal one before I could even snap the shot!

Cheers, Mombeau

Peanut Butter Bars

16, or 2, cups crushed

butter shortbread cookies (Walker's)

2 cups plus 2 tbsp creamy peanut butter

1 tsp vanilla extract

¾ cup melted salted butter

2 cups confectioners sugar

2 cups semi sweet chocolate chips

Combine together, well, all ingredients except for the chocolate chips and 2 tablespoons of peanut butter in a large bowl or bowl of a standing mixer. Add the confectioners sugar a bit at a time to avoid a cloud of white! Scrape the



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

contents into a greased 8x8 dish.

Next in a small bowl, add the chocolate chips and remaining 2 tablespoons of peanut butter.

Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring after each one until smooth. It takes about a minute and a half. Pour the melted chocolate over top of the

peanut butter mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour. Slice into small squares and enjoy.



Making low-alcohol wine

I tasted a wine the other day from a bottle with a label stating that the alcohol was 14.5 percent. It tasted like it was about twice that; my throat burn was so strong I sought antacids.

By definition, wine has alcohol. Without it, most nonalcoholic wines are thin and lackluster. Even the latest efforts are not particularly exciting.

Some wines are typi-

cally low in alcohol, but the lower you go, the more likely the wine is to retain a bit of sugar. Some German rieslings have alcohol levels in the 7 percent to 10 percent range, but most of them are fairly sweet.

It wasn't until the late 1970s that a few wines, mainly reds, reached as high as 13.5 percent alcohol. The only exceptions were a few zinfandels that were in the vinous strato-

sphere at 14.1 percent or so. A handful of such wines came out that were called "late harvest."

Today, later picking has resulted in more grape sugar. Since fermentation converts sugars into alcohol, alcohols now are regularly above 14 percent, and many are 15 percent. Since any wine over 14 percent alcohol can legally be a full point higher, I'm not surprised when I try wines that taste a lot more alcoholic than their labels state.

There are many ways to make lower-alcohol wines. One method is simply for the winery to add water. And it's easier to add water today than it once was, since a 2002 ruling by the state of

California eased controls on water additions.

Another idea is to use a machine to remove alcohol. Several different processes have been developed for this, including reverse osmosis and use of a machine called a spinning cone.

Alcohol removal seems like it's tinkering with nature, but alcohol has an aroma that covers wine flavors, which you can sense for yourself. Pour vodka into a glass and take a whiff. Since vodka is a neutral grain spirit, its aroma is light but still noticeable.

Since Dry January is over, some people have resumed consuming wine but are consuming less. The simplest way to reduce consumption is to add a

teaspoon of water to your 5-ounce glass of wine.

Purists will say this is heresy, but I do it all the time. It really does not dilute the wine, and in some cases, it expands the aroma!

Of course, too much water will thin the wine, so care should be used in pursuing this strategy.

Wine of the Week:

2023 Dry Creek Vineyards Chenin Blanc, Clarksburg (\$18) — A delightful and fresh-fruit

aroma of melons and citrus is rewarding, and the slight sweetness left in the wine makes it a perfect accompaniment for Thai food. Since the wine has only 12.5 percent alcohol, it is succulent and nicely balanced.

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

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FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

\$2 Ices for the kids. This definitely will be a hot spot during Restaurant Week.

In The Village, the duo that is Sidecar Slider Bar and Shift Kitchen & Cocktails both have some specials up their sleeves. For \$9, get two sliders of your choice at Sidecar and you can buy one, get one half-off (the lesser value item) on any food item at Shift.

Hello, my absolute favorite Brussels sprouts and lettuce wraps! Both loca-

tions' regular menus will be available for your choices.

Be sure to check back next week for part two. You now know the when, but there's much more to come on the who, what and where of this year's Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Shift Kitchen & Cocktails Brussels sprouts.

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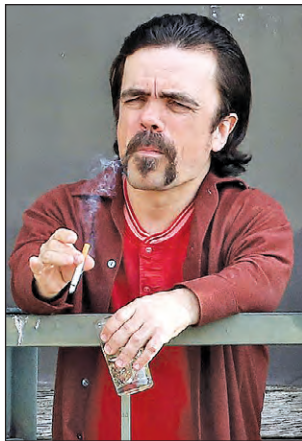
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE B. DENNY PRODUCTIONS
Left, Elle Fanning as Amy-Jo Albany and John Hawkes as Joe Albany in the 2014 movie “Low Down,” written by Amy Albany and Topper Lilien and directed by Jeff Preiss.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Low Down”
2014 - Rated R
1 hr 54 min
★★★★☆

I’ve been a jazz buff since my best friend’s dad turned us on to the music of Charlie Parker in our teens. So Bird, John Coltrane and Thelonius Monk have

been a part of my life seemingly forever. I have a special fondness for musicians from the Bop and Post-Bop era of the 1950s and 60s. However, I was shocked that I’d never heard of the brilliant pianist Joe Albany. For some reason, he’s flown under my radar all this time, as did this biopic of his life. How the

heck did that happen? I added “Low Down” to my queue when it popped up on Kanopy, mainly because it starred Elle Fanning. For whatever reason, I kept putting off view-



Alain (Dinklage).



“Low Down” movie poster.



Amy (Fanning) comforted by Gram (Close).



The real Joe Albany.



Gram (Close) & Joe (Hawkes)



Joe and Amy get scolded by Gram (Glen Close).



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



ing this incredible movie. What an absolute gem of a film. Cinematographer Jeff Preiss, who made one of my favorite jazz films, “Let’s Get Lost,” a documentary about legendary jazz trumpeter Chet Baker, directed it. If you haven’t seen it, and are interested in a remarkable character study, I highly recommend it. This film is based on the memoir written by Joe’s daughter Amy Albany, and it truly speaks from the heart. It’s less a linear story and more of a series of vignettes — a bit like an impromptu jazz composition. Preiss and cinematographer Christopher Blauvelt filmed the movie in 16mm and it has a gritty, golden hue to it. While the story takes place in Los Angeles in the mid-70s, it has more of a 1950s nostalgic vibe to it. One of the major factors that make this such an affecting film is the strong cast. It includes Fanning, plus John Hawkes as Joe, Glen Close as his mother, Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers as a fellow musician and Joe’s good friend, and a surprise appearance by the always-interesting Peter Dinklage, who plays one of his neighbors. We first meet Amy, the 13-year-old daughter of Joe, looking out of their apartment window. She witnesses her dad being roughed up by a couple of thugs. It sort of sets the tone for the rest of the film. We get the hint that life isn’t going to be easy for the two of them. Then we’re privy to their private lives. Joe’s a brilliant jazz pianist who, like so many jazz musicians of this or any era, is strung out on heroin. It just seems to go with the turf. Maybe it’s the price one has to pay to create such meaningful and groundbreaking music. In spite of Joe’s drug problem, the two have an easy relationship. Amy puts up with her father’s faults because she truly adores him. And it’s apparent that she’s in love with the music he

performs as well. We can see it in her eyes when she plays one of his records in their apartment, or the way she lights up watching him perform live. In some respects, Joe isn’t the best dad a young girl could have. However, he loves her and is usually around for her. He really does the best he can. There’s an amusing scene when Joe wakes up with a hangover and encourages Amy to get ready for school. She responds, “It’s the weekend!” He smiles and says, “It is, isn’t it? That’s great news!” It’s this childlike innocence that makes Joe so charming. The two of them are both children in many ways, however it’s pretty apparent that Joe’s never going to grow up. Two other people figure prominently in their lives. Joe’s mother, played by Glen Close, is a bit of an enabler. She means well for her son, but realizes what a genius he is and doesn’t give him the tough love he needs. Then there’s Amy’s mom, Sheila (Lena Headey), who drifts and out of her life. She’s a bitter, falling-down drunk who is better off staying away from her daughter. Fortunately, that’s precisely what she does. The story of this part of Joe’s life is lovingly told by Amy, and is narrated by Ms. Fanning. It gives us a peak at the trials and tribulations this under-appreciated jazz performer endured. If you enjoy the film, I encourage you to look for Albany’s music on YouTube. There you’ll also find an hour-long documentary about him that’s worth watching. Currently streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla (with your library card), Plex, and Peacock. And to rent on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, and other services.

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!

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.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert:Avoid shopping or important decisions from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. EST today (2 a.m. to 5 a.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius. Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 20, 2025:

You are charismatic and sympathetic of the welfare of others. You like to please and can attune yourself to the moods of others. Take charge of your health. It's time to create solid foundations in your life, both physically and internally.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)
By all means, travel or do something different today so that you feel you are expanding your world. You want to learn new things, see new places and talk to interesting people. In fact, a new romance with someone "different" might blossom. Optimism reigns! Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)
It's a good thing that you are the financial wizard of the zodiac, because you will be able to handle the opposing influences that could affect your wealth today. On one hand, you are insightful and purposeful about the wealth and resources of others. On the other hand, you might go overboard. Caution. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)
TBe careful about promising more than you can deliver today. You won't get away with it. Be optimistic. Be positive. Be encouraging. Nevertheless, be realistic and stay in the ballpark of what is doable. Relations with partners are warm and cozy. Tonight: Cooperate.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)
To-workers are warm and supportive today. Even your health feels vigorous and energetic. Meanwhile, travel plans might be grandiose; ditto for ideas related to higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law. You're thinking big today! Tonight: Get organized.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)
Enjoy socializing with others today. Accept invitations to meet friends, see sports events and share fun times. Anything to do with the arts, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or children will be excellent choices. (No doubt, you'll pick up the tab.) Tonight: Socialize.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Financial discussions and negotiations will favor you today; however, you might be tempted to give away the farm when talking to spouses, partners and close friends. Keep this in mind. Generosity is a wonderful thing, but you have to take care of yourself as well. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
This is a great day to schmooze and enjoy the company of neighbors, siblings and relatives, because you feel upbeat and optimistic. Meanwhile, work-related issues or anything to do with your health looks positive and promising. Travel is likely. Tonight: Conversations.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
This is a good day for financial negotiations, especially related to your job. However, when it comes to social events and enjoying good times with others, you might go overboard. Be smart and

don't do anything you'll regret later, especially about spending money. Tonight: Check your possessions.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a solid day for you! The Moon is in your sign dancing nicely with Venus in a way that makes you want to socialize and have good times! Meanwhile, Mercury is dancing with your ruler Jupiter, encouraging you to entertain at home and make big plans. Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today you feel optimistic, which is why you're full of big ideas and keen to talk to everyone. Short trips or travel will appeal to you. It's a strong day for those of you in sales, marketing, teaching or acting. Tonight: Privacy.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Enjoy schmoozing with siblings, relatives and neighbors. Conversations with others will be friendly and easygoing. However, when it comes to financial matters or shopping, be careful about going overboard, which you will be tempted to do. Keep your receipts. Tonight: Friendships.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)
You make a great impression on others today, which is why you'll be admired by some people. Meanwhile, you want to make big plans and set long-range goals. Be careful about overlooking details and being too optimistic. Your advantage today is that you can see the big picture. Tonight: You look good.

BORN TODAY
Singer, businesswoman Rihanna, (1988), singer-songwriter, actress Olivia Rodrigo (2003), comedian Trevor Noah (1984).



Find 9 Differences



Kid Scoop

What's your FAVORITE PART?

Send us a photo of you with your completed favorite part of our weekly KID SCOOP section in the comics — and you'll be entered to win a \$25 gift card to CHOCOLATE BAR CAFE in our monthly contest.

JUST EMAIL us at media@grossepointenews.com with your photo, name, city and a brief reason why you like KID SCOOP. Your photo may be used in our next promotional ad. The deadline is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025.

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Contract Bridge

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

West dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q
♥ J 8 6
♦ K 8 5
♣ A K J 10 2

WEST

♠ A 10 9 7 5
♥ K 10 5 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ 3

EAST

♠ 8 3
♥ —
♦ J 10 9 6 3 2
♣ 9 8 7 6 5

SOUTH

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ A Q 9 7 4 3
♦ 7
♣ Q 4

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	1 NT	Pass	4 ♥

Dble

Opening lead — three of clubs.

When a defender is reasonably sure he can set an opposing contract, he naturally considers doubling. Before he actually utters that word, however, the defender should consider whether he might be giving away information that will help declarer make a contract that might otherwise fail.

Take this case where West doubled four hearts and led the three of clubs. South had no trouble diagnosing the three as a singleton, since the deuce

was in dummy and the bidding marked West with length in spades and hearts.

Declarer won the club with the queen and, utilizing his knowledge of West's hand to the fullest, cashed the ace of hearts, disdaining a finesse. When East showed out, as expected, South led another heart toward the J-8.

West put up the king since declarer would finesse the eight if the heart was ducked. Furthermore, West wanted to lock declarer in dummy and force him to lead a diamond or a club.

So, after taking the heart king, West played the ace and another spade to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the jack of hearts and then made the key play, leading the diamond king from dummy. This rendered the defense helpless. (If declarer had led a low diamond instead, East could have won the trick and given West a club ruff to defeat the contract.)

West took the king of diamonds with the ace, but when he tried to cash the queen, declarer ruffed and drew West's ten of trump with the queen. South then claimed, discarding his fourth spade on one of dummy's good clubs.

It's true that South might have made four hearts without the double by West, but the double left declarer with no doubt about how to proceed.

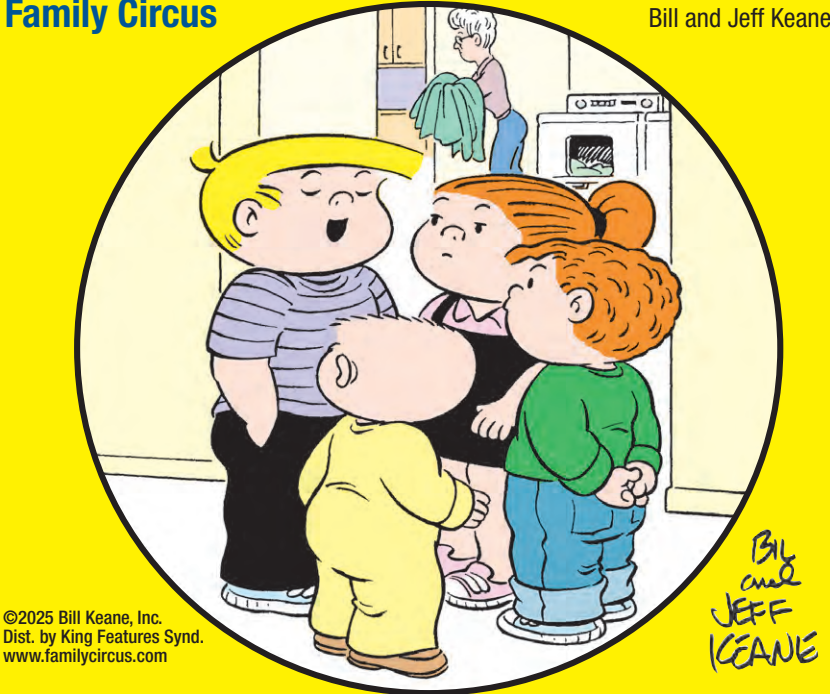
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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“Grandma likes me best ‘cause I remind her of Daddy when he was little.”

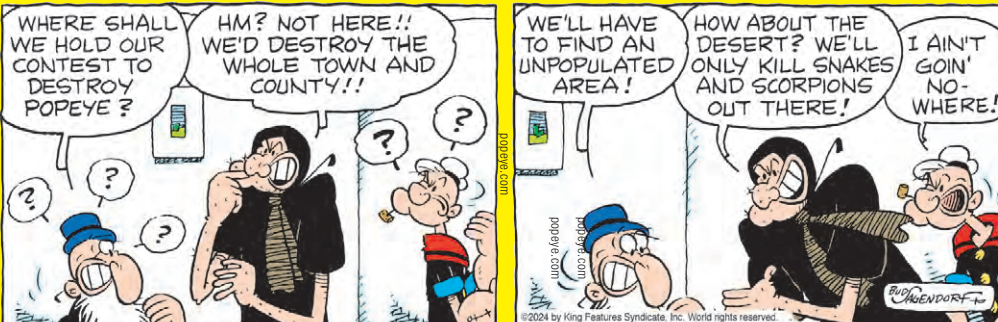
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



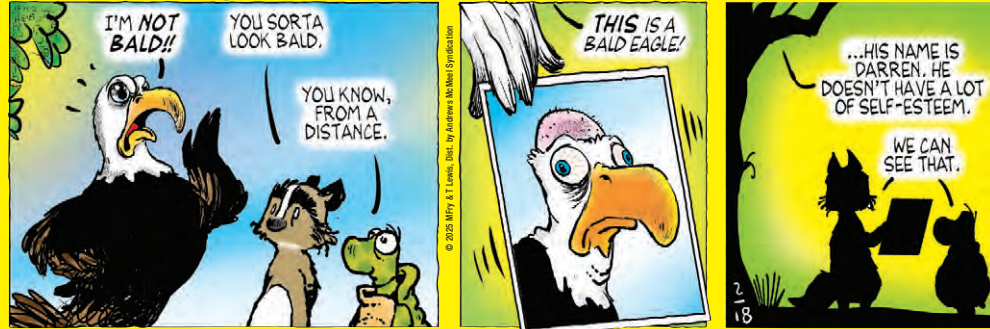
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

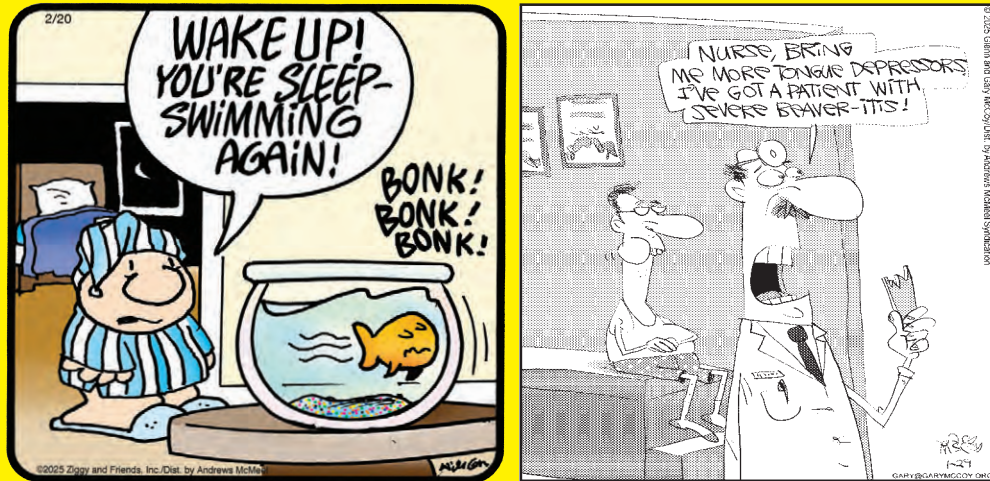


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

3	1				9		7
		4		1			
5				4		2	1
			9	3			
2	9			6			5 3
				5	8		
6		5		9			8
				8		5	
	3		1				6 9

2/20

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

9	1	8	6	2	3	7	4	5
5	7	3	8	9	4	6	1	2
6	2	4	5	7	1	8	3	9
2	3	5	4	8	9	1	6	7
8	9	1	3	6	7	2	5	4
4	6	7	1	5	2	3	9	8
3	8	9	2	4	6	5	7	1
7	5	6	9	1	8	4	2	3
1	4	2	7	3	5	9	8	6

2/13 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 20, 2025

ACROSS

- Minty cocktail
- Bus driver on "The Simpsons"
- Unnerve
- October gems
- Chocolate morsel
- Mountain goat
- Eccentric
- Have a birthday party, say
- Neuron tips?
- Newspaper that caters to ambassadors?
- Blacken on the barbecue
- Certify
- of Gibraltar
- Lavishes affection (on)
- Newspaper that caters to personal trainers?
- Lyricist
- Gershwin
- Mother's sister, perhaps
- Start of some German surnames
- Strong smell
- Implore
- Newspaper that caters to stockbrokers?

- Like some oil
- Expenditure
- Comedian
- Conan
- Hoops in hoops
- Newspaper that caters to railroad maintenance workers?
- Jazz genre
- Stop being neutral
- Opposite of urban
- Better than
- Fairy-tale fiend
- Japanese port city
- Decorate anew
- Black or green brews
- Violet variety

DOWN

- It can make you laugh
- Atop
- Its capital is Vientiane
- Antlered animal
- Forecaster, of a sort
- Take place
- Subsequently
- Pinball foul
- Run, as a machine
- They're unprecedented
- Lessen
- Greek Z's
- Apply, as pressure

- Memory units
- Courtroom promise
- "I ___ wait!"
- Boo-boo cover
- Test answer with a 50% chance of being right
- Step on a ladder
- Part of LED
- Upscale hotel chain
- Sponsored spot seen on a screen
- Object of adoration
- Parks who made history in 1955
- Pretentiously creative
- Chooses
- Arduous journeys

- Go wild
- Gritty film genre
- Colorful soft candy
- Noted Roman orator
- Furry swimmer
- Unlike a coward
- Swept into a leaf pile
- Valentine's Day bunch
- Slight advantage
- Michael who played Allan in "Barbie"
- Muffin choice
- Mighty hardwoods
- Broadway production
- Can. neighbor

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

2/13 Solution

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2/20

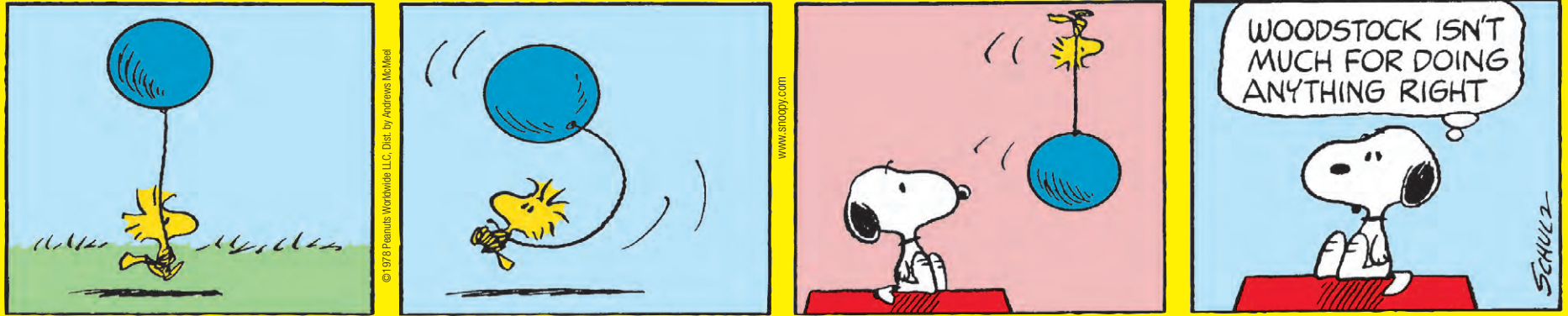
Hot Off the Press by Susan Gelfand

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21	22							
		23						24				
25	26	27					28	29				
30						31				32	33	34
35						36				37		
38				39	40				41	42		
				43					44			
45	46	47						48				
49						50	51			52	53	54
55									56	57		
58						59				60		
61						62				63		

Comics

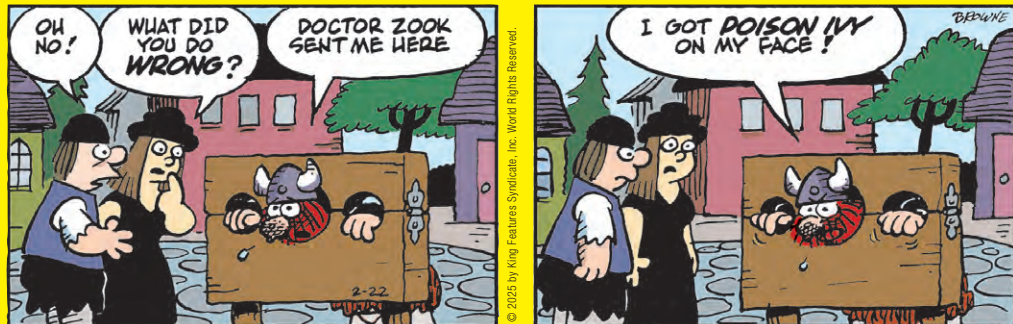
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



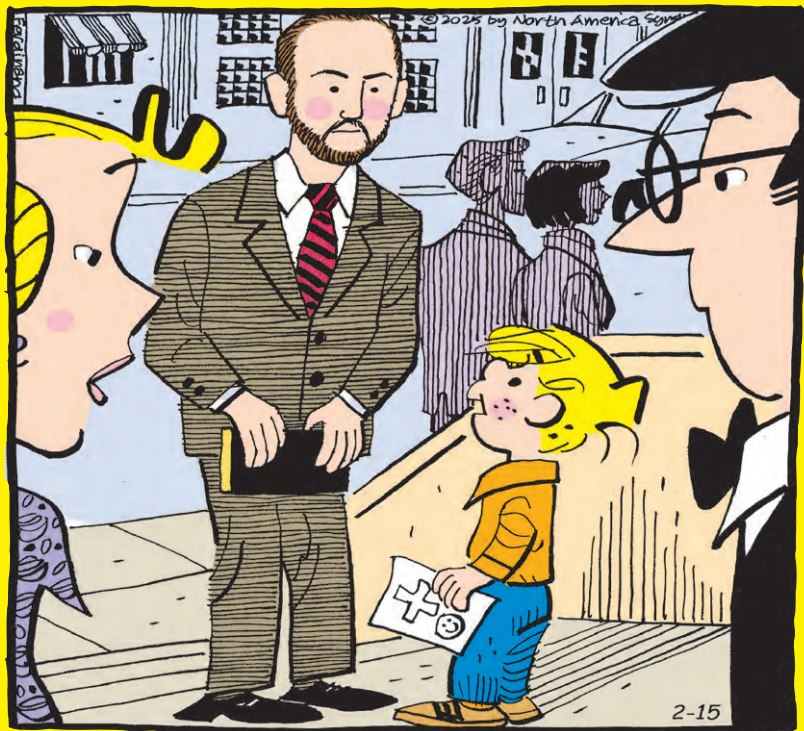
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



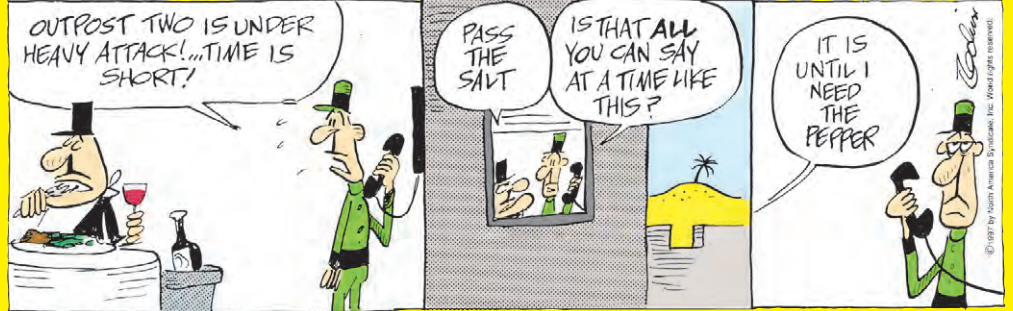
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



Close To Home

John McPherson



Take Your Daughter to Work Day.

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





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Kid Scoop Together:
Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president, was shot in the chest while giving a speech in Milwaukee.



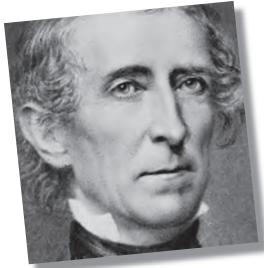
"I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot," he told the stunned audience. "I give you my word, I do not care a rap about being shot; not a rap."

He completed the 90-minute speech with the bullet still lodged in his chest. Afterwards he went to the doctor and survived the attempt on his life.

President Roosevelt had many nicknames. As you complete each math problem below, those with even-numbered answers reveal one of his nicknames. The ones with odd-numbered answers are not.

Obscure Facts About American Presidents

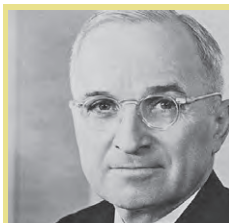
How much do you know about presidents of the United States?
Did you know the following facts?



Which president had the most kids?

Our 10th president, John Tyler, had the most children. Color the squares with even numbers RED and the odd-numbered squares BLUE to reveal the answer.

3	5	7	9	7	1	1	5	9	3	5
5	2	6	7	5	8	6	2	4	8	1
7	4	8	1	3	2	8	4	2	6	5
9	6	2	5	9	6	4	9	5	1	3
1	2	4	5	1	2	2	5	7	3	9
3	6	8	9	3	4	8	2	8	2	5
1	8	2	3	5	6	4	8	2	8	3
5	4	8	1	9	5	9	9	6	4	1
7	8	6	7	3	1	7	5	6	8	5
7	2	4	9	5	6	8	2	8	6	7
5	2	8	3	1	8	2	6	4	8	9
3	7	1	5	9	3	5	1	9	5	7



The "S" in President Harry S. Truman's name doesn't stand for anything. Unable to decide on a middle name for over a month, his parents settled on the letter "S" in honor of his maternal grandfather, Solomon Young, and his paternal grandfather, Anderson Shipp Truman.



First Presidential Email

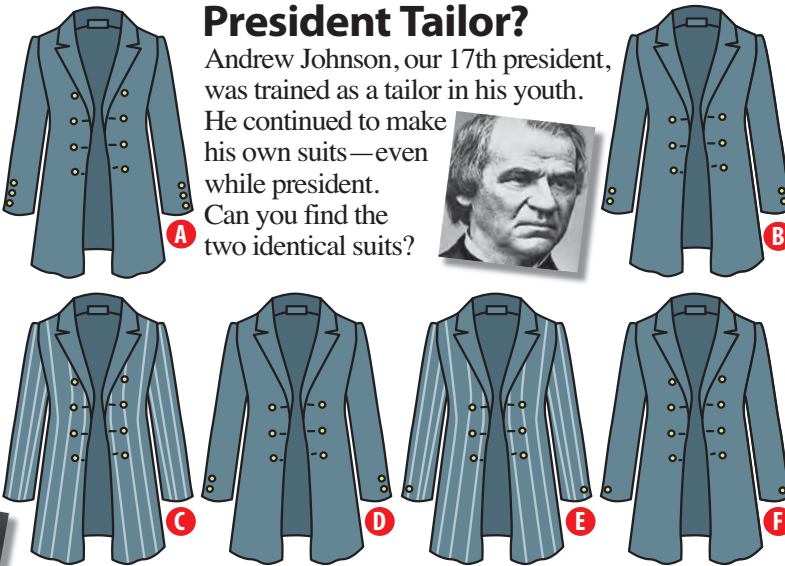
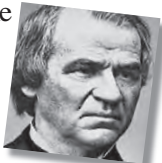
In 1994, President Bill Clinton was the first president to send an email while in office. He sent it to an astronaut who was in space at the time. Use the code to discover the name of the astronaut.

■ = E ■ = G ■ = H ▼ = J ■ = L ■ = N ■ = O



President Tailor?

Andrew Johnson, our 17th president, was trained as a tailor in his youth. He continued to make his own suits—even while president. Can you find the two identical suits?



Presidential Cheer

During his senior year of high school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., George W. Bush, who would become the nation's 43rd president, was captain of the cheerleading team.



Wrestling West Winger

Our 16th president is one of our most celebrated. But not a lot of people know that he was a wrestler. In 300 matches, he only lost one. He is in the Wrestling Hall of Fame with the honor of "Outstanding American."

Circle every other letter to reveal this president's name.

R A K B G R L A Z H V A W M J L S I H N B C U O R L Q N

Presidential Photos: WhiteHouse.gov

Celebrate Our Presidents

Look through the newspaper to see how your community is celebrating Presidents Day. If you don't find much, write a letter to the editor with your ideas on how the day could be celebrated in your community.

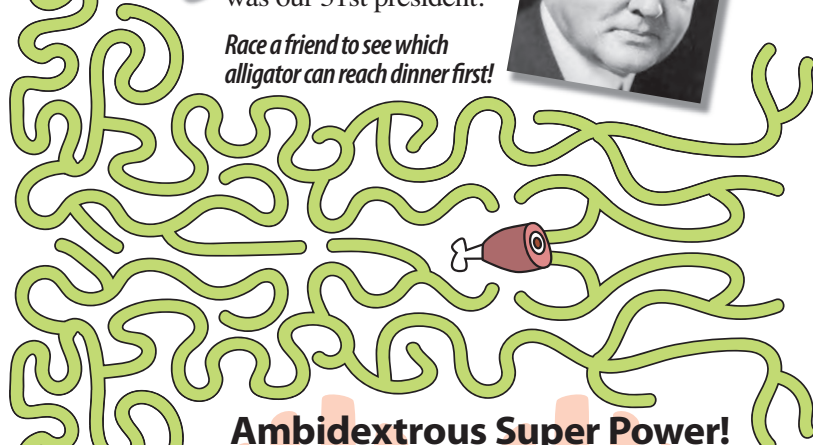
Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Alligators in the White House!?!?

President Herbert Hoover's son had two pet alligators, which were sometimes allowed to run loose throughout the White House. Hoover was our 31st president.

Race a friend to see which alligator can reach dinner first!

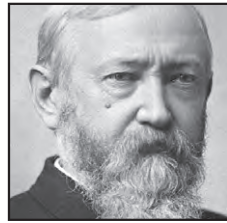


Ambidextrous Super Power!

Ambidextrous means the ability to write with both hands. Not only was our 20th president ambidextrous, he could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other at the same time. Hold this page up to a mirror to read this president's name.

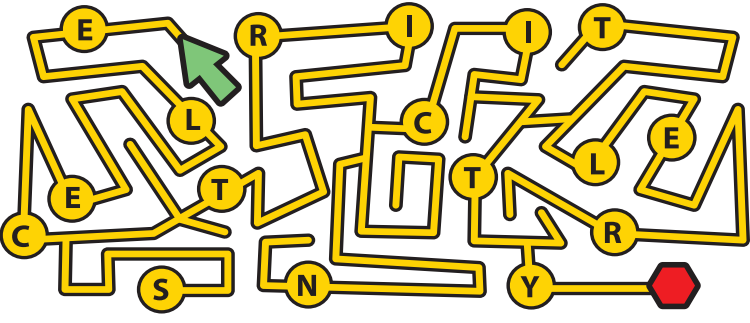
J A M E S A . G A R F I E L D

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Not for President Harrison!

Benjamin Harrison, our 23rd president, was the first president to have this in the White House. However, he was so scared of it—he never used it! What was it? The letters along the correct path on the maze spell the answer.



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

PRESIDENT
WRESTLING
ALLIGATOR
CHILDREN
FREEDOM
TAILOR
SUITS
LATIN
WHITE
HOUSE
TYLER
FIRST
BUSH
HAND
BOTH

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



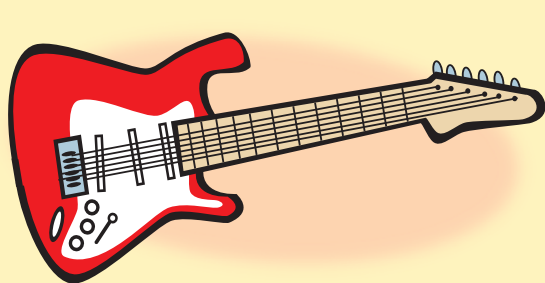
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Presidential Advisor

Imagine you are an advisor to the president on the concerns of your community or neighborhood. Find articles in the newspaper showing issues your community is facing. Make a list of the ways you think the president could help.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



What famous American rock group has four guys that can't sing?

ANSWER: Mount Rushmore!

Write On!

If I Were President

What would you do? How would you spend your days? Why would you want to be president?



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Liggett varsity girls hockey team dominates in CHSL championship win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School varsity girls hockey team has established itself as the dominant force in the Catholic High School League in recent years and wanted to continue that reputation this year. The Knights faced off against Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the 2025 CHSL championship game Saturday, Feb. 15, and captured their fourth consecutive league title with a 7-0 blowout victory.

"First goal accomplished," Liggett girls hockey coach Jason Chmiel said about the league championship win. "During our first team meeting together last week we collectively defined our measurable team goals for the remainder of the season and

the first was winning the Catholic League championship. ... I asked them for their time, energy and attention. The immediate results are true indicators of their work ethic and attention to detail. I am beyond proud of these young women."

The Knights started scoring early and often in the big win. Sophia Secco put Liggett on the board first. Aline Rahaim and Stella Smiatacz added goals in the first period to give the Knights a 3-0 advantage after the first frame.

Rahaim added another goal in the second period, with Avery Welsh and Nadia Le finding the back of the net as well, to double the Knights' lead going into the third period. A final goal by Smiatacz in the third

period put the icing on the cake for Liggett before the team once again hoisted the league championship trophy.

The league championship checked off one big accomplishment the Knights looked to achieve this season. However, the team already is prepared to strive for more with the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League state playoffs right around the corner.

"We know there are a couple of good, talented teams in between us and our goals and we look forward to competing with them for the right to earn another state championship here at Liggett," Chmiel said.

The Knights host the 16U Metro Jets Friday, Feb. 21, at McCann Ice Arena, starting at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

University Liggett varsity girls hockey celebrates a victory in the CHSL championship game, defeating Orchard Lake St. Mary's 7-0 Saturday, Feb. 15.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bernard excels as veteran leader for South boys hockey team

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With state playoffs set to begin, Evan Bernard knows his days of varsity hockey at Grosse Pointe South are near an end. The game has had a major impact on the life of the South senior, from growing up playing for the Detroit Bulldogs and St. Clair Shores Saints to joining South's varsity team as a freshman.

Bernard has seen himself grow both on and off the ice throughout the past four seasons as a Blue Devil. For him, it all goes back to his freshman year when he decided to try out to join his older brother, who was a senior at the time, on the team. Once he made the team, Bernard was in for his most valuable season of hockey with what he learned about the game.

"Joining the high school team was such a different culture," Bernard said. "It was so fun. You really felt like you were a family with your teammates. I didn't get that much playing time being a freshman on varsity, but that was



COURTESY PHOTO

Evan Bernard began his high school hockey career as a freshman on South's varsity boys hockey team, and has now become one of the team's biggest leaders in his senior year.

probably the year I grew the most."

Bernard knows his early years as a Blue Devil helped shape the player he is now. He has become used to leading on the score sheet, leading South in goals with

15 and points with 22 this season. Three of those goals came in the form of a hat trick in South's 5-2 win over Port Huron Northern Saturday, Feb. 15.

While he is one of the Blue Devils' primary

"It's important with a young team because you have to instill the culture in them early and let them know what it means to play for Grosse Pointe South."

EVAN BERNARD, SENIOR, GP SOUTH VARSITY BOYS HOCKEY

goal scorers, Bernard feels like his game on the ice has grown beyond just scoring. It was one of the valuable lessons he learned years ago when he first began playing at the varsity level. He still strives to help his team on both ends of the ice every game.

"My game before high school was kind of all about scoring," Bernard said. "Once I got (to South) there was no

m e s s i n g around. You have to get back and help on defense. ... That helped me shift from being mostly offensive-minded to being more of a two-way player."

What has become the most important thing to Bernard, especially as a senior, is his leadership on and off the ice. Leading on the stat sheet is one thing, but leading in the locker room is where he feels it counts.

Being one of only a few seniors on a team that has its share of young talent, Bernard is trying to impart to them what he learned as a young player from the senior leaders who came before him.

"When I first joined the team, there were a lot of older guys," he said. "This year ... over 50 percent of the team is younger guys. It's nice to fill in the role of a leader and get the guys to rally together. It's important with a young team because you have to instill the culture in them early and let them know what it means to

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK

Evan Bernard

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

Everything Evan

- Leads South boys varsity hockey with 15 goals and 22 points this season
- Scored hat trick in South's 5-2 win over P.H. Northern on Feb. 15
- Four-year varsity player for South hockey



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Knights boys basketball unable to conquer Everest in CHSL championship

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School varsity boys basketball team has taken a major step forward this season. However, there has been one challenge the Knights have not been able to overcome: beating Everest Collegiate. Sunday, Feb. 16, marked the third meeting between Liggett and Everest this winter and was the biggest of them all with the Catholic High School League St. Anne Division championship on the line. For a third

time, Everest was victorious 63-48. The game was a tale of two halves for the Knights. The first half saw seemingly everything going Liggett's way. Shots were falling early and often, especially from beyond the three-point line, and it looked as if the Knights could be in for a big night offensively as they led 19-16 at the end of the first quarter. Liggett's shooting luck continued in the second quarter, as the team built on its lead a bit more. The Knights' strong first half ended

with them up by eight, with the scoreboard at 32-24 going into half-time. The Knights' offense stalled in the second half coming out of the break. Everest stormed back and outscored Liggett 20-9 in the third quarter, giving the Mountaineers a 44-41 lead heading into the final eight minutes. As the fourth quarter started, Liggett's game was still very much within reach. However, the offensive struggles continued. The Knights were unable to mount a comeback and the

Mountaineers pulled away until they ultimately won the game and the CHSL title by 15 points. "I think we just got a little fatigued," Liggett boys basketball head coach James Scott said. "We got most of the same shots we had in the first half, we just didn't make the shots in the second half. ... We just didn't make shots and that's basketball. Sometimes the shots go in and sometimes not. I thought we were executing and running our stuff just like in the first half. We missed some chippy shots right under the basket and we missed some free throws. Sometimes, that's how the ball bounces."

Deagan Barr and Justin Gibson led the way for the Knights with 21 points each. Barr also recorded 13 rebounds in the loss.

Despite the loss, the hard-fought league championship game is something a relatively young Liggett team believes will serve as a valuable learning experience. The state playoffs are on the horizon and the mentality the Knights have had to maintain while playing through the CHSL tournament is something the team can carry into the postseason.

"About three weeks ago we started talking about playoff mentality," Scott said. "We had



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Deagan Barr brings the ball up the court for Liggett in the CHSL St. Anne Division championship game at Callihan Hall Sunday, Feb. 16. Barr finished the game with 21 points.



The Knights huddle around head coach James Scott during a timeout in the second half of last weekend's CHSL St. Anne Division championship game.

to play our way into the (league) playoffs and play our way in to get here, so we kind of already have been getting in the habit of one game at a time. ... I think the guys understand what's expected and how hard it is to win championships, so this is a good experience for us." Liggett hosted Lake Shore Wednesday, Feb.

19, after press time. The team visits Macomb Lutheran North at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, in its final game of the regular season. The Knights begin their playoff journey in the Division 3 district tournament Monday, Feb. 24, taking on Warren Michigan Collegiate at 5:30 p.m. in a game hosted by Detroit Loyola.



COURTESY PHOTO

Evan Bernard carries the puck toward the net in a game against Livonia on Jan. 5.

ATHLETE: *Continued from page 1D*

play for Grosse Pointe South." How helpful Bernard has been on and off the ice leading this year's South team has not gone unnoticed. Coaching a relatively young team can have its challenges, but the Blue Devils coaching staff has become grateful to have this year's group of seniors, including Bernard, to help bring the team together. "Evan is a tremendous hockey player and wonderful leader," South boys hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz said. "As a four-year varsity player, he has shown a level of skill and commitment few players are willing to give in today's game." That leadership and dedication have become

especially important with the type of season South has had. The Blue Devils have had their share of struggles this season with a record of 7-18 as they prepare to begin the playoffs. However, a veteran player like Bernard knows things can be learned from every game regardless of the result and to help everyone continue to think and play like a team as they reach the point of the season where each game matters the most. "I just make sure to keep reminding the guys that the only way to get out of a slump is to put in the hard work in practice and in the weight room," Bernard said. "... Another important thing is to come together. You're not going to improve much if you have 21 individuals. You need to have one goal and one objective."

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

The City of Harper Woods 2025 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens regarding the 2025 assessment, at City Hall located at 19617 Harper Ave. Harper Woods MI 48225. All appeals are by appointment and can be in-person or submitted in writing. Letters of appeal must be received by March 24, 2025, by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

To schedule an appointment, please call the Assessor's Office during office hours on Wednesday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Phone (313) 343-2527

Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Monday	March 10, 2025	1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday	March 24, 2025	9:00 am to 3:00 pm

All people protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form 618) L-4035 which can be obtained at City Hall, provided to you at your appointment, or the city website: harperwoodscity.org

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.00%
Commercial	48.71%
Industrial	49.68%
Residential	46.34%
Timber-Cutover	50.00%
Developmental	50.00%
Personal Property	50.00%

City of Harper Woods
Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, & Mar. 6, 2025

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Conference Room at 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:			
Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 18, 2025	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 25, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2025 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted to the Assessor's Office prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper. All board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act." If you have any questions please contact the Assessor's Office at 313.343.2452

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates
2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25

Eric Dunlap
City Assessor

Three Pointes wrestlers earn spots in state finals at Ford Field

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Varsity wrestlers from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South continued their journeys through the postseason last week during regional tournament action. At the end of the day, two wrestlers from South and one from North battled their way to qualifying spots for the state finals at Ford Field.

Grosse Pointe South
Three Blue Devils — Wyatt Hepner, Lex Willson and Neil Honablu — entered the competition at the Division 1 individual regional tournament Saturday, Feb. 15, after having qualified at the district tournament the week before. Of those three, Hepner and Willson both found themselves with tickets punched to the state finals.

Hepner, the defending state champion, won the regional championship at 150 pounds. He won his quarterfinal match to start the tournament with a win by fall over Eisenhower’s Jacob Vasquez. Hepner then earned his spot in the regional championship with another win by fall over Demetrious Thomas from Rochester Adams in the semifinals. In the regional final, Hepner defeated John Kaminski from Warren Mott by technical fall to secure his regional title and a spot at Ford Field to defend his state title.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Wyatt Hepner stands atop the podium after winning the Division 1 regional championship at 150 pounds.

Willson qualified for states by finishing on the podium in third place at regionals in the 190-pound weight class. Willson earned a win by fall in the quarterfinals over Saleh Houston from Troy. He lost in the semifinal round by fall to Thomas Jaynes from Romeo.

However, Willson bounced back in the consolation bracket. He defeated Nolen Bishop from Cass Tech 11-1 in a major decision in the consolation semifinals to earn a spot in the third-place match. Willson secured his third-place finish with a 12-7 decision win over Ferndale’s Bryce Ferguson.

Honablu was unable to clinch a qualifying spot for states after his three matches last Saturday. He lost his quarterfinal match at 165 pounds to Triston Thompson from U of D Jesuit to send him into the consolation bracket.

Honablu earned a win by fall over Carter Sanchez from Troy in the first round of the consolation bracket to send him to the consolation semifinals, but a loss to Nathan Murphy from Chippewa Valley ended his day.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen also had three wrestlers competing at the Division 2 individual regional tournament last Saturday, after strong showings in the district tournament earlier in the postseason. With Dwayne Howell,



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Lex Willson stares down his regional semifinal opponent Thomas Jaynes from Romeo. Willson would go on to earn third place in the region at 190 pounds, qualifying for the Division 1 state finals.

Carlos Jackson and Grady Mead all competing, Mead was the lone North wrestler to secure a spot at Ford Field.

Mead finished third in the region at 150 pounds. He won his quarterfinal match by fall against Nicholas Walker from Carman-Ainsworth before losing by decision in the semifinals against Brother Rice’s Deacon Mancinelli.

Mead bounced back in the consolation bracket, winning his consolation semifinal match by technical fall over Wyatt Smith from Lake Shore. His spot on the podium was clinched with a third-place match win over Sebastian Jundy of De La Salle Collegiate to move on to Ford Field.

“We have two weeks to prepare and work on his craft,” North wrestling coach Jaron Nelson said about Mead clinching a spot at states. “Grady will continue to be a workhorse over the next course while he looks to secure his placement amongst the top 16 wrestlers in the state at Division 2, 150 pounds.”

At 120 pounds, Jackson began his day with a loss in the quarterfinals to Christian Haslem from St. Clair. He received a bye in the first round of the consolation bracket before

moving on to the consolation semifinals, where he lost by major decision to Swartz Creek’s Stephen Vesely.

Howell lost his opening match in the quarterfinal round at 190 pounds to St. Clair’s David Alley. He also received a bye in the first round of the consolation bracket, then lost

by decision to Josh Ezell from Linden in the consolation semifinals.

“Dwayne and Carlos both had a good, hard-fought day on the mat, unfortunately, taking early round losses and then both losing in the blood round matches,” Nelson said. “Though this wasn’t the year to punch their ticket, these two, along with a hand-

ful of other underclassmen, will come back next year on a mission as a unit and individually.”

Mead will compete in Division 2, while Hepner and Willson compete in Division 1 at this year’s individual state finals, which take place Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1, at Ford Field in Detroit.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JARON NELSON

Grady Mead celebrates with his North wrestling coaches after qualifying for the Division 2 state finals at 150 pounds. Mead finished in third place in his weight class at the regional tournament last weekend.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

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City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2025 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

and

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

and

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

and

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY 4:00pm ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25th.

G.P.N.: 2/13/25; 2/20/25; 2/27/25

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City

2025 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The Assessments for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores in Wayne and Macomb County has been completed for 2025. The Board of Review will hear petitions on the following dates:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

795 LAKE SHORE RD.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(2nd Floor Meeting Room)

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments must make an appointment or file a write in appeal. Either appeal method must be accompanied by the petition form (L-4035) provided by the state of Michigan (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/14035f_2658_7.pdf). Appointments may be made by calling 881-6565. **Petitions by mail must be received by the Board PRIOR to the last session (3/17/25) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner.** You may call 881-6565 for an appointment.

If there are any questions, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.881.6565 or email pbierzynski@gpshoresmi.gov.

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25

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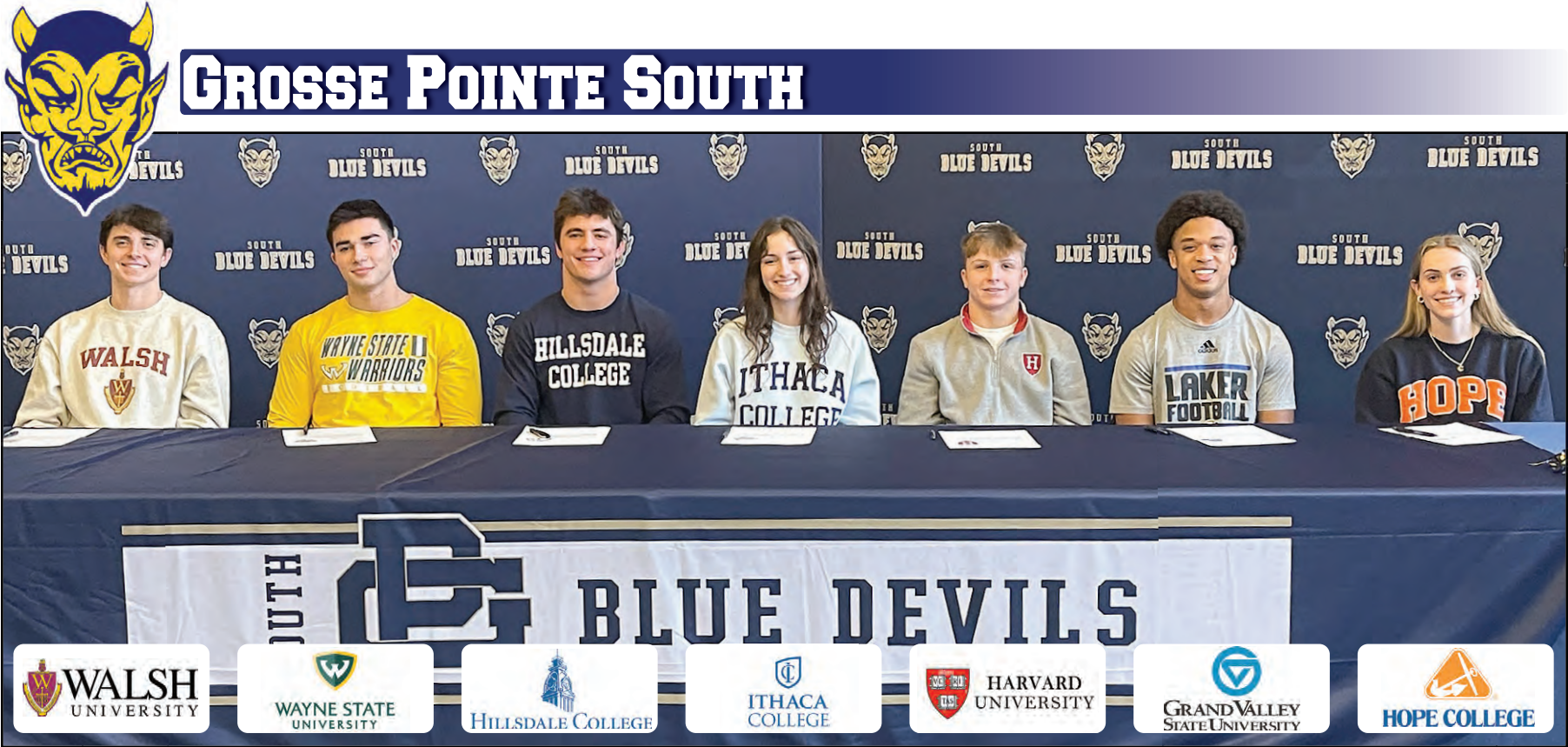
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POINTE PRIDE!

14 Grosse Pointe athletes sign on the dotted line to play at collegiate level

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

In recent weeks, a number of student-athletes from around the Pointes got to celebrate the milestone of signing their National Letters of Intent to make their futures in college athletics official. Seven athletes from Grosse Pointe South, five from University Liggett School and two from Grosse Pointe North were celebrated by their schools with signing ceremonies to commemorate their achievements. The Grosse Pointe News wishes them all the best of luck as they take the next steps in their incredible journeys!



Seven Blue Devils were honored in a letter-signing ceremony last week as they inked their futures in college sports. From left, Steven Zrimec (Walsh University baseball), Andrew Pazuchowski (Wayne State University football), Josh Lemanski (Hillsdale College football), Stella Kartsonas (Ithaca College rowing), Wyatt Hepner (Harvard University wrestling), Noah Hart (Grand Valley State University football) and Chloe Caulfield (Hope College cross country/track and field).



First Team All-State linebacker Daylon Doe will continue his football career at Wayne State University.

Elliott Jarvi signs her official letter to join the softball team at the University of Olivet.



Mack Phillips, with his parents Michael and Diane Phillips, will continue his baseball career at the University of Dayton.

Alex Gould, joined by parents Emily and Jeremy Gould, signs to play lacrosse at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

Fiona Sierens officially joins the women's ice hockey team at State University of New York at Oswego with her parents, Harmony and Bradley Sierens, by her side.

Marvin Hartfield Jr. celebrates with his parents, Keeli Louis and Marvin Hartfield Sr., after signing to join the football team at Northwood University.

Mariam and Gino Cicarella watch as their son, Santino Cicarella, officially signs his letter to continue playing football at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

Congratulations!