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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Judge to hang up his cape

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's 30-plus years and out for Municipal Judge Carl Jarboe.

He's served his time. Now it's time for someone else.

"I decided to retire," Jarboe said from his office with only enough space for two visitors off the municipal courtroom at city hall.

He's been as much a fixture as the overhead lights.

"I could run (for office) one more time, but I figure 30 years is enough," Jarboe said.

When his term ends nine months from now in December, he'll have been on the bench one month shy of 31 years.

See JUDGE, page 2A

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PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

State champs!

The Grosse Pointe South High School varsity girls hockey team claimed back-to-back state titles Saturday, March 8, defeating Mid-Michigan Alliance in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division I championship game. The Blue Devils trailed 2-0 in the third period, but battled back to win 3-2 and successfully defend their title. Read more about the game on page 1D.

GPPSS enrollment projections a mixed bag

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — While the overall enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System will continue to decline, projections show the number of middle school students is expected to grow slightly over the next four years.

"We do recognize that people with kids are moving into Grosse Pointe, just not at the younger grade levels," Paul Wills, a partner with Plante Moran, told the GPPSS Board of Education at its meeting Monday, March 3. "The good news is that we're starting to see some things level off."

According to Plante Moran's projections, the number of students in grades fifth through eighth is expected to climb from the current 1,713 to 1,769 in 2028, after dipping to 1,709 in 2026.

Conversely, the number of students in kindergarten through fourth grade will slip from the current 2,236 to 2,113.

Wills told the board one reason for an expected increase in middle school students is because young families looking to buy their first house generally cannot afford prices in the Pointes.

The district also could see an increase in the middle schools because that often is when parents whose children attend private school switch to public school to give their students time to get acclimated before high school.

See MIXED, page 9A

Trombly survey under way

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Intended-for saviors of Trombly Elementary School are lobbying the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education to reopen the school as a place of learning.

Advocates encourage residents to participate in the district's current but short-lived head-count survey of elementary-age children living in the school's enrollment zone, or catchment area below Jefferson Avenue.

"The survey is going to look for zero to 9-year-olds," said Park Councilman Tom Caulfield, head of the municipal Trombly Ad Hoc Committee.

Survey postcards that district representatives and the Epic-MRA polling firm mailed to houses in the target market list the deadline to submit survey responses as Monday, March 28.

Instructions on the postcard direct recipients to a website on which the survey is actually taken.

Problem is, the postcard looks like junk mail, according to Councilman

See SURVEY, page 2A

Theft ring brought to light with aid from GP

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Labeled new-age porch pirates, the main players of an organized international crime ring responsible for supplying shipment information and perpetuating the widespread theft of FedEx shipments of electronic devices now are off the streets — in part, due to an assist from Grosse Pointe detectives.

Since November, the Pointes — not unlike many areas of the country — have seen a number of thefts seamlessly targeting FedEx shipments of iPhones, prompting the Farms last month to warn its residents against having electronics purchases shipped to their homes.

Some incidents saw porch pirates use the tracking number and recipient's name to collect the package directly from delivery drivers, while others saw the package stolen within minutes of its delivery.

"They were buying the information from a (messaging) app called Telegram," City of Grosse Pointe Detective Sgt. Joe Adams said.

Using a chatroom called FedExBot, shipment details were sold to porch pirates for \$40.

"They'd send you a list of a hundred cities," Adams explained. "You'd go through and (select) Grosse Pointe Woods. They'd (ask) do you want Apple, Verizon or AT&T? ... (The thief) would Cash App them \$40, then they would be sent the tracking number, the person's name and everything for the delivery."

The crime ring gained said information via the creation of automated computer scripts, which scraped data from the public and customer-facing tracking systems of FedEx and a major U.S. cellular provider. It also bribed employees of the cell provider to supply confidential information about customers, including orders, names, tracking numbers and delivery addresses.

"This criminal network operated in layers with some members, referred to as 'dispatchers,' obtaining and selling the delivery information and others, referred to as 'runners,' purchasing this delivery information and stealing the packages," according to a press release by the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey.

Thirteen of its members — including the Dominican Republic national believed to be the creator of the computer script and two cell provider employees who leaked information — were charged Feb. 26, with conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property.

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Alison and Murad Abusoboh

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods Couple's Pangea Global Kitchen to offer tastes from around the world



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JUDGE:

Continued from page 1A

“I wanted to announce this early and let everybody know at the same time,” Jarboe said. “That way, if there are attorneys who would like to be judge, I’m giving them enough lead time.”

He’ll shift focus to his law practice. “That way, I can still do things with my wife, travel and not worry about making it to court,” he said.

It was January 1995 when Jarboe first took office.

He’d come out on top of nearly two dozen candidates applying to fill a vacancy when Municipal Judge Kirstin Frank Kelly accepted an appointment to Wayne County Circuit Court.

Jarboe at the time was early in his practice with a law firm at which he’d eventually head the litigation department.

“One of my law partners suggested I apply,” he said.

So he applied.

“Twenty people applied for the position,” Jarboe said. “The mayor and city council interviewed them all and they selected me unanimously.”

His swearing in by late Mayor Pamer Heenan made front page news in the Jan. 25, 1995, edition of Jarboe’s favorite hometown newspaper.

“The number of qualified candidates who offered their services to the council was truly inspiring,” Heenan said at the time.

Waves of Park voters validated Heenan’s opinion through the years. Jarboe lost count of how many primary and general elections he’s won.

“The last time I ran I refused any donations, didn’t have a website and didn’t produce any (campaign) literature,” he said. “All I did was get 125 lawn signs, some buttons and participate in the League of Women Voters candidate debate.”

He won 68 percent of the vote, his highest winning percentage.

He’s presided during the administrations of four mayors and five public safety directors. Cases ranged from civil and criminal to landlord-tenant to murder. There were regular court dates, special arraignments on weekends and being awakened late at night to issue search warrants to test the blood of drunken driving suspects.

“When I started, open house parties were a big issue,” Jarboe said. “I don’t really see those anymore. We’ve had spikes in auto theft. We had a big spike in home foreclosures when people couldn’t pay their mortgages in 2009. But, generally, it’s human nature.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Judge Carl Jarboe isn’t seeking reelection for the first time in three decades.

Sometimes you have malicious people. Sometimes you have people who made a mistake. Sometimes, there were people I just tried to help along the road.”

His role outside the courtroom included conducting weddings.

“I’ve done lots and lots of weddings,” he said. “And swearing in the safety patrol at elementary schools. I did that at Trombly (Elementary School) for 25 years. I’ve done it at Defer for about 27 years. I really enjoy that.”

Although courteous in the courtroom, there’s no doubt who’s in charge, especially when facing a motorist accused of running a stop sign or red light.

“I’m just trying to see justice done in my own little way,” Jarboe said. “I want to make the community better. Having been the only judge in the Park for 30-plus years, I tend to be conscious of the community. How you act toward individuals, whether residents or non-residents, kind of sets the tone of the community.”

He said the purpose of the law is to improve people’s lives.

“I like preventive law, like preventive medicine,” Jarboe said. “Get everything squared away so you don’t have problems down the road. I try to solve problems before they happen.”

Park judges serve four-year terms with an annual salary of \$25,000.

The filing deadline for the Nov. 4 election is Tuesday, April 22.

Harper Woods comes full circle with GPAAS

By Laurel Kraus

Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — A new resident took to public comment during a Harper Woods City Council meeting earlier this month to express concern that she cannot walk to the end of her street and back without fear of a dog attack.

The city discontinued its long-standing animal control program with the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society at the end of 2024 — when the nonprofit began requiring an annual usage fee — without a backup plan for the considerable number of strays roaming the streets.

Though the city had a month between Feb. 3 — when it promised residents answers at its next council meeting — and Monday, March 3,

interim City Manager John Szymanski reported he only met with GPAAS leadership that morning.

“There was a meeting and both sides have a better understanding of what’s at stake,” he told residents, remaining tight-lipped on the details. “Nothing has been agreed to at this point. ... (GPAAS) will be taking the details of that meeting back to their board and we will sit and wait for correspondence from them.”

GPAAS Executive Director Corrine Martin said the city has come full circle and now is agreeable to paying the initially proposed \$79,300, with the exception of subtracting the months it has not been using GPAAS’ services.

After cutting ties with the organization that has funded the city’s K-9 offi-

cer program the last decade, Harper Woods officials took two months to confirm what GPAAS and many residents already knew.

“Before we ever proposed this, we had done our research to see if there were other options,” Martin said. “We already knew there weren’t, but they had to find that out for themselves and now they have done that, so now they’re ready to concede.”

Martin feels positive about the GPAAS board of directors’ reception to resuming service in Harper Woods. A meeting of the nonprofit’s board was scheduled Tuesday, March 11, after press time, to discuss a new agreement with the city prior to the next Harper Woods council meeting Monday, March 17.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY HANEY

In the wild, on the ice

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Tammy Haney snapped a few photos from her home and sent them to the Grosse Pointe News after reading in the March 6 edition about a coyote being shot and killed on the frozen lake. She “captured these beautiful pictures last week,” she wrote, and “just thought I would share.”

THEFT:

Continued from page 1A

“We knew there had to be a leak inside the system,” said Adams, who supplied a major break in the case after the City arrested two porch pirates using FedExBot

back in November.

Adams found Telegram on one of the criminal’s phones and, though the majority of transactions were via Cash App, discovered one via Apple Pay. He linked the Apple Pay account to a phone number in Massachusetts and supplied it to the

Homeland Security Investigations team.

“They already had some information they believed was out of the Dominican Republic,” he said. “They were able to link it back to this number on the East Coast, which then put it to a local person there.”

Time will tell whether the recent arrests halt the targeted iPhone shipment thefts, but regardless, Adams suggests residents continue to exercise caution.

“Thefts from porches have been going on for years,” he said. “It’s a crime of opportunity.

This was a little bit more sophisticated crime, because they were literally being told when it was getting delivered (but) this still doesn’t stop people from driving around and finding a box on the porch and grabbing it.”

Safer delivery options

include having packages sent to the recipient’s place of employment, where someone will be there to collect it, or signing up for myQ — an app that allows Amazon drivers access to the recipient’s garage door, where the package can be left inside.

SURVEY:

Continued from page 1A

Brent Dreaver.

“It’s a little card, the kind of thing you throw away all the time,” he said. “The nexus of so much of our conversations the last week and a half is how can we get people to not throw away

this little postcard.”

Caulfield said a legion of adults and National Honor Society students spent last weekend voluntarily going door to door in the catchment zone urging people to follow through with the survey.

“It’s going to give us a good amount of data,” Caulfield said.

Mayor Michele Hodges established the ad hoc committee to coordinate with district counterparts and residents in a united front to reopen Trombly.

She’s also putting heat on school board members residing in the Park.

“You can send communications to the school board and administration,” Hodges told the public during the March 10 council meeting. “I also encourage you to reach out to trustees who live in Grosse Pointe Park and have a responsibility to ensure our interests are represented.”

School board members from the Park are Tim Klepp and Valarie St. John.

Hodges also said she wants the district’s top officials to attend a council meeting this spring for a little back-and-forth.

District trustees, none of whom remain in office, cited declining enrollment when ordering Trombly closed at the end of the 2019 academic year.

“However, for all post-COVID enrollment reports, district enrollment has exceeded projections each year,” according to a statement

on the website of the interest group, Trombly United, tromblyunited.org.

A posting on the “latest news & events” section of the Park’s municipal homepage, grossepointe park.org, lists options for residents who want to participate in the survey but didn’t get a postcard or tossed it out.

The instructions appear as follow:

If you want to get a survey code for your address over the phone, contact:

- ◆ the polling firm EpicMRA by calling (517) 886-0860, or emailing Mr. Kelly Sullivan at kelly@epicmra.com;
- ◆ the Grosse Pointe Public School System by

calling (313) 432-3033 or

◆ Park City Hall by calling (313) 822-6200 and ask for the clerk’s office.

If you want to get a survey code in person or fill the survey out in person:

◆ Sunday, March 16, 1 to 5 p.m., at the Lavins Activity Center lobby, and

◆ Monday through Friday, March 17-21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the City Hall clerk’s office.

If you have more questions or want help from a local volunteer group:

◆ Go to Trombly United’s headcount survey page and fill out the help form.

◆ Send an email to Trombly United at info@tromblyunited.org.

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Harper Woods K-9 officer retires from service

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — Not long after joining the Harper Woods Police Department in January 2017, one of K-9 Officer Kaiser’s first finds was a suspect with outstanding warrants who had run from officers and was hiding on the rear axle underneath a box truck.

“K-9 tasks are all a game, which he always enjoyed being rewarded for, especially when a good job, or game, was done,” Kaiser’s handler, Sgt. Stephen Johnson said. “... He always has been overly attentive and loyal to me and his tasks throughout his career, which further add to his one-of-a-kind, high-drive personality.”

After eight years on the job and more than 500 calls for service, Kaiser retired Sunday, Feb. 23, and was honored with a ceremony before city council last week.

“Through demonstrations at schools and community events, Kaiser has helped to bridge the gap between law enforcement and community,” Harper Woods Public Safety Director Jason Hammerle said. “People who may be reluctant to speak to police officers can’t resist the urge to walk up and pet the dog or ask questions about his capabilities. This interaction breaks the ice and opens up a longer conversation, which helps to show the human side of our police officers.”

“Kaiser has been a loyal asset to our police department and we wish him a long and relaxing retirement.”

Funded by the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, which is head-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, Kaiser, in the parking lot behind the Harper Woods police station, shows how he feels about retiring from service. His retirement plans include a lot of time relaxing. Right, Harper Woods Public Safety Director Jason Hammerle presents Sgt. Steve Johnson, left, and K-9 Officer Kaiser with a plaque during the retirement ceremony before city council Monday, March 3.

quartered in Harper Woods, the German shepherd initially came to the department from the Czech Republic with the name Bak. After combing through a list of names, “Kaiser seemed to stick,” Johnson recalled.

Logging more than 2,000 training hours together with Johnson, Kaiser is skilled in obedience, tracking, evidence search, building search, narcotic detection and handler protection, as well as certified through K-9 ATF and the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

He often served Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes and other surrounding communities with tracking suspects, missing persons and lost children, as well as with vehicle, evidence and building searches.

Among his many accolades, he assisted in locating the suspect and,

separately, the knife used in a robbery attempt in 2019, and located an intoxicated woman in 2020, who fled from a hit and run crash and was in a nearby watery ditch.

“He’s just an incredible dog,” GPAAS Executive Director Corrine Martin said. “So smart and so intuitive. ... He knows if you’re fearful; he knows if you’re upset; he knows if you’re playful and happy. You don’t have to say anything or do anything.

“For example, my husband, who’s now passed, had a heart surgery in 2018. Kaiser was just a young dog. I was up in the surgical lounge waiting for an eight- to 10-hour heart surgery and I was a basket case. And that dog, he came with Steve into that room where I was and he came across the room and it’s the first time he had ever licked my face. He made every attempt to console me and I just thought

that was incredible.”

Born Oct. 29, 2015, Kaiser is 9 ½ years old.

His age, in combination with a recent transition to the night shift, which began wearing on him, made now the right time for retirement, Johnson said.

“For the sake of his health and his happiness, I’d rather retire him at this point than push it for another year or so,” he added. “He still has the drive to work, but unfortunately he lost some of the stamina. His mind really wants to work, but his body is kind of not able to keep up and he does have signs of arthritis in his lower back.”

The average length of a K-9 officer’s career is five to seven years. Grosse Pointe Farms K-9 Officer Duke retired after an eight-year career in 2022.

Kaiser plans to spend his retirement relaxing at home with Johnson’s kids and, this summer, a few family vacations are



in his future.

“Kaiser has easily proven to be loyal and trustworthy throughout his career,” Johnson said. “The bond between he and I is inseparable and even though ‘retired,’ he and I will still continue to train together and bond together. He is now able to relax and vacation with family after all of his dedicated years of service.”

GPAAS will host a retirement party for Kaiser 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the AMVETS Hall at 19730 Harper Avenue.

“It is open to the public and it’s for our supporters or K-9 lovers to come see Kaiser before he goes off into the sunset,” Martin said.

Though nothing has been made official, Hammerle announced intent to approach city council in the coming weeks with a plan to purchase the city’s next K-9 officer and continue the program. Johnson likely will continue as K-9 handler to the new officer.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 17

- ◆ St. Patrick’s Day
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens’ Commission meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Park notches more tree awards

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Awards for trees are growing like weeds in the city.

For the 42nd year in a row, the Park won Tree City USA status.

City Forester Brian Colter received the news Wednesday, March 5, from the Arbor Day Foundation, which established the award 49 years ago.

“And for the 19th time, we got the more prestigious Growth Award, which means we went above and beyond the standards necessary for Tree City USA,” Colter said. “Only one community in Michigan has more Growth Awards than Grosse Pointe Park. Berkley has 20.”

“It’s pretty incredible what we do here,” said Councilman Brent Dreaver, liaison to the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

Criteria for Tree City status consists of having a forestry board or department, a tree ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance.

Winning a Growth Award requires notching 24 categories of tree care and sustainability, including conducting a

tree inventory, sponsoring plant exchanges, mitigating tree problems and increasing the forestry budget beyond the prior three-year average.

A big reason for winning both awards this month was the intensity of last year’s tree-planting program.

“We planted an unprecedented number of street trees, 340,” Colter said. “I’m proud that 21 different types of trees were planted. It really diversified. Three hundred and fifteen of the trees were free thanks to the TIFA (Tax Increment Finance Authority) and a donation of 90 sycamore trees by Paul Von Tol.”

All the trees were planted on public prop-

erty and easements between roads and sidewalks, including on Wayburn, Maryland and Beaconsfield roads in the TIFA district in the northwest section of town consisting of part of the Cabbage Patch.

TIFA board members allocated \$40,000 to plant 116 street trees in the district. A budget surplus provided an additional \$38,500 to expand plantings intended to increase property values, beautify the city, reduce stormwater runoff and the heat-island effect.

“I love my new tree,” said Pier King-Piepenbrok, a resident of the neighborhood and TIFA board member.

“It makes a big differ-

ence,” TIFA Director and Assistant City Manager Warren Rothe said. “Decades from now it will make an even bigger difference.”

Not all the TIFA funds have been spent, meaning more trees are coming.

“We’re at about \$45,000 to \$50,000,” Rothe said. “We still have to do some of the cross-streets.”

Van Tol, a Park resident, donated 90 sycamore trees he grew and harvested on a farm in Macomb County.

“We have more trees in the pipeline for at least for another four or six years or so,” Van Tol said. “I have five or six

See TREES, page 8A



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Couple creating culinary dream with Pangea Global Kitchen

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Murad Abusoboh is itching to get back into the kitchen.

He hasn't been able to flex his creative culinary muscles in months and he's getting tired of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

But it's a sacrifice he and his wife, Alison Rybicki Abusoboh, are happy to make.

The Grosse Pointe Woods couple are simply taking a hiatus from cooking to prepare for the grand opening of Pangea Global Kitchen, which currently is under construction at the former Lyla's Catering location.

"I'm doing it myself," Abusoboh said. "I am teacher, construction and chef."

When Pangea Global Kitchen opens next month, Abusoboh will feed the community comfort foods from his native Jordan, along with ethnic foods from various countries, from Italy to India.

"Murad's very authentic," Rybicki Abusoboh said. "You won't be getting anything Americanized. ... He's an amazing chef. He loves to try new recipes. He's learned so much."

Though he has a few years of catering under his belt, Abusoboh's competence in the kitchen began when he became homesick for his mother's cooking, which was around the time the couple fell in love.

They were both teaching in Dubai when a colleague introduced them, though neither spoke the other's native language.

"We fell in love over Google Translate," Rybicki Abusoboh said. "We were friends. We were cooking together. I was teaching him English. ... We used Google Translate for everything."

During a 2018 trip to the States, Abusoboh found himself disappointed with the Arabic restaurants he visited.

"In Jordan, if you love to cook, you go help your mom and sister," he said, "but 98 percent of men don't cook. I moved to Dubai and I missed my



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Alison and Murad Abusoboh stand with their sons, 5-month-old Hadi and 3-year-old Lawrence, outside of Pangea Global Kitchen, which they plan to open next month.

mom's flavors.

"She said, 'It's easy. Go to the store. Here are the ingredients. Then call me back,'" he continued. "Two to three hours on Skype, she told me step by step how to do this. From that, every week she gave me two or three meals like that. I got used to cooking."

It was Abusoboh's cooking that eventually turned the co-workers into more — even though she had decided she could never marry an Arab Muslim and he knew he could never marry a Christian American.

A pot of lentil soup changed their minds.

"She got sick and had surgery," Abusoboh recalled. "I was her friend; I made her lentil soup. I took her heart from lentil soup."

The couple wed in Jordan. When Rybicki Abusoboh's father fell ill, they moved to her hometown of Grosse Pointe.

"We decided to live here and be teachers here," she said. "We came at the end of COVID in 2021. I was pregnant

with our first."

Rybicki Abusoboh teaches third grade at Tyrone Elementary School in Harper Woods. Her husband was hired as a paraprofessional for special education, but felt a stronger calling.

"Her idea was, I know how to cook for family and friends, so why don't I open a food truck," he said. "It's expensive to start something like that. She said, 'Why don't you start from the house? See how people like the food?'"

Through his brother-in-law, Steve Rybicki, president of Infinity and Ovation Yacht Charters,

Abusoboh learned to cook for a crowd. After one season, he joined the staff at The Continental at Ford House for a year. Once he became comfortable cooking for crowds, he decided to open his own business.

Abusoboh built a commercial kitchen in his basement. He started catering for small parties under the name Abu Lawrence Catering. Abu Lawrence means "father of Lawrence."

"We thought Lawrence would be our only child," he said of their 3-year-old. "I started getting big catering, was leasing restaurant just to use their

equipment, then built more on that."

Eventually, Steve Rybicki connected the Abusobohs with Lyla Saigh of Lyla's Catering.

"He told her about us and she said we should meet," he said. "I worked with her for a few hours, a few days a week. I learned how to manage a store and deal with customers."

Their close relationship led to the Abusobohs moving into the building after Saigh retired.

"Dec. 30 we got the keys and started working Jan. 1," Rybicki Abusoboh said.

Since his mother's lessons, as well as studying YouTube and social media, Abusoboh has perfected his craft, serving new recipes to family once or twice before putting his own spin on them.

"He never tastes any of it; he just finds a recipe and makes it," Rybicki Abusoboh said.

His lasagna, for one, brings a smile to her face.

"I'm Italian," she said, before launching into a story about her husband's first attempt at

making lasagna. He didn't wait for her to shop for the appropriate groceries and instead chopped up carrots, celery and onions for the dish.

"He didn't even use ricotta cheese," she said. "... It was the best lasagna I ever had."

"That's when I said, 'You need to cook, not teach,'" she added.

Since October — when they moved, started renovating their fixer-upper in the Woods and welcomed son Hadi to the family — the couple has had their hands full.

However, with Pangea Global Kitchen expected to open by the end of March, Abusoboh is anxious to get to work — in the kitchen instead of on the kitchen.

"The whole idea behind Pangea is 'all together,'" Rybicki Abusoboh said, noting that Pangea was the supercontinent that existed hundreds of millions of years ago, when all the earth's continents were joined as one. "My brother has always wanted to open a restaurant called Pangea. He helped us so much since Murad has been in the States. Murad learned to cook so many meals from around the world."

"Daily food will be Middle Eastern food — chicken shawarma, falafel, lentil soup, fat-toush and tabouleh salads," Abusoboh said. "... Most people know me for musakhan. No one do it here. It's from Jordan."

Aside from daily meals, Pangea also will offer grab-and-go options. Limited seating will be available for dine-in customers, but it will largely operate as a carryout business.

"The staples will be Arabic food and every week we'll have different staples from different countries," Rybicki Abusoboh said.

As he anxiously awaits Pangea's opening day, Abusoboh has big plans for the future of the business, too.

"We don't stop here with this store," he said. "We plan to open food truck to cover parties, weddings. We will make for us many locations, all over the world."

Grosse Pointe News

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Sidewalk contractor keeps last year's price

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A municipal contractor with a good work record said all the right things when asked to extend its agreement with the city another year.

"We will hold our pricing as originally quoted," Luigi Ferdinandi wrote to the Park's engineering consultants. "We will hold the prices for the entire 2025 calendar year."

Ferdinandi is vice president of Luigi Fernandini & Son Cement, headquartered in Roseville. The company won a low-bid contract last year to replace sidewalks in part of the city.

"During construction of the 2024 sidewalk program, (the) company was reliable, efficient, responsive to (our) calls and resident concerns and the sidewalk was of good quality," said Patrick Droze, project manager of OHM

Advisors, the Park's consulting engineers.

"Luigi did a fantastic job," said Tom Jenny, Park director of public works.

Ferdinandi won the original \$145,368 contract by beating five competitors.

"There were six bids (and) Luigi Cement was the lowest bidder," Droze said. "The next lowest bidder was 18 percent higher."

"To maintain consistency and efficiency in the program, the city approached Ferdinandi regarding the possibility of extending their current pricing for the fiscal year 2026 sidewalk replacement program," Jenny said. "It's a lot less hassle than getting to know a new contractor."

The fiscal year starts July 1.

"Due to favorable pricing, reliability and quality of work, OHM recommends the Park extend the contract with Ferdinandi for the 2025 sidewalk program," Droze said.

Work is part of a citywide campaign to replace cracked, worn-out and offset slabs of sidewalk.

City officials launched the campaign last year in the city's District 1, the easternmost of five. It is bordered above Jefferson by Cadieux and Yorkshire from Mack Avenue plus, below Jefferson, Lake Court to Bedford and Bedford Lane.

It had been 10 years since sidewalks were tended systematically.

"To date, sidewalk replacements have been partially completed in District 1," Jenny said. "This (new) phase will include District 2, as well as any remaining work from District 1."

District 2 is bounded by Bedford to Kensington between Jefferson and Mack Avenue.

"Public works will be identifying sidewalk segments for District 2 in the coming weeks," Jenny said.

Due for replacement are sidewalks having one or all the following defects:

- ◆ offset at least a half inch

between slabs,

- ◆ cracks larger than three-eighths of an inch in width,

◆ spalling or scaling where the surface is deteriorating more than 75 percent of the flag,

- ◆ holes more than two inches wide and/or a quarter inch deep and

- ◆ cross slopes exceeding 2 percent.

Slabs due for replacement will be designated by white or pink dots of spray paint.

A white dot means the city will pay for replacement because damage was caused by the city, such as sidewalks dislodged by the roots of municipally owned trees.

A pink dot means the homeowner pays.

"If a homeowner wants a slab (replaced) further up on their driveway, how to they go about contracting Luigi, or is that something you don't want them to do?" Councilman Marty McMillan asked.

"They can contact Luigi themselves," Jenny said. "We stay out of it."

Woods woman wins Detroit Fire Department award

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Patti Kukula has received two awards from the Detroit Fire Department over the years, although the most recent one was far more joyous.

Kukula, executive director of the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, was given the department’s 2025 Rev. McNeely Humanitarian Award at a ceremony late last month. Some 35 years ago, she received a civilian recognition award after assisting a motorist on I-94 during a health emergency.

“I had picked up my sister, Joanne, at the airport and pulled over to help,” she recalled. “He was having a heart attack, so I gave him CPR until the ambulance arrived.”

Her respect for first

responders is why she takes seriously her job, a role she’s had since 2017.

“He passed away at the hospital and it left me traumatized,” she said. “I don’t know how they do it every day.”

Kukla’s husband — retired Wayne County Circuit Court Judge James Chylinski — was with her for both presentations.

“I guess we came full circle,” she said.

Although the foundation was struggling eight years ago when Kukula came on board, it now averages \$3 million in annual funding, is the fifth largest public safety foundation in the country and has four out of four stars from Charity Navigator.

“Patti Kukula is a true champion for the Detroit Fire Department, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our firefighters have the

resources they need to serve the city safely and effectively,” said Executive Fire Commissioner Charles Simms in presenting the award. “Her dedication is unmatched and this award is a testament to her selfless service to public safety.”

Kukula, who served eight years on the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, said she enjoys nonprofit work.

“It’s very rewarding to support areas the city government can’t,” she said. “The balance is to find ways to fund programs, especially with corporations that want to be good community partners.”

One initiative she is very pleased with is securing 800 animal respirators for the city’s fire trucks and ambulances.

“They would go on a run and be so disappointed if there were ani-



Charles Simms, executive commissioner of the Detroit Fire Department, presents Patti Kukula with the department’s Rev. McNeely Humanitarian Award.

COURTESY PHOTO

opened recently on the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores.

“I had someone contact me a while back about finding a restaurant location in Detroit, and the landlord didn’t know the person but knew me,” she said. “He told me he’d do it if I was a partner.”

That restaurant eventually closed, so Kukula and her partner bought a piece of property on Jefferson just north of 10 Mile Road.

“We decided it was better to pay ourselves rent,” she said. “It’s been a great success and we’re happy to be there.”

Editor’s Note: The Rev. McNeely Humanitarian Award is named for Al McNeely, the first black deacon in the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit who served as a chaplain for the Detroit Fire Department for 40 years.

City of Grosse Pointe

Stolen iPhone

Though security footage didn’t capture it, an iPhone was reported stolen from its owner’s purse while she shopped inside a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval between 1:20 and 2:10 p.m. Saturday, March 8.

Facebook Marketplace

Upon meeting at Mack and University to sell two MacBooks via Facebook Marketplace at 6:45 p.m. Sunday, March 9, the buyer took possession of the laptops to inspect them and then ran without paying.

The suspect is described as a 5-foot, 8-inch black man with dreadlocks and a neck tattoo.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Pizza run

While out to get pizza with his younger brother at 2:33 p.m. Monday, March 3, a 20-year-old unlicensed driver was pulled over at Mack and Moross for an expired license plate tab and cited for both infractions, as well as for not having insurance.

Chased

While attempting to pull over vehicles that initially appeared to be drag racing along Mack at 1:07 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, an officer watched one flip and come to a rest near Lexington.

The driver was on the phone with Detroit dispatchers when the crash occurred and he informed officers he was being chased by his younger brother’s best friend, because he recently entered into a relationship with the man’s “baby mother.”

The 28-year-old Detroit man said he feared for his life and that the 25-year-old suspect had threatened to shoot him.

Panhandling

A 35-year-old Detroit man was cited for trespassing at a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 11:22 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, after asking customers for money.

Fair chance

Upon seeing a vehicle with its high beams activated at Moross and Chalfonte at 8:37 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, an officer first flashed the scout car lights in hopes the driver would dim their own.

When the 48-year-old St. Clair Shores woman did not, she was pulled over and arrested on traffic warrants out of the Farms.

DLWS

A number of driving while license suspended citations were issued in the last week.

◆ A 31-year-old Clinton Township woman was cited at 8:13 p.m. Friday, March 7, after being pulled over on Mack near Gateshead for a defective passenger-side headlight.

◆ A 33-year-old Detroit man was cited at 2:10 p.m. Saturday, March 8, after being pulled over at Mack and Moross for illegally tinted windows and leaving on the left-turn signal.

◆ A 31-year-old illegal immigrant was cited at 10:33 p.m. Saturday, March 8, after being pulled over on Mack for driving with no rear lights. United States Border Patrol agents confirmed the man has a pending court date.

◆ A 20-year-old Harper Woods man was cited at 1:24 p.m. Sunday, March 9, after being pulled over at Mack and Colonial for an expired license plate tab.

Personalized license plate

A personalized license plate led officers to arrest a 25-year-old Detroit woman at 4:55 p.m. Saturday, March 8, for a

retail fraud warrant out of Troy.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Packages stolen

An Amazon package containing five smoke alarms was stolen noon Thursday, Feb. 27, from the front porch of a house in the 1200 block of Audubon.

At 3 p.m. Thursday, March 6, someone stole \$100 worth of groceries a delivery person placed on the front porch of a house in the 800 block of Bedford.

Pistol missing

Police said a resident of the 1400 block of Buckingham learned Tuesday, March 4, a Taurus 9mm semi-automatic pistol was missing from a bedroom.

ID theft

A Park woman knew something was wrong upon receiving demands last week for refunds of items she didn’t sell online.

It turned out someone used her email address fraudulently to set up a fake eBay account.

“The account misrepresented items that were sold on the site and were worthless,” according to police, logging the incident as identity theft.

Funny money

A woman with a lot to hide made herself an easy candidate for arrest by allegedly breaking traffic laws on lower Mack Avenue shortly before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

While investigating the woman, 30, of Tennessee, for passing a vehicle on the right shoulder of the road and violating a suspended operators license, a patrol officer discovered several pieces of counterfeit currency in

her vehicle.

Drugged driving

A drugged-out driver ran off the road and hit a tree around 3 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the intersection of Berkshire and St. Paul, according to police.

“Officers responded to the area on a report of a one-car accident,” police said. “The driver (a 39-year-old Detroit woman) was disoriented. Drug use paraphernalia was located inside the vehicle.”

Officers arrested her for driving under the influence of drugs.

Won’t stay away

A homeless man, 43, racked up another trespassing citation the evening of Thursday, March 6, in the city hall lobby.

This is the same man police cited Saturday, Feb. 15, and Thursday, Feb. 20, for doing the same thing and more, including absconding parole on an unspecified charge.

“It’s difficult because we have taken him to area homeless shelters many times, but he returns a few days later,” an officer said.

— Brad Lindberg

Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety

Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

No insurance

A 50-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for not having vehicle insurance and his 1998 Honda Civic was impounded after being stopped on Vernier near Michaux around 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9.

Computer fraud

A Shorecrest resident reported \$498 missing from her checking account after trying to unlock her daughter’s Facebook page and being directed to call a phone number that popped up on the screen, which directed her to provide credit information.

The incident took place sometime Tuesday, March 4, and the report was filed at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 5.

— Ted O’Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Missing plate

The license plate was stolen off a vehicle while it was parked in a driveway in the 2100 block of Anita sometime overnight Monday, March 3.

Stolen vehicle

A 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from the north parking lot of Henry Ford St. John Hospital between 4:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

No glass was found where the vehicle had been parked.

— Ted O’Neil

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

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GROSSE POINTE PARK
GROSSE POINTE FARMS
GROSSE POINTE FIELDS

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OUR VIEW

Happy upcoming Sunshine Week

In fact, happy anniversary to Sunshine Week, which turns 20 this year. It was established in 2005 by the American Society of Newspaper Editors and is held in March each year during the week of James Madison’s birthday.

This year it runs Sunday, March 16, through Saturday, March 22, and shines a light on the importance of public records and open government.

Madison, of course, is known as the “Father of the Constitution.”

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Originally aimed at Congress, the First Amendment — as well as the rest of the Constitution — has been widely interpreted by courts to apply to all levels of government.

Unfortunately, too many people think the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights specifically, is a laundry list of what rights the government grants us. In reality, it is the limitations of power we (the people) place on government, but that is a subject for another time.

The key element of Sunshine Week is to promote government transparency. As the saying goes, sunshine is the best disinfectant.

Two laws are the basis for said transparency. Although they go by different names in various states, in Michigan they are the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

FOIA requests have a very precise outline to them that a person making a request must follow. The more specific the request, the more likely it will be granted, unless there is an exemption involved such as attorney-client privilege, an ongoing law enforcement investigation or internal personnel matters.

The law does allow government agencies to ask for an extension beyond the required response within five business days — which they almost always do — and allows them to charge a fee. The Michigan Press Association (see Guest View, right) has been pressing lawmakers to reduce the response time and cost structure and remove FOIA exemptions for the legislature and governor.

Indeed, as a candidate in 2016, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer promised she would work to remove those exemptions. Some nine years later, Michigan remains the only state where the governor’s office is exempt from FOIA requests.

As for the OMA, the name is pretty straightforward. Meetings of public bodies, by and large, must be open to the public. Exceptions include discussion of legal matters, real estate transactions and personnel issues. Decisions that stem from a closed session, however, must be made in open session.

Even with all the tools in the toolbox, the press can still face an uphill battle.

Notably, the Associated Press is in the middle of a lawsuit after the White House banned its reporters and photographers from access to President Trump for refusing to follow his executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

On a lighter note, perhaps a compromise could be the social media post from the estate of the late Jimmy Buffett suggesting that it should be called the Gulf of Margaritaville.

The White House has argued the AP ban does not prevent them from reporting the news, but it certainly seems as though the move could have a chilling effect on other news outlets.

There is a Latin phrase popular in journalism circles, “quis custodiet ipsos custodes?” Translated to



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By John Elchert

Michigan remains cloudy during Sunshine Week

For the past 10 years, the Michigan Press Association has given the Rep. Peter Petallia Memorial Sunshine Award to public servants who strive to promote and protect transparency in government.

The award is named after former State Rep. Peter Pettalia of Presque Isle, who embodied all things good in governing, especially support of the residents in his community and an understanding of the importance of keeping them informed through a transparency.

This year, we are sad to report there are no Sunshine Awards being given. Michigan continues to linger in the basement statistically on matters of openness when compared to other states. Despite this fact, little

has been done to shine the sun on government activity in our state.

Government transparency is essential to maintaining the public’s trust and ensuring accountability. Transparency allows residents to understand how their government operates, how their tax dollars are being spent and how decisions are made on their behalf.

From townships to big cities and counties all the way up to the state Capitol, transparency is treated as a burden and a thing to be avoided by government officials.

Exceedingly prohibitive costs, lengthy delays and complete exemptions foster this attitude.

Government transparency is not just a matter of ethics, but also of efficiency and

See GUEST, page 7A

English it means “who will guard the guards themselves?”

The purpose of the media, when done correctly, is to observe things and relay that information to those of you who do not have the time to do so.

Which brings us back to those open meetings. While reading the Grosse Pointe News, you may or may not pay attention (although we hope you do) to the public notices. Those are advertisements municipalities must purchase in their local paper of record to announce certain upcoming meetings and hearings.

A kerfuffle over just that process in Clarksdale, Miss., last month caught our attention and those of First Amendment advocates nationwide.

Clarksdale city commissioners filed a lawsuit against the Clarksdale Press Register, also a weekly, claiming an editorial the paper published was libelous. The headline of the editorial was “Secrecy, deception erode public trust,” and was written after the commission met to discuss a proposed tax increase on alcohol, tobacco and marijuana, a meeting for which the city did not send the paper a public notice.

In a clear case of prior restraint, a judge ordered the paper to remove the editorial from its website and stop selling hardcopies of the issue in which it appeared. BEFORE holding a hearing.

The city clerk filed an affidavit with the lawsuit, saying she forgot to send a notice to the paper about the meeting, calling it a “simple mistake.”

The city eventually dropped its suit and the paper put the editorial back online after its owner agreed to fix a typo that originally asked if commissioners received any “kick-back” from the community that should have read “pushback.”

It seems the paper and city may have overreacted, but the judge’s actions certainly call for some type of rebuke from the Mississippi Commission on Judicial Performance.

Aside from a few FOIA disagreements with the Grosse Pointe Public School System, the Grosse Pointe News enjoys a predominantly open relationship with the district and our five municipalities. Happy Sunshine Week to them and to you.

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.

GPSO concert in review

To the Editor:

Over the frozen cracks of a cold winter, the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra performed their third concert of their 73rd season.

Opening was the Sibelius, Andante Festivo, originally written for string quartet, filling the magnificent church sanctuary in its serene sounds being most inviting to the soul and mind. The strings performed most elegantly with delicately felt phrasing, well-rehearsed bowings and effective tempo modulations, resulting in a full, rich, intuitive impressiveness.

Next, it is not often a 13-year-old boy can sit down at the piano sounding as professional as anyone in this area of music.

See LETTERS, page 7A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
March 13 – 19						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
55° 37°	66° 53°	69° 45°	52° 31°	49° 38°	63° 39°	61° 35°
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	Chance of Showers	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	0%	60%	30%	10%	0%	10%
SUNRISE 7:47 am SUNSET 7:36 pm	SUNRISE 7:45 am SUNSET 7:38 pm	SUNRISE 7:43 am SUNSET 7:39 pm	SUNRISE 7:42 am SUNSET 7:40 pm	SUNRISE 7:40 am SUNSET 7:41 pm	SUNRISE 7:38 am SUNSET 7:42 pm	SUNRISE 7:36 am SUNSET 7:43 pm

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

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

Headache people, take a deep breath



In many ways I'm the carbon copy of my mom. Of my three siblings and I, only I received her hazel eyes, left-hand dominance and — regrettably, but indeed genetically — her migraines. When I turned 16 and experienced my first

knock-down, drag-out, “somebody put me out of my misery” migraine, I’m quite sure I would have insisted on being taken to the ER had I not understood what was happening from years of watching my mom navigate life while an invisible hand hit her in the head with a hammer. I got on the same God-send medication as my mom, did my best to limit exposure to the 12,000 triggers and tried, not hard enough, to drink a bunch of water every day. A decade went by that way.

It was a cardiologist — ironically not my neurologist — who introduced me to the science of breathing in 2021. Although I went to him for something entirely unrelated, he noticed the mention of migraines in my chart and all but demanded I start doing daily breathing exercises. So much so, he had me take out my phone and download “The Breathing App” in front of him. Its application for headache-begone purposes couldn’t be more simple. Set the dial to a 4:6 ratio — breathe in for

four seconds, out for six seconds — and run it for 20 minutes every day. Consistent repetition trains the brain to begin breathing at such a pace throughout the day and the science relating to headache prevention has to do with dispelling carbon dioxide from your system and retaining more oxygen by breathing slower. For those interested in digging deeper, my doctor was informed by the book “Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art,” by journalist James Nestor. Here’s the kicker: It

actually works. To say daily breathing exercises have reduced my occurrence of headache days by 50 percent would be a light estimate. It’s why I, for one, was excited to hear about a new Breathing for Stress Relief weekly class The War Memorial is offering starting this Friday, March 14. The class description invites participants to “unwind from the week with guided breathwork designed to calm your nervous system, release tension and build resilience to stress.”

Registration can be taken care of at tinyurl.com/534acvkd. Though the migraine Russian roulette landed on me, it’s been well worth it considering the rest of my inheritance. From my mom, I also gained the storytelling gene she made use of for countless hours at her kids’ bedsides, the desire to live a Christ-centered life, every ounce of my resiliency through tough times and the type of laugh where people in the other room aren’t quite sure whether we’re laughing or crying.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

MEMORIAL LIST DEADLINE NEARS: The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Association has been making extensive efforts for the last several months to check the War Memorial names which will be cast in bronze for a permanent record at the center. So far, in spite of these efforts, several veterans have not responded and unless the association is advised within one week from the published date of these names, they will be eliminated from the tablets.

FULL-FLEDGED RIOT FOLLOWS BASKETBALL GAME BETWEEN POINTE AND HIGHLAND PARK: The lively rivalry between high school basketball teams which had already bubbled over into violence on two recent occasions turned into a sizable riot following the Grosse Pointe-Highland Park game in the Grosse Pointe High School gymnasium Friday night. Just

how a preliminary fight started or ended is not clear, but it kindled the lust for battle, which two and a half hours later developed into the biggest school battle that Grosse Pointe has ever staged. **DEVILS CLINCH BCL CHAMPIONSHIP:** Surging from behind with a remarkable 25 point spree, paced by its scoring star Bruce Allen, Coach Ed Wernet’s league-leading Blue Devils tacked the Border Cities League basketball championship staff with a thrilling 41 to 40 victory over a surprising Highland Park quintet last Friday, before a standing, screaming, capacity, partisan crowd on the local court.

1975

50 years ago this week

ANSWERS TO NEDZI QUIZ: President Gerald Ford is in trouble in southeastern Michigan if the results of 14th District Congressman Lucien N. Nedzi’s annual questionnaire are any indicator. A

total of 149,884 questionnaires were sent out and 11,314 returned. Despite the relative novelty of the Ford presidency, the traditional honeymoon period seems to have ended quickly. Already 50 percent of respondents disapprove of the overall record of the Ford Administration, 30.1 percent approve and 19.9 percent remain undecided. **PIPE SMOKERS MISS RECORDS:** Flag pole sitting, telephone booth stuffing, teeter-tottering — they’ve all been the subject of endurance contests. So has pipe smoking and a local version of just such a contest was held Saturday at the Hill and Hill tobacconists. The contest drew 44 entries who gathered at 7 p.m to try to break the world pipe smoking record of two hours, five minutes and 11 seconds. **DEFER SCHOOL 50 YEARS OLD:** Defer School celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open house to which students, parents, former students and friends were all invited. Grosse Pointe’s oldest elementary school was not about

to let its 50th year slide by without a lot of attention, so it opened its doors and a sizable portion of the Defer community turned out for the occasion.

2000

25 years ago this week

350-POUND BRONZE STATUE STOLEN FROM WAR MEMORIAL: It’s 32 inches high, 60 inches long, 15 inches wide, made of bronze and weighs 350 pounds — and it is a statue of five boys playing musical instruments. It was discovered stolen from the Grosse Pointe War Memorial’s memorial garden last week. War Memorial spokesperson Terri Carroll said the statue was last seen during the middle of February. The theft

wasn’t reported until the end of the month. **A.M. ANNOUNCEMENTS GO HIGH TECH:** The crackling of the principal’s voice over the public address system is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Pierce Middle School was the first school in the district to do live video announcements. Brownell and Parcels middle schools are to follow soon. **DISTRICT DECIDES TO CONTINUE SPECIAL ED SUMMER CAMP:** After impassioned pleas from special education parents, the Grosse Pointe Public School System has decided to continue the SCAMP summer social and recreational program. Several parents of special education students spoke before the board March 6 to express their disappointment about the department of special education’s decision to discontinue SCAMP.

2015

10 years ago this week

WOODS FIREWORKS FIZZLE?: The booming sounds and vibrant colors of a city fireworks display will likely go dark and silent this summer. After much discussion regarding what to do with the fireworks show, Committee of the Whole members agreed to forward a recommendation to city council to cancel the 2015 fireworks. **FARMS OFFICER EARNS MEDAL OF VALOR:** Tom Shimko’s side job as a basement waterproofer nearly saved a man buried to his neck in a collapsed trench last Oct. 29 in Grosse Pointe Woods. The effort earned Shimko the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department Medal of Valor.

Lower Jefferson sewer works starts spring

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city’s engineering consultants won a contract this week to oversee a sewer separation project on a three-block section of lower Jefferson Avenue. Construction is

expected to begin mid-April and finish by Aug. 15. “Work includes construction of a designated stormwater sewer from Maryland down the median of Jefferson to the final outlet, a connection into the existing storm water sewer on Lakepointe,” said Patrick

Droze, project manager for OHM Advisors, the city’s consulting engineers. “The contractor is getting ready. This should be done by mid-summer.” The area of mainly commercial and civic property is one of few in

See SEWER, page 8A

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Coming with a long list of honors in competitive arenas in piano, Ethan Mihaescu received the Chopin Foundation award several times, as well as other prestigious music awards. Ethan presented a stunning performance with the GPSO, completing the entire Chopin Concerto in E minor, Op. 11 in three movements. Certainly a gifted young musician. It was an honor to hear this exceptional performance. After the intermission came the concluding work of Richard Wagner’s Lohengrin divided into several acts. A medley from his first opera performed by the GPSO in

majestic flair, conducted by Joe Striplin, music director of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra. Sounding especially impressive were the French horns, oboe and violin section, recreating the majestic procession of Acts I and II as gods crossed the rainbow bridge toward Valhalla, a magnificent castle waiting for them in the clouds. Music still is playing in the chambers of our minds, forevermore. **LEONA FORBES**
Grosse Pointe Woods
GPSO board member

Reading Month

To the Editor:
My name is Avery Keyser and I am a member of the Grosse Pointe

Public Library’s Teen Leadership Program. I am writing to inform you that March is National Reading Month. March was declared National Reading Month because Dr. Seuss’s birthday was March 2, but it was spread across the whole month to encourage more people to read. Reading is proven to give people benefits that will last them their whole lives, such as improving comprehension and analytical abilities, increasing imagination and boosting memory. I would encourage everyone in the community to celebrate National Reading Month by picking up a book. **AVERY KEYSER**
Grosse Pointe Park

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

effectiveness. When government officials operate in secrecy, it becomes more difficult for citizens to participate in the decision-making process and provide valuable input. Transparency allows for greater collaboration between government and the public, leading to better policies and outcomes for all. To improve government transparency in Michigan, several steps can be taken. Primarily, the state’s Freedom of Information Act must be revised to lower costs and speed up response and production of FOIA requests. We must also press lawmakers to remove the exemptions in the law for the legisla-

ture and the governor. Government transparency is a fundamental component of a functioning democracy. In Michigan, it is crucial that legislators move to increase transparency and ensure government officials are held accountable to the people they serve. By improving transparency, we can strengthen democracy, build trust in government and create a more just and equitable society for all. The Michigan Press Association urges you to contact your state legislators and let them know you want FOIA to be considered an essential service, not a burden.

John Elchert is president of the Michigan Press Association and publisher of the Leelanau Enterprise.

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TIFA may reactivate duplex

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Next fiscal year’s budget for the Tax Increment Finance Authority is full of funding for the future. Forward-thinking aspects of the budget are:

- ◆ reestablishing commercial property improvement grants,
- ◆ increasing residential property improvement grants,
- ◆ setting aside money to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the city charter and

- ◆ having more than enough to pay its shares of a streetscape renovation scheduled for 2026.

The 75th anniversary line item is fluid. “That could be offset by sponsorships,” said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager. The budget was endorsed, but not approved, during the TIFA board meeting March 6. Members can’t adopt their budget until it is approved by the city council, which addresses budget matters in spring prior to the fiscal year beginning July 1.

“(I) will present a final budget to the board for consideration after the council approves it during the annual budget process,” Rothe said. TIFA’s proposed balanced budget for fiscal year 2025-26 is built upon \$1,352,000 estimated revenue. Expenditures are separated into two categories: non-streetscape costs of \$655,572 and \$716,428 set aside for redesign and construction of the Charlevoix commercial district roadway, sidewalks and related features. Construction is supposed to start in spring

2026. Major non-streetscape expenditures include:

- ◆ \$302,472 in bond payments for construction of the public works building on Mack Avenue,
- ◆ \$120,000 for residential façade improvement grants, a 20 percent increase from last year;
- ◆ \$60,000 to reestablish commercial façade improvement grants, with landscaping enhancements added;
- ◆ \$60,000 for special events, such as the charter anniversary, plus Kercheval After 6 street fairs and the Charlevoix

Street Party,

- ◆ \$28,600 for administration expenses,
- ◆ \$25,000 for pedestrian lighting and
- ◆ \$13,000 for holiday lighting.

The balance is for such things as legal and contractual services. A \$5,000 liability insurance bill for a vacant duplex and neighboring vacant lot the TIFA owns had board members wondering why the dwelling wasn’t generating revenue. “Is the duplex unoccupiable?” member Arthur Mullen asked. “Would it pass rental inspection?”

“There would probably be a few items to take care of, but nothing major,” Rothe said. He said the property’s prospective rental revenue may not be worth the cost of managing it, plus the undeveloped lot is part of a long-term plan for improvements to Charlevoix. “The Cabbage Patch is a tight market,” Mullen said. “I’m sure a two-unit would go quickly.” “It’s been a few months since anyone’s been in there,” Rothe said. “We turned the water off in the property for safekeeping. I’ll have the rental inspector look at it.” “I’d rather not have it just sit there,” Mullen said.

Studies fires

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — One of the city’s public safety officers trained recently with Detroit fire investigators. Park Chief Jim Bostock said the arrangement turned out so well he’d like to do it again. “He was in class for a week,” Bostock said. The course combined theory with practice. Morning classroom sessions were conceptual. Typical bookwork. Afternoons focused on practical experience, like lab sessions in field settings. “They would go to a fire scene and get good, hands-on work,” Bostock said. “They did what a

fire investigator would do. They looked for sources of ignition, for where fires started and burn patterns.” “We literally went to a house that was still smoking and started investigating,” said the officer, Sgt. Tom Card, a 16-year veteran of the Park. He’s also one of the department’s fire investigators. Things aren’t always as they seem in the ruins of a burned-out building. Melted metal clothes hangers next to a charred space heater can have multiple interpretations. “Did someone cause a fire by placing clothes on a space heater, or were clothes hanging above the space heater and fell onto the hot heater?”

Card said. “There’s two possible outcomes. Which is it? Is there a crime afoot? Does somebody need to be held accountable? That’s what the course began to touch on.” Property damage and loss of life must be investigated properly and thoroughly, especially when evidence may lead to criminal prosecution. “You can’t just walk in and say, ‘Yeah, it’s probably this,’” Card said. One afternoon, officers went to a freshly burned bungalow on Detroit’s east side. On the first floor were a dining room, two bedrooms, kitchen and a bathroom. Upstairs consisted of one large room the length of the structure. “Where did the fire start?” officers were asked. Circumstances indi-

cated vindictive arson. “People had been squatting in the house until the owner told them to get out,” Card said. “Within 24 to 28 hours, the house was on fire.” Analysis of the scene, however, muddled the assumption. “We excavated debris, literally shoveling it out a window,” Card said. “There was charring on the floor of one of the bedrooms, in what we call an irregular burn pattern. Half the class thought the fire started in a back bedroom based on findings.” Other officers sifting through the upstairs had a different interpretation. The room they studied was the most damaged. Part of the floor collapsed. The upstairs team figured flames started there and spread downstairs on falling debris. Back on the first floor, some officers suspected gasoline had been poured onto the floor and set afire.

“I wasn’t totally sold on that theory,” Card said. “Gasoline will spread across the floor. The fire will spread rapidly over a wide area. But the burn pattern was centralized.” Burning debris falling through the damaged ceiling from the space above could have ignited the bedroom. Further investigation did not turn up evidence of accelerants. “You have to find small pieces of the puzzle and put it back together,” Card said. The case is unsolved. Card’s next stop is training with the Michigan State Police. No matter how it’s measured, Detroit firefighters are more experienced than Park counterparts. “Detroit firefighters respond to an average 30,000 (fires) per year,” according to a Q&A section of the city of Detroit website, detroitmi.gov. Last year in the Park, officers handled 409 fire-

related reports. Less than 5 percent involved working fires. Runs consisted of seven dwelling fires, three outdoor fires, two vehicle fires and lending mutual aid to other communities eight times, according to the department’s 2023 annual report. The rest were investigations of fire alarms, smoke, downed wires, carbon monoxide alerts and the like. One reason Pointe officers are cross-trained to fight crime and fires is to spread out the personnel cost of fighting the city’s relatively low number of fires reported each year. Of the 3,791 hours Park officers spent training last year, 897 focused on the fire side of the business, according to the annual report:

- ◆ 552 hours of regular monthly training,
- ◆ 120 hours of fire apparatus, pump and aerial operations, and
- ◆ 225 hours of virtual fire and EMA training.



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SEWER:

Continued from page 6A

the Park where combined storm and sanitary sewers haven’t been separated. “To ensure proper oversight and successful project completion, construction engineering services are required,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “OHM Advisors has been involved in the design and planning phases, making them well-positioned to provide continuity and effective project management.” Droze submitted an estimated fee of \$127,500. Four main duties consist of laying out construction staking, administering construction, overseeing testing services and closing out the project. “OHM will provide staff to ensure all portions of the project are installed in accordance with project plans and specifications,” Droze said. “Construction observers will prepare daily reports and log

quantities for contractor payment purposes. In the event the contractor’s operations are not in conformance with plans or the project specifications, the construction observer will notify the contractor and city.” Design for this project began in 2018, and was completed in fall 2023, Droze said. A contractor, Pamar Enterprises, located in New Haven, won a low-bid contract of \$962,217 last November. Pamar’s bid not only beat six competitors wanting between \$20,783 to \$773,300 more for the job, it came in nearly 7 percent below OHM’s estimate of probable costs. Park officials budgeted around \$400,000 for this project, according to Sizeland. More than half the cost of the separation will be paid by the group that is funding construction of the Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts on Jefferson between Alter and Maryland. The arrangement

developed from a legal compromise Sept. 10, 2024, between the art center’s backer, the non-profit Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, and Wayne County regarding the center’s construction infringing on a 15-foot-diameter stormwater drainage pipe just inside the Detroit border, as was reported earlier. Park city council members approved the funding agreement Feb. 3. “Restoration includes asphalt pavement, concrete pavement, concrete sidewalk and the median of Jefferson between Lakepointe and Maryland,” Droze said. Restoration also may result in simplified landscaping of the traffic islands. It costs between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to tend the island’s formal landscaping, according to Sizeland. Payments are made by the Downtown Development Authority, which encompasses lower Jefferson, straining its annual budget, currently \$122,000.

TREES:

Continued from page 3A

varieties of sycamore and a good number of plane trees. It’s not going to be monoculture. We’re going to plant a lot of different trees in the future. At least 25 to 30 in spring.

I’m waiting on others I might pull in the fall. I’m not sure I can replicate the 90 or 95 we did last year, but it will be more than 50 or 60.” Van Tol favors sycamores as street trees because of their hardiness and root system. “They’re pretty disease

resistant,” he said. “Secondly, sycamores don’t generally cause sidewalks to jump up. A lot of other trees are the same way — their roots are on the top of the ground; they become somewhat of a problem.” “It was a good year,” Colter said.

A good pie needs some pi

March 14 — better known as Pi Day — is an opportunity to celebrate one of math’s most famous numbers: π (pi). This mathematical constant, which begins with 3.14 (hence the day’s recognition,) represents the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. It’s unchanging, infinite and essential to understanding circles, from planetary motion to, more practically, pizza and pie.

But while pi remains constant, pies, whether cherry, apple, or deep-dish pizza, are deliciously variable. And that’s where things get interesting.

Mathematicians respect pi for what it is — an irrational number that stretches on infinitely without repeating. Unlike a simple fraction, it refuses to be neatly con-



Academic Pointers

by Glen Hipple

tained. Yet in everyday conversation, we have the audacity to abbreviate it to a mere 3.14 or, if we’re feeling particularly generous, 3.14159. But no matter how much we try to shorten it, pi will always escape our attempts to box it in.

Some people take this infinite quality as a challenge. Pi enthusiasts have memorized and recited it to thousands, even tens of thousands, of decimal places. The current world record? Over 70,000 digits. That’s an incredible feat of memory, but still only scratching the sur-

face of pi’s endless sequence. You can never reach the end of pi, no matter how long you try.

Pie, on the other hand? You can absolutely reach the end of a pie. And let’s be honest, it’s far more satisfying to do so.

When it comes to pizza, knowing the size of your pie matters more than you might think. A 12-inch pizza has an area of about 113 square inches (using $\pi \times \text{radius}^2$). But a 16-inch pizza? That’s a whopping 201 square inches of cheesy goodness — almost double the

amount for just a slightly larger diameter. Understanding this simple math might just change how you order your next pizza.

But what about toppings? While pi governs the size of your pizza, it has nothing to do with the number of toppings you can pile on, but that doesn’t mean math isn’t involved. Is there a pizza industry standard for toppings per square inch? A common recommendation is one to two toppings per square inch, depending on the type of pizza and how much coverage you want. If you want more toppings, order a larger pizza so they have space to be evenly spread without overwhelming the crust.

If you want variety in a pizza, the combinations are practically endless. Why not consider some-

thing beyond cheese and pepperoni? A standard menu with 10 toppings offers a staggering 1,024 different possible pizzas if you consider all combinations, from a single topping to an all-in mix. With specialty crusts and cheese blends, the number of unique pizza experiences skyrockets. And yet, no matter how you slice it, you’ll always need pi to determine just how much room you have to work with.

Baking is a practice where precision counts. Just like in mathematics, where equations rely on balance, a pie recipe requires a carefully considered relationship between its ingredients. If you add more butter for richness, you may need to reduce liquid elsewhere to maintain structure. Once you’ve established your balanced equation, you must be constant — like pi itself — in your execution. Variability after mixing can lead to disas-

ter, the most infamous being the dreaded soggy bottom. The time for substitutions and adjustments is before you begin, not in the middle of baking.

Once your pie enters the oven, the equation is set in motion and only the right calculations will ensure a perfectly crisp crust and harmonious filling.

Pi is forever. Pie, unfortunately, is not. So, this Pi Day, whether you’re crunching numbers or crusts, take a moment to appreciate the math behind the delicious. It’s one constant that never fails.

Glen Hipple is a former GPPSS teacher. He currently is the academic director for Pointers for Academic Excellence, a community resource dedicated to supporting and endowing academic excellence in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Contact him at glen@pf-ae.org.

South grad wins advertising award

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Sarah Fuller, a 2021 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, was one of five Michigan State University students to win a gold American Advertising Award last month from the Lansing chapter of the American Advertising Federation.

“That was my first time entering,” Fuller said. “It was a really great experience.”

Also known as an ADDY, at the professional level such recognition is comparable to television’s Emmy awards.

Fuller developed her brand identity project based on a local company, Blue Bay Fish & Seafood Market, located at 19531 Mack in Grosse

Pointe Woods.

“Her family has shopped here for years,” said Diane Finken, owner of Blue Bay. “I was impressed with her project. I thought it was strategically thought out with attention to detail.”

Fuller put the material together for a class from January through April 2024.

“I started by designing a new logo,” she said. “It can be applied to anything that’s printed — business cards, letterhead, take-out bags.”

The project was chosen by professors to enter in the AAF competition.

“Every December the faculty reviews our work for the previous year,” Fuller said. “They sponsored my submission.”

“Being recognized in the student competition

is a great achievement for our young designers,” Chris Corneal, associate professor of graphic design, said in a press release. “It indicates the creative work of our students is exceptional and further establishes that our students are well on their way to make an impact in the creative industries as they graduate and enter the profession.”

Fuller, who attended Kerby Elementary School and Brownell Middle School, said she grew up enjoying art classes and took her first graphic design class at Brownell. She was in the National Art Honor Society at South and participated in the school’s literary magazine and ArtFest.

“I’m a very creative person, but I also like to problem solve,” she



COURTESY PHOTO

Sarah Fuller with her ADDY Award and winning project.

added. “Graphic art lets me communicate what I solved with others.”

Fuller is set to graduate in May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in

graphic design.

“It’s been great learning and growing,” she said. “All of my professors have been more than willing to help out.”

She eventually plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree.

“That’s down the road,” she said. “Right now, I’m just ready to get to work.”

Liggett students excel at Grosse Pointe History Day

University Liggett School students earned top honors at the 2025 Grosse Pointe History Day, with multiple winning entries across all categories. This year’s theme, “Rights and Responsibilities in History,” inspired students to explore the historical significance of rights, freedoms and the responsibilities tied to them, challenging them to think critically about the past and present.

“We are incredibly proud of our students’ dedication and the cre-

ativity they demonstrated in bringing history to life through their projects,” said Chris Hemler, Cynthia N. Ford chair of history and the social studies at ULS. “The students’ thoughtful exploration of the theme, ‘Rights and Responsibilities in History,’ not only reflects their deep understanding of historical events but also their ability to connect those events to contemporary issues. Their hard work truly stands out and we look forward to seeing many of them

continue their journey to the District 10 competition.”

The winning entries from Liggett included projects in documentary, exhibit, website and performance categories. The school was particularly well represented, with 12 of the 13 recognized entries coming from Liggett students. Winning projects included:

Junior Individual Exhibit: Maya Kropp — There is Space for Everyone in Space
Senior Individual

Exhibit: Liliana Haladjian — Unequal Rights in the Criminal Justice System
Junior Group Exhibit

(Tie): Alexandra Spain and Amelia Mitchell — Votes for Women; Charlotte Dickey, Olivia Robinson, Bebe Noecker,

Malena Moises, Cala Coyro — Bob-Lo’s Low Senior Group Exhibit: See HISTORY, page 10A

MIXED:

Continued from page 1A

In fact, projections show students in grades fifth through seventh increasing from the current 1,283 to 1,325 in 2027. Similarly, students in grades fifth and sixth will grow from 830 to 890.

Total enrollment is expected to fall to just over 6,000 students in 2028, which includes slightly fewer than 1,800

high school students. The number of seniors will drop from 502 this year to 441 in four years.

Wills also told the board the current use of available space is 60 percent districtwide. That ranges from a low of 40 percent at Grosse Pointe North High School to a high of 87 percent at Kerby Elementary School.

Over the past eight years, the only buildings to add students are Pierce Middle School (42),

Monteith Elementary School (11), Parcels Middle School (five) and Defer Elementary School — which took in former Trombly Elementary School students (144).

“We have some important decisions to make in the next few months,” Board President Colleen Worden said as the district starts putting together its 2025-26 fiscal year budget. “We were elected to make tough decisions about the budget.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

Elliott Hemler presents his project.



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Liliana Haladjian stands by her project, Unequal Rights in the Criminal Justice System.



Amelia Mitchell and Alexandra Spain present their project to Judge Chip Berschback during Grosse Pointe History Day.

HISTORY:
Continued from page 9A

Landon Wysocki, Brady Ancona, Sam Van Culin, Billy Mansfield — Brown v. Board of Education, From Segregation to Integration
Youth Individual Documentary: Elliott Hemler — Akin Holloway and the Responsibilities of Freedom
Junior Individual Documentary: Alexander Gruenburg — History of NADCP and the Drug Court Movement

Junior Group Documentary: Calum McCracken, Hazen Mazzenga, Brendan Sime — The First Fox War
Senior Group Documentary: Liam Ferguson, Joseph Harris, Cameron Stapleton — The Evolution of Indigenous Rights and Laws in America
Youth Individual Website: Phoebe Hemler — Stubbs the Cat: Rights and Responsibilities of Local Government
Junior Group Website: Jack Blue, Michael

Melhem, Rocco Vesperini, Martin Krall — Detroit-Windsor Tunnel
Senior Individual Performance: Ava Noecker — Solitaire
The top entries from each category will receive a monetary award, while second- and third-place projects are invited to compete at the District 10 competition at the Detroit Historical Museum on March 1. All participants also receive certificates to recognize their work and contributions.

Liggett alumni Chris Andrecovich, Class of 2005, left, and Nishant Dixit, Class of 2003.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Liggett alumni, from left, Christal Phillips, Class of 2001; George Gotfredson, Class of 2018; Andrew Glancy, Class of 2002; and Bill Zhu, Class of 1994.

Liggett among schools to host alumni networking event

Tuesday, Feb. 25, more than 85 alumni from four Detroit-area independent schools — University Liggett School, Roeper, Detroit Country Day School and Cranbrook — attended Liggett’s second annual Detroit Independent Schools Joint Alumni networking event at TechTown Detroit.
This year’s gathering was geared toward alumni either within or transitioning to the tech industry. A compelling and informative panel included Nishant Dixit, Liggett

Class of 2003; Phyllip Hall, Cranbrook Class of 1984; Molly Borman, DCC Class of 2007; and Morgan Andahazy, Roeper Class of 1995.
Led by moderator Ian Perkins, Cranbrook Class of 2005, the panelists spoke about their varied careers in tech and answered questions about industry trends, ethical concerns and the rise and emergence of technology-based companies in metro Detroit.
Dixit, a fintech expert and start-up founder, explained to the group

that “Detroit is now the world’s second fastest-growing startup ecosystem. Organizations like Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Plug and Play Detroit, Newlab, TechTown and others are empowering people at every career stage—from middle school to retirement — to thrive in tech and startups.”
He also reflected about the importance of his education by adding that “independent schools have given us the critical thinking and leadership skills to make our dreams a reality. I’m proud to be from Detroit and to start up here.”
After the panel discussion, alumni guests from the four schools stayed to mix, mingle and network with each other.
The inaugural event, focused on the medical industry, was hosted in February 2024 at the Detroit Athletic Club. Additional Detroit Independent School Alumni networking events will be planned.

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Check your insurance policy as well. Make sure you have drain back-up coverage. Some insurance policies cover inside and outside drain coverage and repair cost.

Relying on the city main sewer drain system to handle heavy over load of rain has not been holding up to the demand in some cases. There is one way you can prevent your home from flooding. Install a back water drain check valve to your sanitary drain system. This way if the city main can't handle the over load, your check valve will hold back water from entering and flooding your home or business.

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PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Blake Messacar of Grosse Pointe Farms recently earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Miami University. He majored in data science and statistics.

◆◆◆
Leigh Farquhar of Grosse Pointe Farms recently earned a Master of Science degree in pharmaceutical sciences from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

We welcome Pride of the Pointes submissions. Send them to editor@grossepointe news.com.

FEATURES



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Explore more
Public safety recruiting youths for Explorer program

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Young people ages 14 to 20 who are interested in learning about law enforcement, fire service and emergency response careers are invited to join the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Explorers program, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department.

Police/Fire Explorer Post 30 hopes to enlist at least 10 participants before the mid-summer start of the program — a first for the Pointes.

“It’s similar to a Reserves program, but for kids, ages 14 to 20, who are interested in law enforcement and the fire service,” said Public Safety Officer Michael Ryan, who will serve as an associate advisor of the program along with PSO Jon Ross, Detective Derek Lazarski and PSO William Madsen.

PSO Jim LaBeau will serve as post advisor.

“The Explorers program allows us to give them firsthand experience, twice a month, through training on law enforcement procedures and scenarios, giving them real-world experience of what we do on a daily basis,” Ryan added.

Of the five officers who will supervise the pro-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Officers Jason LeDuc, Jon Ross, Mike Ryan and Jim LaBeau. Ross and Ryan will serve as associate advisors of the Explorers program; LaBeau will serve as post advisor.

gram, two are graduates of an Explorers program, including Ryan, who went through the Macomb County Sheriff’s program.

“We know how to run it correctly,” he said. “We want to provide something for the Grosse Pointes as a resource. There are no criminal justice or fire service programs here like there

are in other districts, so we wanted to create something.”

Classroom sessions will take place at the Farms courtroom, while hands-on sessions will occur in various locations. Topics include domestic violence response, traffic stops, tactical procedures, crime scene investigation, building searches,

crisis/hostage negotiating and more.

“One meeting we’ll be explaining a rule of law that relates to the topic,” Ryan said. “The next meeting we’ll do some role playing. They’ll learn how to talk to people, how to interview them, how to get information from them.”

Classes also will include basic life-saving

techniques, like applying a tourniquet, giving CPR or using an AED.

“It’s just good to know,” said LaBeau, who also serves as the school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South High School. “Any 14-, 15-, 16-year old should know basic CPR. We’ll try to train them to be a first responder at a young age, in case of an

emergency.”

Eventually, due to the program’s rank structure, students will call the shots and the advisors will supervise.

“It has its own internal command structure,” Ryan noted. “By the time I left at 21, I was an Explorer captain running the post. ... Eventually kids will run the meetings. Want someone from the FBI? We’ll bring in a federal agent. Want someone from ATF? We’ll bring them in. Want someone from Border Patrol? We’ll bring them in.

“... For kids staying with the program, it helps build leadership skills,” he added.

Participants also will attend a mandatory, one-week, police academy-style training in Grayling, with Explorers from around the state, to compete in various areas.

“There are competitions for traffic stops, felony stops, CSI investigations,” Ryan said. “You can get awards. And there are other activities, too, like paintball or laser tag or a ski trip.”

With some know-how under their belts, Explorers will serve as “more boots on the

See EXPLORE, page 6B

DAR presents chapter education awards

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution hosted area students, parents and school administrators at its annual awards ceremony and luncheon Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Award recipients are recognized annually in a variety of history contests, including essay, video and art. Special recognition awards also are presented for outstanding leadership and scholarship.

“History is not just a record of the past — it is a call to action,” said Ellisse Thompson, American history chair, national defense chair, executive board member and chapter historian. “By honoring the achievements of these remarkable students, we recognize that the values of leadership, scholarship and patriotism continue to shape our future. The next generation of citizens and leaders are here today, learning from our past and preparing to forge a stronger tomorrow.”

The Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Grosse Pointe schools recently were honored by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Essay Contest challenged students in grades 10 through 12 to select a history figure from the American Revolutionary era and discuss his or her

influence on the course of the American Revolution and the founding of a new nation. This year’s winners, all 10th-grade students from

University Liggett School, are Morgan Johnson, first place; Charlotte McCracken, second place; and Maxwell Brown, third place.

The topic of this year’s American History Essay & Video Contest was “Enjoying a New Kind of Tea Party,” and required students in grades 5 through 8 to imagine themselves as participants in historical tea party protests in North Carolina during 1774. The winning video was submitted by fifth grader Elliott Hemler of University Liggett School. Hemler’s video also placed first in the state of Michigan.

Winning essays were submitted by University Liggett School eighth graders, Vanessa Haladjian, first place; Catherine Van Culin, second place; and Cala Coyro, third place.

The DAR Excellence in American History Award recognizes outstanding students of American History, separate from essay contests. This year’s recipients, all 11th graders at University Liggett School, were selected by their school history faculty: Annabel Klaasen, Zaire Polk and Teresa Romanelli.

See DAR, page 2B



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DAR:

Continued from page 1B

The DAR Youth Leadership Award is administered through the DAR National Defense Committee and recognizes students in grades 5 through 11, who exemplify honor, service, courage, kindness, leadership and patriotism. This year's medal recipients are:

- Brownell Middle School**
- ◆ Gwyneth Surma, fifth grade
 - ◆ Felix Martinez, sixth grade
 - ◆ Olivia Chase, seventh grade
 - ◆ Cecily Hartung, eighth grade

- Parcells Middle School**
- ◆ Vincenzo “Vin” Vadio, fifth grade
 - ◆ Evelyn Vandenberghe, sixth grade
 - ◆ Norah Moses, seventh grade
 - ◆ Leo Cecchini, eighth grade

- Pierce Middle School**
- ◆ Hudson Miller, fifth grade
 - ◆ Hannah Shalhoub, sixth grade
 - ◆ Willa Compton, seventh grade
 - ◆ Ian Bresser, eighth grade

- University Liggett School**
- ◆ Elliott Hemler, fifth grade
 - ◆ Yianni Bittas, sixth grade
 - ◆ Davidson Ditima, seventh grade
 - ◆ Hazen Mazzenga, eighth grade
 - ◆ Preston Simmons, ninth grade
 - ◆ Peyton Caldwell, 10th grade
 - ◆ KateLynn Johnson, 11th grade

Junior American Citizens Contest offers students in preschool through 12th grade to participate in art, literary and community service contests in a variety of categories, including poster, stamp, banner, digital media, poetry and short story. This year's theme was “Sailing with the Stars and Stripes to Celebrate the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.” Bella Maldonado, a ninth grader at Grosse Pointe South, received first-place honors for her inspiring short story. Jen Cotzias's class of 4- and 5-year-olds at The Neighborhood Club Preschool won first place for its patriotic banner.

The Thatcher Award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Junior American Citizens Committee. Cotzias, director of The Neighborhood Club Preschool, received the award for her commitment to sharing the American heritage with her young students.

The DAR Constitution Week Committee offers a poster contest for all ages to showcase their artistic talents by creating original posters reflecting the spirit and meaning of the U.S. Constitution, with a focus on creativity and historical significance. This year the chapter awarded first-place honors to Elisa Meyer, a fifth grader at Parcells Middle School.

The DAR Good Citizen Award recognizes high school seniors, selected by faculty, who demonstrate the characteristics

of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Four students were recognized and received monetary scholarships, including Elly Beckerman of Grosse Pointe South, Evan Cole of De La Salle Collegiate High School, Claire Juip of University Liggett School and Angel Randolph of Grosse Pointe North. Each of them prepared an essay on the topic, “Service is an essential attribute of a good citizen. Discuss how service can foster a strong sense of community and strengthen our American identity.” Essays were judged by an independent panel. Randolph is the chapter's first-place essay contest winner and will wear a special DAR Good Citizen cord at graduation. Each chapter award recipient is now eligible for possible Michigan DAR, division and/or national society recognition.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a service organization for women who can trace their direct lineage to a patriot who supported the cause of American independence. The organization is dedicated to preserving American history, promoting education and fostering patriotism. For inquiries regarding next year's contests, contact Thompson at ellisse.thompson@gmail.com after Labor Day.



Grosse Pointe South ninth grader Leah Isabella "Bella" Maldonado was awarded in the Creative Expression — Short Story category.



Left, American History Video Contest winner Elliott Hemler. Center, American History Essay Contest recipients, Catherine Van Culin and Cala Coyro. Not pictured is Vanessa Haladjian. Right, Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School Essay Contest winners, from left, the mother of Maxwell Brown, Morgan Johnson and Charlotte McCracken.



Honorees from Brownell Middle School were, from left, Gwyneth Surma, Olivia Chase, Cecily Hartung and Felix Martinez.



DAR Good Citizen Award recipients, from left, Angel Randolph, Elly Backerman, Claire Juip and Evan Cole.



From left, Parcells Middle School winners Evelyn Vandenberghe, Vincenzo “Vin” Vadio and Leo Cecchini. Not pictured is Norah Moses.



Jen Cotzias, Neighborhood Club Preschool director, left, and Junior American Citizen chairwoman Peggy King Scully hold the banner made by preschool students. Cotzias won the DAR Thatcher Award, presented to outstanding leaders in the JAC program.



Above, from left, DAR's Barb Davis, Ellisse Thompson and Deann Newman. Left, Excellence in American History Award recipients Annabel Klaasen and Zaire Polk. Not pictured is Teresa Romanelli.

Pierce Middle School's winners were, from left, Hannah Shalhoub, Hudson Miller, Ian Bresser and Willa Compton.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Honorees from University Liggett School are, from left, Peyton Caldwell, KateLynn Johnson, Yianni Bittas, Davidson Ditima, Hazen Mazzenga and Elliott Hemler. Not pictured is Preston Simmons.

DAM, MOCAD partner for presentation of ‘GIRLHOOD’

The Detroit Artists Market and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit are partnering for the presentation of “GIRLHOOD,” curated by Hayla Hay, which opened March 14.

Originally scheduled to open Feb. 28, the exhibition was directly impacted by a Jan. 24 flood that compromised DAM, resulting in the organization closing its doors for renovations. DAM has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from neighbors and community members like MOCAD, as these collaborations ensure artists continue to receive visibility and engagement from the public, despite



DAM’s temporary closure.

“The flood is an immense challenge, but the support from our community and partners like MOCAD has been truly humbling,” said Miah J. Davis, DAM executive director. “This collaboration ensures

that ‘GIRLHOOD’ and the incredible artists behind it still have the platform they deserve. We are grateful for MOCAD’s partnership in keeping this exhibition alive and for the continued engagement of our audience during this time.”

“We are thrilled to support our neighboring institution, Detroit Artists Market, through exhibitions and public programming at MOCAD,” MOCAD Co-Directors Jova Lynne and Marie Madison-Patton released in a written statement. “We are committed to

serving the community we live within and believe that this partnership will amplify the local arts ecosystem.”

“GIRLHOOD” invites guests to reflect on youth with a sense of distance and clarity. Girlhood often is viewed through an innocent lens; however, such depictions frequently overlook the diversity of experiences shaped by race, ethnicity and identity.

“These artists’ works are steeped in the sentimentality of their formative years,” Hay said. “Watching these pieces come to life and engaging in meaningful conversations with the artists has been a profoundly connective experience that I am excited to share with the community.”

Participating artists include Kaleigh Blevins, Judy Bowman, Sue Carman-Vian, Bella Kiser, Mars McCuiston, Emilia Nawrocki, Sabrina Nelson, Julianna Sanroman and Maddie Shubeck. The featured artist is Nina Ashraf, whose work was curated by Veronica Bielat.

“GIRLHOOD” runs through Sunday, April 6, at MOCAD, 4454 Woodward, Detroit. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. MOCAD is closed Monday and Tuesday.

Ides of March concert March 15

Amidst the season of Lent, Dr. Logan Hamilton presents an organ concert in dedication to the organist and composer who suffered many tragedies of betrayal and celebrations of triumph: Louis Vierne (1870-1937). The performance begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Though the Parisian organist suffered from various physical ailments, betrayals of those closest to him and the sudden deaths of loved ones, he kept his faith

and created some of the most profound repertoire for the organ.

The evening’s program will feature the Third and Sixth Organ Symphonies that were composed at the eve and height of Vierne’s darkest times, that resound the struggles, reflections and victories that are presented during this holy season.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Logan Hamilton performs on the pipe organ.

Davie to share winning strategies

Political consultant and entrepreneur Barrett C. Davie will discuss “Winning” at the Eastside Republican Club Forum 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Davie is founder of Surus, a mission-driven development company providing technology, data, guidance and support in communities across Illinois. Its stated goal is to shape narratives on important issues and build trust with voters, resulting in increased turnout and election victories.

“As a former candidate for the Illinois State Senate, Mr. Davie knows the challenges of running for office in a blue state,” said Renee Strobl, chair of the Eastside Republican Club. “Consequently, through entrepreneurial spirit, he has developed strategies for winning, as well as devised ways that party delegates and other citizen activists can engage with voters.”

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking in advance of the meeting. The public is invited at no charge.

Davie is a leader of early-stage businesses and nonprofits, having led the successful organization, capitalization and growth of several operating enterprises, including InStadium Inc., The D3 Group and Bernie’s Book Bank.

He has served as a board member or advisor to companies such as Upgraded Inc., Winestyr.com and Vision III, and as a venture advisor to



COURTESY PHOTO

Barrett C. Davie, founder of Surus

Progress Ventures. He is a former practicing attorney with RKMC.

Davie also serves as a volunteer on the Lake Forest Plan Commission, as a board member of the Civic Federation of Chicago and as a member of the Leadership Network of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

A graduate of Tulane University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, Davie holds a Juris Doctorate from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He lives in Lake Forest with his wife, Samantha, and their three children.

Davie, inspired by the power that comes from aligning faith, family and community, is active in several nonprofits and a men’s book club, and spends family time skiing, playing squash, sailing and otherwise adventuring.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum is held monthly, September through May. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Stay up to date at EastsideRepublican.Club and “follow” the ERC on Facebook and X.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club meets from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 13, with social hour until 5 p.m. The meeting includes a presentation about U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. U.S. Navy veteran William Falinski, who served on three different aircraft carriers, will answer questions. The meeting takes place in the lower-level veterans room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call John Bates at (313) 881-4125.

Library

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

- ◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, March 17, at all three branches.
- ◆ DREAM Lab: Adults Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Hall of Fame DNA: The Legacy of Baseball Legend Turkey Stearnes, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, off site.
- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Coding: Moana Wayfinding, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 1,000 Hours: Signs of Spring Walk, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at Patterson Park, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 20, via Zoom.
- ◆ Readers’ Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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.

- ◆ A gallery talk with Jeremy Hansen, director at River’s Edge Gallery in Wyandotte and juror for the GPAA exhibition, “Blues,” takes place at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15.
- ◆ Landscapes in Oil for Beginners with Linda Boyle, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays, March 13 to 27.
- ◆ Portraits in the Style of Max Beckman with

Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, March 20 and 27, and April 3.

- ◆ Watercolor Collage with Nancy Philo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org.

- ◆ Cocktail Class with Aaron Xedis: St. Patrick’s Day, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 14. Tickets are \$60.
- ◆ Modern Manners: Youth Etiquette, for ages 8 to 15, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16.
- ◆ Conflict and Healing Lecture Series Part Two: Managing the Stressors of the Day with Dr. Judy Jacobs, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16.
- ◆ Hands-On Gilding Workshop, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 19. Tickets are \$38.
- ◆ The Whiskey Classic, 6 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, March 21. Tickets range from \$40 to \$100.
- ◆ Creative Nature Spring Break Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, March 24 to 28. Registration is \$285 for the week, \$65 for one day.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Design Through the Decades Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in March. Admission prices vary.
- ◆ Storytime: “Outside My Window,” by Linda Ashman, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in March.

- ◆ Once Upon a Tea: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Admission prices vary.
- ◆ Ballroom Dance: Cha Cha, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 26 to April 16. Cost is \$40 for members, \$48 for the public.
- ◆ Coffee with Collections, exclusive to Friends of Ford House members, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, March 27, April 24 and Dec. 4. Cost is \$25.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during March. To sign up for the following, visit muturaladoration.com:

- ◆ Screen Print Workshop: Pet Portraits with Melissa Dettloff, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, or Sunday, March 23. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Craft Cocktail Workshop: A Sensory Approach to Transcendent Drinks, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15, for ages 21 and older. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Jewelry Workshop: Intro to Polymer Clay with Trice Clark, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 16. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Knitting Workshop: Intro to Knitting, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22. Cost is \$65.
- ◆ Macrame Workshop: Hanging Shelf, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 22. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Lettering Workshop: Brush Lettering Basics, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 22. Cost is \$55.

See EVENTS, page 6B

CHEERS & BLESSINGS

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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OBITUARIES

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

Fred Andriaschko

Fred Andriaschko, 78, died Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, in Grosse Pointe.

Fred was the loving husband of Kristine Andriaschko and the beloved father of Elizabeth Andriaschko. Fred also is survived by his grandchildren, Makenzy, Calvin, Annalina and Brinn; his first wife, Kathleen Gowdy; and stepchildren, Blair Wills and Cameron Turner. He was the dearest brother of Walt Andriaschko and Anna Wilde. Fred was predeceased by his son, Daniel Andriaschko; sister, Sophie Andriaschko; parents, John and Helen Andriaschko; and cousin, Michael Andriaschko.

A memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, March 26, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. The memorial gathering will take place at the church from 10:30 a.m. until Mass at 11 a.m. Inurnment will follow at 1 p.m. at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

—

Robert Bruce McQueen II

Robert Bruce “Bob” McQueen II, 86, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 1, 2025, at his home in Florida.

Born Dec. 30, 1938, in Detroit, Bob spent his early years in Zanesville, Ohio, with his father, Robert Bruce McQueen, who died in 1978; mother, Grace Lamb, who died in 2005; and sister, Cynthia, who died in 2012.

Bob’s family relocated to Grosse Pointe Shores in the early 1950s. At a young age, Bob developed a deep love for boating. At age 14, Bob built a Chris-Craft boat with his father, Robert Sr.

Bob’s passion for boating on Lake St. Clair was something he was blessed to do throughout his life. He spent many of his best summers in his youth at the Portage Point Inn with his grandfather, Harry McQueen. Throughout his life, Bob greatly enjoyed close friendships with Bruce Vollmer, Dr. Tymon Totte and Robert Bloink — friendships that remained close from his childhood until his death.

While working on co-op in high school in 1956, Bob met his soon-to-be wife, Barbara Lee Coe, at J.L. Hudson in downtown Detroit. They began dating immediately. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Bob married Barbara May 5, 1961. They happily resided in Grosse Pointe Woods and were blessed with two sons, Robert Bruce III (Jan) and Jay (Lisa).

Bob’s professional career began in advertising at McMinus, John and Addams. In the late 1960s, he began what would become a 33-year career with automotive

marketing agency Visual Services Inc., from which he retired as vice president in 2001.

Bob’s loving wife, Barbara, passed away in 2005, after a long illness.

Soon after began the second chapter of Bob’s life. While planning his high school reunion, Bob met and then married his current wife, Judy Phillips, in 2007. Bob and Judy remained together for 18 years, enjoying many years boating on Lake St. Clair and retirement activities at their home in Bradenton Beach, Fla.

Health-wise, the last couple years were tough on Bob with the onset of advanced-stage COPD. Judy was a godsend to Bob and his family, lovingly caring for him until the end.

Bob was predeceased by his parents; and sister, Cynthia Kragt (David). Bob leaves behind his loving wife, Judy; sons, Robert Bruce III (Jan) and Jay (Lisa); three amazing grandchildren, Robert IV, Jake and Devin; nieces, Christy Stein (Robert) and Kara Riemersma (Jason); and nephew, Steven Kragt. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A service is being planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Christ Episcopal Church, 4030 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton, FL 34025.

—

Mark Richard Weber

Mark Richard Weber, 44, passed away Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, at Monument Health in Sturgis, S.D.

Mark was born Dec. 24, 1980, in West Branch, to Mark and Cheryl Weber of Grosse Pointe Park. He is survived by his love, Alissa; handsome sons, Carter and Camden; siblings, Bridgette Skiles (Jack), Brad Weber and Christina Teart; cousins who were like brothers, Adam Maloof, Josh Giordano (Michelyn), Jeremy Giordano (Denise), Jesse Giordano (Suzie), Cameron Zihlman and Brennan Zihlman; nieces and nephews, Alexis, Chloe, Courtney, Benjamin, Jayden, Aubree, Benjamin, Genesis and Duncan; many Weber cousins and uncles; as well as many others who were like family from Rapid City, S.D.

Mark was predeceased by his parents, Mark and Cheryl; grandmother, Sadie; aunts, Kim, Tammy and Heather; and uncle, Eric.

Mark was a tremendous athlete who loved all things sports. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor. Above all, he was proud of his boys, Carter and Camden, and bragged about them to everyone. His family will hold closely in their hearts their great memories of Mark. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service for Mark will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at Hope Church, 14456 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

Betty Ann Brown

Betty Ann Brown of Grosse Pointe Woods passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 4, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born May 8, 1942, in Detroit, Betty Ann was a dedicated real estate office manager, cherishing her 35-year career in Grosse Pointe. Her work allowed her to forge lasting and meaningful friendships within the community she adored.

She proudly attended St. Ambrose Catholic Church and School in Grosse Pointe Park alongside her four siblings, laying a foundation of connection and support that lasted throughout her life. Known for her warm and loving demeanor, Betty Ann had a remarkable gift for hosting family gatherings and entertaining those she held dear. Her family meant the world to her.

Betty Ann is survived by her children, Jeffrey Brown (Tracy), Patti Meldrum (Marty) and Joni Gerardi (Joe). She was the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Predeceased by her husband, Ronald, Betty Ann’s legacy will live on through her children and grandchildren who loved her deeply.

A funeral service to celebrate her life will be held Monday, March 17, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairfield, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation takes place from 9:30 a.m. until the service at 10 a.m.

—

Marilyn M. Severn

Marilyn M. Severn (née Beaupre), 85, passed away suddenly Monday, March 3, 2025, in Mt. Holly, N.C., where she lived in recent years.

Marilyn was born Oct. 20, 1939, and raised in Grosse Pointe Farms, but spent most of her life in St. Clair Shores, where she raised her four children. Having grown up along the shores of Lake St. Clair, including many summers at her parents’ cottage in Stoney Point, Ontario, Canada, the water was very important to Marilyn. She loved to watch the boats, the people and even the birds through her windows, and was amazed by how the lake changed daily, especially with the seasons.

Marilyn was a vivacious and independent woman who was passionate about her children and her church. A religious, caring person, she was very generous throughout her life. She enjoyed traveling, reading, playing cards and finding good bargains (she never passed up anything with rhinestones or a comfortable pair of shoes). When Marilyn encountered people, whether just one or a crowd, she would simply light up. She would always stop to speak to anyone and everyone she encountered and never met a stranger. She was par-



Fred Andriaschko



Robert B. McQueen II



Mark Richard Weber



Betty Ann Brown



Marilyn M. Severn



Russell A. McNair Jr.

ticularly fond of her classmates from St. Paul High School and stayed in touch with many throughout her lifetime. She also loved to garden, inevitably planting more flowers than she was able to tend.

Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, Marvin and Helen (née Fannon) Beaupre; husband, Neil Severn; daughter, Julie Paulus, whom she lovingly cared for during many years of illness; and siblings, Diane Beaupre and John Beaupre.

Marilyn will be deeply missed by her surviving children, Larry Paulus (Theresa), Kathy Gillette (Bill), Jennifer Paulus and Jessica Stone; grandchildren, Bruce, Justin, Lisa, Alexis, Kevin, Nick and Lauren; and siblings, Bonnie Roy (Mike), Marvin Beaupre (Lynne) and Mary Yavor (the late Chet). She also was blessed with numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, all of whom she adored.

The family will hold a celebration of Marilyn’s life in June.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, myasthenia.org.

—

Russell Arthur McNair Jr.

Russell “Mac” Arthur McNair Jr., 90, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025.

He was born Dec. 2, 1934, to Russell Arthur and Virla Standish McNair of Grosse Pointe. He was the youngest of three. Mac attended Grosse Pointe South High School, then went to Princeton University and University of Michigan Law School.

After receiving his Juris Doctorate with distinction, Mac started work at the Dickinson Wright law firm in Detroit. He remained at Dickinson his entire career and was chairman of the firm from 1994-98.

Mac married Rosemary Chesbrough April 2, 1957, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. They had three children. Rosie passed just more than one year ago. Their youngest son, Douglas Stuart McNair, predeceased them.

Mac is survived by his daughter, Julie McNair Schwerin (Michael Schwerin); and son, Rusty McNair (Jennifer Kohnen).

Mac was very involved in community activities.

He was on numerous boards over the years. Notably, he was an honorary trustee of the Children’s Home of Detroit, having been on the board 1977-97, and served as president 1991-92.

Despite his powerful intellect and numerous accomplishments, Mac was a modest man — warm and fun loving. He enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, including his seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He loved all sports and played many, including tennis, paddle tennis and golf. He enjoyed betting on college sports and loved card games, including bridge, Pedro and Oh Hell.

Simply put, Mac loved life and everyone in his orbit knew that. Even as he struggled in his last years, he always remained happy. He will be missed by all who knew him.

—

Jeffrey Joseph Kirkman

Jeffrey Joseph Kirkman, 64, passed away Monday, March 3, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Jeffrey was a devoted husband, father and friend who enriched the lives of those around him through his faith in God, unwavering love for his family and dedication to his career in financial services, which defined his remarkable life.

Jeffrey was born June 9, 1960, to his loving parents, Josephine and Nolan, and dear brother, Ronald. Jeffrey flourished in his education. He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and achieved a bachelor’s degree in applied electronics from Siena Heights University and another in business from Michigan State University.

Jeffrey was a man of many interests, but his heart was always drawn to stories of the past. His enthusiasm for history was not only a personal interest but also a way to connect with others, inspiring many to appreciate the lessons of those who came before. He was an avid reader who especially enjoyed audiobooks and always was excited to share his knowledge.

Jeffrey was a proud Italian-American and devout Catholic who never missed 4:30 p.m. Mass. He was a respected fourth degree member of the Knights

of Columbus Leo the XIII Council. Jeffrey was an important part of the St. Veronica Catholic Church community. He organized a Mass Mob event in 2016, and was looking forward to the 100th anniversary of the parish in 2026.

Over the years, he worked tirelessly to provide for his family while helping countless clients navigate their financial journeys. Known for his high integrity, expertise and compassionate nature, he earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients alike by paying special care to people’s needs with acts of service. He devoted himself to his lifelong career by working with prestigious companies such as Raymond James and Sigma Financial Corp., as well as owning his own company, KM Financial. He understood the importance of financial literacy and was committed to helping others navigate the complexities of money management. His colleagues admired him not just for his kindness and leadership, but also for the ability to inspire those around him. In 2024, he received an award for mentorship and coaching from Axtella.

Above all, Jeffrey cherished his family. He was a loving and faithful husband to Tina for 34 years and a selfless provider and educator to his children, Nolan and Sofia. He took great pride in being an active participant in their lives. He was the cornerstone of his household and his wisdom shaped the lives of those around him. His home was a sanctuary filled with laughter, love and shared traditions that instilled a pride of heritage in his children.

Jeffrey is survived by his beloved wife, Tina; children, Nolan (Rachel) and Sofia; brother, Ronald (Vicki); as well as a host of other relatives and friends who will miss him dearly. He was predeceased by his mother, Josephine; and father, Nolan.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Anthony Norman Karpinski

Anthony Norman Karpinski, 88, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 6, 2025.

He is survived by his wife, Constance Karpinski; and children, Daniel Karpinski, David Karpinski, Anthony Karpinski, Thomas Karpinski, Christine Karpinski and Michael Karpinski.

Visitation will be held 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 14, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state Saturday, March 15, from 9:30 a.m. until the funeral service at 10 a.m., also at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Raymond Harry Chown

Raymond Harry Chown, 91, of St. Clair Shores, formerly of Grosse Pointe Park, Farms and Woods, passed away peacefully with family Monday, March 3, 2025, of congestive heart failure.

Ray was born June 9, 1933, in Detroit, to Sidney and Beatrice Chown. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Sally; brother, Don; sons, Kevin (Renee) and Robert (Jill); and grandchildren, Erica, Melinda, Nicholas and Andrew.

He was predeceased by his son, Raymond, and brother, Robert.

Ray graduated from Cass Technical High School and joined the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He served in Paris, in the weather corps, before returning to study aviation and graduate from Purdue University. After graduation, a final eye exam kept him out of the pilot's seat. Thereafter he was a longtime manufacturers representative in the construction industry with Gardner Vose of Birmingham.

Ray met the love of his life, Sally, in Port Austin. They married at St. Ambrose Catholic Church and lived in Grosse Pointe Park before moving to the Farms.

Ray was very active in the lives of their three boys and helped coach Red Barons football and multiple baseball teams. He and Sally never missed a school, family, baseball, football, tennis, wrestling or swim event. It was the same for the grandchildren and their active lives.

Ray enjoyed working with wood and building, fixing anything around his house, his children's houses and the houses of many others. He and Sally were volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul and various committees at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. Ray also participated in Bible study.

In his younger years, he was an ice boat owner and racer with sail number DN 57. His greatest sports love of all was golf. He played countless courses in Michigan and Florida, where he and Sally resided for many winters. His family and friends at Gardner Vose were his constant partners with his highpoint coming when he shot his



Anthony N. Karpinski

age, 79, at Pine Lake Country Club.

Ray also was a longtime member of St. Paul on the Lake and the Knight of Columbus, where he was a fourth-degree Knight.

A funeral Mass was held March 8, at St. Paul on the Lake.

Remembrance donations may be made to the Capuchin Monastery in Detroit, thecapuchins.org; Knights of Columbus Council 12121, stpaulonthelake.org/knights-of-columbus; or St. Vincent de Paul, stpaulonthelake.org/st-vincent-de-paul.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Margaret Jean Beck

Margaret Jean Beck (nee Cathcart) passed away Monday, March 3, 2025, in Grosse Pointe Woods, at age 87.

Margaret was born June 4, 1937, in Bad Axe, to Beatrice Zelinski (nee Brinkman) and Creighton Cathcart, both now deceased. Upon graduating from Bad Axe High School in 1955, Margaret attended Central Michigan University, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in education. She then obtained a master's degree from Northern Michigan University. Margaret taught kindergarten in Roseville Public Schools for more than 30 years. After retiring, she spent many years as a substitute teacher in many metro Detroit school districts.

Margaret was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Farms. She enjoyed animals, especially dogs, and was a defender of wildlife and nature. Over the course of her life, she adopted many dogs that she spoiled like children. Margaret also loved traveling, having visited all seven continents.

Margaret rarely traveled alone. Instead, her trips were shared experiences with her mom, sister, nieces, longtime companion John O'Connor and many of her friends. Some of her favorite trips included Egypt, Ireland and Thailand. She even traveled to Antarctica as part of an educational tour. Margaret enjoyed taking cruises with family and friends.

When she was not traveling and teaching, Margaret volunteered with many charities and causes. She volunteered with the Michigan Humane Society; Tuesday Musicales of Detroit, for which she helped write the newsletter; Michigan State Fair; Grosse Pointe Democratic Club, including hosting an annual garage sale at her home; and her church, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, which she attended for more than 45 years.

Margaret also was passionate about politics. She served as a precinct



Raymond Harry Chown

delegate for the Michigan Democratic Party in multiple elections and was awarded the 2011 David Greenspan Award for her outstanding contributions to the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club.

Margaret was predeceased by her mother, Beatrice Zelinski; father, Creighton Cathcart; and brothers, John Zelinski and Tony Zelinski. She is lovingly survived by her sister, Melinda Drake; sisters-in-law, JoAnne Zelinski and Margaret "Kay" Kovacs; and nieces and nephew. Margaret also had many lifelong friendships she deeply cherished; those friends will miss her presence in their lives. Margaret will be remembered for her kindness and generosity, as well as her love for her dogs.

A memorial to celebrate Margaret's life is being planned for a later date. Margaret's cremated remains will be laid to rest at the Grand Lawn Cemetery in Pigeon, where her mother is buried.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Michigan Humane Society, give.michiganhumane.org.

Arrangements were entrusted to A. H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Marilyn Stanitzke

Marilyn Stanitzke, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Born Aug. 5, 1931, in Mason City, Iowa, to Hugh and Agnes Sweeney, Marilyn graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in primary education from Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. She moved to Grosse Pointe Farms to teach kindergarten in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Shortly thereafter, she met her future husband, Don Stanitzke, at a social dance at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. They married in 1958.

After their son Steve was born in 1960, Marilyn paused her teaching career, while occasionally serving as a substitute teacher in the GPPSS. In 1975, she embarked upon a new career as a Realtor. This was to become a significant passion for Marilyn, as she served generations of families in the Grosse Pointe area for the next 45 years. She joined Higbie Maxon (now Higbie Maxon Agney) in 1978, remaining loyal to that agency for the balance of her career. She served on the board of directors for the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors from 1986-87, and again from 1989-91. Marilyn received the distinguished Frederick G. Scully lifetime achievement award from the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors in 2001.

In addition to her ser-



Margaret Jean Beck

vice with the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, Marilyn enjoyed participating in various civic, philanthropic and social organizations. For several years, she was active with the Junior Women's Association for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She served on the Grosse Pointe Farms Board of Review and enjoyed supporting the Grosse Pointe Public Library Foundation.

Marilyn thrived on the wonderful friendships she formed in the Grosse Pointe area during her 60-year residency. She particularly enjoyed attending DSO Pops concerts, worshipping at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church and spending time at Pier Park, the Neighborhood Club and area restaurants. She also loved her annual vacations to Florida. Her playful, competitive spirit always came through when playing the board games and card games she so enjoyed with friends and family.

While separated by distance, Marilyn's family meant everything to her. Visits and travels with her son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-granddaughter — and her nieces and their families — were treasured and created valued memories.

According to her family, Marilyn inspired all who knew her through a strong independent spirit, exceptional work ethic and active lifestyle and the value she placed on friendships and family.

Marilyn is survived by her son, Steve (Amy); grandchildren, Katelyn Simmons (Alec), Maddy Hernandez (Christian), Maggie Collins-Trawick (Will) and Patrick "PJ"; great-granddaughter, Molly Hernandez; nieces, Jane Wernecke (Al) and Nancy Hach; and grandnieces, Amy Kinsman (Tony), Jen Brady and their children. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Don, and her sister, Jeanette.

The family is planning a memorial Mass at 10 a.m. Monday, July 7, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, followed by a celebration of Marilyn's life for friends and family at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The family suggests contacting Verheyden Funeral Home or verheyden.org



Marilyn Stanitzke

over the coming weeks for confirmation and any updates.

Donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Public Library Foundation, gplf.org, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Julie Ann Lenard

Julie Ann Lenard (nee Vermeersch), 83, of St. Clair Shores and formerly of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away Friday, Feb. 14, 2025.

Julie was born April 8, 1941, in Detroit, to Julius and Teresa Vermeersch, both now deceased. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School in 1959, and worked at Chevrolet Motor Division, where she met her future husband, Fred. The couple married in 1964.

Julie was an active member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church for many years, volunteering her embroidery skills to make baptismal bibs, as well as with Meals on Wheels and Crossroads.

She loved reading, cooking, sewing, gardening and traveling. Most of all, she loved time spent with her family. She remained positive during her decades-long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Julie was predeceased by her husband, Frederick Lenard; and brothers, Terence and Joseph. She is survived by her daughters, Teresa Maniere (Jim), Amy Lenard, Sarah Michaelis (Chris) and Catherine Coulon (Billy); grandchildren, Emma Maniere, Bridget MacDonald (Allan), Indica Michaelis and McCartney Michaelis; sisters, Maureen Fay, Patricia Gloss and Peggy Licari (Perry); and brothers, Brian Vermeersch and Richard Vermeersch.

A funeral Mass takes place at noon Friday, March 21, at St. Ambrose



Julie Ann Lenard



Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation begins at 11:30 a.m.

Marie A. Ciaramitaro

Marie A. Ciaramitaro (nee Oxley), 96, passed away Monday, March 10, 2025.

She was the cherished wife of 69 years to the late Salvatore; beloved mother of Mary Sullivan (Albert), Christine Elmore (Gerald), Barbara (Mark Homrich), Joanne Kalapinski (David), John, Mark (Tara), Matthew (Julie Robertson) and Therese Iglesias (Julio); grandmother of 16 and great-grandmother of six. She was predeceased by her parents, Alfred and Mary; infant son, Salvatore; and grandsons, Salvatore and Dominic.

Marie was an active member at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church for nearly 70 years. She also was a Eucharistic minister and licensed chaplain.

Visitation takes place 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 14, with a Rosary service at 7 p.m., at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. She will lie in state at 10:30 a.m. until Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

She will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, invites everyone to its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn — featuring a traditional Lenten fish fry — from

noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 20. Music will be performed by singer and guitarist Russ Blain. A free-will offering will be collected at the door. Reservations are required by Tuesday, March 18. Call (313) 884-4820.

Worship Service

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

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

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
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
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313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Meeting needs

The Special Needs Resource Alliance hosted its third annual Special Needs Resource Fair Feb. 25, at The War Memorial. More than 50 vendors offered a variety of educational, recreational and occupational resources, as well as mental health, legal and government services for all ages.

More than 250 attended the event, which was free and designed for parents and caregivers looking for supportive opportunities for their neurodiverse children.

The Special Needs Resource Alliance, facilitated by The Family Center, also includes The Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods, Lumen Pediatric Therapy, Kids on the Go, Full Circle Foundation and Grosse Pointe Public School System Transitional Services.



More than 250 attended the event, which was free and designed for parents and caregivers looking for supportive opportunities for their neurodiverse children.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



T.J. Hessburg, left, is ready to take payment from Janie Livingston, right, while Matthew Hessburg of Matthew's Bonfire BBQ bags Livingston's bottle of sauce. This is Matthew Hessburg's sixth year in business. Visit bonfirebbq.com to place an order. Matthew's Bonfire BBQ also can be found at Small Favors in The Village.



The Fowler Center program supervisor Nicole Lingnav and Kilian Zistl, World Horizon program assistant, offered information at their table about day, seasonal and overnight camps, equestrian programs and travel adventures. For more information, call the Fowler Center at (989) 673-2050.



Grosse Pointe Farms City Manager Shane Reeside and Farms Councilwoman Sierra Donaven, who both serve on The Family Center board, talk with Dave Cleveland, retired Grosse Pointe North High School director of instrumental music and current fifth-grade orchestra teacher at Pierce Middle School, about the resources available through The Family Center for people with special needs.



Jason Woolfork, foster care recruiter for Wayne County, works with the foster and mentor program. For information on how to apply to become a foster parent or a mentor, call (855) MICKIDS.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Decorating Bud Vases, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 23. Cost is \$65.
- ◆ Jewelry Workshop: Enameled Copper with Courtney Fischer, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 23. Cost is \$100.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18,

Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 21, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 24, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore,

Grosse Pointe Shores. Register at redcross.blood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Heidi Pfannes,

president of the Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required

at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

- ◆ The movie "Joy" is shown at noon Friday, March 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.
- ◆ Taking the Mystery Out of Balance and Posture, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 26. Free for members, \$5 for guests.

EXPLORE:

Continued from page 1B

ground," Ryan said, during large community events like fireworks, festivals and parades. They'll also be taken on ride-alongs to get a firsthand look at the job.

The goal of the program is to educate students about public safety, but also help them decide early on if the field is right for them.

Children who dream of becoming police officers or firefighters one day may go through training and realize it's not for them. Explorers allows them to find out before investing the time and resources.

It also familiarizes young people with the lifestyle, lingo and real-world experiences found in a department.

"It's good life experience you won't learn from a book," LaBeau said. "... And it's a good resume builder. You're going to learn a lot in the Explorers program."

Officers get to know teens who spend years in the program — their work ethic, their behaviors, even their faults — and can fast-track them to becoming a member of a public safety department, Ryan said, whether their interest is local or on state or federal levels.

"We're not trying to mold them into Grosse Pointe PSOs," Ross said. "It's just law enforcement, fire and EMS."

Though participants will be treated to real-world circumstances, "We don't want to put kids in situations where they're not comfortable either," Ross said, not-

ing instructors won't come across like drill sergeants.

"We teach brotherhood and sisterhood," LaBeau said. "We want this group of Explorers to be really close. They'll learn leadership, communication. Any kid who feels like an outcast, they'll learn from it and gain friends, too."

Though there is a cost to join the Explorers program, financial assistance is available.

A \$100 application fee pays for an Explorers polo shirt and registers the student with the sponsoring organization, Scouting America.

"Explorers was created by Scouting America, as an avenue for older kids," Ryan said. "... This program is sponsored by Scouting America, so we have to register with Scouting

America to cover their insurance and their rules.

"You don't have to be a scout to join, but we are affiliated with Scouting America," he continued.

Additional components of the uniform — duty pants, boots and belt — must be purchased by the family.

"We don't want money to be an issue for anyone," Ross added, noting help can be arranged to those interested.

The program will run year-round, so students involved with extracurricular activities like sports will be shown leniency.

"Meetings will be after practice times, but we'll assume some of the kids won't be able to come every time," Ross said.

Anyone local, ages 14 to 20, can apply.

"We will not turn down anyone based on where they live," Ryan said. "There's no restriction on what kids can apply."

"They don't have to live in the Farms," Ross added. "They can live in Harper Woods or go to (Grosse Pointe) North (High School). They're still more than welcome to apply."

Apart from age, requirements include having a C average in school, having a clean record — no arrests or serious traffic violations — and being of good conduct and high moral character.

"There is an interview process," LaBeau said, adding they're looking for go-getters and leaders.

Getting accepted into the program also involves a background check and students must

sign waivers.

Students are provided a handbook that includes a law enforcement code of ethics, by-laws, rules and regulations. There also is an Explorer Oath.

"This is like a mini police department," Ryan said. "It has it's own policies and procedures they are required to follow if they want to stay in the Explorer program."

Added Ross, "We will handle it as professionally as possible. We want to take it seriously and we want the kids to take it seriously."

Interest cards are available at Grosse Pointe South High School and in the coming weeks will be at Brownell Middle School. Applications should be filled out and returned to the Farms Public Safety Department, 90 Kerby.

LIFE & LEISURE



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2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C & 7C COMICS

Pro Musica of Detroit presents Charlie Albright

Continuing its 98th year of presenting music of excellence and a roster of the world’s acclaimed and emerging artists to Michigan audiences, Pro Musica of Detroit presents internationally acclaimed pianist Charlie Albright at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Sponsored by Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit, the program will include works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, George Gershwin and an entirely new piece composed contemporaneously from ideas suggested by the audience.

Albright has been hailed by audiences and critics as a remarkable talent whose abilities as a pianist and improvisational skills as a performer call to mind the artistry of the composer-pianists of the Romantic era. The Washington Post reported he stands “among the most gifted musicians of his generation” gifted with a “dazzling natural keyboard affinity.”

An official Steinway



COURTESY PHOTO

Acclaimed pianist Charlie Albright will perform March 23, at The War Memorial.

Artist, Albright is the recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Gilmore Young Artist Award. He also has received the Ruhr Klavier Festival Young Artist Award. In addition to performing, Albright is sought after as a speaker, masterclass instructor, teacher and competition judge.

The March 23 performance also celebrates Albright’s return to Pro Musica of Detroit. He

performed a stellar recital concert for Pro Musica in 2015. Those who were in the audience attested to his engaging presence, both on stage and off.

Concert tickets are \$40 for regular admission. Student tickets are \$5 each.

All members of the audience are invited to enjoy an afterglow with the artist following the concert.

The next Pro Musica of

Detroit concert this season stars guitarist Adam Levin and mandolinist Jacob Reuvent. The artists will perform Sunday, June 8, at Most Holy Trinity Church in Detroit’s historic Corktown neighborhood.

For reservations and complete details, visit promusicadetroit.com. To purchase tickets, and to learn more about Pro Musica’s upcoming concert, visit promusicadetroit.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Historical perspective

Detroit Rotary Club Past Presidents Tre and Colleen Greene stand with Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb, left, at Ford House March 4.

Tre Greene presented a historical perspective on African-American discrimination in post-Civil War America to the current date, including how a level playing field has been denied, especially in land ownership (a primary wealth builder in the U.S.). He also explained the context of U.S. Congressional bill HR 40, originated by John Conyers in 1989, which pushed for an official study of how best to address those affected socially, politically and economically by this discrimination.

The local community is encouraged by Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members to join their Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for details.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Julie Huellmantel

The benefits of families volunteering together

Volunteering as a family is a great opportunity to strengthen your relationships while having a positive impact on a cause that fits your family’s values. We often think of volunteering as a chance to help support others, but helping your community is beneficial to your family as well. Volunteering with your family is a perfect way to teach your kids about empathy, compassion and social responsibility — all values that can lead them to be caring and engaged members of their community for a lifetime. Studies also show that volunteering lowers rates of depression and anxiety.

Top reasons to volunteer with your family

1. Volunteering makes you happier and healthier.

Caring for others helps us develop patience and strengthens relationships, two qualities that play prominent roles in happiness. Studies indicate that volunteering is associated with improved mental and physical health.

2. Volunteering promotes teamwork and cooperation.

Some of the best relationship-building opportunities come from group volunteer work. Family volunteering helps us work together toward a common goal, leveling



the playing field and allowing people of all ages and abilities to contribute and build skills.

3. Volunteering allows you to spend quality time with your family.

We live in a fast-paced world where it is difficult to find quality time to share with our families. Families who volunteer together get the unique opportunity to work together toward a shared goal without the distraction of phones, TV and computers.

Volunteering during adolescence has been linked to many positive effects, including improved grades, reduced drug usage and increased self-esteem. These effects aren’t just short term, but have been proven to affect kids’ well-being for years to come.

Volunteering together is quality time spent working together on a shared goal — it demonstrates your values as a family and builds empathy — plus it’s fun.

There is a great opportunity for families with kids ages 5 and older to help pack nutritious

meals for the hungry through the Kids Coalition Against Hunger. Come to The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, and help pack 50,000 meals. Shifts are available from 10 a.m. to noon and noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15. For more information, call (313) 882-5330 or visit bit.ly/KCAH2025.

Julie Huellmantel is the director of outreach ministries at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and a member of The Family Center’s Board of Directors.

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



GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

Animals Available for Adoption at gpaas.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
313-884-1551 OR www.gpaas.org



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www.gpaas.org



Meet **AMANDA**

Female, 7 months old, Shorthair, White/Tabby.



Meet **TEDDY**

Male, 2 years old, Mixed Breed, White/Brown, 50 lbs.

Call to arrange a Meet and Greet

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GROSSE POINTE

Gabby

POINTING YOU IN
THE RIGHT
DIRECTION WITH
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No wives allowed!

Dear Gabby: My husband and his buddies built a man cave in the garage and now I never see him. They even made a sign that reads “No wives allowed.” Should I be as irritated as I am about this? — Excluded in the Shores

Dear Excluded: Any man with a couch, fridge full of beer and access to

sports is hard to get a hold of. Instead of fighting it, use this to your advantage. Take the time to meet up with your friends. Make more “me time” at the gym or spa. And if all else fails, hide the remote....

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



As luck would have it

DEAR READERS: In light of St. Patrick’s Day, I want to share this story from “Same Boat,” who wrote a response recently to share the story of how he reconnected with his fiancée from 28 years ago. With all the twists and turns of life, his story is about as lucky as they get. May your holidays be equally serendipitous!

DEAR ANNIE: Thank you for publishing my response to “Nostalgic and Regretful.” I wanted to share with you something I recently wrote regarding my fiancée and my love story — our “romance novel,” if you will.

We met in March 1994 at a local pizzeria. I was a cook there, and she had just been hired as a hostess. At the risk of sounding cliché, I had

never seen someone so beautiful, and to this day, only my children have ever equaled that sight.

The attraction was instant, but it went beyond that. Never before had somebody had my back the way she did. She was my staunchest ally, which I desperately needed at that time. For much of the summer of ‘94, I was functionally homeless, sleeping on friends’ couches or in cheap motels. I barely had a penny to my name, and yet she never wavered.

At the (quite appropriate) protestations of her family, who saw me as an 18-year-old bum, she always stood by me.

But we were kids, and I was an idiot, fearful and insecure. I listened to advice and gossip from some not-so-well-mean-

ing people. Rather than communicating with the young woman who had been nothing but honest with me, I broke up with her, and in doing so, devastated myself. She is not one to put up with baloney, and she wasn’t dealing with mine.

We would not set eyes upon each other for nearly 30 years.

We became Facebook friends in 2009 and would sometimes wish each other happy birthday. I didn’t think much of it, as I dubbed Facebook “where old friendships go to die.”

After three failed relationships, I was done with romance. I was jaded and cynical, tired of being controlled and cheated on. Tired of my own faults, tired of putting my heart and soul into people, relation-

ships and jobs that never put forth the same effort.

Then she popped up on my feed.

There was something curious about it: Her name was her maiden name. My divorce from my second marriage had finalized a few months prior, and suddenly, there were no chains holding me anywhere.

My curiosity wouldn’t let me go. After a little research, I discovered her divorce finalized one day before mine.

That night, I reached out and asked if she wanted to go out and get some burgers. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

While we didn’t get those burgers that night, we did start talking again. Soon after, I started preaching again. It’s funny, because when



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

I was in the hospital with COVID-19, I prayed that if God got me out of there, I would go back to working in the church. It didn’t even have to be as a minister. If He wanted me to scrub bathrooms, I’d do it gladly.

So, there I was, back in ministry after more than seven years away, and right after the first service, I got a text from her: “You know, I’m only 20 minutes from you.”

My son and I arrived right to the place where she was camping. “I better be getting a hug,” she said. To paraphrase Eminem, I had “traveled back to the arms of my rightful owner.”

We were set in stone that day and have been

ever since. At the beginning, there were moments where I thought maybe we had been cheated out of 28 years together, but no longer. After all of the mistakes, sins and bad decisions of my life, I realized that she deserves better than the way I was at 19, 27, 38. I want to be the best version of myself for her, because she deserves nothing less. I can never say about anyone else what I can say about her: that she truly makes me a better man.

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

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New burger jointe in Grosse Pointe

In case you haven’t heard, there’s a new Jointe in town. No, that’s not a typo. We like the “E’s” in these parts!

Now let’s get to the “Pointe” that is High Pointe Burger Jointe. It’s crazy to think that just a year ago, a full gut job was underway at the previous location of Extreme Pizza at 369 Fisher in the City of Grosse Pointe.



369 Fisher Rd.

“We renovated the entire interior,” owner Jennifer Bierkle said. “It’s all new down to the HVAC, electrical and toilets.”

She and her husband, Jason, have had this vision for a few years. It was just a matter of the right time and the right place. For the Grosse Pointe residents, who have two children — their oldest is a Grosse Pointe North grad and their youngest currently attends Grosse Pointe South — the timing seemed right. And

the perfect location was available for what they envisioned: serving families of the community they grew up in and raised their own in, in a fun and welcoming atmosphere.

When asked how they came up with the name, it was all hands on deck.

“We wanted the name to represent our community and include the high schools since we are across the street from South,” Jennifer said. “We had several ideas that we ran by our teenagers. They said no to most.”

Next, they got friends involved.

“We wanted something fun and catchy,” Jennifer continued. “It was a group effort with our friends to come up with the entire name. And we loved the suggestion to add the ‘e’ on Jointe to keep with the Grosse Pointe tradition.”

High Pointe Burger Jointe opened its big red door Dec. 15, 2024, just in time for some holiday cheer.

We’re not talking your basic burger here. We’re not talking greasy sliders either. Smashers: That’s what this Jointe is serving. And its menu is definitely mouthwatering. When asked where the smasher concept came from, the answer was quite simple. Jennifer has been cooking for her teenagers most of

their childhood and what kid doesn’t love mini burgers and perfect crispy chicken strips?

“We focus on two-ounce burgers that we refer to as smashers,” she said, noting that sourcing locally and within the state was important to the Bierkles. “It has always been my priority to shop local and support locally owned businesses.”

All of High Pointe’s burgers are made from Grosse Pointe’s own Fairway Packing, using 70/30 black Angus beef, and their smasher buns are from Korda’s Metropolitan Bread Co.



Classic single and chicken smasher.

Also, with the concept comes an ever-changing variety. Currently with 18 options to choose from, the most popular is the classic smasher. Served as a single or a double, with grilled onions, pickles, a choice of cheddar or Swiss... “and

the options grow from there,” she said.

Where else can you find a coney smasher? Detroit coney chili is smothered over a beef patty, with yellow mustard and onions, of course.



Dirty smasher.

Another fan favorite is the dirty smasher, stacked with bleu cheese, green olives and topped with a



Classic single, double, and chicken smashers and apple and goat cheese salad.



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

garlic aioli. I’ve heard it is highly recommended to wash that down with, you guessed it, a dirty martini. They call this combo the “Double Down.”

Apparently, marinating chicken in buttermilk overnight, hand-breading and frying it to order is clearly a recipe for the best chicken strips — and smashers. The Detroit chicken smasher includes dill pickles, ranch and a spicy Detroit rub, whereas the classic chicken smasher is served with dill pickles and house-made smoky tangy High Pointe sauce, their take on a Chick-fil-A sandwich. I will

say, these are both excellent options. Of course, there’s also the chicken bacon ranch smasher, aka “Big Poppa,” because you can’t do chicken without one of those. There’s a salad option for that one too. Last time I checked, there was also a hot dog smasher and a dill pickle smasher, because why not?

Don’t forget Parmesan truffle fries, fried pickle chips or fried cheese curds while you’re waiting for those smashers. Personally, I like to try all the house-made dips too.

Sweet smashers? Are those a thing? Well, they are here. PB&J, s’mores and a banana Nutella smasher can be yours for \$4 each.

And, this Jointe is gluten-free capable with a dedicated prep and gluten-free fryer, as well as gluten-free bread, fried pickles and chicken as well.

“Almost our entire menu can be converted to gluten-free options,” Jennifer said.

Vegetarians are not left out either, with a delicious falafel smasher with house-made garlic aioli and house-made pickled onions.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



If there’s one thing I refuse to do in my kitchen, it’s peel garlic.

On a typical weekday night, I’m trying to get dinner on the table quickly and if I have to peel cloves of garlic, I know I’m immediately adding 10 minutes to my recipe.

Maybe I’m just not the best cook, but the sticky, papery mess and the lingering smell on my hands is enough to make me want to order takeout. Add in a few kids trying to “help” and being late for carpool, and we are all overstimu-

lated and I’m blaming everything on the garlic.

Luckily, Trader Joe’s crushed frozen garlic is here to save the day. This product is a staple in my freezer. Ready to save me from my own laziness, each pack comes with 20 tiny cubes of pure minced garlic, frozen into perfectly portioned nuggets

of convenience. No peeling, no chopping, no mess. It’s a miracle.

Just pop out a cube — or three — and toss it straight into your pan. It melts into sauces and soups seamlessly, delivering that fresh garlic flavor without any effort.

Now, let’s talk about taste. I was skeptical at first. Frozen garlic? Could it really compare to the real deal? But it absolutely holds up. The flavor is fresh and punchy, without that harsh bitterness you some-

times get from jarred minced garlic. And unlike the pre-chopped stuff in oil, there are no preservatives or weird aftertastes, just pure garlic.

Honestly, this product has changed my weeknight cooking game. No more last-minute garlic runs. No more crying over stubborn skins. Just easy, breezy garlic magic at my fingertips.

If you cook at home even occasionally, do yourself a favor and grab a pack. I’m

giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators because it’s just that good.

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



Early spring salmon

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Salmon en Papillote or salmon cooked “in paper” is a delicate, healthy and fool proof method to produce a juicy and succulent piece of fish. It steams together with lots of aromatic herbs and lemon so all the moisture is retained. And the best part is cleanup involves crumpling up the parchment paper and throwing it out. That’s it!

I try to incorporate fish into my family’s diet as much as I can. And, I appreciate the Lenten season’s arrival because it means fish dinners every Friday.

I was worried the kids wouldn’t like this because it’s not fried or grilled but I was so wrong. They each got their own package and I let them rip it open

themselves to reveal the tasty dinner inside.

You could flavor the fish anyway you want or use any combination of herbs and vegetables.

Since the weather has been so beautiful I was really feeling Spring. Tarragon and asparagus seemed appropriate.

Avoid laying down potatoes, unless they are very thinly sliced, because the cook time would be longer and you would overcook the fish. Zucchini and peppers would be really good additions.

During this Lenten season, I’ll be focusing on bringing you the easiest and best fish recipes that I can come up with. So stay tuned!

Cheers, Mombeau

Salmon en Papillote

- 4 (4oz) portioned salmon filets
- 8 lemon slices
- 1 onion, sliced into rings
- Fresh sprigs of dill and tarragon
- 20 asparagus spears, trimmed
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Parchment paper

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Tear the parchment paper into four rectangles measuring about 18x15 inches a piece. You want to make sure that you have enough

paper to fold over the salmon to make a pocket. Pour about 1 teaspoon of olive oil on one end of the paper and lay down five asparagus pieces.

Next, place a few rings of onion over top along with about six tarragon leaves. Place a salmon fillet over the asparagus and season with salt, pepper and another drizzle of olive oil.

To finish, top the fish with sprigs of fresh dill and two lemon slices.

Fold one end of the parchment over the other. To create the package, start rolling the paper into itself, crimping the edges starting with one corner and finishing with the other.

Place the packages on a baking sheet and roast for 12 minutes. When you take them out of the oven,



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

let them sit for a couple minutes so you don’t burn yourself from the steam.

You can serve the unopened package to each person, on a plate, and let them rip it open and eat right out of the parchment paper.

Enjoy!



Natural wine

The phrase “natural wine” may be confusing to some wine lovers.

That is because most regular wine drinkers who pay attention to how wine is normally produced know that it is a product of grape juice in which a yeast produces a fermentation. The yeast is then removed.

Incidental use of sulfur dioxide stabilizes the product and is essentially harmless in wine.

Yet a curious subculture in the wine world believes that the phrase “natural wine” demands that absolutely nothing modern should be used in its production.

Essentially, the phrase refers to wines made without anything being added or taken away from the grapes. Its proponents aim for purity. That can put them 180 degrees from those who try to make wines of great quality and fret not about naturalness.

The most pernicious aspect of the “natural wine movement,” as it often calls itself, is its implication that any wine not made to be “natural” is somehow unnatural.

One problem is that there are various advocates of naturalness, each with a slightly different point of view of what defines a natural wine. Some say sulfites

may not be used. Others say sulfites are OK, but no fining agents, which remove negative elements such as bitterness.

Most natural wine people do not agree on how to define the term. As it turns out, neither does the U.S. government. So it is unregulated and has no agreed-upon meaning.

I have covered the wine industry as a reporter for 50 years. In that time, the processes and products used in wine production have never proven to be a risk to humans — despite some statements implying otherwise by natural wine supporters.

So you may wonder why there is such a brouhaha in the subculture about the term. Part of the reason is that those who support natural winemaking imply that those who do not are making a product that isn’t as “authentic” as it ought to be.

This casts aspersions on about 99 percent of all wine being produced around the world. But when used in moderation with food, almost all wine typically provides enjoyment and helps food taste better.

Since many natural wines diverge from the normal aromatics and tastes of wines made with more modern methods, the category has not developed any particular following.

One reason is that some natural wines can smell and/or taste a little odd.

Isabelle Legeron of France vocally supports the idea of these wines. Her book, called simply “Natural Wine,” is seen by some as the bible of the natural wine movement.

One subcategory in natural winemaking is called Pet-Nat. It is a natural sparkling wine that can occasionally be less than brilliant in color (and is occasionally cloudy). Its supporters say it has more flavors than traditional sparkling wines.

Very few natural wines will be found in supermarkets. That’s

because they are usually made in tiny quantities and typically are not appealing to supermarket wine shoppers.

They may be found most often in specialty wine shops, often in the sections that carry organic or biodynamic wines.

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

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COURTESY PHOTO

Due to the presence of beneficial bacteria and yeast from the natural fermentation process, natural wine may also support gut health. The microorganisms in natural wine can act as probiotics, promoting a healthy gut microbiome, which is essential for digestion and immune function.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINKY PROMISE, BOOK OF SHADOWS AND PHENOMENAL MEDIA

Left, Genevieve (Mina Sundwall) & Ben (Alex R. Hibbert) in the 2023 movie “The Graduates,” written and directed by Hannah Peterson.

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Graduates”
2023 - Not Rated
1 hr 27 min
★★★★☆

The fact that we have to even think about gun vio-

lence is nothing short of tragic. Yet we have to read about mass shootings in the paper and hear about them on radio and television. One can’t even drive through our neighborhoods without seeing

ribbons tied to trees — reminders that the worst of these senseless acts happen in our schools and the toll it takes on our children. It definitely begs the question, “What have we become as a nation”? Yet here we are. Welcome to the new norm.

“The Graduates” is the feature debut of Hannah Peterson and what a debut it is. The film focuses on a group of high school students dealing with the aftermath of a shooting that took the lives of six of their classmates. It’s been a year since the event took place, yet they all are still struggling to process the loss and trying to move on. This gentle, heartfelt movie skips the melodrama and instead examines their daily lives. I feared the scene of the actual incident would be included, and fortunately, Ms. Peterson opted to omit it.



The opening sequence is haunting. It’s a series of shots of empty classrooms and hallways in a school, presented in total silence. We hear the footsteps of guidance counselor Vicky (Kelly O’Sullivan), as she approaches and then stops in front of a memorial dedicated to the victims — it consists of photos and sticky notes honoring them. This sensitive air permeates a good portion of the movie along with a feeling of hope that things will get better.

We then meet Genevieve (Mina Sundwall) and her friends Romie (Yasmeen Fletcher) and Becker (Ewan Manley). Tragically, Genevieve’s boyfriend Tyler was one of the victims. She and her friends are trying to carry on with their lives, engaging in typical high school activities like hanging out at their favorite burger joint. Yet they all are suffering from survivor’s guilt. Their friend Tyler should be there with them, sharing their experiences as they prepare to graduate.

Another pivotal character is the school’s basketball coach, brilliantly played by John Cho. He has a special bond with the kids on his team and he acts more like a fellow player than a coach. It isn’t until about halfway

though the movie that we discover his son was Tyler, Genevieve’s boyfriend. It came as a bit of a surprise to me and I wondered how I could have missed that earlier. We also learn that his wife and young daughter have moved away to Houston and he’s stayed behind to coach for one more year. There are a number of touching moments he shares with Genevieve, which are guaranteed to bring a tear to your eyes.

Early on in the movie, Tyler’s best friend Ben (Alex R. Hibbert) returns to town and is soon hanging out with Genevieve. It’s revealed that he had a hard time continuing to play on the team without Tyler and it’s assumed that he had transferred to another school. We find out that wasn’t the case—he actually dropped out of school. His plan now is to get his GED and move on with his life. He and Genevieve end up spending quite a bit of time together and they help each other deal with their loss and attempt to heal.

I was quite moved by this remarkable film. It’s a sensitive, well-written and acted story. Much of the cinematography felt natural, it included a lot of fairly tight shots of the kids interacting with each other. You were right there, part of the gang as opposed to being an observer. I also thought the soundtrack was gorgeous. It added to the melancholy feel of the movie without being overly sappy.

And I was very impressed with Ms. Sundwall’s performance. She practically stole every scene she was in and I know she’s definitely going places in the world of films. If you share my enthusiasm, I suggest you check out her work in the

remake of “Lost in Space.” I know you’re probably skeptical, as I was before watching it. Trust me, it’s nothing like that campy sci-fi show from the late 1960’s.

“The Graduates” is currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also to rent on Apple TV, Amazon, and Fandango.

Note to parents: The film is unrated, but I’d probably give it a PG-13 due to the overall theme. However, there aren’t any violent scenes in the movie.

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.



Genevieve recalls fond memories on her phone



Ben (Hibbert) visits his friend’s grave.



Coach John (Cho).



Ben (Hibbert) & Genevieve (Sundwall) take a dip.



Ben (Alex R. Hibbert) & Romie (Yasmeen Fletcher) at the diner.



Genevieve (Sundwall) in class.



A remembrance service.



Apple and goat cheese salad.

FOOD

Continued from page 3C

Or there’s the apple and goat cheese salad, with mixed greens, pickled red onion, green apples, crumbled goat cheese and dried cherries. They really do have all the bases covered here. There even are Little Smashers for the kids.

And let’s not forget the Icee machine with rotating flavors for little and big kids, too.

As for adult beverages, High Pointe may be small inside, but there’s a full bar to enjoy. Grosse Pointe resident-owned Kozi Vodka, Blu Dot Party Girl sparkling Champagne, Gypsy Vodka and Bourbon, distilled in Bay Harbor, are some of the bottles you’ll see behind the cozy bar. They’ve also collaborated with Lansing Brewery, a Grosse Pointe-based company, for its on-tap High Pointe House Lager, as well as other domestic beers and a full wine list from which to choose.

As we know, signature cocktails are a thing, the most popular being the Mack Avenue express, their version of an espresso martini. Obviously, I highly recommend it. There’s also Sally’s cosmopolitan, named after Jennifer’s wonderful mom.



Mack Avenue express espresso martinis.



Detroit chicken smasher, fries and cheese curds.



Motown martini.

“All of our drinks are named after something in Detroit or Grosse Pointe,” she said.

Keeping the theme going is the name of their game.

In less than four months since opening, they have participated in this year’s Grosse Pointe Restaurant Week, been featured on Fox 2 Detroit’s morning show The Nine, hosted private events, brought in a DJ and turned the place into a dance club on a Thursday (how fun is that!?) and just last week, finally launched their heavily anticipated lunch hour specifically catered to Grosse Pointe Souths students: open Monday to Wednesday with a limited menu offering four great options, fries, soft drinks and Slurpees.

After spring break, lunch will be served Monday to Friday, dine in or carryout, so let your high schoolers know to hustle across the

street once that lunch bell rings (do they still do that?).

Always check High Pointe’s social media for current updates, especially through the end of the school year regarding lunch. This also is where their specials will be posted. You don’t want to miss out on those.

Current dining hours are 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

It’s always exciting to have a new restaurant in the neighborhood. It’s even more exciting when you know the owners, you know how much they love their community and you know how much they love entertaining and putting smiles on their neighbors faces.

“For summer months, we are adding a patio and cannot wait to have the community walk over for a smasher and a cocktail,” Jennifer said.

We can’t wait either! Thanks for staying in the bubble, Bierkles, and welcome to the neighborhood, High Point Burger Jointe!

Follow along with the Jointe on Instagram: @highpointeburgerjointe and on Facebook: High Pointe Burger Jointe. Check out their menu online at highpointeburgerjointe.com.

Fun fact: Shhhh... there’s a “secret menu” online. To those reading, you’re welcome.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Dessert smashers.



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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 13, 2025:

You’re enthusiastic, courageous and imaginative. You’re also an independent thinker. This is a year of learning and teaching for you. You might take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs and explore the deeper aspects of yourself through meditation, prayer and introspection. Enjoy some privacy.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

TProblems related to your job, health and possibly even a pet have been building up and getting more challenging. Be reassured that after the Lunar Eclipse is over tonight, these problems will diminish. You can count on this. (You’ll have a better perspective of things.) Tonight: Relax.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Challenges with your kids as well as with social situations or something to do with sports cannot be ignored. However, after the Full Moon peaks tonight, you will begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel -- and it won’t be a train. Keep the faith. Tonight: Socialize.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

There’s been a buildup of pressure in your life between the demands of your external world or your reputation in the community versus the demands of home and family. It’s hard keeping everyone happy. After the Full Moon peaks tonight, life will become easier. Tonight: Cocoon.



CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day for your sign. Therefore, pay attention to everything you say and do. Take a moment before you react to someone. Don’t react — respond carefully. (There’s a difference.) Issues in the news and social media might be building up angst within you. Be tender with yourself. Tonight: Patience.



LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Financial issues are on your mind. They might pertain to earnings, savings, cash flow or something to do with possessions that you own. This might even involve your interaction with someone else’s resources and wealth. . This is good. Tonight: Check your belongings.



VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today’s energy is powerful, because the Lunar Eclipse that occurs late tonight is taking place in Virgo. (A Lunar Eclipse is a powerful Full Moon.) The best way to handle this is to be patient with others, and also to be patient with yourself. Stay chill. Tonight: You’re in charge.



LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Something going on behind the scenes might be nagging you in the back of your mind today. You might know what it is. You might not. Nevertheless, you have that sense of a distraction, like a worry. Be confident by the thought that by tomorrow this will diminish. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.



SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your relations with a friend or a group or organization are challenged at this time. You might feel criticized or at odds with someone; in fact, these feelings

have been getting more intense. Fortunately, tonight, the Lunar Eclipse could be a breakthrough that resolves things. Tonight: Support friendships.



SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Relations with parents and authority figures might be challenged. In fact, they might have been increasingly challenging for you this week. The main thing to know is that these relations will improve starting tomorrow after the Lunar Eclipse has peaked tonight. Tonight: You’re noticed.



CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day for you due to the strong energy of today’s Lunar Eclipse. Obviously, an accident doesn’t have to happen, but you might be distracted by a conversation or an argument. Stay cool. Tonight: Explore!



AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your concerns with earnings, cash flow or something you own have intensified this week until today. However, when the Full Moon peaks tonight, your concerns might lighten up or be resolved in a positive way. Fingers crossed! Tonight: Check your finances.



PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today the only Full Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which will create tension with partners, spouses and close friends. The good news is that this tension might have been building up in the last few days, and after the Lunar Eclipse peaks tonight, it will go away. Tonight: Be patient with others.

BORN TODAY

Actor William H. Macy (1950), actor Noel Fisher (1984), actress Lucy Fry (1992).

Contract Bridge

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 6
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ J 10 5
♣ K 8 4 3

WEST

♠ K 7 2
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 9 8 4 2
♣ 9 6 5

EAST

♠ Q 10 9 5
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ 7
♣ J 10 7 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 4 3
♥ A K 7
♦ A K 6 3
♣ A Q

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — four of diamonds.

Three notrump looks so easy to make on today’s deal — especially after an opening diamond lead — that the casual player might well ask “What’s the problem?” Yet it contains a trap that would very likely ensnare many unsuspecting declarers.

After the diamond lead, South pauses briefly to count his winners and sees nine in plain view — one spade, two hearts, three diamonds and three clubs. Having made this determination, he puts up dummy’s jack of diamonds, which holds, and cashes the A-Q of

clubs.

It is at this point that South begins to realize that his initial assessment of his prospects might have been premature. The difficulty lies in the fact that although dummy’s king of clubs is the game-going trick, there is no way to reach dummy to collect it.

Try as he might, South will find himself fighting a losing battle. If, for example, he tries to get to dummy by leading his remaining low diamond toward the 10-5, West takes the queen, leaving South with the lone A-K opposite the 10.

The solution is not really difficult, provided declarer negotiates the first hurdle. Before he plays to the opening trick, he should note the blockage in the club suit and take immediate steps to resolve that problem.

This can be done easily by playing the five of diamonds from dummy rather than the jack or ten. East’s seven is taken with the king, and the A-Q of clubs are cashed. South then leads a low diamond toward the J-10.

West can take his queen now or later, but the result is the same in either case. Nine tricks are assured, regardless of what the defenders do.

What the deal points up is that the natural impulse to play high from dummy at trick one must be curbed until the hand is examined as a whole. In other words, look before you leap!

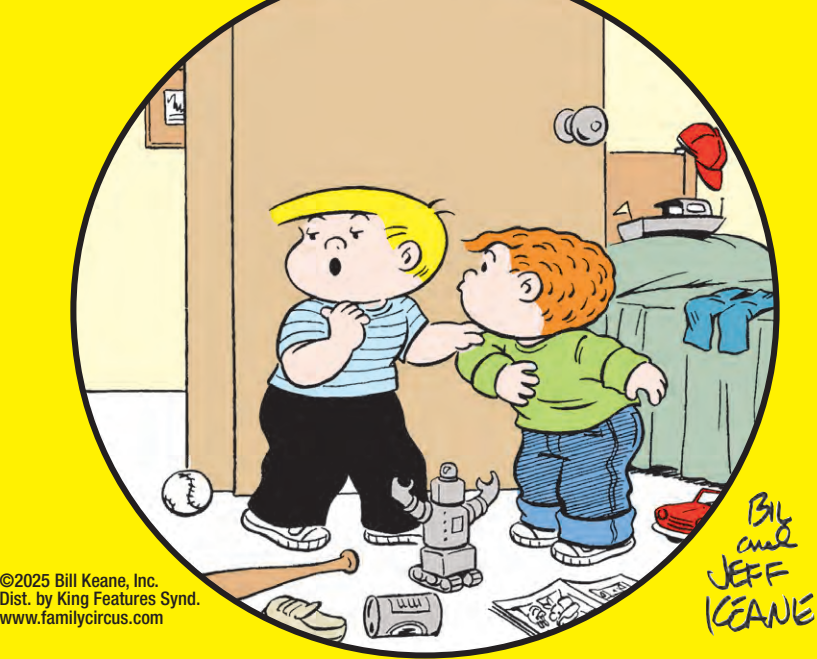
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



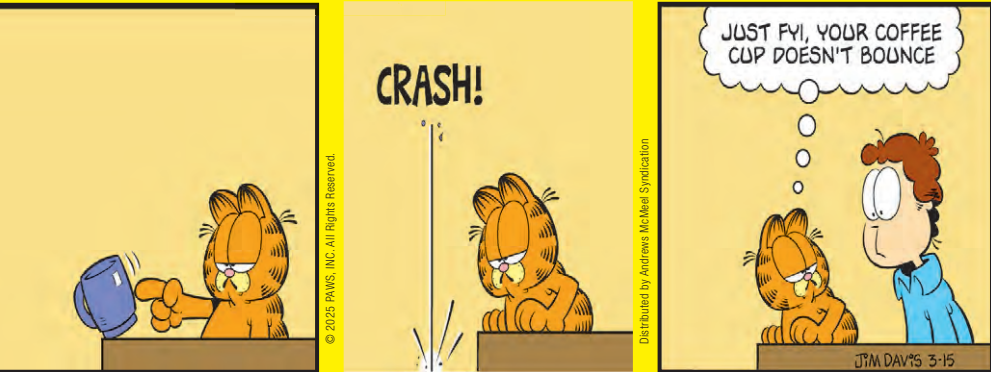
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Bill and
Jeff
Keane

"I think we're in trouble.
Mommy just called for William and Jeffrey."

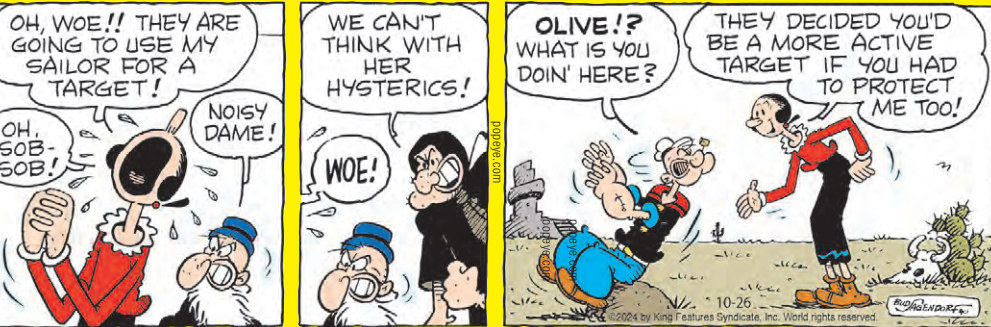
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



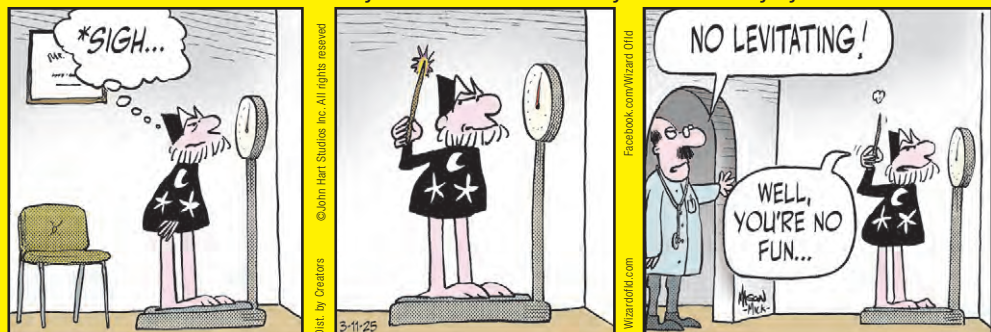
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

3/13

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/6 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 13, 2025

ACROSS

- Movie that bombs
- Each
- Go over, as lines
- Type of engineering
- Plant in a new container
- One providing walks, ironically
- "My point is ..."
- "See you ..."
- Ear or brain part
- A fan of something
- Removed from a chalkboard
- Cheesed off
- Disbeliever's dec__ration
- Texter's alternative to the emoticon :O
- Set free
- Molecule with a double-helix structure
- Start to desire a re__tion-ship, maybe
- Does without
- Dos x dos
- Frees from
- Caustic cleaners

- Fur-obsessed vil__in created by Dodie Smith
- Excessive hurry
- Settles on, as a new planet
- Command
- Curry favor
- Sounds from bell towers
- Govt. IDs
- The Big Easy ... or a two-word hint to this puzzle's theme

DOWN

- Short-lived trend
- Star sign for most of August
- End of the U.N.'s URL
- Most luxurious
- Bldg. units
- Smith with the 1975 album "Horses"
- Atlantic or Indian
- Each
- Much crossword content
- Mails, as a check
- Orangutans, e.g.
- Jacket
- Sicilian smoker
- "Chandelier" singer

- Batted first
- Juliet's iconic balcony call
- Fantastic song
- Meerkat in "The Lion King"
- "Just a moment"
- Bird that can be six feet tall
- Got down to a 23-Down
- What naturists embrace
- Not heed
- Warlord in "Avengers: Infinity War"
- Model Karlie
- Long, long time
- Olympic code for Quito's country
- Capital of Estonia
- Hansel's companion

- Edmonton NHL team
- Air freshener targets
- Certain criminal
- Piece of pork, perhaps
- Like valuable Pokemon cards
- __ organic (designation on some foods)
- Spouses may renew theirs
- Roadside lodging
- "Ghosts" network
- Where you might see lions, tigers and bears
- Common adult school subj.
- __ anemone

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/6 Solution

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3/13

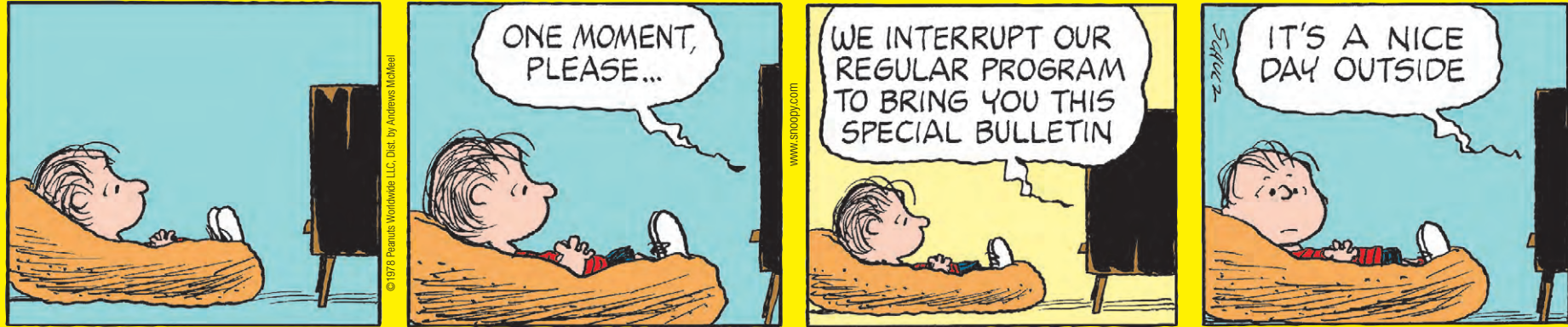
Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, Ti, Do by Robbie Cottom

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				15					16			
14									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
64							65					
66							67				68	

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



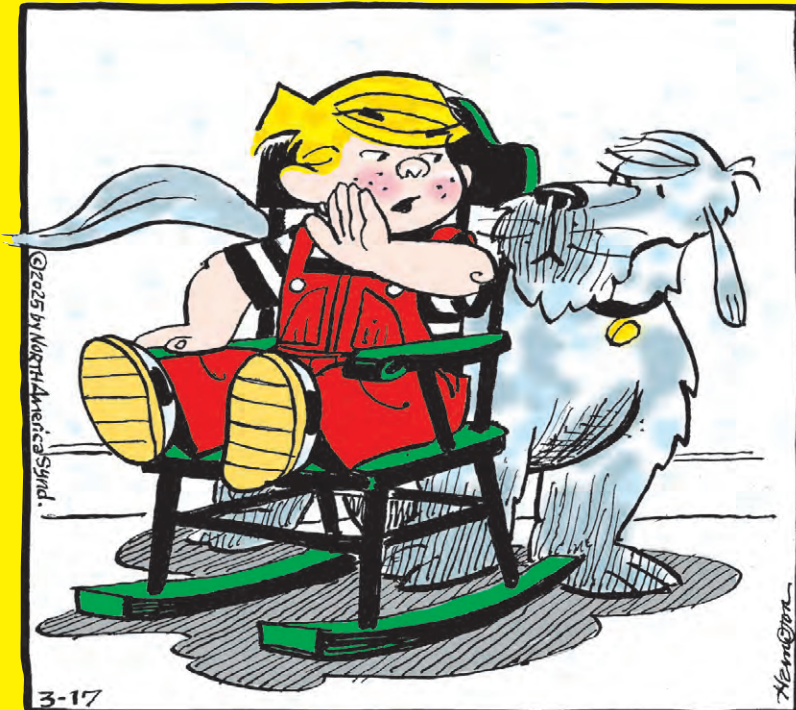
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



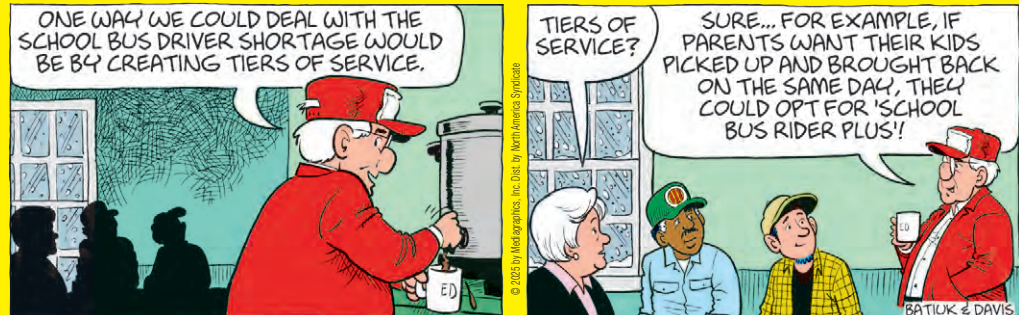
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



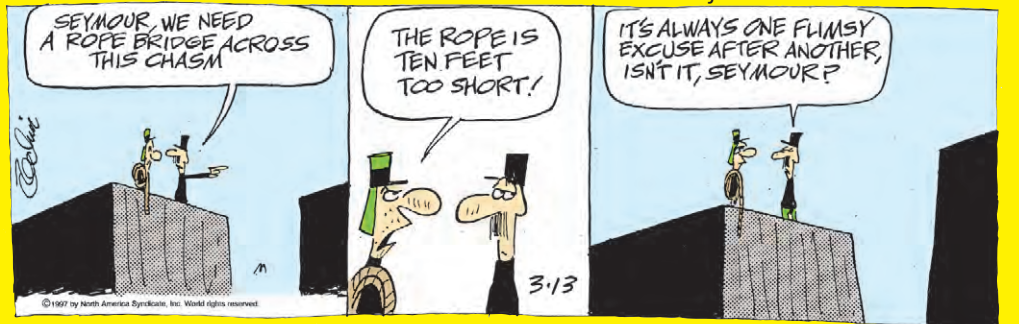
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



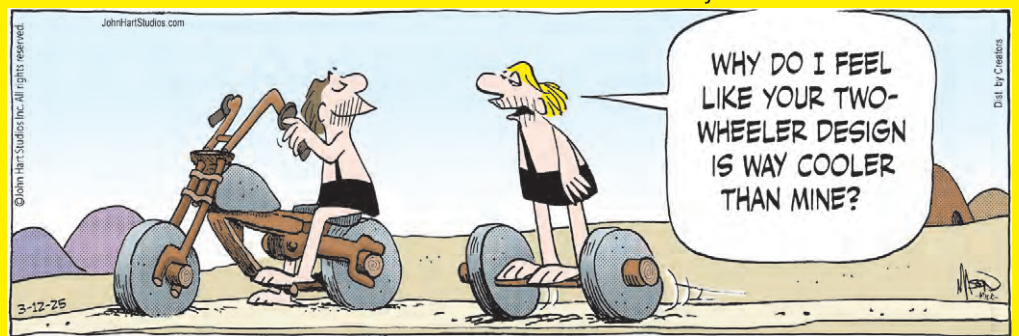
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



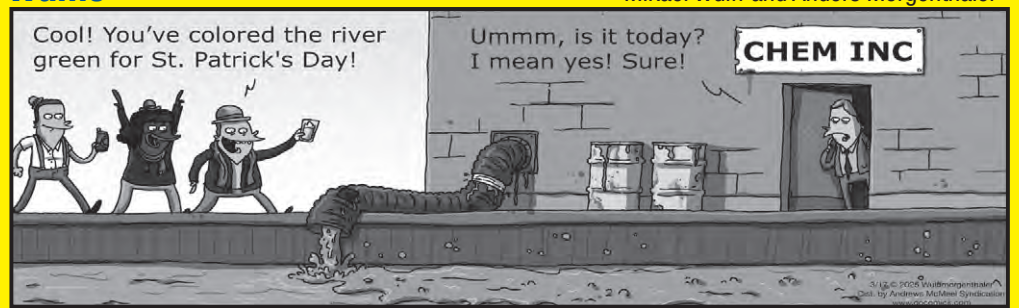
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Sound machines for dogs.

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





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Kid Scoop Together

Make an Eclipse

Work with a family member to make an eclipse at home.

BLOOD MOON

Hi! I'm **Earth!** Sometimes, I block the sun's light from reaching the surface of the moon.



Wow! How **rude!**



When that happens, it's called a **lunar** eclipse.



The word **lunar** means having to do with the moon. That's **ME!**



A **blood moon** happens when just the right amount of light passes through my atmosphere during a lunar eclipse.



Dust particles in the air can make the moon appear **reddish** or **brownish** in color.



But it doesn't last very long. A lunar eclipse is over within a few hours.



Cool!



Standards Link: Science: Use a model to understand eclipses.

How to Watch the Eclipse

The blood moon will be visible in most of North America on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14. Here are the times to watch for it. With a family member, circle your time zone.

- Eastern Daylight Time (EDT): 2:26 a.m.–3:31 a.m. (March 14)
- Central Daylight Time (CDT): 1:26 a.m.–2:31 a.m. (March 14)
- Mountain Daylight Time (MDT): 12:26 a.m.–1:31 a.m. (March 14)
- Pacific Daylight Time (PDT): 11:26 p.m. (March 13)–12:31 a.m. (March 14)
- Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT): 10:26 p.m.–11:31 p.m. (March 13)
- Hawaii Standard Time (HST): 8:26 p.m.–9:31 p.m. (March 13)



How many moons can you find in this picture?

Extra! Extra!

Describe the Moon

Look through today's newspaper for five adjectives that describe the moon. Write them here:

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify adjectives.

Stuff you'll need:

- Flashlight or a desk lamp
- Basketball
- Baseball



STEPS:



1. One person holds the basketball, which represents Earth.



2. Another person holds the baseball, representing the moon.



3. In a dark room, point the light at the basketball.



4. The person holding the baseball moves it into the shadow of the basketball. That's a total lunar eclipse!

Standards Link: Science: Create a model to explain scientific concepts.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:

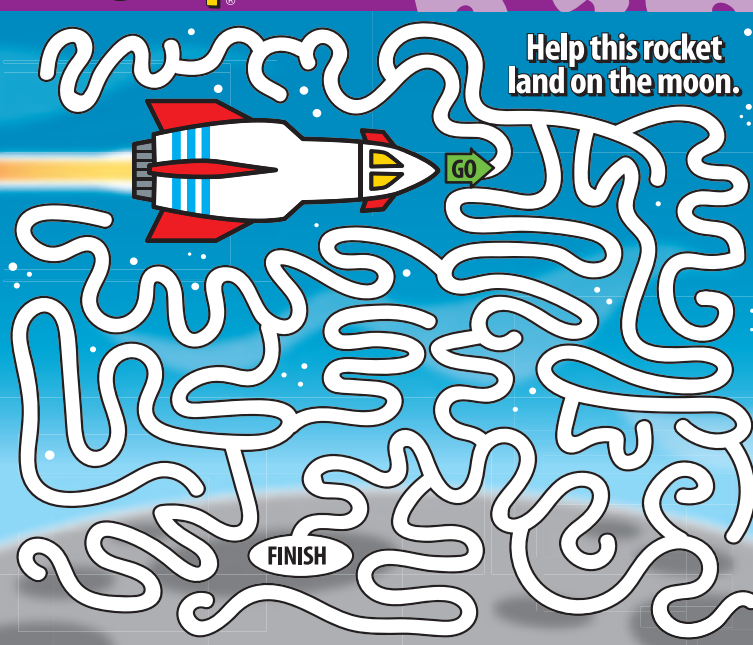
LUNAR

The adjective **lunar** describes something related to the moon.

Neil Armstrong was the first human to step on the **lunar** surface.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Help this rocket land on the moon.

GO

FINISH

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

FROM THE **Kid Scoop** LESSON LIBRARY

Space is the Place

Find an advertisement in the newspaper. Rewrite the ad to make it about something you would need if you took a trip to the moon.

Standards Link: Writing: Strengthen writing clarity by editing.



Why is the moon so hungry?

ANSWER: It's only full once a month!

Write On!

My Home on the Moon

Imagine you live in a home on the moon. Describe what you do on an ordinary day.

Standards Link: Writing: Write narratives with details to develop imagined experiences.

Your Neighborhood

It's what's most important to you, to your kids, to your family. It's easy to stay on top of what is happening around you with the

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Blue Devils go back-to-back!

Late rally helps South girls hockey successfully defend state championship

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls' hockey team returned to the locker room after the second period of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 championship game Saturday, March 8, it was in danger of losing its title as state champion. The Blue Devils were trailing the Mid-Michigan Alliance 2-0 after the first two periods, but a comeback in the third period led by the team's seniors propelled South to a 3-2 victory and secured a second consecutive state championship.

"We are a very disciplined and skilled team and I knew that if we could get them on the right track, then they would come out in the third (period) and play a lot better," South girls hockey coach Lexi



South senior Abby Evans celebrates after scoring what would end up as the game-winning goal for the Blue Devils in a 3-2 win over Mid-Michigan Alliance in the MGHSHL Division 1 championship game Saturday, March 8.

PHOTO BY RENA LAVERTY

Bohlinger said. "... We gave them a few things to work on like shooting the puck and stopping being so fancy. We allowed them to take chances. Then one of our seniors, Frances Ring, stood up and apparently gave the

world's greatest motivational speech and really got them going." While South beat Mid-Michigan Alliance twice in the regular season, the Valkyrie came into last Saturday's championship looking determined

to give the Blue Devils a fight. Both teams had their share of chances early on, but the first period ultimately ended without movement on the scoreboard. When the second period got underway, the

Valkyrie struck first. Irelynn Garcia scored the game's first goal to give Mid-Michigan Alliance a 1-0 lead. As the final seconds of the middle period ticked down, Mid-Michigan Alliance was able to extend its lead

just before the buzzer. Lila Rae Ladrig found the back of the net with just one second left on the clock to send the Valkyrie into the locker room with a two-goal advantage. The Blue Devils hit the ice in the third period, determined to show that a two-goal lead truly is the most dangerous lead in hockey. South finally broke through onto the scoreboard with just more than 10 minutes left in the game, with a goal by senior Bella Peruski. Less than two minutes later, the Blue Devils evened the score as senior captain Molly Reynolds scored the tying goal with a little more than eight minutes remaining in the game. The tension inside the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton rose with every passing moment as the game remained tied in the third period. However, the Blue Devils seemed to be in control of the momentum after tying the game. Finally, with just under four minutes left to go, another senior stepped up for South as Abby Evans fired a shot over the shoulder of the Mid-Michigan goalie and into

See HOCKEY, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Willson continues stellar senior year with All-State honors in football and wrestling

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When an athlete achieves All-State sta-

tus in multiple sports, it can truly distinguish them as one of the most hardworking and talented athletes around.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Willson gets set for a play at the linebacker position in a game against Utica during the 2024 South football season.

That is what Grosse Pointe South senior Lex Willson has done the past year for the Blue Devils in both football and wrestling. Willson was a starting linebacker and team captain for South football during the fall season and was named All-State in Division 2 by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association, as well as being part of the Detroit Free Press' 2024 football "Dream Team." After his remarkable season on the gridiron, Willson transitioned to wrestling for the Blue Devils. He placed third in the region at 190 pounds and qualified

for the individual state finals at Ford Field, where he reached All-State status in Division 1 by finishing seventh overall. "I really did put a lot of hard work and effort into it and seeing it be recognized by the people around me, it's something that nobody can take away from me," Willson said. Willson is proud of his achievements on the wrestling mat, of course, but has always considered himself to be a football player first and foremost. He grew up playing football with the Grosse Pointe Red Barons and joined the Blue Devils football

program as soon as he started high school. Early in his high school career with South's freshman team, he settled into his position as linebacker. Linebacker often is considered the "quarterback of the defense" and a position normally reserved for a team's biggest leaders. That is exactly what kept Willson there, as he used influence from his role models at the position to eventually form himself into the perfect leader for South's defense at the varsity level. "Freshman year, I just started playing linebacker just because Coach Cimmarrusti

thought I would be a good fit," he said. "... There were so many people that I would just look up to. The (varsity) linebacker at the time was Donovan Moody. He was a big role model and was the one calling the plays. I aspired to be like him and other people on the defense and I think that paid off, because I became the one calling plays and making adjustments on the field. It

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News



Lex Willson

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Football, wrestling

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2D | SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLE NGUYEN

Senior Lucy Tull, left, and freshman Hannah Grace competed for Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics at the MHSAA state finals last weekend. Tull ended up achieving All-State status with her score on beam.

Tull and Grace represent Pointes at gymnastics finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the winter high school sports season winding down, athletes are getting the chance to showcase their talents among the best in the state. Gymnasts Lucy Tull and Hannah Grace got the chance to do that representing Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics while competing at the MHSAA Gymnastics Individual State Finals in Grand Rapids last weekend, where Tull achieved All-State status.

Tull, a senior at Grosse Pointe South, became All-State in Division 2 by finishing fourth in beam with a score of 9.325. It was an improvement of three places for the

Grosse Pointe United senior captain, who finished seventh in the same event at last year’s state finals.

“It’s sadly her senior year and we’re sad to see her go, but she has been a wonderful gymnast who has improved so much since her sophomore year,” Grosse Pointe United coach Isabelle Nguyen said about Tull. “I’m really proud of her and it was a great honor to be able to coach her.”

Tull also improved her All-Around finish from last year’s state finals, going from 14th in 2024 to 11th this season. Her score of 8.9 on vault put her 21st in the event. She was 35th on bars with a score of 7.8 and scored 9.125 on the floor rou-

tine, putting her 16th in that event.

Grosse Pointe North freshman Hannah Grace also reached the state finals after qualifying at regionals. Grace competed in just one event, bars, where she scored a 5.95.

“Hannah did an amazing job making it to states as a freshman and has made so much progress from the beginning of the season,” Nguyen said. “I’m really proud of her and excited to see what she will bring next season.”

Tull and Grace helped Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics cap off another strong season that included a third-place finish in the Great Lakes Gymnastics League.

ATHLETE:
Continued from page 1D

helped me step up into that role as a leader and captain.”

Willson led South’s defense in the 2024 season with 144 tackles and tied for most tackles for loss with 14, while also forcing two fumbles. He also made an impact on the offensive side of the ball with eight rushing touchdowns.

It is safe to say Willson was a major contributor to one of the most successful seasons in South football history. The Blue Devils finished the regular season with an undefeated 9-0 record and became the first team in school history to achieve 10 wins in a season. While the story came to an end with a loss to De La Salle Collegiate in the second round of the playoffs, Willson still believes the success he experienced throughout the fall with his teammates and friends was the perfect way to end his high school football career.

“I expected a lot out of myself and the team,” Willson said. “To see

that pan out by going undefeated and being the first (South) team to get 10 wins was surreal. I’ve been playing with my teammates for so many years and to go through all that and see all of that success with them was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

‘It’s a testament to the competitor that he is in anything he does. Whether it’s football or wrestling, he’s just always competing at the highest level.’

DAVE SALAZAR, GP SOUTH WRESTLING COACH ON SENIOR LEX WILLSON

Willson’s performance on the gridiron in recent years has been helped by his growth as a wrestler. He picked up the sport a few years ago after one of his football coaches encouraged him to begin wrestling as a way to help him improve his football skills in certain areas.

Willson took the advice since he was constantly seeking ways to become a better football player. It resulted not only in him ending up an All-State wrestler, but also helping him improve at foot-

ball just like he wanted. And he learned that the two sports really can go hand in hand.

“I vividly remember multiple times where I would wrap up on a tackle and just think about how it was like using wrestling techniques to bring him to the ground,” Willson



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Willson was named All-State in Division 1 for wrestling this season after finishing seventh in the 190-pound weight class at the state finals on March 1.

Wherever Willson ends up, his spirit of hard work and determination will surely continue to help him along the way. Those who mentored and coached him throughout his time with the Blue

Devils know that to be true.

“He’s probably the only athlete that I know of who has been All-State in football and wrestling in the same year,” South wrestling coach Dave Salazar

said. “... It’s a testament to the competitor that he is in anything he does. Whether it’s football or wrestling, he’s just always competing at the highest level. I’m so proud of him.”

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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

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

Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2025 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
March 17, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS
March 17, 2025 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor’s office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 18, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act”.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor’s Office at (313) 885-5800.

GPN: 02/27/25, 03/06/25, 03/13/5

District tournament losses end seasons for girls basketball teams

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week, varsity girls basketball teams from across the state began their playoff journeys, aiming to reach East Lansing and secure a state championship. Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School all competed in their respective district tournaments. However, none of the teams advanced beyond the district round, as all three were eliminated in either the district semifinals or finals.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen advanced to the Division 1 district semifinals last week after a dominant 61-21 victory over Detroit Western International on Monday, March 3. This earned North a matchup with Detroit Cass Tech in the district semifinals Wednesday, March 5, where the Norsemen saw their playoff journey come to an end with a 62-32 loss to the Technicians. While the final score may seem lopsided, the Norsemen kept things relatively close with the Technicians through at least the first half. North trailed 13-6 after the first quarter and stepped things up offensively in the second quarter as it tried to keep pace with Cass Tech. When the game went into halftime, North had the deficit within single digits, trailing 28-20. The Technicians began

to pull away in the second half. North's offense slowed down a bit and was unable to keep up with Cass Tech as much as it did in the first half. At the end of the third quarter, the Technicians' lead was back up to double digits at 41-27. The momentum was firmly in Cass Tech's favor going into the fourth quarter as its lead on the scoreboard continued to grow until the game ended in a 30-point loss for the Norsemen. The loss ended North's season with a final record of 12-12. The team went through ups and downs throughout the winter but found strength and momentum down the final stretch, winning seven of its last eight games. North went through the season with a relatively young roster that included one junior and no seniors. The improvements shown throughout the season for the young team were seen as encouraging by the coaches and the program looks forward to continuing those improvements next season. "They learned how to compete and that was what our goal was at the beginning of the year," North girls basketball head coach Gary Bennett said. "Make sure they learn how to compete so by the end of the year, we have a bunch of good competitors on our hands. I thought they did a great job. ... I couldn't have been happier and I thought we had a very enjoyable year. We took



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Morgan Duff looks to make a pass for the Blue Devils during the district championship game against Cass Tech last Friday, March 7.

it slowly, learned how to compete, kept pounding away at fundamentals and got better and better as the season went on."

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils began playoff action Wednesday, March 5, facing off against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. in the Division 1 district semifinals. South started the postseason strong, looking dominant in a 52-23 win over the Crusaders. Senior Maddy Benard led the team with 22 points in the win. Clara Bachert added 12 as the Blue Devils marched on

to the district championship game. South took on Cass Tech for the district title Friday, March 7, in what was a close battle between both teams trying to survive and advance in March. In a back-and-forth affair, the Technicians came away with the victory in the end 51-45 over the Blue Devils. "They brought physicality and toughness and things that we had been talking about all year that quite frankly, we had been inconsistent with at times," South girls basketball head coach Kevin Richards said about his team's efforts in a close district final. "They brought it. What hurt so much is how much they did want it. We had opportunities. We said going into the game that we were going to handle their pressure and we were going to turn them over, but we're going to have to convert in transition and unfortunately, we didn't do enough of that." Last Friday's game was as close and exciting of a district championship game as any fan could want. The Blue Devils and Technicians traded shots all night and took turns holding narrow leads. Cass Tech led 18-14 at the end of the first quarter, but South

rallied in the second quarter to take the lead 29-24 going into halftime. The game remained close in the second half as neither team wanted to give an inch. The Blue Devils remained in front in the third quarter, but the Technicians were even closer behind. The lead was at just one point with South up 34-33 going into the final frame. While South took the lead into the fourth quarter, Cass Tech rallied and pulled in front in the end. While the Blue Devils continued battling to the final buzzer, the Technicians ultimately ended up on top by six at 51-45. Morgan Duff scored 16 points for South in the loss. Benard also finished in double digits with 12. While a large number of South's players will return next season, the loss in the district final marked the final high school game for the team's few seniors such as Catherine Pattie, Margaret O'Brien and Benard. Their legacy, including Benard's several program records, will be felt within the program as the rest of the team heads into the future with South's coaches hoping that those who will be back next year remember what they have learned

from playing alongside the veterans. "I hope they recognize things like Maddy (Benard) put in a lot of time to get to where she's at," Richards said. "... Away from Grosse Pointe South basketball, she put in a lot of time on her own...There's a reason why she's the player that she was, and I hope they recognize that." The loss brought South's season to an end with a final record of 9-15. The team finished fourth out of six teams in the MAC Red Division.

University Liggett
The Knights took the court in the Division 3 district tournament beginning Wednesday, March 5, in the district semifinals. Liggett dominated its first game of the postseason, winning over Detroit Northwestern by a score of 85-5. The team moved on to the district championship game Friday, March 7, where the Knights took on Detroit Pershing. After a big win in the semifinals, Liggett found itself in a much closer game and saw its hopes for another district title dashed in a 44-41 loss. The Knights' season ended with a final record of 11-11. The team also was the runner-up in the CHSL St. Anne Division tournament.



North's Emma Barr gets into position on defense in the district semifinal game against Cass Tech Wednesday, March 5.

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2025 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings
March 11, 2025 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 25, 2025 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. **COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY**, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor's office end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.

If All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 822-6200

GPN: 2/27/25, 3/6/25

TOM FINCHAM



586.899.5565
T.FINCHAM@YAHOO.COM
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HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

POINTES SKATERS WIN STATE TITLE WITH RANGERS

Grosse Pointe South varsity hockey players Charlie Wade (junior) and Will Gryzenia (sophomore) and U of D Jesuit player Andrew Rafail (junior) were part of the Birmingham Rangers 16U team that won the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) state championship last weekend in Grand Rapids. The team played three pool-play games with a roster of only 10 players, going 2-1, then won three more games to secure the championship and punch their ticket to the USA Hockey national championships in Wayne, NJ in April. Gryzenia tallied eight goals and four assists on the weekend, while Wade and Rafail kept them in the games with solid defense.

COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

POINTERS WIN STATES WITH BELLE TIRE 16U

Seven Grosse Pointers were among the players on the Belle Tire 16U Tier 1 girls hockey team that won the MAHA state championship last week. From left: Lexie Donaldson, Ally Orlick, Brooke Falmer, Camilla O'Reilly, Lexi Dobbs, Gabby Paolucci and Sophia Carson.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

PHONE: 313-882-6900 EXT. 4 FAX: 313-882-1585 WEB: GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM



DEADLINES

Please call for holiday deadline dates and times, subject to change.

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS:

TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.

CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:

TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.

PRICING

Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.

FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS

Given for multi-week scheduled advertising, with prepayment or credit approval. Call for rates or for more information. Phone lines can be busy on Monday and Tuesday. Please call early.

WORD ADS:

35 words for \$25.00; additional words are 30¢ each. Abbreviations are not accepted.

BORDER ADS STARTING AT:

\$26.00 per column inch

CLASSIFYING AND CENSORSHIP

We reserve the right to classify each ad under its appropriate heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject ad copy submitted for publication.

CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

Responsibility for classified advertising errors is limited to either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the portion of the error. Notification must be given in time for the correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility for the same after the first insertion.

Grosse Pointe News Classified Advertising AD OF THE WEEK



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

ROOFING EXPERTS

Lifetime Warranty on Shingles

SEAMLESS GUTTERS

Temper Aluminum • Gutter Covers

TREE REMOVAL

LICENSED & INSURED

FREE ESTIMATES

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GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Announcements

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSUMER CELLULAR

the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/ month. For more information, call 1(866)306-6243

EXTREMELY

Experienced craft bartender available for any parties or events. Will Provide everything except alcohol. Anthony (shots & crafts) (313)919-3030

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5 Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1(855)773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Special Services

103 ATTORNEYS/ LEGAL

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1(800)535-5727

Help Wanted

200 HELP WANTED GENERAL

SEAMSTRESS NEEDED

BELDING CLEANERS currently hiring for a part time seamstress. Make your own flexible schedule. Competitive compensation. References required.

Come in and fill out an application: 15139 Kercheval Or email resume to: info@beldingcleaners.com

Read the FINE Print See The Classifieds Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext. 1

204 HELP WANTED DOMESTIC

GROSSE POINTE home seeks housekeeper to clean/ tidy whole house & fold laundry one full day per week. Thursday/ Friday preferred. \$250/ week. Bonus pay opportunities. Reference required. Inquiries to oreilly.rebecca@gmail.com

Situations Wanted

302 SITUATION WANTED CONVALESCENT CARE

CITA ANGELS HOME CARE Caregiver services. 24 hour care. We assist in cooking, cleaning, bathing/ grooming, doctor's appointments, errands, etc. Accepting medicaid payments. 1(866)54-ANGEL

312 SITUATION WANTED ORGANIZING

DUCKS IN A ROW

De-cluttering and organizing your home! Closets, basements, whole house. Organize your paper clutter. Home information, notebooks, Medical journals, memory albums. Becky Schlaff (313)580-2528 Susan Mason (313)910-9705 schlaffb@comcast.net rwmason@comcast.net



Let the Classifieds Do The Walking Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext. 1

Merchandise

406 ESTATE SALES

MJ's Estate Sales

SERVICING the GROSSE POINTES and Surrounding Areas

Call for a Free Estimate. (313)214-7936

DON'T FORGET- Call your ads in EARLY! Classified Advertising (313)882-6900 x4 Grosse Pointe News

406 ESTATE SALES

SALE

GROSSE POINTE WOODS 1485 FAIRHOLME JC ESTATE SALE SERVICES

March 13, 14, 15 Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9am- 4pm.

Flatscreen TV's, household furniture, lamps, vintage gameboy and xbox systems with games, Sports Memorabilia, & MUCH MORE!!

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SELL ME YOUR VINYL RECORDS

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611 TRUCKS

GOOD RUNNING used truck, 1997 GMC 1500 4x4, 177,00 miles, recent tune- up and brakes. \$4,000. (586)822-2021

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Classifieds Work For You To place an ad call: (313)882-6900 x4 Grosse Pointe News

Property For Sale

801 COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

COMMERCIAL BUILDING near 9 Mile/ Harper. Approx. 1,600 sq. ft. Good as New. Up front offices and warehouse, parking. \$179,900. Brokers welcomed. Land contract considered. Quick occupancy. (313)618-5650 or tkpointes@gmail.com

803 CONDOS / APTS / FLATS

FOR SALE BY OWNER

1708 Vernier, Berkshire Condominiums. Open concept 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths attached garage. Completely updated 2017 newer appliances, windows, 1st floor laundry and hardwood through out. Excellent condition! Nice walkable neighborhood. \$315,000.00 (313)350-1412

empty the nest LLC

scale-down solutions.

ESTATE SALE

FRIDAY MAR. 14th & SATURDAY MAR. 15th

9:00 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM

17 LAKE SHORE ROAD, GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Another Fabulous Sale ... Come Feather Your Nest...Heirloom China and Crystal; Sterling & Estate Silver; Gorgeous Antique & Vintage Furniture including: a Georgian Sideboard, Hunt Table, Bachelor's Chest, Baker and Sherrill Sofas, Chippendale Chairs, Maddox Secretary, Guy Chaddock Desk, Bakers Rack, Drexel Dressers, Baldwin Baby Grand, Halle Bros Highboy, Mirrored Armoire, Pine Dry Bar, Teak Patio Set; Lamps; Mirrors; Original Art & Prints; Jewelry; Linens; Kitchen; Collectibles; Clothing & Accessories; Electronics; Books; Toys & Games; Baby; Records, CDs & DVDs; Tools; Garden and much more! Cash, Check or Credit Card accepted See Pictures on EstateSales.net

Organizing, staging, moving management, estate sales & scale down solutions... Abby Peck: 313-410-5346

031325

Grosse Pointe News

Yard & Estate Sale Map

1

17 Lake Shore Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms

2

325 Stephens Grosse Pointe Farms

3

1485 Fairholme Grosse Pointe Woods

= ESTATE SALE

= YARD SALE

See Classifieds for more details

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Some classifications are not required by law to be licensed. Please check with the proper state agency to verify license.

907 BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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Basement Waterproofing

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HOCKEY:
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the top shelf of the net to put the Blue Devils in front.

“They didn’t have a lot of nerves,” Bohlinger said about South’s seniors leading the comeback in a familiar championship environment. “They helped the

younger players kind of overcome that throughout the game too.”

South then had to stave off Mid-Michigan’s comeback attempt as the Valkyrie sought a late goal to even things back up. The Blue Devils ultimately held on for the win and the quest for back-to-back state championships was complete. South finished the sea-

son with a record of 23-3-1 after capturing the state title. The team’s victory last Saturday also secured a fifth consecutive MGHSHL Division 1 championship for the Grosse Pointes, with the Blue Devils winning in 2024 and 2025, and University Liggett School winning three straight titles from 2021 through 2023.



South girls hockey’s four senior captains celebrate with the state championship plaque. From left: Molly Reynolds, Abby Evans, Rosie Smith and Bella Peruski.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

East Side Youth Sports Foundation to host Hockey Night in Detroit April 5

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The East Side Youth Sports Foundation’s biggest night of the year is right around the corner. The foundation is set to host its annual Hockey Night in Detroit fundraiser Saturday, April 5.

Hockey Night in Detroit helps support the ESYSF and its scholarship fund and is the foundation’s biggest fundraiser of the year. The fundraiser includes a full day of events, kicking off with daytime skating sessions at East Side Foundation Hockey Arena beginning at 11 a.m.

Events continue in the evening with dinner at Watermark Bar & Grille at 6 p.m. Dinner includes a buffet with an open bar, along with music and a silent auction, during which participants can bid on items and experiences with all proceeds going to support the ESYSF.

The recipient of this year’s McSorley Scholarship also will be announced during the dinner. The McSorley Scholarship, named in honor of Jack McSorley, is awarded annually to

a former Bulldogs Hockey Club player who is about to enter college.

The ESYSF helps to make sports such as hockey available to all youth athletes through grants and scholarship programs. Fundraising is a crucial part of the foundation’s work and events like Hockey Night in Detroit help tremendously to continue the foundation’s goal of putting kids first.

“We’ll support kids in need from the time that they start out as a 3- or 4-year-old up until

when they graduate (high school) and even after with things like the McSorley Scholarship,” ESYSF Executive Director Lisa Francis said. “The rink is the only indoor rink on the east side of Detroit that offers youth skating, so we need to keep it up and running and servicing the community.”

Tickets for this year’s Hockey Night in Detroit are available at <https://esysf.networkforgood.com/events/82887-hockey-night-in-detroit-2025> or by scanning the QR code.



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