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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Sewer separation a go in Farms

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — More than two decades since the lake-side district sewers were separated and about five years since planning began to separate a large portion of the inland district, Farms city council last week greenlit the first phase of construction for just north of \$11 million.

“What we’re doing here is a project that is long overdue that will reduce to hopefully insignificant levels the opportunities for basement flooding in our community,” Mayor Louis Theros said. “... It’s really a monumental moment for the Farms and a step

forward to improve our community.”

As the first of three construction phases, breaking ground will happen as soon as May on the construction of a force main and gravity sewer, which will carry stormwater from the northwest quadrant of the inland district out to Lake St. Clair.

Starting at the corner of Chalfonte and Moross — where a pump station will be constructed as phase two of the project — a 48-inch force main will be placed along the edge of the County Club of Detroit’s property until it transitions into a 60-inch gravity sewer

See SEWER, page 9A



Director of Public Safety John Hutchins honors SRO Jim LaBeau, right, as the 2024 public safety employee of the year before city council Monday, March 10.

South SRO is PS employee of the year

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Just shy of a year since stepping into his role as school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South High School last April, Officer Jim LaBeau last week was named the 2024 Farms public safety employee of the year.

“I’m super, super honored,” said LaBeau, noting it’s long been his dream to work in a school as law enforcement. “Obviously, this past year has been a big transition for me. I’ve been working on the

road for 10 years to then go to the school. But it’s been one of those things where I’ve taken my 10 years of experience into the school and kind of spun it like my own. ... I really found my calling in the school. I truly do love this job.”

Counseling and mentorship are where the officer, who labels himself a “resource” rather than a “cop,” believes he’s had the greatest impact on students thus far.

Passionate about building connections with students both as a

See LABEAU, page 2A



Officer Jim LaBeau became the school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South High School last April.

PHOTOS BY
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Gone too soon

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Brian Colter’s job as a one-man city forestry department meant combining administrative duties with the physical labor of tending trees.

He often ended the day with blistered hands and dirt under broken fingernails. The soles of his work boots left a trail of mud to his office in the basement of city hall.

But when something special was afoot, especially the annual Arbor Week Poster Contest award ceremony for elementary school children or municipal Beautification Awards for property owners, Colter, as they say, cleaned up nice.

In a dark business suit he looked like a banker. Still, a wooden tie and belt testified subtly to being rooted in the urban

See SOON, page 10A

GPPSS bond committee gets to work

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Bond Advisory Committee didn’t waste any time tackling its task at its first meeting Wednesday, March 12.

After introductions among the 30-plus members and an overview of district finances, members broke into small groups to discuss a number of possible projects the bond — if approved — could pay for.

Included on a longer list were:

- ◆ what to do with the middle school pools,
- ◆ relocating the main office at Grosse Pointe South High School,
- ◆ adding central air conditioning to all buildings,
- ◆ reopening Trombly Elementary School,
- ◆ what to do with the IA building at South and
- ◆ building an athletic fieldhouse.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said Plante Moran would analyze the lists to look

for commonalities and present the results at the committee’s next meeting, scheduled 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Grosse Pointe North High School library.

The committee’s main task is to recommend to the GPPSS Board of Education whether or not to put the bond renewal on the ballot and, if so, what scope of work it will cover.

“We need to clearly and accurately describe the intended use,” Tuttle said. “Clarity and trans-

parency are essential to building trust and ensuring voters understand.”

If the district proceeds, it would ask voters to approve a renewal of the 2018 safety and security bond on the Nov. 4 ballot. The committee will meet through the end of June.

Moving forward, the district would need to submit ballot language to the county clerk by Monday, Aug. 11. The original \$111 million bond was approved by

See WORK, page 14A

CAMPS FOR KIDS

The latest on top camps for Grosse Pointe kids

See Section A2

Week Ahead 3A
Opinion 6A
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Obituaries 4B
Sports 1D
Classified ads 6D

Pointer of INTEREST

Matthew Evans
Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Father first, everything else after.

See story, page 4A



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Officers honored for 2024 efforts

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Among the officers recognized during the Grosse Pointe Farms 2024 public safety awards ceremony last week, were two integral in the identification and arrest of the seven-time convicted felon who pulled a realistic-looking fake gun on a Village Market employee last February.

After pointing the weapon at the employee's head when confronted for shoplifting liquor, the man initially evaded police, leading to soft lockdowns at several area schools.

Reserve Officer Ted Roney noted a suspect with a similar description — namely, wearing an Amazon vest — was captured on Ring camera footage stealing packages from a porch several days prior. The video and subsequent information that the suspect was squatting at a home on Cadieux in Detroit were posted to the Neighbors App by Ring.

Detective Roger Wierszewski followed the leads and gained permission from the Cadieux homeowner to enter the property, allowing the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team to raid the home and take the suspect into custody.

The two officers were recognized with a departmental commendation Monday, March 10.

“The officers’ attention to detail and responsiveness removed a violent felon from the streets in less than 72 hours,”



Public Safety Director John Hutchins said.

Also receiving a departmental commendation were Detective Derek Lazarski and officers Keith Colombo, Jim LaBeau and Paige Thomas for swiftly arresting a Detroit Athletic Club employee who exposed himself while following a minor female down Moran in July 2024.

“Their decisive actions took a predator off the streets before he could prey on other unsuspecting children,” Hutchins said. “These officers are commended for their well-coordinated investigation and swift actions.”

The third and final departmental commendation was awarded to officers Jason Newberg, Kris Desmadryl and Jon Ross for disarming and protecting an adult woman who attempted suicide at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in early December.

The officers intervened before the woman could harm herself in any way and she was safely transported to an area hospital.

“These officers are

commended for their assertiveness and professionalism in preventing self-harm to a person in distress,” Hutchins said.

As larceny from auto crimes continue to run rampant throughout the Pointes, Officer Mike Ryan earned a citation for piloting the department’s drone in the middle of the night in early December to locate and take three suspects off the streets.

After being reported for rummaging through a car and subsequently crashing their vehicle at Lakeshore and Lochmoor while fleeing police, five suspects fled on foot in various directions. Deploying the thermal drone, Ryan located two suspects hiding under foliage in the rear of a home on Sunningdale, as well as a third hiding under bushes behind a home on Lochmoor. Shores officers successfully apprehended the final two suspects thanks to reports from residents.

“PSO Ryan is recognized for his skill in drone operations, while assisting officers in apprehending multiple suspects involved in over

a dozen larcenies from vehicles,” Hutchins said.

Responding to an alarm and burglary in progress at Enterprise Rent-A-Car on Mack last July resulted in a citation for Sgt. Veronica Cashion, Wierszewski and officers Richard Rosati, Bryan Orlovski and Brandon Coats.

The suspect was located under a truck in the garage and taken into custody without incident after officers threatened use of a taser.

“Detective Wierszewski then conducted a thorough and meticulous investigation and tied the incident to a recent string of stolen Jeep Wagoneers from the Warren Stamping Plant,” Hutchins said. “He contacted the Warren PD, who believed the suspect was responsible for a string of thefts in Warren and possibly other locations.”

Officer William Madsen also received a citation for gathering information leading to a six-count felony warrant, while conducting a routine traffic stop last March for illegal window tint and no license plate.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Left, Director John Hutchins presents a director’s unit award to a team of officers for their roles in an undercover sting operation last June. From left are Officer Paul Reygaert, Officer Jon Ross, Detective Roger Wierszewski, Officer Keith Colombo, Officer Jason Newberg, Detective Derek Lazarski, Hutchins, Officer Paige Thomas, Lt. Wes Kipke, Detective Lt. Antonino Trupiano and Officer Jim LaBeau. Above, Officer Paige Thomas earned a departmental commendation and was one of a dozen officers to receive a director’s unit award for her efforts on behalf of the city in 2024.

While taking the driver into custody for a warrant out of Grosse Pointe Woods and doing an inventory search of the vehicle, Madsen located several credit cards in the names of other individuals and noticed the RFID chip on one had scratches, which indicates the card being tampered with.

Investigation found the card owners were victims of identity theft.

“PSO Madsen is commended for his attention to detail and follow up in this case,” Hutchins said.

For an undercover sting operation last June into a criminal enterprise selling stolen vehicles after retagging them with legitimate VIN numbers, no fewer than a dozen officers earned the director’s unit award.

The team, led by Lazarski, arranged an undercover buy of a stolen and retagged vehicle in the parking lot of

Chase Bank at Mack and Moross, where LaBeau and Thomas in plain clothes met with the suspects to affect the transaction.

The arrests resulted in an 11-count felony warrant, including one count of conducting a criminal enterprise, which is punishable by 20 years in prison.

Honored were Deputy Director Andrew Rogers, Detective Lt. Antonino Trupiano, Lt. Wes Kipke, Wierszewski, Lazarski, Colombo, Officer Paul Reygaert, Newberg, LaBeau, Officer Mark Laquere, Ross and Thomas. City of Grosse Pointe Detective Mike Narduzzi also was noted as having taken part in the operation.

“All officers are recognized for their thorough and exhaustive efforts in taking two career criminals off the street,”

See EFFORTS, page 4A

LABEAU:

Continued from page 1A

representative of the Farms department and as an approachable adult to whom students can

come for any issue in their lives, LaBeau said he’s always on call.

“If they’re having a mental health crisis or they need to talk to someone at three in the morning, I make it accessible that they can call me and let me know

what’s going on,” he said.

On any given day at South, he can be found handling campus security, the public safety diversion program for young offenders, the Face Addiction Now — formerly Families

Against Narcotics — program, supervising medical emergencies, guest speaking in classes and serving in the Leaders of Tomorrow program.

He’s currently spearheading the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Explorers program — which invites youth to gain real-world experience learning about law enforcement, fire service and emergency response careers — and also intends to soon launch a program targeting students who are having a hard time finding their way in high school.

“You don’t just have to be a football player to be successful in the school,”

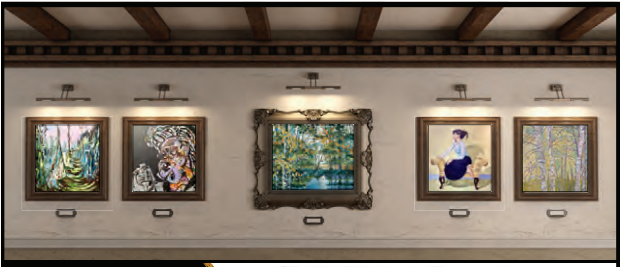
he said. “There’s so many other ways to be successful.

“... The reality is once high school is over, you’ve got to put your big boy and big girl pants on. You’ve got to go to work all the time and go to college and that’s kind of where the stress happens. So I’m trying to eliminate stress now and that will also help (students) become successful in the future.”

LaBeau also attends Blue Devils sporting events, dances, school spirit activities and in-service training, constantly looking for new opportunities to be a team player and improve student life.

“Jim has stepped into his new role with pride and purpose, reveling in the challenge of building what will hopefully endure as an integral part of life at GP South High School,” Public Safety Director John Hutchins said. “His commitment to the mission, easygoing demeanor and unbridled enthusiasm have made him a successful SRO and recipient of the 2024 employee of the year award.”

Because the officer returns to road patrol while school is out for the summer, he also earned a departmental commendation for the arrest of a sexual predator in July 2024, and was one of a dozen officers to receive a director’s unit award for a successful undercover sting operation into a criminal enterprise selling stolen vehicles in June 2024.



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Adopt-A-Garden starts Saturday

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It's time to gear up for gardening.

"Next week is the first day of spring, March 20," Kelly Konieczki of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission said recently.

Commissioners are recruiting volunteers to participate in the first Adopt-A-Garden event of the year 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22, at Patterson Park.

"They're all on Saturdays once per month," Konieczki said.

The game plan for this weekend is for volunteers to perform light maintenance and assess flower beds.

"It is too early to start cleaning actual beds," Konieczki said. "The rule of thumb for that is the soil should be a consistent temperature of 50 degrees. That gives overwintering insects and things time to emerge."

Volunteers can arrive impromptu or announce themselves in advance by contacting Konieczki at momcatkelly@yahoo.com.



"Email me and I'll put you on the list," she said. "We also have the Grosse Pointe Park Friends of Patterson Park Facebook group that I encourage

people to join. I'll post things there as well. If we have rain, we try to reschedule."

"We have snacks, equipment and materials," said Councilman

Brent Dreaver, liaison to the commission. "If you want to hang out with some people and work on Patterson Park, please come by."

"You don't have to

have gardening experience," Konieczki said. "Come as you are. We're learning together. And nothing can beat fresh air and being outside after winter."

This is the third year of the commission's Adopt-A-Garden.

"We launched the program in the spring of 2023 to help the city spruce up Patterson Park after staffing shortages during the pandemic," Commission Chairwoman Lisa Kyle said.

Participants hit the ground running.

"When we started, it was basically the length of the boardwalk, which is quite a long way," Konieczki said. "We planted over 200 native plants in the last couple seasons that were donated."

Species include but aren't limited to wild geranium, great blue lobelia and little blue-stem grass.

"There was an outpour-

ing of support and many resident volunteers wanting to continue the next season," Kyle said.

"We have a running list of about 40 volunteers right now," Konieczki said. "Not everyone comes every time, which is understandable."

"This year," Kyle said, "we will continue our group gardening events and will have groups and individuals adopting specific beds through the season."

"The other task I'm getting a head start on is moving away from metal edging on beds," Konieczki said. "Now we are cutting natural edging. That takes quite a bit of work. Once established, it's more a matter of once a year going in and cleaning it up. We have a long way along the boardwalk to cut in a natural edging."

"We hope to grow the program each year into the future and now have pollinator beds at city hall," Kyle said. "We have a page on the city website. We are working to add content without new programming and events."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Adopt-A-Garden volunteers work once per month near the boardwalk at Grosse Pointe Park Patterson Park.



Wild geranium.

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

◆ Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore. Open to residents of Grosse Pointe Farms, Park, Shores and City.

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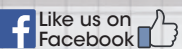
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Children first

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Out of the mouths of babes:

“Every person who has talked to me about my dad has had something nice to say,” said Miah Evans, 15. “Honestly, in terms of being a role model, I don’t think I could have asked for a better one. In everything he does, whether athletics or his work or his character, there’s always something I can strive to be like.”

Her brother, Ryan, 10, said his father is a good guy and sets a good example at work.

“Definitely,” Ryan said. “Because I see him constantly working for his job or stuff around the house, cleaning up.”

Miah and Ryan’s father, Matthew Evans of Grosse Pointe Park, measures himself by inspiring his children to grow up and live meaningful, productive lives.

“Nothing is more important to me than my kids,” Evans said.

There are those who do and those who don’t dare. Evans is a doer. And he wants his children to do, also.

“Any time you get an opportunity, whether you feel you’re prepared or not, if people have confidence in you, you’ll learn,” Evans said. “Content is agnostic. Your transferable skills are communication, leadership, decision making and getting along with people. If you have those, you can learn anything

short of being a medical doctor. That has been my approach.”

It’s not what you know, it’s what you want to know.

“I live by that,” he said. Evans began his adult life as an elementary school teacher.

He ran the gamut at the Detroit Edison Public School Academy in Detroit and University Preparatory Academy in Grand Rapids.

“I taught third, fourth, fifth, six, seventh and eighth grade, consecutively, then became principal of the school at which I was teaching, University Prep,” he said.

At University Prep, Evans initiated a leadership program that took students to Africa.

“I raised funds and exposed them to different cultures and people throughout the continent of Africa,” Evans said. “I started in South Africa, developed it into six other countries and, with my brother, Blair, merged it into a solar-focused project in Africa.”

U-Prep students, schooled in solar power technology, shared their knowledge with African counterparts.

“We made a digital fabricated bike with fold-out solar panels that could be used entrepreneurially as a charging station for Durban, South Africa,” Evans said. “We built a solar-powered greenhouse in Soweto, South Africa; and did a project for a birthing center in Hawassa, Ethiopia, that

dealt with infant and maternal mortality rates for the United Nations. It all kind of started while I was teaching.”

That record of accomplishment, built atop a solid college background — “I was an undergraduate member of Alpha Phi Alpha Epsilon Chapter at the University of Michigan,” Evans said. “That’s significant. It’s the largest and oldest black fraternity in the nation” — and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Wayne State University, earned him attention from the private sector.

“The founders of Steelcase, out of Grand Rapids, asked me to run a company for them called E Three Labs,” Evans said.

E-Three stands for Energy plus Education Equals Entrepreneurship.

“I headed that in Tanzania and Detroit,” Evans said. “We partnered with the Catherine Ferguson Academy (in Detroit), a school for pregnant and parenting teens (that was taken over by Pathways Academy about 10 years ago) and trained them in digital fabrication and solar and extended the African trips into that.”

His various cultural exchanges had one thing in common.

“People have more similarities than differences,” Evans said. “Many times, your environment dictates behavior. To me, I’ve always wanted to present to my children the opportunity to have a variety of experiences reflective of environments so they can understand that people are people, by and large the same. But, who you are and who you’re with largely dictates behavior. Having that understanding helps you navigate through both your education and professional life.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe Park residents Ryan Evans, 10, and sister Miah, 15, accompany their father, Matthew Evans, on a business trip to Chicago.

Evans is dynamic. It requires fast-forwarding to enumerate his experiences and accomplishments without draining a barrel of ink.

He opened the Detroit office of Rockford Construction and spun that into creating his own company, Invictus Construction, a commercial builder based in Detroit.

“We’re opening an office in Grand Rapids,” Evans said. “I’m also the managing partner at Prospect Park, an advisory capital formation firm that deals with ultra-high-end investments.”

He also accepted an appointment last year by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as a trustee of Ferris State University.

“I’m not an alum of

Ferris, but I am privileged to have that opportunity,” Evans said.

He keeps in shape by paddleboarding on Lake St. Clair, lifting weights and playing squash at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Although he no longer serves on the Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission, he remains active in community affairs.

“I am a founding member of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation with Mike Shields and a couple of people,” Evans said. “We started that a few years ago. It’s to help raise money, awareness and get needed equipment for Grosse Pointe Park police in particular. It’s an independent group, but we work directly with

the chief and other officers.”

His older brother is Wayne County Executive Warren Evans.

Everything Matthew Evans does focuses on building a future — his education, his construction company and raising his children.

“I want my kids to understand they have a place in the world,” Evans said. “They have to work hard to get to a place they want to be, but they have a place. Character is No. 1. Hard work is No. 2. You can switch those from time to time, but character has to be at a high level. Opportunities will present themselves. You have to be ready. If not, you have to make your own opportunities.”

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EFFORTS:

Continued from page 2A

Hutchins said. “Their tenacity and professionalism are commended and appreciated.”

LaBeau, the school resource officer at Grosse Pointe South

High School, also was honored as public safety employee of the year for 2024 (see page 1A).

“I know we are showing appreciation today to those of you who serve our community as PSOs,” Mayor Louis Theros said, “but please know that we appreciate you every day for dedicating yourselves to protecting our city and our citizens.”

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City of Grosse Pointe

Sting operation

After running off with a laptop he hadn't paid for during a Facebook Marketplace meet up days prior, a 19-year-old Detroit man turned around and tried to sell it on Facebook Marketplace last week.

Officers set up an operation to "buy" the laptop at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, and arrested the man at Woodhall and Windsor in Detroit when he attempted to flee.

Dog food

A man stole two bags of dog food and one bag of dog treats totaling \$150 from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 9 p.m. Thursday, March 13.

He is described as a 6-foot, 3-inch black man in his 50s, wearing a dark green coat.

Sleeping outside

When a 36-year-old Detroit man was reported for sleeping on a bench at Kercheval and Neff at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 15, officers responded and found he was wanted on several warrants out of the Macomb County Sheriff's Office.

DWLS

After being pulled over at Mack and Rivard for driving with an expired license plate at 2:30 p.m. Saturday,

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

March 15, a 21-year-old Harper Woods man was cited for driving while license suspended.

Jeep stolen

A 2019 Jeep Cherokee was stolen from a driveway in the 400 block of Rivard between 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15, and 12:30 p.m. the next day.

Median parking

A 42-year-old Park woman was found slumped over the wheel of her vehicle, which was on the median at Mack and Neff, at 1 a.m. Sunday, March 16.

After an investigation, she was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicles

Two vehicles were stolen last week, including one that had signs of forced entry.

A 2021 Jeep was taken sometime overnight before 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, from a driveway in the 1700 block of Prestwick. Broken glass

was found on the driveway.

A 2019 Chrysler was taken from a driveway in the 1700 block of Severn overnight into Sunday, March 16. The owner did not recall if it was locked.

Identity theft

A resident in the 1400 block of Roslyn told police around 5 p.m. Thursday, March 13, she received two credit cards in the mail, one of which was in her name. The company said they were opened in January at an address in New York City.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Utility worker scam

Three adult males claiming to be utility workers entered the home of an elderly Farms resident who has dementia and stole multiple items from within the house Saturday, March 8.

One suspect was wearing a yellow hoodie and distracted the victim, while the other two rummaged through his bed-

room.

"Please be assured our detectives are actively reviewing the video surveillance footage recovered," a Nixle alert sent to Farms residents noted.

Vehicle break-in

A rock was used to break into a vehicle parked overnight into Tuesday, March 11, in the 18000 block of Mack.

Fentanyl

No operational tail lights are what led an officer to pull over a 24-year-old Flint man at Moross and Beaupre at 11:12 p.m. Wednesday, March 12. The man then was found to have warrants for delivery and manufacturing of fentanyl, as well as possession of cocaine.

Immigration

After being pulled over at Mack and Kerby for a fully tinted license plate cover at 10:35 a.m. Saturday, March 15, a 21-year-old man unable to understand English provided officers with a Venezuelan identification card.

Border patrol was contacted to set an immigration court date and the man was cited for traffic infractions.

Bitcoin scam

An 80-year-old Farms man last week fell for a phone scam, in which the caller told him he would deposit \$50,000 into the man's bank account if he would deposit \$20,000 into a Bitcoin machine.

Though the man made the deposit, he then realized it was a scam and immediately froze his bank accounts.

Lighter theft

A 30-year-old Detroit man was arrested when he tried to steal a lighter to light his cigarette inside a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 9:12 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Jeep stolen

A white 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Trailhawk was stolen from a Warner driveway overnight into Sunday, March 16, while its owner hosted a St. Patrick's Day celebration.

He believes the keys were left inside the vehicle.

Porch pirates

Amazon packages were stolen from a porch in the 100 block of Kenwood at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Packages also were reported stolen on Muir a few minutes prior.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Wallet stolen

A patron of a business in the 15100 block of Charlevoix told police his wallet was taken sometime between 8:30 and 10:15 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

Stolen vehicle

Between 3 and 7 a.m. Monday, March 17, someone stole a 2024 Dodge Durango parked in the driveway of a house in the 1000 block of Bedford.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Jury duty scam calls on the rise

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — "We had three or four reported in the last week alone," Detective Roger Wierszewski said of the latest phone scam, in which victims are told they missed jury duty and there is a warrant for their arrest.

The scammers claim to be a sheriff's deputy, police officer or court officer, tell the victim there is a warrant for their arrest for failure to appear at jury duty and threaten jail time if a fine isn't paid.

This is a relatively new type of scam, Wierszewski said.

"Normally it's the jail scam where somebody's locked up (and in need of bail money) or the IRS scam — stating the IRS is going to come and lock you up for back taxes that you haven't paid or unpaid balances — which normally happens right now," he noted. "Ultimately, their end goal is, 'Go to a store and get us some Bitcoin and send it here.' Which, obviously, nobody takes Bitcoin. No police department, no IRS, nothing like that."

To avoid scams, be aware that courts will never call to demand money, threaten arrest for missing jury duty

or ask for personal information over the phone. Additionally, only scammers insist on electronic payments; courts will always send a jury summons by U.S. mail; and a fine will never be imposed until after an individual has appeared in court and been allowed to explain their failure to appear.

"If you get a (scam call), the numbers are going to be spoofed," Wierszewski warned. "They're going to come in to look like a 313 number, but any police officers or deputies are not going to call you and say you have a warrant. You're going to get sent a letter in the mail or you're going to find out when you're in a traffic stop that you have a warrant."

It's possible scammers also will provide a fake sheriff's badge number and case number.

Thus far, only one Farms resident has reported falling for the jury duty scam, costing them a couple thousand dollars.

If residents receive such a scam call, detectives advise to hang up the phone immediately and contact the department of public safety.

— Laurel Kraus

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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Giving credit where credit is due

A recent study by smartasset.com found that Wayne County is in the top 10 in Michigan for the lowest credit card debt as a percentage of income. Congratulations.

Wayne County comes in at No. 8, with an average of 9.4 percent of credit card debt as a ratio of debt to per capita income.

In raw numbers, our county has an average per capita income of \$28,403 and an average credit card debt of \$2,659 per person. That is not too bad, compared to national figures.

According to nerdwallet.com, the average American is carrying \$6,380 in credit card debt, with the average household sitting at \$10,563.

How do we in the Pointes compare? According to our reader poll (see graphic, below), almost 60 percent of you currently owe less than \$1,000. In this scenario, being below average is really, really good.

Another 5 percent of you are between \$1,000 and \$4,999, with 7 percent between \$5,000 and \$9,999. The shocker, though, is that 30 percent said their debt was over \$10,000. This is not a case where you want to be keeping up with the Joneses.

Washtenaw County, at No. 5, and Oakland County, at No. 7, also made the top 10 list. The rest, however, were mostly north, farther north and really farther north. Those were, starting at No. 1, Missaukee County, Dickinson County, Midland County, Roscommon County, Clare County, Branch County (on the Ohio border) and Genesee County.

Obviously, not making monthly payments is the fastest way to rack up credit card debt. But many users are lulled into a false sense of security by making just the minimum payment. Believe us, that is not calculated for your benefit. You are better off paying as much as you can, even if that is not the full amount.

For those facing mounting credit card debt due to high interest rates, there are a few suggested methods to end that cycle.

The first is called snowballing. You make the minimum payment on each card and make extra payments on the card with the lowest balance. When you pay that card off, it will give you motivation to apply the same method to the next card and so on. Some even suggest cutting up each card as you pay it off and moving to a cash-only approach.

Transferring debt to a new card offering 0 percent interest for an introductory period also can help you make payments to reduce debt.

Finally, a personal loan is another option since the interest rate would be lower than the card.

Believe it or not, Friday, March 21, is National Credit Card Reduction Day. We are not sure why that date was chosen, but we suspect it might have something to do with the start of spring a day earlier. Sort of a spring cleaning for finances.

Experts suggest creating a budget, limiting spending, prioritizing payments and even asking someone to hide your credit cards. Hey, sometimes desperate measures call for desperate actions.

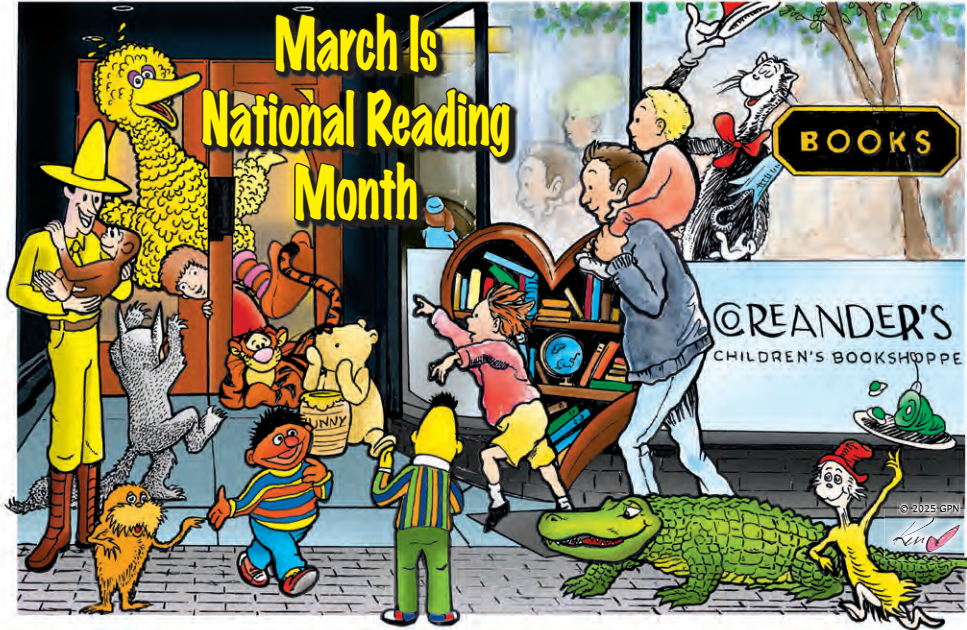


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST EDITORIAL By Noah Hauswirth

Launching a financial future

We celebrate our lives in milestones. Ages and stages. Once we hit that thrilling number 18 signifying that we're officially adults, the amount of freedom we feel becomes commensurate with the responsibilities our lives begin to take on — with financial literacy underl



ital loss.

◆ Bonds: Essentially loans made to companies or governments, bonds offer a fixed interest rate over a set period. While generally less volatile than stocks, they offer lower potential returns and are susceptible to interest rate fluctuations.

◆ Mutual funds: These pool investors' money to purchase a diversified portfolio of assets (stocks, bonds, etc.). They offer lower risk and greater liquidity but come with management fees.

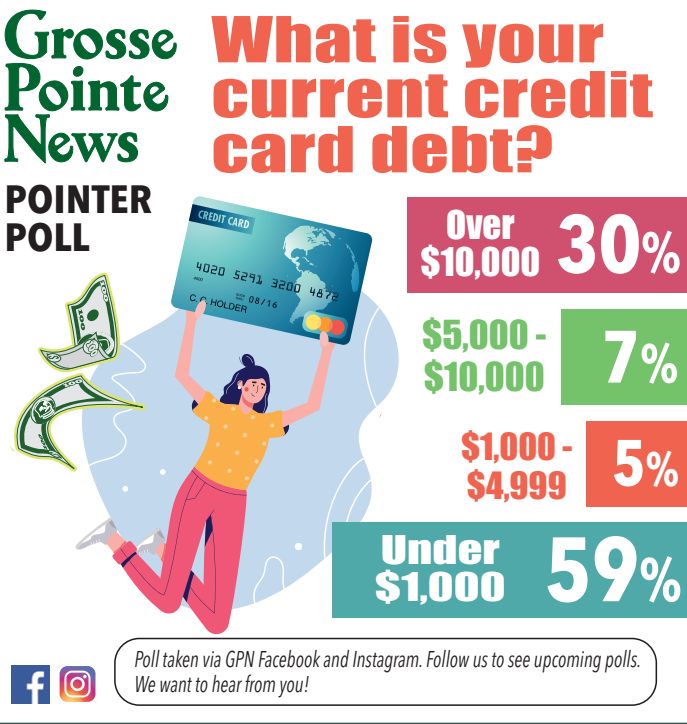
◆ Exchange-traded funds: Similar to mutual funds, ETFs passively track a market index or sector, offering instant diversification and lower fees. They trade like stocks throughout the day, providing greater flexibility.

Finding your investment strategy

Once new investors understand the tools, it's time to provide clarity on how different investment strategies align with varying risk tolerances and goals. A vital point to make: Your investment strategy can change as your needs and goals change.

Some investors focus on value investing, which seeks undervalued stocks with strong fundamentals (core elements of the company itself that make the stock attractive). To succeed with this strategy, it's important to be patient and interested in researching compa

See GUEST, page 7A



LETTERS

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

The Fourth Estate

To the Editor:

When I was a kid, my dad was the editor and publisher of the Rochester (Michigan) Clarion. Today, that paper is long gone. Rochester has no weekly newspaper.

When I was an adult, I worked for 33 years at the Detroit Free Press. The paper still exists — and that is a miracle — but it has no staff left to cover every community.

Readers may not agree with everything in the Grosse Pointe News, but at least we have a local weekly newspaper to criticize. Grosse Pointers should thank their lucky stars. A functioning democracy needs the Fourth Estate. Yet local newspapers keep dying every day.

I am grateful to the paper's owner, editors and staff for continuing to believe that journalism is a calling, not just a job, and for getting out there each day reporting what's new in GP.

ELLEN CREAGER
Grosse Pointe Woods

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY
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March 20 – 26

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47° 29°	53° 38°	51° 30°	48° 35°	47° 26°	40° 28°	38° 28°
Chance Rain/Snow	Partly Cloudy	Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Rain	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
60%	0%	30%	20%	60%	10%	0%
SUNRISE 7:35 am	SUNRISE 7:33 am	SUNRISE 7:31 am	SUNRISE 7:29 am	SUNRISE 7:28 am	SUNRISE 7:26 am	SUNRISE 7:24 am
SUNSET 7:45 pm	SUNSET 7:46 pm	SUNSET 7:47 pm	SUNSET 7:48 pm	SUNSET 7:49 pm	SUNSET 7:50 pm	SUNSET 7:51 pm

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

I SAY By Jody McVeigh

Love is in the air



According to the Chinese lunar calendar, 2025 is the Year of the Snake. The snake, symbolizing wisdom and transformation, offers opportunities for personal growth and change.

I'm not sure what growth or change 2025 has in store for me, but for a handful of my friends, change definitely is in store and I hope it fully brings the snake's wise and intuitive energy.

Last year — for those of you keeping track, the Year of the Dragon (powerful, endlessly energetic and goal-oriented, yet idealistic and romantic) — four of my friends got engaged.

Which means this year, my husband and I have a few weddings to attend.

By the time you read this, Wedding No. 1 will have been checked off

the list. I remember Brittany's joy and excitement last Easter when her fiancée proposed. It reminded me of the thrill I felt all those years ago, when John got down on one knee and asked if we could spend the rest of our lives together.

I remember the excitement of celebrating our engagement — and just as well the frustration that came with ironing out the details. Planning a wedding, for me, was filled with way too many decisions, anxieties and irritations, not to mention a fussy bridesmaid or two and seemingly endless expenses.

As Brittany painstakingly planned the details of her wedding, I watched Murphy's law in full effect and, though she's struggled these past few months, I like to think she handled the upsets with a bit of grace and touch of humor.

As another friend recently reminded me, the wedding is just a ceremony; the marriage is what's important.

While Brittany's wedding — and that *stunning* dress — was one I will remember forever, I know her and Courtney's

marriage is where the real value is found.

Next up — and the polar opposite of Brittany's wedding — is Shawnie's, which I expect to be the most laidback, low-key, frill-less nuptials I've ever attended.

After the stress and excitement of our own wedding faded, it seemed like everyone I knew was having much less complicated affairs — like my brother's outdoor ceremony in beautiful Port Townsend, Wash., or my cousin's breathtaking wedding at Inchmahome Priory in Scotland. I remember repeatedly asking myself, "Why didn't I think of that?" (Side note: Maybe we should have had an outdoor, destination wedding.)

Well, Shawnie, why didn't I think of that?

Shawnie and Josh are tying the knot during their annual road trip down South. They would have been happy simply parking their Harleys roadside and having a friend say a few words to make it official. That's pretty much what they'd planned — until a few vocal friends and relatives made a fuss.



COURTESY PHOTO

The author and her Chucks on her wedding day in 2006.

Lucky for us, they had a change of heart, mailed around 20 invitations and come May, we'll be meeting them in Gatlinburg for Wedding No. 2.

She has selected a gown, he soon will be fitted for a suit and a venue has been booked. Most

everything else is up to chance; simple and uncomplicated. Why didn't I think of that?

A girl after my own heart, I'm pretty sure Shawnie will be wearing a well-worn pair of Chuck Taylors under her gown (as did I — at least I

thought of that!).

After her ceremony, we'll hightail it back to Michigan for Wedding No. 3 — Joel and Jackie's nuptials two days later. I haven't heard much about the planning process, but every time I see Joel, he has a huge smile on his face, so I assume it's going well.

I'm not a big horoscope person, but I hope each of these couples find personal growth and change during this Year of the Snake and beyond. I hope they can be the very best versions of themselves for each other as they navigate their new lives together.

To all my friends who are tying the knot this year, a toast: Here's to a lifetime of happiness and adventure. May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best forgotten.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

COUNTY DISCLOSES PLANS FOR NEW HEALTH SERVICE: A meeting was held March 3, attended by Dr. Littlejohn, the County Health Director, several members of his staff and representatives of the five Grosse Pointe communities for a discussion of the public health setup that will be arranged to take over when the township discontinues custody of the Grosse Pointe health service on April 1. Much practical headway was made in arranging for the transfer from township to county supervision.

GPYC MEMBERS FROLIC AT MILLIONAIRES' PARTY: Grosse Pointe Yacht Club turned back the calendar a half century when the St. Patrick's Gay Nineties Millionaires party took over. Authentic detailing visually recreated the lavish era — there were

gaslight chandeliers, plush carpets and heavy red velvet draperies at the long windows of the main lounge. Strolling musicians entertained during the dinner hour and the stage behind the old-fashioned bar featured continuous entertainment.

POINTE STUDYING ROYAL OAK PLAN TO ELIMINATE PARKING PROBLEM: The city of Royal Oak is starting a parking project which may have a direct bearing on the solution of one of the major problems

that Grosse Pointe, and the City of Grosse Pointe in particular, have been wrestling with for a long time.

1975

50 years ago this week

FARMS POLICEMAN DIES: Farms Police Officer Kenneth Pine, 30, died Monday, March 17, in Saint John Hospital from injuries suffered when a hit-and-run driver struck him Sunday night,

See 1975, page 8A

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

nies to find those hidden gems with potential for growth.

Another strategy focused on company fundamentals is growth investing. Instead of considering what the company looks like today, this style is mostly concerned with high growth potential. By prioritizing future earnings over current profitability, it carries higher risk but offers the chance for significant returns.

For those investors looking for less growth potential, but a steadier income and capital appreciation over time, dividend investing is a strategy to gravitate toward. It can provide regular income through investing in stocks that pay consistent dividends. It is important to note that dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors.

Looking at the bigger picture, asset allocation zooms out beyond stocks and invites investors to diversify across different asset classes (think stocks, bonds, etc.). This approach helps mitigate risk and balances volatility while on the road to long-term growth.

Embracing tried-and-true lessons

Investing for beginners can feel daunting, but helping to understand key concepts like risk and return, diversification and the power of time can set investors on the right path.

You've heard these sayings and now it's time to pass them on. Stress the importance of not putting all their eggs

in one basket — it helps to spread investments across different assets and sectors to manage risk. The earlier aspiring investors start and the longer they invest, the more their money grows thanks to compound interest. It's also prudent to help them become mindful of fees, do their research and seek professional guidance when needed.

Remind them that investing is a marathon, not a sprint. Once they embark on their investing journey, they should strive to stay informed and adapt their approach as they work to build a secure financial future.

Becoming a lifelong learner benefits us in many aspects of our lives and the financial realm is no different. The learning curve can feel more approachable when new investors have someone they trust to give them a head start. With dedication and perseverance, emerging investors can navigate the market with confidence and strive to build a secure and prosperous future.

This article is educational in nature and every investor's situation is unique. You should consider your investment goals, risk tolerance and time horizon before making any investment. Prior to making an investment decision, consult with your financial advisor about your individual situation.

Noah Hauswirth, AAMS, is an investment advisor at Raymond James & Associates in Grosse Pointe Farms. Raymond James and its advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. Discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.

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Farms partners with CCD for upcoming stormwater separation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Though initial inland district stormwater separation plans posed a problematic design, calling for a 48-inch-plus water main down the length of Moross from a new pump station on Chalfonte to an outlet into Lake St. Clair, Farms officials last week secured a series of agreements with the Country Club of Detroit to place the main along the length of its property parallel to Moross instead.

In what City Manager Shane Reeside called a win-win situation, both the city and CCD will reap benefits.

Not only will the preferred alternative save the Farms an estimated \$2.9 million via not

having to dig up the roadway, driveway approaches, utilities and trees along Moross, construction also will take a fraction of the time because of the significantly reduced amount of disruption.

“I’d rather dig up dirt than break up concrete,” Mayor Louis Theros noted.

In return, CCD will receive stability and a 25 percent discount in water rates tied to the wholesale rates charged to the City of Grosse Pointe — for irrigation purposes only — a one-time easement payment from the city of \$700,000 and an upgrade to the water main supplying the club’s pump station to increase water volume for course irrigation.

Though initial talks with CCD in 2022, had the city considering constructing a new

raw water pump station at its water treatment plant and a pipeline to deliver raw water to CCD in exchange for use of the club’s easement, such stipulations did not make it into the final agreement.

“It was more cost-prohibitive and there were other issues associated with that,” Reeside said, “so we’re just upgrading existing mains on Moross.”

CCD also is charged an impact irrigation fee because of runoff from its irrigation system that makes its way to the Kerby Road Pump Station and ultimately to the Great Lakes Water Authority for treatment, which costs the city. The fee currently is between \$120,000 and \$140,000 a year, but will be reduced to \$100,000 with the first year of the new agreements and increase on an

annual basis with an inflationary tax.

“Obviously with the separation, the amount of impact would have to be significantly lower, because that water, instead of going to the Great Lakes Water Authority for treatment, will be going through the pump station and then out to the lake,” Reeside explained. “But there’s still costs to operate that pump station and so we felt it was important that there was still an impact fee charged to the club. And so, under the agreement they’re going to continue to pay impact fees (but) it’s lower.”

CCD also has agreed to a second easement on the northern edge of the course to run a sewer line parallel to Provencal as part of a future phase of the sewer separation project,

which will save the city an estimated \$500,000 as opposed to placing the line under Provencal.

“When we did our sewer separation of the lakeside district, it can only go so far up Provencal, because gravity would only take the water out to the lake so far up Provencal,” Reeside said. “Under this plan, we’ll be capturing what runoff water from the golf course and on the southwest corner of the club. That will benefit those homes on Provencal as well.”

City council voted 6-0, with Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding absent, to approve a stormwater sewer easement agreement; utility easement and stormwater impact fee agreement; and an irrigation water supply agreement with CCD Monday, March 10.

SEWER:

Continued from page 1A

near the entrance to the golf course. The gravity sewer then will run from CCD property briefly south along Kercheval and east down Tonnancour Place to discharge into the lake.

Experiencing the greatest disruptive impact during this first phase of construction will be residents of Tonnancour Place.

“It’s important for folks to know there are plans for a new water main down Tonnancour simply because that road’s going to be all beat up,” Councilman Lev Wood noted. “We’re going to give a benefit to the people on Tonnancour. They’re going to get better water pressure. They’re going to get reliable water.”

A projected timeline is as follows:

- ◆ Beginning in May, construction of the new outfall, as well as construction at the Lakeshore and Tonnancour intersection.
- ◆ June through August, construction of the gravity storm sewer along Tonnancour Place.
- ◆ September and October, gravity sewer placed along Kercheval.
- ◆ Late fall through the winter and into early spring 2026, construction of force main and gravity sewer on CCD property.
- ◆ April 2026, completion of phase one.

“A good way to think about it is from now until early fall, construction will be in the city’s right-of-way and after that until the end of March



COURTESY IMAGE

The first phase of the stormwater separation project will see a force main constructed along the edge of the Country Club of Detroit’s property, transitioning into a gravity sewer that will run briefly south along Kercheval and east down Tonnancour Place to the lake.

2026, all construction will be at the Country Club of Detroit,” said Nathaniel Coffin, the project’s construction engineer with Hubbell, Roth & Clark. “I’d like to note as well that the Country Club of Detroit, they will obviously be impacted by this construction, but they will remain open, business as normal in these winter months. The deadlines that we’ve chosen for work on the golf

course is to minimize disruption to the course.”

Farms city council Monday, March 10, awarded the construction contract to the lowest bidder, DiPonio Contracting, LLC, which came in approximately \$1.5 million less than the engineer’s estimate.

To pay for the work, council also voted 6-0, with Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding absent, to authorize the

issuance of the sale of \$11,980,000 in general obligation bonds.

The amount includes DiPonio’s \$9,390,381.73 bid, a 10 percent construction contingency and \$700,000 the city will pay to CCD as part of a series of legal agreements to run water mains beneath its property (see story, above).

Residents can expect to see the impact on their tax bills next fiscal

year with a roughly 0.5-mill increase, when the city’s first payment of approximately \$500,000 is due.

Once all three phases of the project are bonded out, residents can anticipate taxes rising by what city officials hope will be a maximum total of 2 mills.

“Which, incidentally, is what the impact was with the improvements on the lakeside district in 2000,” City Manager Shane Reeside said, adding the city paid off the lakeside district sewer separation bond in 2022.

Previously projected to be a total cost of approximately \$40 million, the stormwater separation project also will include future phases featuring

the construction of the stormwater pump station at Chalfonte and Moross and actual sewer separation in the northwest quadrant of the inland district. The city intends to bid out phases two and three near the new year and begin construction in 2026.

“I have lived in the so-called inland district for my entire time in the Farms and this is just our first step in hopefully making it better for everybody in the Farms,” Theros said. “When we do these projects, we have to think about these 30-, 40-, 50-year horizons, because what we do today will impact people who live in the homes that we own right now long after we’re gone.”



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10A | NEWS

SOON:

Continued from page 1A

forest.

He said the hardest part of the job had nothing to do with forestry. The struggle was calming people’s emotional attachment to trees that had to be cut down.

Colter’s empathy seldom waned, but his strength and stamina wore out. He died in his sleep Saturday morning, March 15. He was 57 and one month shy of scheduled heart surgery.

“The city lost a forester. I lost a friend,” said Dale Krajniak, retired Park city manager, now finance director in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Krajniak hired Colter in June 1994.

“He was the first in-house, full-time community forester on the east side,” Krajniak said. “It turned out to be a great investment for Grosse Pointe Park. If you want to know what his accomplishments are, just drive anywhere in the Park. You’ll see tree-lined streets that are the result of his attention.”

“I’m heartbroken,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “I had the honor of spending time with him recently, not having any idea it would be my last. He was so full of spirit and joy and was energized about all we were accomplishing in the Park under his leadership. A sad day for the Park.”

Upon Colter’s official retirement from the Park a few years ago, he found himself busier than ever. Park officials contracted him at a reduced rate to continue working three days per week. City



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Brian Colter among trees at Patterson Park.

of Grosse Pointe and Farms counterparts added him to their rosters one day each per week.

Colter lived in western Wayne County. Instead of commuting daily to the Pointes, he often stayed with his longtime partner, Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, at her house on Wayburn.

That’s where she found him in his bedroom.

“He’d said the night before he needed sleep and planned on sleeping until at least noon,” Kyle said. “He was exhausted. I tried to get him to go to the doctor, but he’s not a go-to-the-doctor or ER kind of guy.”

Forty-year Park resident Paul Van Tol remembered Colter helping preserve a mature American elm in his front yard. The trunk had split and risked falling apart.

“They went high in the tree and put cables between major branches so the tree could not split any further,” Van Tol said. “The tree lasted many, many more years before ultimately succumbing to Dutch elm disease. That was my introduction to Brian.”

Colter and Van Tol teamed up again seven years ago when Van Tol proposed donating hundreds of street trees to the city. Planting started last year.

“Trees are amazing,” Van Tol said. “They communicate with each other. I wish I could remember the name of the book (it was ‘The Hidden Life of Trees,’ by Peter Wohlleben) I read last year, but it said if one tree in a forest was under stress, the other trees react. Like that, we are all affected by the loss of what symbolically was the giant old oak in the forest, Brian Colter. This is a devastating loss for everyone.”

align with Arbor Day and Earth Day, which are coming up. Clearly, we need a permanent representation somewhere of all that Brian did.”

“His favorite tree was tri-colored beech,” Kyle said. “Some of the commissioners want to plant his favorite tree next to his mom’s memorial pawpaw tree along the boardwalk at Patterson Park.”

Ginkgo was another favorite. Colter was fascinated by their history requiring measurement in paleontological terms. Fossil evidence shows the Ginkgo’s fan-shaped foliage has been flushing yellow to dark green every spring since before the time of dinosaurs.

Colter grew up in Dearborn. His parents, his father also now deceased, were English professors. Colter rode the train to and from Ann Arbor while earning an undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan. He studied on the master’s level at Michigan State University.

It was providential that Colter received early word last week of the Park winning the Arbor Day Foundation’s designation as a Tree City USA for a 42nd straight year. He was prouder of being instrumental in qualifying the city for the foundation’s more prestigious Growth Award for the 19th consecutive time.

Most lives end too soon. Everyone leaves work undone.

Things for which Colter was shortchanged included protecting the city’s dwindling number of American elms. Also,

with each planting season, he continued diversifying the urban forest to make it less susceptible to species-specific diseases and pests.

It is certain he planned to continue slipping Ginkgo saplings into annual planting campaigns. An ongoing task was updating the city’s tree inventory and comparing it with prior years to document trends. He also was part of a group trying to restore the sawmill on Belle Isle.

Likely due in part to growing up amid literary discussions around the family dinner table, Colter was as receptive to talking about ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainability as he was about Shakespeare’s overcanopy, Blake’s redemptive tree of life and Wordsworth’s tree as a symbol of that which is gone.

With credibility enhanced by more than 20 years of membership on the Keep Michigan Beautiful board of directors, Colter occasionally wrote articles for industry publications. His clear style welcomed easy reading.

“It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer.”

Colter would have known the reference.

“I heard an interesting metaphor recently regarding petrified trees,” Hodges said. “A petrified tree is much like a person we loved so much. It died, by definition, but is still with us stronger and more beautiful than ever. I see that with Brian. He’s stronger and more beautiful and will be with us forever.”

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Do the math

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Councilwoman Christine Gallagher was barking up the wrong tree if she thought this month’s retrospective on the municipal audit was intended to teach her anything about municipal accounting.

Mayor Michele Hodges said the rebuttal of Gallagher’s claim the city had a deficit was to provide clarity for residents. Gallagher is on her own, as when she accused city planners last year of scheming to change single-family residential neighborhoods into multi-family zones.

Hodges indicated the rest of the city council are resolved to Gallagher wrongly adding and subtracting numbers in the fiscal year 2024 audit report dated June 30 last year and presented to council Jan. 13 this year.

“It’s a question of whether you are choosing to lead or mislead,” Hodges said. “It’s not an issue of understanding or not understanding (accounting). What’s missing from my colleague is an unwillingness to listen and learn for reasons I can’t explain. But, they’re not reasons that have the best interests of this community in mind.”

During the council meeting March 10, Councilman and Finance Chairman Tom Caulfield said the “elephant in the room” was rebutting Gallagher’s two-month-old social media post that the city is \$373,580 on the wrong side of zero.

“If we’re deficit spending, why is our fund balance going up?” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

“Is that a question?” Gallagher asked.

“No. That’s a statement,” Sizeland said. “We added about \$300,000 to our general fund (last year).”

“I also addressed this several months ago,” Sizeland added. “I want to read a paragraph from (our auditor) that might clarify this concern about deficit spending: ‘Deficit spending in a government fund would happen if net change in fund balance was negative,’ the auditor wrote. ‘This would indicate that revenues and other financial sources were less than expenditures in other financial uses. In your city, deficit spending did not occur for the June 30, 2024 fiscal year audit.’”

Sizeland said, “Let me repeat that: ‘Deficit spending did not occur for the June 30, 2024 fiscal year audit.’”

In concurrence, Finance Director Ginger Moriarty presented to the council and public what she characterized as a simple summary of the city’s financial health, but what everyone except Gallagher understood to be a high-level, fund-by-fund detailing of reality.

“Some of my accounting professors would have blushed if they saw somebody walk us through financial statements with such precision and clarity,” said Councilman Brent Deaver, holder of a University of Michigan

MBA. “It was a master class in local government accounting.”

The nut of Gallagher’s error, Moriarty said later in a truly simple, lowest common denominator explanation, was subtracting expenses from revenue without adding revenue from other sources.

Gallagher didn’t make the grade.

She insisted after the city’s presentation to read aloud her post. She interrupted and talked over the mayor and others, faster and louder to the point of being frantic as it became clearer and clearer the mayor and others were progressing to new matters.

“We will move on, Council member Gallagher,” Hodges said. “I hope you’re prepared to do that.”

“Please get the facts before you post anything,” Caulfield told Gallagher.

Councilman Tim Kolar, an accountant, refuted Gallagher’s post during the Feb. 3 council meeting.

He likened the city’s fund balance to a household savings account.

“Think of (fund balance) as your savings account,” Kolar told the public. “You get a paycheck. You pay your bills. If you have more money than you spend, at the end of the month you can put that money into your savings. That’s essentially our reserve fund. Last year, we increased our reserve fund because we had revenues greater than expenses. I just want to make sure that was on the public record.”

PorchFest coming to Grosse Pointe

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Come September, Grosse Pointe PorchFest will grace front yards surrounding The Village.

The community event, held in many cities across the country, transforms front porches into performance spaces and invites local musicians to perform for residents and neighbors. Attendees then stroll from porch to porch, enjoying a variety of musical acts.

“We’ll give it a whirl,” said Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak, who was approached last year with the idea by a resident who had experienced a PorchFest in Dunleath, N.C.

The vision is to grow the event organically, beginning with five or so porches this year.

“We’re thinking the first year we’ll take porches that are closer to The Village,” Tomkowiak said. “It would be the Saturday after Labor Day, from noon to 5 p.m. and then ending with a larger band at Whiskey Six.”

City council established the Grosse Pointe PorchFest Committee to organize the event during its March meeting Monday night.

Councilman Seth Krupp, M.D., will serve as committee chair and interested residents are being sought to man the promotions committee.

“We have a gentleman who — he’s a mortgage

broker right now — learned how to play music at Maire (Elementary) School,” Tomkowiak noted, “and he’s very passionate about this and he wants to head up the band selection team.”

Music genres can run the gamut, including pop, classical, reggae, blues, rock, jazz, Latino, R&B, folk and more. Signs with artists’ names and performance times likely will be posted in front of the porches and online.

“This program has been in existence since 2007 throughout the country and is effectively a tool used by local communities to build some camaraderie within the community,” City Manager Joe Valentine said.

Assault testimony may be shielded

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Testimony from a 15-year-old female about her alleged sexual assault by an adult male likely will occur beyond the public’s eyes and ears during a court hearing scheduled next week.

“I plan on filing a motion to clear the courtroom during testimony of the victim during preliminary examination,” a

Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney said.

“We wouldn’t be opposed to that,” the defendant’s lawyer said.

“I’ll probably be inclined to grant it, but I want to read the motion first,” Municipal Judge Carl Jarboe told the prosecutor during a pre-trial conference March 12. “You have the media in the courtroom right now. They might be interested in all of this.”

“My opposition was only during the victim’s testimony, seeing as she’s a minor,” the prosecutor said.

“Only during the victim’s testimony?” Jarboe asked.

“Yes,” the attorney said.

Jarboe was the only one involved in the case physically present in Park Municipal Court. The rest attended virtually.

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PUB:

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Nick Sizeland said.

TIFA board members are planning streetscape renovations within its district — bordered by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham — from which property tax revenue is retained for improvements and economic development.

Nearly \$4 million worth of renovations on Charlevoix are tentatively scheduled to break ground in spring 2026.

Similar plans are being made for Kercheval Avenue, for which the TIFA needs to come up with funding.

Almost half the Charlevoix budget came last year from a federal grant. TIFA officials want the city to post \$1 million for roadwork and underground infrastructure that would be part of the citywide capital improvement plan regardless of streetscape ambitions.

More than enough money to fund the balance is held by the TIFA as savings.

A public engagement session about the streetscape Jan. 8 at city hall drew about 20 attendees.

Residents endorsed a curbless roadway, increased space for sidewalk dining, trees and landscaping, safer cross-

walks, pockets parks, public art, bicycle lanes and street furnishings.

Wider sidewalks are intended to encourage increased pedestrian activity. Narrowing the roadway is a proven method of calming vehicular traffic.

Benches, shaded areas, environmentally friendly runoff-capturing bioswales and water features provide a forward-thinking environment many residents and business owners value as conducive to modern lifestyles and community standards.

At least one more engagement session will be held, probably in June, according to board members.



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Road and water work season nears

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Construction bids are expected mid-April from companies seeking contracts to repave a side street and install two water mains.

If everything goes as planned, roadwork starts July 1 and ends by Sept. 30; water main construction will start in July and last six months.

“(Paving) will primarily focus on Charlevoix from Three Mile to Berkshire and improvements to the Windmill Pointe Park parking lot,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Charlevoix work is just east of the streetscape reconstruction planned for 2026.

No alley repaving is

scheduled this year.

“We have to separate sewers before we can do more alleyways,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works.

He foresees a resumption of alley paving in 2027, if funds are allotted.

OHM Advisors won a \$122,500 contract March 10, to solicit contractors, evaluate bids and oversee construction of both road and water work.

The projects are no surprise.

“These are a continuation of the city’s annual maintenance and construction projects,” said Patrick Droze, project manager of OHM Advisors, the city’s consulting engineers.

OHM is familiar with the upcoming round of infrastructure improve-

ments.

“For consideration of this year’s project, OHM evaluated several segments (of road) and parking lots for potential rehabilitation,” Droze said.

Budget constraints limited work this year to the sections chosen, but OHM’s list of candidates also consisted of:

- ◆ Pemberton from Essex to Windmill Pointe Drive,
- ◆ Avondale between the city limits to Pemberton,
- ◆ Essex from Buckingham to Bedford,
- ◆ two municipal parking lots south of Kercheval between Lakepointe and Beaconsfield and
- ◆ the parking lot at The Cracked Egg restaurant on Mack Avenue

west of Balfour.

“Pavement cores were conducted and analyzed for all areas outlined and a topographical survey was completed on Avondale and Pemberton,” Droze said.

Water mains

Water main replacement is in two locations.

“Work will focus on Beaconsfield from Essex to Jefferson and the Patterson Park water main loop,” Sizeland said. “The water main project aims to upgrade aging infrastructure and replace lead service lines in accordance with the city’s capital improvement plan.”

A preliminary cost estimate to install the pipes is \$1,675,000, according to Droze. He had no estimate for road resurfac-

ing.

Beaconsfield qualified for water main work this year due to the number of breaks in the two-block section, plus the opportunity to replace a high concentration of lead services lines, according to Droze and Jenny.

Replacement consists of swapping six-inch diameter cast iron pipes with eight-inch plastic ones, increasing flow.

Plastic pipes don’t corrode, unlike cast iron. Plastic also is less brittle and more flexible, meaning they better withstand temperature swings and the frost-thaw cycle known to shift soil and snap iron pipes.

“It is envisioned that the replacement work will be performed via a trenchless connection

method, either horizontal directional drilling or pipe bursting,” Droze said.

Lead service lines will be replaced along with the main.

“If non-copper water services are encountered, the contract will include provisions to replace water services up to the residential water meter when approved by the homeowner,” Droze said. “Customers with copper water services will be reconnected to the water system with jumper connections where possible.”

The Patterson Park loop eliminates a dead end at the base of Grand Marais. New pipe links the base with a main at the spot where Bedford turns into Windmill Pointe Drive.

Recreation commission officers for the year

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Recreation commissioners didn’t need to scratch their heads last month to choose a chairman.

There was only one nominee.

Commissioner Mike Bannon nominated incumbent Chairman Mike Hindelang for another one-year term.

“You’ve done a great job,” Bannon told Hindelang during the Feb. 12 commission meeting. “I appreciate it.”

“All in favor for me?” Hindelang said, calling

for a vote.

Unanimous approval.

“I appreciate the confidence,” Hindelang said.

Commission bylaws require the installation of officers during the first meeting of the year.

Bannon, a member since 2019, accepted Hindelang’s nomination to become vice chairman and was approved across the board.

The recreation commission is an advisory body. Members are appointed by the mayor.

“We’re here to advise Chad (Craig, director of parks and recreation) and the (city) council as decision-making authori-

ties on things related to parks and recreation,” Hindelang said.

Parks and recreation has the third biggest budget in the city, just over \$2.1 million. Only public safety and general municipal operations are greater.

“The goal of this commission is to get community input and for us to represent the community, what’s working, what should be done better,” Hindelang said. “When a decision is needed, it is brought either to Chad to run through the administration or to city council for things that need budgetary approval. City

council will, from time to time, ask us for recommendations on items of interest to them. If there is something major being considered, they may ask the commission to look into it and share our views.”

Attending their first meeting were new members Paul O’Donnell and Paul Basse.

O’Donnell’s term runs through 2026.

He is a retired professor of foreign language at the University of Michigan-Flint.

O’Donnell said he grew up in the Park, was a lifeguard at Windmill Pointe Park and returned to the community 15 years ago.

“My main qualification (for the commission), and reason for wanting to serve, is that I use the parks — both of them — six to seven days a week,” O’Donnell wrote in his application for appointment. “I see how the parks operate as well as the demands placed on

the parks and recreation staff. My visiting both parks goes back decades to when the current pool at Windmill didn’t exist.”

Basse, a 30-year Park resident, was appointed for a term lasting this year.

He owned and operated franchises and was a partner and general manager of the Freedom Hill Amphitheater.

“I’m not as impressed with celebrities as I used to be,” Bassey said. “I’ve done a lot of event planning with that. Chad and I talked about events and what goes on in the parks. If you guys need help, I’d be happy to give you a hand for that.”

Hindelang received unanimous support for his nomination of Commissioner Patrick Gleason as secretary for this calendar year.

The commission divides work among four subcommittees, to which Hindelang made appointments.

“Subcommittees allow us to work more closely with individual projects,”

he said. “Rather than having 11 commission members emailing Chad every time they see something that needs attention in the parks or with ideas about bigger-picture directional items in the parks, the subcommittees get together and talk about those items. It’s a much more efficient way of getting answers to commission members.”

- ◆ On the Windmill Pointe Park subcommittee, Commissioner Howard Bouton remains chairman. Hindelang appointed Gleason and Paul Spratt.
- ◆ On the Patterson Park subcommittee, Commissioner James Ceuninck remains chairman. Bannon remains a member. Hindelang appointed Gleason as a new member.
- ◆ On the special events subcommittee, Commissioner Paul Spratt was retained as chairman. Hindelang also will continue for another term. He appointed

See OFFICERS, page 13A



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ASSAULT:

Continued from page 11A

ally over the internet.

The prosecutor and defense counsel appeared online from their respective offices. Their fuzzy images and grainy voices crackled through a flat-screen TV monitor attached to a courtroom wall.

Defendant Darren Joshua Bradford, 24, of Berkley, spoke from the Wayne County Jail. He’ll stay pinned down until posting Jarboe’s \$250,000 cash bail plus another \$175,000 on a similar case in Berkley.

All parties are scheduled to reconvene in Park court at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, for a preliminary hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a trial.

“We’ll see you in a cou-

ple of weeks,” Jarboe told the group before they signed off.

He moved forward to an in-person landlord-tenant dispute.

Park police arrested Bradford for the alleged sexual assault of the teen Feb. 26, in the area of Windmill Pointe Drive and Berkshire Road.

Jarboe thereafter arraigned Bradford on two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct.



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Pointer opens career consulting firm

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After spending 12 years as a human resources specialist with the federal government, Carrie Soave feels she's perfectly suited to help government employees who are starting to lose their jobs as President Trump's Department of Government Efficiency cuts down on overspending.

"The hiring process for the federal government is so much different than the private sector," Soave said. "A federal job requires a resume that's three to five pages long, as an example. You'd never send something that long in the private sector."

Soave, a 2008 Regina High School graduate, returned to the Woods last fall after nine years in



COURTESY PHOTO

Carrie Soave recently opened Pointes Consulting, a career consulting firm.

Washington, D.C., working for the Department of the Interior, and opened Pointes Consulting.

"My family is here and I'd been wanting to come back," said the former Carrie Strasz. "I also saw the writing on the wall that we were going to have to return to the office and I like being remote. I felt it was time for a new challenge and am happy to be back in the Woods."

While in D.C., Soave focused primarily on working with senior executives.

"It was a unique process that focused on showcasing their skills, experience and accomplishments, whether that was for performance reviews or seeking a new role," she said. "It's all about showing value and impact."

Soave attended University of Detroit Mercy with the intention

of going to law school.

"I decided after three years I didn't really want to do that, but I had to do an internship to graduate," she recalled. "I ended up doing that for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit."

She then spent three years in that office after graduation while getting a master's degree in human resources management from The Catholic University of America before moving on to D.C.

"HR was such a good fit and had exactly what I was looking for," she said. "It involves helping people, problem solving and research."

A recent message she posted on LinkedIn about wanting to help federal employees was well received.

"Within a few days I had hundreds of messages, 1,700 comments and 500

shares," she said. "It really resonated with a lot of people."

She's heard from many metro Detroiters working in D.C. who want to move back, as well as government employees in the area.

"They haven't been affected yet, but they suspect they will be," she said.

Soave's initial consultation includes a resume review targeted at job postings each client is interested in.

"It's all about communicating why they are the best person for the job and putting the candidate in the best possible light," she said. "I know what HR professionals are looking for."

See pointesconsulting.com or email carrie.soave@outlook.com for more information.

New location

Village Day Spa recently celebrated the grand opening of its space at 20095 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Owner Rebecca Bibby and her husband were joined by staff members, as well as Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant, Grosse Pointe Woods Assistant City Administrator Sue Como, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Mark Heppner, Chamber board member Sheri Testani, Chamber President Jenny Boettcher and Chamber Membership and Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull. Village Day Spa offers a variety of beauty services, including facials, waxes, body treatments and more. For more information, visit villagedayspas.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Optimists get info on watershed

Kaleigh Snoddy, education and stewardship manager for the Clinton River Watershed Council, recently presented an overview of its mission and programs to the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

Established in 1972, CRWC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. This mission is accomplished through education, stewardship and watershed management.

CRWC provides residents, schools, governments, businesses and other community groups with wide-ranging programs and events to ensure healthy waterways. It also offers many opportunities to engage residents to help clean-up

efforts throughout the Clinton River Watershed and along the Lake St. Clair shoreline. For more information, go to crwc.org.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second

and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and see what the club is all about.

Visit gpoptimists.com for more information.



Kaleigh Snoddy of the Clinton River Watershed Council and David Franks, vice president of Lakeshore Optimist Club.

COURTESY PHOTO

OFFICERS:

Continued from page 12A

Basse, too.

◆ Councilman Marty McMillan stays chairman of the marina subcommittee.

"The chair of the marina is appointed by the city council," Hindelang said.

Also named to the sub-

committee by Hindelang were Commissioners Christina Buchanan and Larry Haggart. Councilman Tom Caulfield, liaison to the commission, also remains on the subcommittee.

The roster for 2025

Commissioners, their dates of appointment and end-of-term dates are, in alphabetical order:

Michael Bannon, 2019-26; Roger Basse, 2025-25; Howard Bouton, 2022-25; Christina Buchanan, 2022-25; James Ceuninck, 2020-27; Patrick Gleason, 2024-27; Larry Haggart, 1996-27; Mike Hindelang, 2017-27; Paul O'Donnell, 2025-26 and Paul Spratt, 2022-25.

Also members are Craig and Caulfield.

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to discuss issues in Grosse Pointe Farms

Joe Listens!

University Liggett School seventh grader Violet Marchesseau recently placed first in the middle school category of the fall 2024 Stock Market Game.

COURTESY PHOTO



Marchesseau earns first in Stock Market Game

University Liggett School seventh grader Violet Marchesseau, of Grosse Pointe Farms, recently secured first place in the middle school category of the fall 2024 Stock Market Game. Competing against students from across Michigan, Marchesseau’s achievement showcases outstanding financial performance and strategic decision-making, as well as exceptional analytical abilities and a deep understanding of market dynamics. “Violet’s success in the Stock Market Game is a testament to her dedicated and disciplined approach to this competition,” said Erin Montagne, W. Warren Sheldon ’37 Chair, Mathematics Department. “We are incredibly proud of her achievement and her commitment to learning the ins and outs of the stock market. This accomplishment reflects our school’s mission to empower students with essential skills for the future.” The Stock Market Game, hosted by the SIFMA Foundation, provides students with a simulated \$100,000 virtual portfolio, challenging them to make strategic investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds and ETFs traded on the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. Participants learn about economics, finance and market trends while developing critical life skills essential for financial independence.

BEYOND:

Continued from page 14A

because it reminds me of being on vacation somewhere warm,” she said. Hawkins also made the top five last year, when students pitched sauce flavors for Buccellato’s Detroit Wing Co. “I was scared going into it last year, but I 100 percent was more comfortable this time around,” Hawkins added. Both finished in the top 10 out of 70 students statewide at the Michigan Amazing Shake regional competition last month in Grandville. The new flavors will be available at both locations during April and a portion of the proceeds will go to the school. “I was very impressed with their skills,” Bonnani said. “They showed professionalism beyond their years with the time and effort they put in.” Vivio said she would like to see a similar program at all of the company’s franchises. “I’d hire any one of them,” she said. “They are definitely on the path to CEO.” Buccellato, who has four children at the school, said the Amazing Shake is a valuable program. “It’s important to study, but it’s also about street smarts,” he said. “It’s cool to see at that age.”

GROSSE POINTE NEWS: SHORT STORY CONTEST

Introducing the Grosse Pointe News

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Calling All Writers!

Enter to be a Featured Author in the Grosse Pointe News Narrative Nook!

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How to Enter:
Submit your original short story in 4 parts, each segment no more than 800 words. We encourage you to end each section with a captivating cliffhanger to keep our readers on the edge of their seats! Entries must be received by April 25th at midnight (entries continuously accepted for future publications). All ages welcome and encouraged to provide submissions!

Any Genre Welcome:
Whether you're into writing fiction, non-fiction, mystery, romance, thriller, or anything in between – we want to read your story!

Publication Details:
Selected stories will be serialized in our weekly Grosse Pointe News publications, reaching thousands of readers throughout our community. Each story will feature an "About the Author" section, giving readers insight into the talented minds behind the tales!

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To submit your entry, please visit www.grossepointenews.com.
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*By submitting your story to the Grosse Pointe News Narrative Nook, you agree to grant the Grosse Pointe News permission to publish your work in print and online. All entries must be original and previously unpublished. The decision of the judging panel is final. Participants retain all rights to their work, but winning entries may be subject to editing for publication.

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Wednesday, April 30, 2025 Shredding Party
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
schwab.com/GrossePointe

Please RSVP by April 25 to Jackie Piper at 313-743-0433 or jackie.piper@schwab.com.

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Warren Location

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Warren, MI 48088
586-979-1010

SCHOOLS

2A CAMPS FOR KIDS

What a welcome!

St. Paul on the Lake School second and eighth graders teamed up with Capuchin Soup Kitchen to assemble 25 “Welcome Home” baskets for individuals and families moving into apartments located at the former St. Matthew School, now called The Residences at St. Matthew.

The school has been abandoned for a decade, but was well maintained. The 46 apartments have been refurbished as permanent supportive housing and 25 of those apartments are for people transitioning from homelessness into homes.

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is supporting the permanent housing at St. Matthew by helping furnish some of the apartments.

St. Paul on the Lake pastoral staff will assist with preparing the three model apartments for future residents to preview. The Residences have three different apartment styles — a studio, one bedroom and two bedroom.

Also located at The Residences at St. Matthew will be wrap-around services and on-site case managers. The former gymnasium will be used as offices for programs and services. Some of the staff will offer peer-to-peer support for the residents, meaning they too have experienced poverty or homelessness.

“The Residences at St. Matthew is not a homeless shelter,” according to its website. “The project is a housing development that will provide affordable housing options for low-income families and individuals, as well as permanent supportive housing for 25 formerly homeless households.”



Patti O’Neil, parishioner and volunteer, stands at a table with supplies the students will use to assemble the Welcome Home baskets.



Ava Defever, McKella Florence, Emily Murphy and Ella Rotondo get ready to pack a Welcome Home basket for delivery.



Evelyn Faust double checks to make sure everything is in the basket. The Welcome Home baskets included dish soap, measuring cups, paper towel, a cutting board, towels, oven mitts, trivets, tongs, utensils, a can opener, salt and pepper shakers and a smiley face sponge.



Second grader Kevin Daly and Pastor Fr. Jim Bilot color a note to go in a Welcome Home basket.



Tricia Kestleloot, director of evangelical charity and service, and Capuchin monk Brother Fred Cabras stand with the poster.

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Are you ready
for the summer?

CAMPS FOR KIDS

After a long winter, it's time to start planning for the best summer ever! When it comes to summer camps, it's a good idea not to wait too long before making your decisions and getting your reservations in. Many camps are full before you know it – so the only way to keep your campers happy is to sign up promptly. In this kids' summer camping guide, we'll explore some fabulous day and overnight camping destinations along with tips for a great experience. There are so many great options these days, doing a little research will help you select the ideal camp for your child – and give you an idea on how to prepare and what to expect.

Wherever Grosse Pointe kids go this summer, one thing's for sure. They'll be creating lasting memories while fostering a sense of adventure and camaraderie that will last a lifetime. Happy camping, everyone!



- Animals
- Archery
- Arts and crafts
- Athletics
- Baseball
- Beach fun
- Bowling
- Cooking
- Creativity
- Baseball
- Beach fun
- Bowling
- Cooking
- Creativity
- Engineering
- E-sports
- Field hockey
- Fitness
- Football
- Friendship
- Fun
- Games
- Golf
- Hockey
- Horses
- Invention
- Lacrosse
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- Nursery
- Medical
- Music
- Photography
- Pottery
- Robotics
- Science
- Soccer
- Softball
- Space
- Speed, agility and strength
- Sports clinics
- STEM
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Theatre
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Water sports
- Yoga

Great summer camps fill up fast!
Be sure to check these out and make your reservations

ASSUMPTION CAMP IMAGINATION

Attention kids: Assumption Nursery School and Toddler Center presents Camp Imagination. This year they're offering both a youth camp (ages 7-10) and an early childhood camp (ages 1-6). Kids can sign up for all ten weeks or choose from two sessions, running from June 10 - July 12 or July 15- August 16. Kids will enjoy an array of activity themes such as Artistic Expression, Awesome Inventions, Lost in Space, Let's Get Physical, The Great Outdoors and more.

To enrich and inspire participating youngsters, there are sports clinics, STEM experiences, pottery and photography workshops, music, live animal visits and interesting guest speakers, just to name a few of the exciting highlights. Camp Imagination will be sure to spark creative inspiration and fun regardless of whatever the kids choose to do. Perhaps the next Edison or Picasso will get their ideas from this engaging camp.

Register placements for your children now. Call (586) 772-4477 or visit assumptionnursery.org for more information.

BLACK RIVER

Giddy up and get registered! Hop in the saddle for adventure this summer at Black River Farm and Ranch, an equestrian-focused overnight camp for girls ages 6–15. Their mission is to inspire leadership, self-confidence, and independence through horsemanship and a variety of camp activities including riding lessons, vaulting, trail rides, crafts, swimming, archery, boating, small animals and more!

With a herd of over 70 horses and miles of trails, Black River is the ultimate camp experience. From first timers to experienced riders, there are programs for everyone. A variety of different sessions are offered, including Starter Camp, One Week Camp, Two Week Camp, Mother-Daughter Retreats, Family Retreats and Private Events.

Visit blackriverfarmandranch.com to learn more and get registered for what is sure to be an incredible summer of horses, campfires, and friendship. Email at info@blackriverfarmandranch.com. Follow them on Instagram @brsummercamp62 and find them on Facebook.



DE LA SALLE
COLLEGIATE SUMMER CAMPS

De La Salle Collegiate offers 20+ academic, artistic, and athletic camps for boys and girls in grades 3-12. Students are invited to come out and learn a new skill, practice an existing talent, or just have fun!

STEM camps such as Intro to Engineering where students learn CAD design, to Robotics are offered at De La Salle and Medical Camp, where students have the opportunity to learn first aid, CPR, make incisions, suture skin, and tie surgical knots.

Athletic offerings include Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, eSports, Football, Football Kicking, Golf, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Tennis, and Wrestling.

To learn more about the individual camp offerings, schedules, and times, visit delasallehs.com/admissions/summer-camps-2025 or call 586-541-6229.

GROSSE POINTE ACADEMY

The Academy will be alive with adventure and activity this summer with programs designed to spark creativity, build friendships, and create cherished memories. From thrilling on-site petting zoo visits to hands-on arts and crafts, every day is an adventure just waiting to unfold!

For kids over the age of 2.5 all the way up to grade 9, the thrill of playing and learning will come alive during full and half-day sessions ranging from June 16-August 16. How does Super Hero Training Camp sound? Or are your kids more the Animal Adventure Camp types? Under the Sea or Bookworm Camp? Travel the World or Blast Off Into Space Camp? Well, how about ALL of them? Just sign up quickly so you don't miss out on the fun at (313) 886-1221 or visit gpacademy.com.

GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The 2025 Grosse Pointe Public School System Summer Program calendar is packed with top-tier fun and engaging activities designed to educate, inspire, and bring joy!

With an impressive variety of creative and active offerings—from STEM to performing arts programs like Camp O'Fun, Camp Invention, Summer Theatre Camp, Summer Music Festival, and more—there's something for every child to explore and enjoy for an unforgettable summer.

To learn more about individual camp options and availability, visit the GPPSS website at gpschools.org/summer. There, you can find information about camps with detailed descriptions, scheduled dates and pricing for each camp.

Don't wait — these popular programs fill up fast! To register, click on "Programs" and secure your child's spot in one of Grosse Pointe's most exciting summer camp experiences.

Make 2025 the summer of fun your kids will cherish forever.

NORTHFORK
OUTBACK SUMMER HORSE CAMPS

Young horse lovers will find Northfork Outback Summer Horse Camps to be an equestrian dream. Located in Webberville, MI, they welcome campers of all horsemanship skill levels to any of the sessions.

There are still several camping options available for young people seeking the ultimate in horse camp. The 5-day overnight camp is for girls ages 8-16 and includes four hours of daily horse interaction, 12 hours of riding, swimming, special events, educational horse classes, games on horseback, movie night, an obstacle course and various horse contests.

Campers will also enjoy trail riding, a cabin competition, a fun and entertaining horse show on Friday for family members to attend and a Thursday evening banquet for campers that includes a keepsake picture with their very favorite horse! All campers will get a welcome t-shirt to take home with them.

The 3-day girls overnight camp is also still available but those interested are encouraged to act fast, as spots fill up quickly as it gets closer to summer. Several of the camps are already full for 2025 — so call soon to reserve your place at (517) 881-9142 or visit northforkoutback.com.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOLS

For generations, ULS Summer Programs have been the gold standard of summer fun, and this year promises to be no different. Campers will enjoy a wide variety of activities, from archery and swimming to sports, performing arts, science, and nature — all designed to keep kids active, engaged and outdoors all day long. Whether they're perfecting their athletic skills with experienced University Liggett School coaches or exploring their creative side in one of the enrichment camps, every child will find something they love.

Sports camps focus on skill development, teamwork and strategy, allowing young athletes to improve through fun drills, games, and friendly competitions. For those interested in hands-on learning, Enrichment Camps offer opportunities for aspiring scientists, engineers, musicians and gamers to dive deep into their passions. Kids can experiment in Mad Scientists at Work camp, explore the digital world in Minecraft Camp, or refine their musical talents at Strings Camp. Specialized camps are available too — like the DeKeyser Training Institute Hockey Camp and Detroit Tigers Baseball/Softball Camps, where young players can learn from the pros. This summer, give your child the gift of discovery, friendship, and fun at ULS Summer Programs — where unforgettable memories are made. You can learn more at uls.org/summerprograms.



YMCA CAMP NISSOKONE

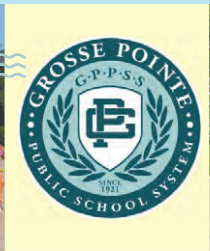
YMCA Camp Nissokone, located near Lake Huron in Oscoda, Michigan, is northern Michigan's premier destination for overnight camping or kids and teens. Camp Nissokone celebrates its 111th year in 2025 — experienced in providing day and overnight camps for children ages 5-18 from Michigan and beyond.

Summer camp is a great way to introduce youngsters to enjoying and understanding the outdoors. It helps kids develop new friendships as well as confidence and independence. The camp's core values of honesty, caring, respect, responsibility and inclusion are a focus of all they do, helping campers build positive skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

There is no better way for boys and girls grades K-10 to spend a safe and fun week. This quality YMCA camp program is fun and interactive, with age-specific activities changing daily.

To find out more about Camp Nissokone summer camps, visit ymcadetroit.org/nissokone or call (248) 887-4533.





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 **LEARN MORE [YMCADETROIT.ORG/NISSOKONE](https://ymcadetroit.org/nissokone)**



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BENEFITS OF SUMMER CAMP

More than just fun, camp has lasting positive effects on kids

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time off from school at a camp of their choosing.

Here are a few of the ways kids benefit from camp time.

Socialization:

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to keep socializing during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

Expanding horizons:

Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, some include children from many towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters from different backgrounds and interests. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

Device-free time:

Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps focus on outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the

time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

Inspiring structure:

Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities. Even relaxation happens within a structure, teaching a time for work and play.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.





ULS Summer Programs

Sports Camps

Registration opens March 21!

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Boys' & Girls' LAX
CoEd Soccer
Volleyball
Boys' & Girls' Basketball

Detroit Tigers CoEd Baseball Camp
ULS CoEd Baseball Camp
DeKeyser Training Institute
CoEd Hockey Camp

Our sports camps focus on skill development, teamwork, and strategy, allowing young athletes to improve through fun drills, games, and friendly competitions. We also offer specialized camps like the DeKeyser Training Institute Hockey Camp and Detroit Tigers Baseball Camp, where young players can learn from the pros.

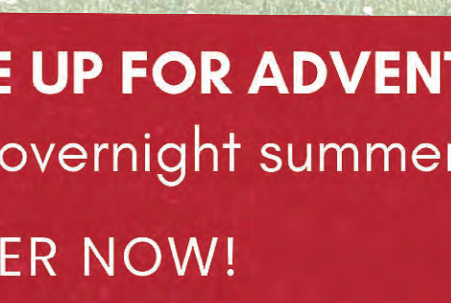
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Questions to ask when choosing in a summer camp

Many of the children in Grosse Pointe and around the whole country enjoy a portion of their summers at camp. The American Camp Association reports that 26 million children enroll in summer camp each year, and many of those youngsters make memories that last a lifetime while building lifelong friendships along the way.

Camps have become even more important in recent decades as more and more households have two working parents. Yet single-parent households also rely on summer camp to keep vacationing kids occupied and entertained while school is not in session and Mom or Dad is working. These home situations illustrate how important summer camp can be and underscore the significance of asking the right questions before enrolling a child in camp. In addition to inquiring about hours of operation, insurance and pricing, parents can ask the following questions to ensure that they make the best possible decisions about a camp for their child.

What is the history of the camp?

A camp that has been in business for decades is not necessarily superior to one that opened more recently, but it's still worth asking how long a camp has been around. It might be easier to determine if a given camp is what you're looking for if it's been around awhile. Such camps may have a significant number of Google reviews and may even provide testimonials from past campers and parents. A camp that's been around awhile also can share information regarding its return rate, which indicates the number of youngsters who have come back each summer. A strong return rate can indicate campers enjoy their experiences each summer enough to return.

Who is eligible to attend camp?

Some camps restrict enrollment to youngsters within a predetermined age bracket, while others may be exclusive to legal residents of the town where the camp is being held. Eligibility is not only a significant variable in regard to determining who can and cannot attend a given camp; it's also notable because parents may want their children to attend a camp that will feature some familiar faces. Attending camp alongside classmates or neighbors or teammates can calm kids' nerves and make them more excited about going to camp each day in the summer. But camps open to children from other towns also can be beneficial by allowing children to expand their social networks beyond their own towns.

What is the experience of camp staff?

Camp directors and staff members spend a lot of time with campers each summer, so it's important that parents ask who these people are,

how they're trained and how much experience they have. No business can avoid employee turnover completely, so parents who hold out for a camp that's had the same employees for decades will likely find themselves without options come the start of summer. But questions about turnover rate, training and the counselor selection process are viable questions to ask prior to enrolling a child in a particular camp.

What is the itinerary?

Kids might grow bored if camp features the same itinerary each day, and parents might feel such camps are not worth the investment. Ask about the typical camp itinerary, including field trips, daily activities, special events, and entertainment. The more entertaining and fun a camp is, the more likely youngsters are to love spending time there.

Look for a camp with a robust variety of activities, even within a theme camp or camp that specifically focuses on a particular sport or pastime. Camps with a mixture of activities and interactions and a balance of focus and fun are much more likely to benefit your child.

Is physical activity part of the camp?

Many students attend academic camps or camps where they learn to play music or further their existing skills. But parents know that physical activity is a vital component of a healthy lifestyle and a great way to make the best of the summer sun. When considering a specialty offering like band camp or STEM camp, ask about what role, if any, physical activity plays in a typical day.

Too much sedentary study during nice weather is bound to make a child antsy. While learning a discipline, there should still be times of relaxation and a chance to be outdoors and moving in a playful environment.

Before you know it, summer camps will be up and running in full swing! Asking the right questions early will help parents identify the best camp for their children in time for registration, so kids don't miss out on signing up.

Knowledge is power, especially where your children are concerned. Be sure you have vetted a camp to your satisfaction, so you can relax while your kids have fun.

Hey Mom & Dad

Encourage taking a break from devices by sharing KID SCOOP with your kids!

It's a page designed just for young ones to explore ideas and activities that satisfy curiosity and challenge them with fun games and puzzles.

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Boys Under Armour swim shirt and shorts set, left.



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FEATURES

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GPT presents ‘Groundhog Day’
... after day, after day, after day

Musical makes regional debut March 28 to April 6

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

When “Groundhog Day: The Musical” became available for licensing, Danielle Caralis jumped at the chance to bring it to the area.

The Grosse Pointe Theatre production will be performed March 28 to April 6, at Pierce Middle School.

“This is a southeast Michigan premier,” said Caralis, GPT president. “None of our peer theater companies in town or in the region have done this before. That was a real big selling point — that we can be first.”

Not to mention Caralis is a huge fan of the 1993 movie, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell.

“I’ve loved the movie since my teenage years,” she said. “I think it’s a hilarious Bill Murray comedy the world really loves. It has stood the test of time in my generation. Audiences my age and older have a fondness for the movie. I’m excited to bring it to our theater patrons.”

“Groundhog Day: The Musical” introduces audiences to Phil Connors, a cynical TV weatherman who finds himself stuck in a time loop in Punxsutawney, Pa.

“He’s reliving his day



From left, Mario Simone, Justin Kazanowki and Kyle O'Donnell.

over and over and over again,” Caralis said. “He has to relive it until he can figure out a way home. To do that, he has to become a better version of himself.”

While repeating the same day — or same scene, as it were — may seem like a cakewalk, Caralis said it’s been a challenge for all involved.

“We are re-living the same day over and over again, so it is a challenge to keep the set movement consistent and clever, yet not boring or repetitive,” she noted. “Additionally, our cast has risen to the challenge to deliver the exact same performance, no matter the day, while Phil Connors becomes more hostile, destructive, hedonistic, resigned ...

and ultimately enlightened.

“... There’s quite an interesting character arc for Phil,” she added. “As the repeated day happens, the townspeople are the same, but what changes is Phil Connors, our leading man. He’s confused, he’s upset, he’s out of his mind, but he claws his way back to redemption.”

To pull off the challenging performance, Caralis has enlisted a top-tier cast, including GPT veterans and some new additions.

“We have a very talented cast who have given their all to us,” Caralis said. “Not only are they excellent singers and talented actors, but they’re bringing these characters to life.

“As for the crew,” she continued, “it’s been challenging to bring theatrical magic to the stage, but everyone is on board and bringing creative solutions. This is not

The details

What: Grosse Pointe Theatre presents “Groundhog Day: The Musical”

When:
8 p.m. Friday, March 28
8 p.m. Saturday, March 29
2 p.m. Sunday, March 30
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3
8 p.m. Friday, April 4
8 p.m. Saturday, April 5
2 p.m. Sunday, April 6

Where: Pierce Middle School, 15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park

Tickets: \$35 weekends, \$25 weeknights

More info: gpt.org

your typical structure for a musical.”

Songs will guide audiences through the journey, Caralis said, adding that the playbill will look more like a concert set list than a index of scenes.

“The songs really add depth and color to the characters and situations



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPT

From left, Kevin Fitzhenry, Kyle O'Donnell, Justin Kazanowki, Alan Neuwirth and Mario Simone star in “Groundhog Day: The Musical.”

and help move the plot along,” she noted. “In the movie, the day ends and the scene cuts to the alarm clock; it’s 6 a.m. and Cher is on the radio. In the play, we have to repeat the same day; it’s more complicated to create the repetitive nature of the day, but we use songs and light cues and sound effects. Many of the characters have their own musical theme. It was cleverly composed.”

Music and lyrics are by Tim Minchin and book is by Danny Rubin, who co-wrote the original film.

“The audience is going to see characters they know and love, like Ned Ryerson, the insurance salesman, and Mrs. Lancaster with her bed-and-breakfast,” Caralis assured. “All the major characters from the movie are in the play.”

“Groundhog Day: The Musical,” however, has a PG-13 rating for adult language and content, Caralis advised.

“It’s exciting to bring brand new material to our patrons,” Caralis said. “Grosse Pointe Theatre has a highly cultivated but broad range of shows every season. This one is a new, hot-off-the-press show. It’s great for date night or if you’re looking for a good laugh and a trip down memory lane.”

The cast

Mario Simone as Phil Connors
Manda Borden as Rita
Alan Neuwirth as Ned Ryerson
Hannah Roth as Nancy Taylor

The ensemble

Kyle O'Donnell, Olyvia O'Donnell, Kris Wright, Cara Motzkus, Erica Clarke, Benji Timpf, Charlie Rinderknecht, Sarah Bryant, Panos Varlamos, Peter DiSante, Justin Kazanowski, Erin Marie Mee, Kevin Fitzhenry, Zak Shugart, Alex Mardlin, Janine Wisniewski, Sophie Leszczynski and Silas Wooten

The crew

Danielle Caralis, director; Emma Kruse, assistant director; Randie Kohler and Arlene Schoenherr, co-producers; Marie Reinman, vocal director; Jim Territo, music director; Amy Ricker, stage manager; Soula Burns, assistant stage manager; Stephanie Butler and Jillian Evannou, co-costume design; Don Bischoff, tech director and co-set designer; Tracy Bischoff, co-set designer and scenic painter; Catie Hauff, choreographer; Kristina Kamm Mardline, lighting designer; Eric Leszczynski, lighting adviser; Eric Sieh, sound designer; Theresa Selvaggio, hair and makeup design; Lyndsey Briggs and Linda Zublick, co-properties Stella Woitulewicz, set dresser; Megan Nash and Sara Shook, social media team



Above, Mario Simone as Phil and Manda Borden as Rita. Right, from left, Kevin Fitzhenry as camera man, Manda Borden as Rita and Mario Simone as Phil Connors.



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Open auditions April 5 for GPT’s Ten-Minute Play Festival

Grosse Pointe Theatre will hold open auditions from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5, at 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe, for its upcoming 12th annual Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival.

A variety of 10-minute plays were submitted from around the world and the top 10 adjudicated plays will be performed at this year’s festival, June 12 and 13. The group is looking for diverse actors to fill many adult roles of various ages for the 10-minute plays.

Participants do not need to be experienced actors; they just need to have a desire to learn, be convincing in their portrayal and be willing to work creatively as a team to produce a believable story — all in 10 minutes.



PHOTO BY PATRICIA ELLIS

From left, Erin DiSante of St. Clair Shores, Mateo Manriquez of Harper Woods and Phil Potter of St. Clair Shores auditioned for Grosse Pointe Theatre’s 2024 Ten-Minute Play Festival.

Those cast will need to become members of Grosse Pointe Theatre. Rehearsals begin in April and continue through the opening of the festival. Specific rehearsal schedules will be determined by each play’s director. Performance dates will be 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12, and Friday, June 13. Actors must be available for tech week and all performances.

Visit gpt.org/auditions/ to fill out and submit an audition form. Forms also will be available at auditions April 5.

For more information, email playfestival@gpt.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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.
♦ Jazz and Art at The Helm, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25. Presenters include Michelle Boggess-Nunley of Posterity Gallery and musical duo Gwen and Charles Scales. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for guests.
♦ Taking the Mystery Out of Balance and Posture, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, with instructor Paul Clark. Free for members, \$5 for guests.
♦ Online Security Behaviors and Practices, noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, with presenter Jim Creighton.

Blood drives
The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
♦ 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.
♦ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, March 28, Recreation Authority of Roseville & Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.
Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ecumenical Breakfast
The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast group meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, March 28.
See EVENTS, page 6B

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Step into spring with the Grosse Pointe Chamber

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As winter’s chill starts to subside, the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is warming up for a series of spring programming.

They’ll kick it off with the annual Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast, which takes place 7:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, May 1, National Day of Prayer. The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club once again will host the popular event, which invites the mayors of the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods to a meal that’s open to the public.

Local financial advisor, Eric Backman, will give the keynote address.

“He shares an interesting story about his life,” said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and events coordinator. “He was an atheist ... and was searching for answers. He found the

Catholic faith. Since then, his eyes have been open to God. He’s very involved in his church (St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church) and is passionate about his faith.”

Turnbull said she’s excited for guests to learn more about the speaker.

“We want to celebrate his story,” Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher said, “and leave inspired.”

Tickets for the breakfast are \$55 before Friday, April 11, and \$65 after. They may be purchased online at grossepointechamber.com.



New program

Next up, the chamber hosts its first Community Impact Day, which takes place 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.

“We will have a variety of projects and volunteer opportunities for people in Grosse Pointe and beyond,” Turnbull said. “It’s a big day of service. There will be things like gardening and painting, or even a one-off passion project.”

Projects range from picking up trash to gar-

dening to photography, Boettcher noted.

“It’s open to all ages,” she added. “Just come to the chamber’s website for a list of jobs. The volunteers can pick what projects they would like to work on.”

“We’re encouraging our members to use it as a team-building day,” Turnbull added. “They’ll be making our community even more beautiful as we go into the summer months.”

Available volunteer

opportunities include:

- ◆ The Helm — mulch and garden bed cleanup
- ◆ Ford House — garden cleanup and weeding
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods — planting flowers

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library branches — mulch laying at all branches and flower planting at Central Branch
- ◆ Trees of Grosse Pointe: A Living Heritage — capture photos to document trees in the Pointes

“It’s for nonprofit organizations that need extra helping hands,” Boettcher said, noting Community Impact Day is part of a statewide initiative that was created by a fellow Michigan chamber.

“They’d done it for several years and it became very popular,” Boettcher said. “They wanted to make it a Michigan initiative. We are among a dozen or so chambers in

Michigan participating in this Community Impact Day. It’s about bringing unity and working together as a team. This is our first year. We’re hoping by next year it will grow substantially.”

Volunteers must sign up to participate by Tuesday, April 8. Every registered volunteer will receive a Community Impact Day T-shirt from the chamber. At day’s end, volunteers will be treated to a barbecue at a location to be determined.

See CHAMBER, page 6B



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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.

Judith Kay Testa

Judith Kay Testa, 84, died peacefully Friday, Feb. 28, 2025. Judith had numerous nicknames, including Judy, Jude, Jibby Judy and Judy Pudy, to name a few. These terms of endearment were signs that she was dearly loved by those who knew her.

Judy was born May 22, 1940, at Harper Hospital in Detroit, the second child of Harold and Catherine Johnson. She was the dear wife of Robert Testa; and beloved mother of Lisa Ulbrich (Peter) and Rob Testa. She also is survived by her loving siblings, Barbara McBrearty, Harold Johnson (Jo Ann), Kitty Lavery (Fred) and Susan Peterson. She was predeceased by her youngest sibling, Mary Beth Sheehan; and brothers-in-law, William McBrearty and Robert Peterson. Her favorite title was that of grandmother to Jay, Chuck and Evie Ulbrich. She also was a caring aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Judy spent her early childhood in Detroit and attended St. Theresa Visitation School. Her family then moved to Grosse Pointe and she graduated from St. Paul High School in 1958. She married Bob in March 1968. She spent a number of years working at Campbell Ewald and then took time off to start a family. When she re-entered the workforce, she eventually landed at Adlhoch & Associates as the office manager and bookkeeper. She worked there for 42 years and made lifelong friends who continued to be an important part of her life, even after she retired at age 80.

Judy was an avid reader before her vision declined due to macular degeneration. She was creative and excelled at whatever new hobby she picked up, whether cooking, baking, crafting homemade ornaments, sewing or knitting. Her longest-lasting hobby was creating and painting various forms of pottery in the tiny room under the stairs, referred to as the “ceramic room” to this day, at her home on Parkcrest Drive, often doing so alongside her mom and daughter.

Judy learned to make

pasta, sauce and other traditional Italian dishes from the best — her mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law. She spent countless hours preparing these meals with love and was known for her amazing spaghetti and meatball dinners, which she only stopped making within the last year.

Judy was a considerate soul and a great listener with sage advice that she was thoughtful enough to dispense only upon request. Her quick wit kept her family, friends and co-workers in stitches. Some of her memorable sayings that hold a special place in her family’s hearts include, “This too shall pass,” “Treat others as you want to be treated,” “You never know what someone else is going through,” “That’s allota pachansa” (used to call someone out for being less than honest) and “You’re so good looking” (in response to a sneeze, as she was a big fan of “Seinfeld”).

There are many heartwarming memories of her, including her love for Johnny Mathis and Barbara Streisand, Pepsi over Coke and Bud Light over wine; her love notes and cards that made people feel like the most special person in the world; endless meals at National Coney Island, Salvatore Scallopini, Jumps Restaurant, Bogart’s Food & Spirits, Champs Rotisserie & Seafood and the front window table at City Kitchen; her stubborn refusal to wear denim or shorts; and her plethora of shirts, blouses and sweaters, all in beige. There also were a decade’s worth of summers spent at the Johnson farmhouse in Cheboygan, ferry rides to Mackinac Island, trips to the Detroit Zoo, summers spent at the cottage on Mullet Lake and annual reunions at Neff Park, just to name a few.

There were countless sporting events and recitals Grandma Pudy attended for all of her grandkids. She even was named honorary manager by her grandson’s basketball team and given her own jersey, as she was their most supportive fan. The lengths she would go to find the most obscure toys that were sold out everywhere were quite impressive. Her sleepovers and play-

dates were legendary and frequent. Jay, Chuck and Evie were her pride and joy. She never missed an opportunity to share her wisdom and affection with them and they will never question how special they were to her. This close bond was evident by the fact they had weekly phone calls with her.

Even near the end of her life, when the tasks of daily living were becoming more difficult, Judy often led with kindness and appreciation. Almost every person who interacted with her made it a point to tell Judy’s family she thanked them for doing their job well. It was such a simple gesture, yet people were incredulous that someone in her situation would be so thoughtful as to make them feel valued. Judy was a gem and her legacy of love will be treasured by so many.

Funeral services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the BrightFocus Foundation for macular degeneration research, 22512 Gateway Center Dr., Clarksburg, MD 20871, donate.brightfocus.org/bff/donate.

Jean Marie Lyon Kennary

Jean Marie Lyon Kennary, 95, passed away Sunday, March 9, 2025, at home in her sleep after a nice evening spent with family. She was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her life was marked by compassion for others and an unwavering faith.

Jean was born March 23, 1929, in Detroit, to Gladys Yole Lyon and James Bertram Lyon, who were originally from Fort Ann, N.Y.

Jean graduated from St. Anthony High School in Detroit in 1946. She was a dedicated student with a thirst for knowledge and enjoyed the sciences. She also was a member of the St. Anthony’s basketball team and remembered her high school years fondly.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit in 1950. Following her academic interests, Jean pursued a career in chemistry and worked as



Judith Kay Testa



Jean Marie Kennary



Carol L. Marantic

a researcher at Parke-Davis from 1950-58, testing chemical compounds in pharmaceutical drug trials.

She married James Martin Kennary Jr., M.D., in June 1955, in Detroit. Several years later, Jean and Jim moved to Grosse Pointe Farms, where they raised their four children.

Those who knew Jean can attest that family and faith were the most important aspects of her life. She devoted countless hours volunteering with the Christ Child Society, Bon Secours Assistance League and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church and School.

Jean was a life member of the Tau Beta Association and an active member of the Country Club of Detroit, where she was known to be a fiercely competitive master bridge player. She also loved playing euchre “with the younger girls.” She enjoyed some “bad golf” and her ladies’ bowling league over the years. Jean also was an avid reader and never seemed to be without a book. Another favorite activity was doing research and investing in the stock market as a member of several women’s investment clubs.

Jean loved researching genealogy and family history, often dragging her children and friends to churches and graveyards all over the world. She traveled extensively throughout her life to many destinations with friends and family.

At 95, Jean lived independently in her beloved, memory-filled home of more than 60 years. She also kept up with the times, following friends and family on Instagram with her handle @grandmajlk. Those who knew Jean will remember her quick wit, fierce independence, style and grace. She will leave a lasting impact on all who crossed her path.

Jean was predeceased by her husband, James M. Kennary Jr., M.D.; and sister, Kathryn Lyon Michalik. She is survived by her daughters, Ellen Doyle (Michael) of Grosse Pointe Farms, Maureen Watkins (David) of Pisgah Forest, N.C. and Leland, and Jean Kennary of Pompano Beach, Fla.; and son, James M. Kennary III (Gay Chapman) of Pacific Palisades, Calif. She also is survived by eight grandchildren, Bridget Doyle, Hanna Doyle (Erik Swift), Jack Doyle, Sarah Watkins, William Watkins (Margot Sheridan), Elizabeth Watkins, Hadley Kennary (Collin Pastore) and Griffin Kennary.

Visitation will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 22, in the gathering space at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A funeral Mass will follow at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may

be made to the Pope Francis Center, 2915 W. Hancock, Detroit, MI 48208, popefranciscenter.org/#donate.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Carol L. Marantic

Carol L. Marantic, 88, of St. Clair Shores, passed away peacefully Friday, March 7, 2025.

Carol was born Sept. 26, 1936, to Ches and Kathryn Larsen of Detroit. She attended The Liggett School in Detroit (now University Liggett School), where she made many lifelong friends. She went on to achieve a degree at Michigan State University.

Carol married Robert J. Marantic and had two sons. They lived in Grosse Pointe many years, until her husband’s death in 2015. She then moved to St. Clair Shores.

Those who knew Carol remember her as an avid sports fan and loyal Spartan and will remember her love of Detroit and its history and her pride in her family heritage. Her friends admired her strong and independent spirit, candor and humor.

The family is respecting Carol’s wishes to have a private service for immediate family only at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, where she will be interred with her veteran husband, Robert.

Carol is survived by her son, John; and nephew, Tigre. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert, in 2015; and eldest son, Michael, in 2009.

William F. Foote

William F. Foote, 74, died Friday, March 14, 2025, after a battle with lung and other cancers.

William was born April 11, 1950, in Stevens Point, Wis., to William J. Foote and Blanche Quinncannon Foote. He grew up in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., where he graduated from Assumption High School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps, served in Vietnam and received an honorable discharge as a lance corporal. He received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Saint Norbert College in De Pere, Wis., and worked for various non-governmental organizations resettling refugees from Southeast Asia. He then worked as a federal agent hearing cases for asylum.

William most recently lived in Grosse Pointe. He was the proud father of two amazing sons, Brian and Alexander. He leaves behind three siblings, Mary Foote of New York City, John Foote of Chaska, Minn., and Daniel Foote of Grove City, Ohio, as well as various nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents;



Joan Geisler

and two sisters, Martha and Anne.

A memorial service will take place at a later date in Wisconsin. Memorial donations may be made to St. Coletta of Wisconsin, N4637 County Road Y, Jefferson, WI 53549, stcolettawi.org/donate.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Joan Geisler

Joan (nee Houle) Geisler, 78, passed away Friday, March 14, 2025, surrounded by family after a five-year courageous battle with kidney and heart failure.

Joan was born Nov. 2, 1946, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She and her family moved to Detroit and then Dearborn Heights, where she graduated from Lowrey High School in 1965. She then moved to Grosse Pointe, where she spent her college years at Wayne State University.

During her graduation ceremony in 1969, she met the love of her life, Karl Geisler. With more than 50 years of marriage, children Lisa and Janet (Todd), plus grandchildren Connor, Abigail, Joel and Whitaker, life was very good to the couple.

Joan’s first career was teaching elementary school. She then stayed home to raise her family. During that time she was active at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, teaching Sunday school and adult education. She also was active in the leadership of her church and led ministries for the Southeastern Synod Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America. With the call of the Holy Spirit, she became an associate in ministry and served three congregations before retiring in 2000.

Traveling to more than 30 countries with Karl was always a delight. She believed God’s world was amazing. When health prevented her from traveling, Joan’s interests continued with creative endeavors such as decorating and gardening, with Karl’s help.

A celebration of Joan’s life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 22, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, 5631 N. Adams, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

See OBITS, page 5B

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OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Jeffrey Hartwick Connor

Jeffrey Hartwick Connor, 57, died Friday, March 7, 2025, surrounded by his family in Walnut Creek, Calif., after an extended illness.

Jeffrey was born Sept. 14, 1967, in Detroit, to Laurence and Clare Connor. He spent his early days in Grosse Pointe, where he attended University Liggett School through sixth grade. He then enrolled in Eaglebrook Middle School in Deerfield, Mass., and graduated in 1986 from Pomfret School in Pomfret, Conn. After a year at Miami University, he attended New York University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in education in 1990, and a master's degree in education in 1992.

Jeff was a teacher throughout his entire working life. He started teaching public school in the Bronx after graduation and then returned to Eaglebrook in 1996, where he taught English, coached football, basketball and baseball and served as chairman of the performing arts department. After leaving Eaglebrook, he held a series of teaching appointments at various locations throughout the northeast, Florida and California, and also engaged in online teaching and tutoring for various private organizations. While teaching in New York, Jeff met and fell in love with Erika Argueta. They married in 1998, and had two children.

He was a man of many interests. Despite living all over the country, he was a loyal Detroit and Michigan sports fan and faithfully followed all the Detroit teams, as well as those of the University of Michigan. Throughout his life, he maintained his keen interest in drama and the arts and produced several plays while living in New York. He often promoted student participation in drama and artistic productions at his teaching locations. A talented musician, he played piano and guitar, wrote music and entertained many with his ability to improvise and pick up tunes by ear. He also was a writer and was working on a book at the time of his death. He loved the outdoors, particularly the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and Vermont, where he had a home near Brattleboro. From 2022 to 2024, he temporarily moved to Grosse Pointe to help care for his mother, who was experiencing serious medical problems. His compassion also was demonstrated by the many hours throughout his life he spent as a volunteer for hospice.

Jeff was a loyal and devoted family man and friend with sincere empathy for others. His compelling personality, talent, unique sense of humor and intelligent insights on life will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Jeff was predeceased by his mother, Clare Connor. He is survived by his wife, Erika; their two children, Alexandra and Benjamin; his father, Laurence Connor; and sister, Lynne Scoville (Larry). A private memorial will be held at a later date in northern Michigan.



Jeffrey Hartwick Connor

Memorial donations may be made to the New England Youth Theater, 100 Flat, Brattleboro, VT 05301, neyt.org/2024-annual-appeal, or the giver's local hospice chapter.

George Theodore Roumell Jr.

George Theodore Roumell Jr., 96, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

George was born in Port Huron and grew up in Detroit. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan, where he was student body president. Passionate about his alma mater, he chanted "Go Blue!" all of his waking days. In 1954, George graduated from Harvard Law School, where he won its Ames Moot Court Competition. It was at Harvard that Professor Archibald Cox, who went on to be solicitor general of the United States, foreshadowed George's career by giving him an A+ in his Labor Law class.

Upon graduating from law school, George returned to Detroit. Following Federal Court and Michigan Supreme Court judicial clerkships, he went into private practice and specialized in labor law. In 1968, along with a high school classmate, he formed the law firm, Riley and Roumell.

Known for his outstanding oratory skills, George argued one of the leading civil rights desegregation cases before the U.S. Supreme Court — *Milliken v. Bradley* (Milliken II). He developed a nationwide labor arbitration practice and was a prolific arbitrator up until his death. He also was a frequent keynote speaker at labor law conferences around the U.S.

For more than 60 years, a role George cherished was teaching labor law at Detroit College of Law, which later became the Michigan State University College of Law. He became the longest-serving faculty member in its history and was known for having a significant influence on his students.

Roumell served as president of the State Bar of Michigan from 1985-86. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards, including the State Bar of Michigan's Roberts P. Hudson Award, John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award and American Bar Association Whitney North Seymour Award. A service to celebrate his life will take place at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 4, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Michigan State University College of Law George Roumell Scholarship fund, give.msu.edu/?sid=19862.



George T. Roumell Jr.

Jean Leete Stewart

Jean Leete Stewart, 88, passed away Monday, March 3, 2025.

Laughter, smiles, connection and a sense of irony were the keys to Jean's life. She was fortunate enough to have a beneficial education at Grosse Pointe High School, Smith College and post-degree studies at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her lifelong friends gave her so much pleasure, including a happy 64-year marriage to the kind, fun-loving Donald Bruce Stewart, with whom she shared the love of art, choral music, dancing, sports and travel.

Jean started singing with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church under director Malcolm Johns and continued with the Smith College Glee Club and Noteworthy — a 12-member ensemble of the Ibex Arts Group in Grosse Pointe. She also sang with the Alpena Community Chorus under Jim and Mary Louise Hart until 2023, as well as many church choirs. She and Don were co-presidents of the Villagers Dance Club and danced wherever it was allowed. They both loved painting and had many watercolor and oil paintings in competitions at Art in The Loft in Alpena and Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan. She and Don were active members of the Thunder Bay Arts Council and she was a member of the Northeast Michigan Artist Guild. They traveled the world, including 49 of the 50 United States. Her life work included setting up and managing dental and medical offices downstate and teaching first to ninth grade.

Her work life with Don included co-managing LaQuinta Hotels and a wholesale jewelry business named Small Bridge Studios with locations in Michigan and Arizona. They also repped artists' lines of jewelry at art shows.

Jean loved sports her entire life, from synchronized swimming with Grosse Pointe High School and Smith College teams, to competitive swimming at the Detroit Boat Club, where she was co-captain. Don and Jean played golf at Alpena Golf Club and Lost Lake Woods and enjoyed team tennis.

Her loving, exuberant and fun-loving family includes Don; their two sons, Robert Bruce Leete (Mindy) and Jonathan Bruce (Jane); and five grandchildren, Ellen George Stewart (Dylan Brown), Anna Leete Stewart, Robert Bruce Stewart Jr., Grace Carolyn Stewart and Duncan MacKenzie Stewart. She joins her sister, Anne Parcells; and stepsister, Mary Evelyn. She also is survived by siblings, John Hopkin Leete (Trudy) and Liz Hacking; and stepsister, Susan Schuur Plotkin.

Jean will be cremated at Gillies Funeral Home in Lincoln, Mich. A service



Jean Leete Stewart

takes place 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at New Life Lutheran Church in Spruce. Memorial donations may be made to the church, 25 Kirche in the Woods, Spruce, MI 48762, or Hospice of Michigan, hom.org/donate/.

William Brewster Moseley

William Brewster Moseley, 95, passed away Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

William was born Dec. 28, 1929, in Evanston, Ill., to George and Maude Moseley. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California and a Master of Business Administration degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He began his career in the Page Program at NBC in Los Angeles and then went on to lead a long and illustrious career in advertising in New York City, working on various successful campaigns. His career then led him to Newport Beach, Calif., where he served as marketing director for Century 21. He retired from Credit Acceptance Corp., in Southfield.

William enjoyed sailing, bowling, playing tennis, gardening and traveling. He and his wife, Maxine, traveled most of the world together. He was a member of the Country Club of Detroit and The Grunyons a capella group.

William is survived by his wife of 26 years, Maxine Manley Moseley; daughters, Deborah, Carolyn Mandala (the late Michael) and Katherine Krieg (Christopher); sons, Mark and Bradford (Sunny); step-daughters, Michele Klippstein (Thomas) and Melissa MacLeod (Andrew); and grandchildren, Max Mandala, Katherine Mandala, Margaret Krieg, Michael Krieg, Grace Krieg, Noah Moseley, Neely Klippstein, Andrew MacLeod, Kaley MacLeod and Allyson MacLeod. He was predeceased by his parents; sister, Melissa Foulke; and brothers, Spencer and Thomas Moseley.

His family greatly thanks K&K Elder Caregivers for their compassionate care.

He will be interred at Lake Forest Cemetery in



William B. Moseley

Illinois.

Memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army, 16130 Northland Dr., Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3XRrk7i, or a charity of the giver's choice.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Karen Albrecht

Karen Albrecht, 74, passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and friend.

Born Nov. 27, 1950, in Detroit, Karen was raised in Grosse Pointe Farms and later became a long-time resident of St. Clair Shores. She touched the lives of many with her kindness, warmth and unwavering dedication to her family and community.

Karen married John S. Albrecht Jr. in 1974, and they shared 30 wonderful years together until his passing in 2005. In later years, she found companionship and joy with her life partner, Fredrick Lees. She is survived by her son, John "Steve" Albrecht (Amy); and daughter, Lisa Marie Charron. She was a beloved grandmother to Jack and John Charron and Ryan, Miles and Norah Albrecht. She cherished the love of her extended Lees family, including Fred's five children, Keri, Fred, Jason, Erin and Ryan, along with their nine children and four great-grandchildren. She also is survived by her sister, Diane Crook; and her niece and nephew, Colleen Prykucki and Patrick Crook.

Karen graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1968. She spent much of her career dedicated to public service, working in various roles before becoming the court administrator for the city of Grosse Pointe Park. She was respected for her professionalism, diligence and care for those she served.

Karen found joy in the simple pleasures of life, such as spending time with family and friends, listening to good music, playing games, cooking, traveling and camping. She will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, humor and the love she shared with all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever cherished in the hearts of those who loved



Karen Albrecht



Brian James Colter

her. A celebration of Karen's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3000 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48207, svdpdetroit.org/Donate.

Brian James Colter

Brian James Colter, 57, passed away Saturday, March 15, 2025, at home in Grosse Pointe Park.

Brian was born June 1, 1967, in Detroit, to Lorne "Larry" and Doris Colter. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in urban forestry from Michigan State University. He then worked as an urban forester for Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms and the City of Grosse Pointe.

Brian was a founding director of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation. He also was involved with Keep Michigan Beautiful, the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan, Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission and Grosse Pointe City Urban Forestry Commission. He also enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, camping and watching sports.

Brian is survived by his longtime partner, Lisa Kyle; daughter, Jane Colter; son, Zachary Colter; stepson, William Kyle; sister, Nancy Hascall (Allan); and brother, Alan Colter (Lisa).

Memorial donations may be made to Keep Michigan Beautiful, P.O. Box 23215, Lansing, MI 48909; or the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation, 7876 S. Van Dyke, Marlette, MI 48453, arboriculturesocietymichigan.org/donate-now/.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

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6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

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GPPL announces its 2025 Books on the Lake authors

The Grosse Pointe Public Library has another unforgettable experience planned for the 2025 Books on the Lake author event. This year’s authors are Annie Hartnett and Shelby Van Pelt.

“Animals are a theme that tie together these two award-winning authors,” Library Director Jessica Keyser said. “We’re confident you’ll be talking about these two authors and their books for weeks to come.”

The brunch takes place Saturday, May 10, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets are \$40 per person and go on sale online at 9 a.m. Monday, April 7.

“Everybody who reads it wants other people to read it,” said a bookseller about “Remarkably



Annie Hartnett

Bright Creatures,” by Shelby Van Pelt.

It’s been on the New York Times Hardcover Fiction Bestseller List for 58 weeks. It was a “Read with Jenna” book club pick and an Indie Next List pick. “Remarkably Bright Creatures” is Van Pelt’s debut novel. She graduated cum laude from Claremont McKenna College with a degree in politics, philos-



Shelby Van Pelt

ophy and economics. Van Pelt grew up in Tacoma, Wash., and currently lives outside Chicago.

Annie Hartnett is the author of three novels, “Rabbit Cake,” “Unlikely Animals” and “The Road to Tender Hearts,” coming out this spring. “Unlikely Animals” was listed as one of the best books of 2022 by The Washington Post and BookRiot. It was the win-

ner of the 2023 Julia Ward Howe prize for fiction and was long-listed for the Joyce Carol Oates Prize.

Hartnett was awarded fellowships and residencies from the MacDowell Colony, Sewanee Writers’ Conference and the Associates of the Boston Public Library. She has degrees from the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Alabama, Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf School of English and Hamilton College.

Presenting sponsors are Wayne County Community College District, Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

For more information, visit the Grosse Pointe Public Library website, grossepointelibrary.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

21, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Phil Matous speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

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

◆ 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.

◆ An Evening with Chef Joe Paxton, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28. Tickets are \$98.

GPAA

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

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

◆ Graphite Pencil Basics with Saveria Giovinazzo, 10 a.m. to noon Fridays, April 4, 11 and 25, and May 2.

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.

◆ 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.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening hosts a day of screenings for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions Wednesday, March 26, at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. Registration is required. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will help create packages based on an individual’s age and risk factors. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit lifelinecreening.com.

Wild Birds

Wild Birds Unlimited, 20381 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts the free program, “Woodpeckers of Michigan,” presented by Rosann Kovalcik, at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30. Guests will learn facts and details about the nine species of woodpeckers that call Michigan home. Space is limited; call (313) 881-1410 to reserve a seat.

CHAMBER:

Continued from page 3B

Inside/Out

The chamber applied and was selected to partner with the Detroit Institute of Arts for its Inside/Out program, which brings replicas of artwork housed at the DIA into the community.

“We’re going to have 14 installations throughout all of Grosse Pointe,” Boettcher said. “It starts in May and goes through October.”

“There will be a mix of paintings on walls or on stakes in the ground,”

Turnbull added. “We’ll be doing some small events to encourage people to see the paintings and support the businesses that are hosting them. It will help drive traffic to various businesses.”

Representatives from the DIA and the chamber hit the town to find sites that would best fit the project.

“All the businesses are thrilled to be a part of this,” Boettcher said, adding that maps will be available and tours could be offered as well, “so everybody has the opportunity to see the

artwork.”

“The DIA is excited because Grosse Pointe is not just one city, but a group of cities that will represent different pieces,” Turnbull added.

“This will offer, not just the community, but surrounding communities as well, the chance to come and see all the art,” Boettcher said.

On tap

The chamber’s work springs into summer and fall with several annual events. Boettcher and Turnbull asked the community to save the dates for the

following:

◆ Legacy on the Lake — 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at Ford House

◆ Grosse Pointe Art Festival — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, on The Hill

◆ Nonprofit Mixer, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Ford House

◆ Power of Pink, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at The War Memorial

◆ Santa Claus Parade, 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28, along Kercheval Avenue

For more information, visit grossepointechamber.com or call (313) 881-4722.



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Cancer free! Mini Picassos founder to return to teaching after successful treatment

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After a fender bender last fall led to the diagnosis of stage 2 triple-negative breast cancer, Katy Wereley stepped away from Mini Picassos, the art studio for children that she founded a decade ago.

Since September, Wereley has endured 17 rounds of chemotherapy and five weeks ago had a double mastectomy.

Though her body rejected the post-treatment immunotherapy — which attacked her renal and digestive systems — she has since recovered and, as of March 5, Wereley has officially been declared cancer free.

“NEOD — no evidence of disease — is how they say it now,” she said. “I still have some recovery to do, a couple months of getting back to life.”

While she’s been handling some behind-the-scenes work with Mini Picassos during her illness, she plans to get back into teaching this summer. Camps are planned in June, July and August. She said she’s looking forward to the summer sessions, but more so reuniting with the Mini Picassos families and children.

“They really are my other family, the other



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY WERELEY

Mini Picassos founder Katy Wereley “rings the bell,” signifying she is cancer-free following months of treatment.

half of me,” Wereley said. “Miss Heather — my mom — and Miss Grace and Miss Colleen really took on a lot when I was going through treatment. Mini Picassos would not have survived without

them.”

Wereley credited the entire community for its support the past six months.

“With the help of my family and friends and with the community rallying around me — checking on me, calling, texting, the meals they brought us — the community and my family and friends got me through this 100 percent,” she said. “I couldn’t have done this without my family and friends. This was a life-changing experience. You have your family, but when you realize you have a bigger tribe around you to take care of you, it’s awe-inspiring.”

She also thanked the team of doctors and nurses who took excellent care of her. Though immunotherapy is off the table, she’ll have regular bloodwork drawn to make sure she stays healthy.

“They’ll watch me like a hawk until the end of the year,” she said.

Wereley also is doing her part to stay healthy. She recently joined the Neighborhood Club gym so she can walk on a treadmill with a friend.

“I’m trying to get back to life,” she said. “And I’m enjoying the little

things — like giving baths to my kids. I washed my 6-year-old’s hair yesterday. It was the first time I’d done that in a long time. I was exhausted. But I’m enjoying the little things.

“... Thank you to everybody for rallying around my family and myself,” she added. “I literally

don’t have the words to describe the gratitude, thanks and love for everybody who supported me, my husband, my kids and Mini Picassos. That amount of love I felt during the scariest time of my life, I can’t explain it. It’s really amazing. ‘Thanks’ is not big enough to describe it.”

For more information about Mini Picassos, visit minipicassosstudio.com.

Summer Camps

In addition to its drop-in hours — noon to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays — art camps for all ages are offered this summer through Mini Picassos.

June camps include:

- ♦ Pop Star Camp, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 16, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$45.
- ♦ American Girl Camp, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$65.
- ♦ Three-Day Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, June 18 to 20, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.
- ♦ Half-Day Full-week Camp, 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, June 23 to 27, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.
- ♦ Slime Workshop, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, June 30, for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$35.
- ♦ June Drop-in Days

for Play Village and Art Zone, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

July camps include:

- ♦ Bead Making, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$40.
- ♦ Watercolor Workshop, noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$40.
- ♦ Tie Dye Camp, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 10, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$50.
- ♦ Painting Camp, 9 a.m. to noon Friday, July 11, for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$45.
- ♦ Wicked Camp, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$50.
- ♦ LEGO Camp, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, for all ages. Cost is \$35.
- ♦ Dino Camp, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, for all ages. Cost is \$36.
- ♦ Slime Workshop, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 17, for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$35.
- ♦ Half-Day Full-Week Camp, noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 21 to 25, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.
- ♦ Three-Day Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, July 28 to 30, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.
- ♦ Book Making & Bubble Letters, 1 to 3

See RETURN, page 12B



Wereley received great support during treatment, including from her youngest, 6-year-old Emma.



Wereley stands among her infusion team at the Van Elslander Cancer Center, where she received treatment.

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Dr. Shauna Diggs, CosmedicDerm offer the latest in skin care

Wrinkles and blemishes are just a few of the thousands of conditions that affect the skin. Some cause mild symptoms, while others may be serious and interfere with everyday life. A dermatologist is a doctor who specializes in treating the skin, hair and nails. While some treatments improve the look of your skin, others, such as checkups for skin cancer, can save lives.

Dr. Shauna Ryder Diggs is Michigan's leader in comprehensive skin health and rejuvenation. Her practice, CosmedicDerm, is located in The Village of Grosse Pointe and offers patients the most cutting-edge treatments available.

PiQo4 is the latest laser technology on the market and is used to help with a number of different pigment conditions or for overall rejuvenation. The PiQo4 laser targets pigment in the skin to remove sun and age spots, freckles and birth marks, and create a more even skin tone.

This also is the best way to remove tattoos because it removes all color pigments, meaning fewer treatments for the patients, Diggs said.

Along with improving abnormal pigment, the PiQo4 laser also is used for overall skin rejuvena-

tion. The laser stimulates new collagen grown to promote smoother, younger-looking skin. "This is a great way for patients to just improve their overall look," Diggs said. The NuEra Tight and Legend Pro are two new devices in the office. They provide the most powerful solution on the market today for non-invasive skin tightening, reduction of cellulite and the treatment of wrinkles.

Using radio frequency, wrinkled areas on the neck and cellulite on the body can be gently heated to tighten the skin. Typically treatments last about 30 minutes and are very comfortable with no downtime.

Diggs listens to patients and responds by offering the latest in dermatology, which is why she recently added the PiQo4, Splendor X, NuEra and Legend Pro to her practice.

Additional cosmetic options are available, as are medical treatments for acne, skin cancer and other skin conditions.

Diggs cares for all ages and is an American Board of Dermatology-certified dermatologist, a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and a Fellow of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.



Dr. Shauna Diggs

She's a graduate of the University of Michigan and served as the first medical director of the Detroit Medical Center Advanced Laser Treatment Center.

She is the creator of the CosmedicDerm Professional Skin Care line, products formulated with green tea, vitamin- and fruit-based antioxidants and retinol, all of which promote skin health and natural beauty.

In addition, she recently was named one of Hour Magazine's Top Docs.

"I like to think I bring the latest technology, but practice in a traditional way," she said.

CosmedicDerm is located at 17000 Kercheval, Ste. 215, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, visit drshaunadiggs.com or call (313) 882-5777.



Hampton Manor residents celebrate Mardi Gras in style.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hampton Manor communities prioritize quality of life

"Make a list of your worries and responsibilities," reads the tagline for Hampton Manor communities. "Now crinkle it up and throw it in the trash."

As country club-style senior living communities, Hampton Manor curates a luxury lifestyle for its residents that comes fully loaded with state-of-the-art apartment features, comforting amenities and a plethora of services.

"While we invite you to bring your favorite furniture, memories and hobbies to Hampton Manor Assisted Living, we ask that you leave what's weighing you down behind," the community invites. "Chores like washing your windows, mowing your yard or trudging up and down your steps with a basket of laundry are now in the past, which leaves your present open to be filled with what brings you joy."

Time previously spent checking off a never-ending to-do list now can shift to cookouts, exercise classes, movie nights and in-house concerts.

"My grandfather was not only comfortable, but happy," reads a recent Google review of the Clinton Township location. "They conduct weekly fun activities and try to give wholesome experiences to the people living there. The management is very hands-on and very responsive. I also appreciate how clean and neat the facilities are."

Allowing residents to enjoy freedom

with the right level of support, care is personalized to the individual, with premier independent living, assisted living and memory care apartments, featuring multiple open floor plans from which to choose.

"Our excellent memory care program offers personalized, close attention to your loved ones, with a specialized focus on Alzheimer's and dementia care," a representative noted.

The apartments feature exterior security cameras, Wi-Fi, kitchenettes, energy-efficient appliances, cable, secure entrances, casual and formal dining rooms, hair and nail salons, outdoor patio areas, wearable emergency call pendants, are smoke-free and welcome pet visitors.

Additional amenities include:

- ◆ Housekeeping services
- ◆ Meal plan options
- ◆ Scheduled outings and activities
- ◆ 24-hour emergency maintenance
- ◆ Laundry service
- ◆ Game room with pool table
- ◆ Moving assistance

Hampton Manor communities are located in St. Clair Shores, Clinton Township, Macomb Township and St. Clair.

Those interested may inquire about \$3,500 available in savings.

Call (586) 785-0005 to explore the community.

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Our state-of-the-art community features luxury one-story floor plans, including optional barrier-free designs for added convenience and accessibility. Residents can enjoy resort-style amenities such as exercise and wellness programs, a movie theater, library, pub, nail salon and much more!

Hampton Manor offers peace of mind and exceptional care, allowing you or your loved ones to embrace a fulfilling, worry-free lifestyle while staying connected to the community you love.

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"Coming Soon" to St. Clair Shores. Call for details.



The future of skin rejuvenation: The Skin & Laser Center introduces cutting-edge UltraClear technology

When it comes to top-tier skin care and preventative treatments, the Skin & Laser Center in Grosse Pointe has long been at the forefront. Known for their expertise in dermatology and advanced laser treatments, Dr. Ferrara and Dr. Caretti continue to elevate patient care by bringing the latest technology to the community. Their newest addition, the UltraClear laser, is setting a new standard for effective, customizable and minimally invasive skin rejuvenation.

“We’re really excited about this particular laser because it delivers results on a broad spectrum while significantly reducing downtime and discomfort,” Dr. Ferrara said. “In the past, CO2 ablative lasers modified both the epidermis and the deeper dermis, but came with longer healing times and discomfort. UltraClear gives us the benefits of CO2 without those drawbacks.”

The UltraClear laser is a 2910 nm cold fiber laser, a significant advancement in the field. Unlike traditional ablative lasers, this new technology offers a range of customizable treatments.

“What makes this laser unique is its adaptability,” Dr. Caretti explained. “If a patient has superficial pigmentation concerns, we can adjust it to work at more superficial levels. For deeper wrinkles and collagen stimulation, we can target deeper layers of the dermis, all with the same device.”

This level of customization means patients can opt for everything from a quick lunchtime treatment to a more intensive skin resurfacing treatment, depending on their needs. One of the most exciting breakthroughs of UltraClear is its ability to safely treat delicate areas that were previously dif-



Dr. Ferrara



Dr. Caretti

ficult to address, such as the eyelids and neck.

“There was always a challenge in treating these areas safely and effectively,” Dr. Ferrara said. “Now, with the integration of a micro-coring component, we can precisely target these areas with high safety and efficacy.”

UltraClear also is expanding treatment options for patients with varying skin types, reducing the risk of post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, which historically has been a concern with laser treatments on darker skin tones.

“Being able to offer these treatments safely to a broader range of patients is a game changer,” Dr. Caretti said.

Beyond its applications in anti-aging, UltraClear is proving effective for acne scarring, surgical scars and pigmentary issues.

“It really is a multi-use tool,” Dr. Ferrara said. “It fits perfectly within our existing range of laser therapies. For those hesitant about fully ablative treatments due to long healing times, this offers an impressive in-between solution, delivering significant results without extended downtime.”

With UltraClear, the Skin & Laser Center is continuing its mission to provide state-of-the-art care to the Grosse Pointe community. Whether a patient is looking for a subtle refresh or a transformative skin rejuvenation treatment, this technology offers safe, effective and customizable solutions.

For those interested in learning more about UltraClear and its capabilities, consultations are available at the Skin & Laser Center. With Dr. Ferrara and Dr. Caretti leading the way, cutting-edge skin care is more accessible than ever.



Movement: The best prescription for low back pain

By Lindsay Smith, M.D.

Low back pain is one of the most common reasons patients visit their primary care doctor. It is the leading cause of non-illness-related disability in the U.S. and will affect about three out of four people at some point during their lifetime. Common causes include poor posture, muscle strain and injuries, with symptoms ranging from a dull ache to sharp pain, often accompanied by stiffness, muscle spasms and limited mobility.

If you experience an acute episode of low back pain, taking a day or two to rest may help, but prolonged inactivity can slow recovery. While back pain can make daily activities like sitting, standing or bending difficult, research consistently shows that movement is the best way to prevent and treat the problem.

Incorporating gentle, regular exercise into your routine can reduce discomfort and prevent future issues. A study in the British Journal of



Lindsay Smith, M.D.

Sports Medicine found that exercise programs — including yoga, Pilates, stabilization exercises, aerobics and resistance training — effectively treat chronic low back pain. Strengthening core and abdominal muscles helps support the spine, reducing strain and minimizing pain. Additionally, incorporating flexibility exercises can prevent stiffness and muscle spasms.

Small daily changes — such as improving posture and avoiding prolonged sitting — can

make a big difference. Low-impact activities like walking, swimming and biking help maintain mobility. A study in the journal Lancet found that walking 30 minutes, five times a week, significantly reduces low back pain and decreases medical visits.

By staying consistent with movement and listening to your body, you can regain strength, reduce pain and return to the activities you love. If you’re unsure which exercises are best, consult a healthcare provider or consider physical therapy for personalized guidance.

Dr. Lindsay Smith practices with her partner, Dr. Kellie Wendzinski, at Corewell Health Primary Care, 15200 Kercheval Ave., in Grosse Pointe Park. Both are accepting new patients and often have same-day availability.



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Before4 Weeks Post 1 Treatment



Courtesy of Skincare by Amy Peterson

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Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- View falls as controllable
- Set goals for increasing activity
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- Anyone who has fallen in the past
- Anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

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Program is one 2-hour class per week for 8 weeks.
FREE to all participants!

Limited space, register early!
Minimum 5, maximum 15 participants.

For more information or to register, please visit
www.neighborhoodclub.net
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Register by Sunday, April 20th



Know Your Skin

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, M.D.

Do you regularly check your skin?

Everyone should do a skin exam at least every 4-8 weeks. And if you or family members have a history of skin cancer, it is especially important to do regular self skin examinations of your entire body, from your scalp down to the soles of the feet. But what do you look for?

A good tool to use is the ABCDE's. Benign lesions are typically round (symmetrical); an Asymmetric shape (the "A") is often a sign that a mole could be cancerous. Also, the Borders (the "B") of suspicious lesions are often uneven with jagged or notched edges. Color (the "C") is another important characteristic. Lesions that have multiple shades of colors or are very dark in color should be brought to your physician's attention. Large moles with a Diameter larger than



the eraser on a pencil (the "D") may also indicate malignancy. Watch for lesions that are starting to evolve or change (the "E") in one of these areas. Most benign lesions do not change over time.

Once you bring a lesion to the attention of your doctor, she/he may recommend biopsy, destruction, excision or other complete removal, or you may be advised to continue to watch the lesion, depending on the diagnosis.

If you have a suspicious lesion, or to learn more about skin exams, contact your dermatologist, or call us at Eastside Dermatology, Dr. Lisa A. Manz-Dulac and Associates.

Eastside Dermatology has offices in Grosse Pointe Woods, New Baltimore and Hartland. You can reach them at (313) 884-3380 or (586) 716-1291.



Growing Smiles Pediatric Dentistry in conjunction with PGS Dentistry are excited to announce expansion

"We are thrilled to announce a significant transformation at our dental and orthodontic office. In our continuous effort to provide the best possible care to our patients, we are undergoing a comprehensive renovation that will double our current space and be ready by June 1, 2025," stated Jared Slanec, D.D.S., owner.

Our primary goal with this renovation is to create a more welcoming, efficient and state-of-the-art environment for our patients.

"By doubling our office space, we aim to accommodate more dental and orthodontic patients, increase the number of available appointments, introduce the latest technology and equipment for superior care and enhance patient comfort and experience for both adults and children," said Kristy Slanec, co-owner.

"This expansion is not just about increasing our capacity; it's about giving back to the community that has supported us over the years," Slanec continued.

Key benefits of the expansion include additional space and resources, we can offer more appointment slots, reducing waiting times and making it easier for patients to schedule visits that fit their busy lives. The expanded facility will allow us to provide a wider range of services under one roof, ensuring that all dental and orthodontic needs are met efficiently and effectively.

"The best part is community health, by expanding our capabilities, we are better equipped to contribute to the overall health and well-being of our community, promoting healthier smiles and better oral hygiene," Slanec said.

"We understand that renovations can be disruptive, but we are dedicated to minimizing any inconvenience to our patients. Throughout the renovation process, we will continue to operate and provide the high-quality care you have come to expect from us. Our team is working diligently to ensure a smooth transition, and we are confident that the result will be well worth it," said Angela Tuzzolino, office manager.

"This renovation and expansion project marks a new chapter in our journey. We are excited about the opportunities it brings and the positive impact it will have on our patients and the community. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our practice. We look forward to welcoming you to our newly renovated office and serving you with enhanced care and services this June," Slanec said.

One new feature the team has already put into place is online booking at PGSdentistry.com.

The staff at Growing Smiles and PGS Dentistry advised to stay tuned for updates on the progress of renovation via their social media platforms, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns at (586) 800-GROW (4769) or (586) 800-PGS1 (7471). Together, we are building a brighter, healthier future for our community!



COURTESY PHOTO

The team at PGS Dentistry is all smiles about their expansion.

Eastside Dermatology

NATALIA FILIPOF, M.D.
LISA A. MANZ-DULAC, M.D.
D. MICHAEL PIERNICK II, M.D.
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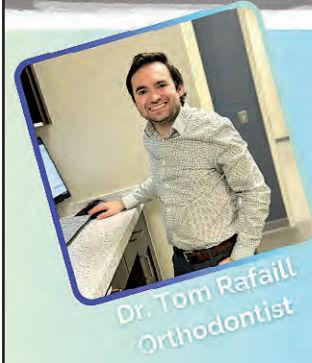
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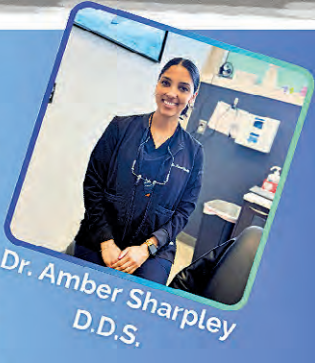
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Hackett Homecare: ‘Our family caring for your family’

At Hackett Homecare, clients always receive top-of-the-line service. Hackett has core values of trust, honesty, integrity and compassion. Their slogan, “Our family, caring for yours,” demonstrates the personal touch clients will receive.

Founder and owner John Hackett is a Grosse Pointe Farms native who grew up in the Grosse Pointes. John has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – BSN. After playing professional baseball he moved back to Grosse Pointe and raised his family here. He has worked in the medical field his entire life.

The business, Hackett Homecare, began as he took care of his own parents, who struggled with issues related to Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases. He decided to create a homecare business for other elderly people like his parents.

“I knew that I could help a lot of people in their later years providing them with an extremely high quality of care along with loving, compassionate and honest caregivers,” he said.

Hackett Homecare specializes in companion care, personal care, Alzheimer’s/dementia and Parkinson’s care, traumatic brain injury, ALS and catastrophic injury care.

“If you or a loved one is growing increasingly dependent on others with everyday activities,” the



company’s brochure says, “Hackett Homecare can help regain and restore your quality of life.”

“I’m just very blessed to have some outstanding caregivers who are hard-working, loving and caring and that’s what makes it work seamlessly,” he said.

Many of his caregivers have been with him for 15-plus years and embody the company’s core values. They are the best, the heartbeat of the company and the reason why the company has had success. Robyn, Megan, Crystal, Jeff, Sheryl, Cathy, Tracy, Roberta, Kathleen, Jenn, Pam, Jose, Nicole, Natalie, Juanita, Sue, Jamika, Allison and John are some of the phenomenal caregivers that make up Hackett Homecare. His staff consists of registered nurses (RNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and companion aids, and provide care from a few hours at a time to 24/7 around-the-clock care.

“Robyn is one of the kindest and most loving individuals there is with a heart of gold and has a

passion to help seniors. Megan provides a wealth of knowledge with her RN care and is a leader in the industry. They work tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly.”

Above all, Hackett prides himself on the depth and quality of service the company provides, which sets them apart. Hackett states, “I wouldn’t place a caregiver into any client’s home unless I felt comfortable enough to have them in my parents’ home. Having caregivers for my own parents, I completely understand the importance of going the extra mile to only hire high-quality caregivers who have a passion for caring for those in need. If they don’t meet the most stringent qualities, we will not place them in any client’s home. We are so blessed and I don’t take that for granted.”

To learn more, visit HackettHomecare.com or email HackettHomecare@gmail.com. To schedule a free consultation, call John Hackett at (313) 319-8050.



COURTESY PHOTO

IEP Urgent Care has helped hundreds of Grosse Pointers since opening in 2022.

IEP Urgent Care: Proud to serve the Grosse Pointes

Since opening in June 2022, IEP Urgent Care Grosse Pointe, located at 19815 Mack, has provided area residents with a higher standard of urgent care from ER-trained providers. We’ve garnered more than 750 reviews from patients, earning us a 4.9/5 stars rating on Google. Here’s what a few of them said:

“Best urgent care I’ve been to. Very clean and recently renovated. All the staff were great. There was hardly anyone in there during flu season and I got seen right away. Definitely my spot from now on.” — Marie C.

“This is the best urgent care I’ve been to. We have been coming here since I moved into the area, it is very clean and the service is always fast and compassionate.” — Angelique Y.

“Very professional, from the front desk staff to the PA to the X-ray techni-

cian. I was able to schedule online and had no wait for my appointment. I recommend IEP Urgent Care. Also, plenty of convenient parking.” — Mary Ann B.

IEP Urgent Care has digital X-ray and Electrocardiogram (EKG) services onsite for chest pain diagnosis. We treat a variety of illnesses and injuries including cold, flu, sore throat, allergies, sprains, fractures and splinting, wound care, scrapes, rashes, minor burns, cuts and stitches, as well as urinary tract infections.

We offer the Pfizer COVID vaccine for adults and children, COVID testing, flu vaccine and immunizations, Vitamin B supplement injections and STD testing. We can help with DOT physicals, occupational health services and sports physicals.

For more information, visit iepurgentcare.com/grossepointe or call (313) 880-1220.



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from ER trained providers

More than 700 happy patients have given us

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **4.9** stars

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— Jeneviève L.

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Catastrophic Injury

313-319-8050

HackettHomecare@gmail.com

Lifelong Grosse Pointe Resident
John Hackett

hacketthomecare.com

Ford House’s free Community Appreciation Day is April 5

Ford House invites the community to enjoy a free day of exploration during its annual Community Day Saturday, April 5. Visitors can experience the history, architecture and natural beauty of the 87-acre estate that once belonged to Eleanor and Edsel Ford.

Located on Lake St. Clair, Ford House is a National Historic Landmark that offers insight into the lives of Edsel Ford, who played a key role in shaping the Ford Motor Co., and Eleanor Ford, a community leader and philanthropist.

Built in 1928, the estate features distinctive architecture, well-preserved interiors and meticulously maintained gardens. Today, Ford

House welcomes visitors to explore its history, walk the grounds and take part in events designed for all ages.

During Community Appreciation Day, guests may choose between two free admission options:

- ◆ Grounds admission — Explore the gardens, lakefront paths and historic auxiliary buildings. Visit the Visitor Center to view exhibits on the Ford family.
- ◆ House + Grounds admission — Take a self-paced tour of the main residence, where the Ford family lived, along with full access to the gardens, estate grounds and exhibitions.

Guests can enjoy scenic lake views, stroll through the estate and visit The Shop for unique gifts and souvenirs. The on-site restaurant will be

open, offering a menu with views of the estate’s landscape.

Visitors have described Ford House as a unique and welcoming destination. Karen B., a recent guest, shared, “This is really a fascinating place to visit. The staff were extremely knowledgeable and friendly. Lunch was truly delicious with terrific wait staff.”

Another visitor, Kelly V., described it as “a beautiful place to take a walk around the grounds and just feel like you’re away from the city.”

“This day is about celebrating the community that makes Ford House so special,” said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO. “It’s our way of saying thank you and welcoming guests to experience all that the

estate has to offer — just as Eleanor intended.” Admission is free, but advance registration is

encouraged. The last entry is at 7 p.m.; visitors are allowed to explore the estate until sunset.

For more information and to register, visit fordhouse.org or call (313) 884-4222.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Official opening

Owner Kristen Giancola, center, was joined by Grosse Pointe Farms City Manager Shane Reeside, Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad-Wilberding, City Clerk Derrick Kozicki and her staff for a ribbon-cutting event at the new iCRYO location, 96 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms.

iCRYO Grosse Pointe offers cryotherapy, red light therapy, IV drip therapy, body sculpting, infrared sauna, a Zerobody Dry Float bed, compression therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, ozone UV IV therapy and much more. For more information, visit iCRYO on The Hill or call (313) 499-8182.

Moross Greenway spring cleanup planned April 12

The Moross Greenway Project is in search of volunteers for its annual spring cleanup event, which takes place 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12.

Those interested are asked to gather next to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 21150 Moross, at Edgefield. Parking is available at the church.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves and dress for the weather, as the work will be done rain or shine. Rubber boots are recommended, as the islands often are wet this time of year.

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

Volunteers will focus on two main

tasks:

- ◆ Trash collection on the large islands in the center of Moross.
- ◆ Garden bed cleanup, using a method of cutting plant material into small pieces and leaving it in the beds to nourish the soil. Volunteers are asked to bring hedge trimmers — especially battery-operated trimmers — and/or pruning shears if they are interested in garden cleanup.

Moross Greenway board members will be on hand, working alongside volunteers and able to answer any questions.

For more information, visit morossgreenway.org.

SCSCC fundraiser is April 3

The St. Clair Shores Community Chorus is comprised of men and women who promote choral music through holiday and spring performances, as well as additional volunteer events in St. Clair Shores and surrounding areas.

The SCSCC is hosting a fundraiser all day Thursday, April 3, at Red Robin, 32051 Gratiot, Roseville. Red Robin will give 20 percent of dine-in and takeout orders back to the SCSCC. Patrons must mention the fundraiser to their server to have their sales counted.

The SCSCC also is preparing for its spring concert, “Let’s Go to the Movies,” at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4, at Lake Shore High School, 22980 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores. Guests will be invited to sing along to beloved movies such as “Annie,”

“Wicked,” “Hairspray,” “Footloose” and others. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. Tickets for ages 4 to 12 are \$10; children 3 and younger are admitted free.

To purchase tickets in person, call SCSCC President Debby Fuchs at (586) 872-0019. For credit card payments, visit scscommunitychorus.org.

Directed by Cynthia Ohrt, the chorus does not require auditions and members do not have to live in St. Clair Shores. The chorus is open to ages 14 and older; the only requirement is a love of singing.

Rehearsals take place at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, 22360 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores. Follow the chorus on social media or its website — scscommunitychorus.org/ — for updates.

RETURN:

Continued from page 7B

p.m. Thursday, July 31, for ages 7 to 12. Cost is \$40.

August camps include:

- ◆ Two-Day Clay Camp, noon to 2 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 4 and 5, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$80.
- ◆ Toddler & Preschool Art Morning, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6,

for ages 18 months to 5 years. Cost is \$25.

- ◆ Comic Book Camp, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 7, for ages 7 and older. Cost is \$40.
- ◆ Bluey Camp, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11, for all ages. Cost is \$35.
- ◆ Squishmellow Camp, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, for all ages. Cost is \$35.
- ◆ Superhero Camp, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 13, for all ages. Cost is \$35.

- ◆ Slime Workshop, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, for ages. Cost is \$35.
- ◆ Half-Day Full-Week Camp, 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, Aug. 18 to 22, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.
- ◆ Three-Day Art Camp, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 25 to 27, for ages 5 and older. Cost is \$195.

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Exhibition examines Vietnam War Patriot Gallery to host rotating pieces through Veterans Day

**Opening
afternoon**

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Patriot Gallery’s newest exhibition officially opens Saturday, March 29, which also is National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Housed in the lower level of The War Memorial, the gallery is providing space for Vietnam veterans and their families to share personal pieces of history with the community.

“This is a very complex issue, period,” said Karen Pope, president of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association and curator of the exhibition. “It’s so important we have input from everybody.”

Items contributed from City of Grosse Pointe resident and veteran Rufus McGaugh include medals, including the Purple Heart, as well as photos, uniforms and ration cans, some of them still sealed.

“He’s my only grunt, which was the name given to infantry soldiers,” Pope said. “He got the Purple Heart, but he also joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War when he got home.”

Heating pellets, used to warm ration meals, also are part of the display, as is an accessory pack, which included gum, cigarettes, coffee, sugar, creamer, matches and a toothpick.

The display includes what acted as living quarters for McGaugh when he served.

“You had a poncho and a poncho liner,” Pope explained. “You would use the poncho — or, if you were lucky enough, two ponchos — and put them over twigs to make a tent. Then you would use the liner as a sleeping bag.”

Three display cases will include contributions from individuals who served in Vietnam — Tom Sherry, John Barker and the late Roger Garzel.

Sherry was a photographer on an aircraft carrier.

“They had a 12-member editorial staff,” Pope said. “He was in charge of something called Familygram, which were letters home each week.”

Barker served in Guam and has plenty of photographs of his experience to share, too.

Scrapbooks kept by Garzel and loaned to the exhibition by his widow, Elly Garzel, also are part of the display.

“His wife gave me all of his letters and pictures from his scrap-

The highlight of the whole day was mail, which was awaiting when we returned. It saved the day. It really did. I got three letters from you, a post card from your Mom, and three Christmas cards. Since it is getting late, I'll answer the questions in your letters tomorrow. OK?

Darling, I miss you so very much. I'm still awaiting my R&R orders. They'd better come soon!

I can hardly wait to be with you again, to enjoy some of the things we like doing together. I love you with all my heart. Take care.

Love,
Roger

A segment of a letter written by Roger Garzel to his wife, Elly, while he served in Vietnam.

PHOTO
COURTESY OF
ELLY GARZEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM SHERRY

Tom Sherry served as a photographer aboard an aircraft carrier during the Vietnam War. Several of his photographs will be on display.

books,” Pope said.

David Helm and Tom Woolsey contributed to the exhibition as well.

In addition to individuals, organizations like Swords to Plowshares, the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe, Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library and Grosse Pointe News also contributed to the exhibition.

“One thing we wanted to do with the exhibit is make it report on the whole era, which was long,” Pope said. “This is complex era. We need to remember; it’s a hard story to tell.

“... We’re trying to

give a balanced look at the Vietnam War,” she added. “It went on forever and was very controversial. With our Arsenal of Democracy exhibition (last spring), everyone back then supported the troops. With Vietnam, (the controversy) is something you can’t overlook. There was a lot of opposition to the war.”

Pope said while she has a foundation of items to exhibit, she invites community members who have memorabilia they’d like to share to contact her so it can be added to the exhibition, which will run through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

“We want the exhibi-



COURTESY OF RUFUS MCGAUGH

One of several pieces of memorabilia Rufus McGaugh contributed to the exhibit.

tion to continue to change through its duration,” she said. “We’ll change items and also allow for community ownership of the exhibition.

“So if people hear about it and think they have things to add, we certainly are up for that,” she continued. “Vietnam veterans are getting older now. This is an effort to remember that era and honor the people.”

Longterm, she noted, she hopes people with Vietnam memorabilia in their homes will consider contributing it to the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe.

“This is a part of history,” Pope said. “Rather than keeping it in your basement, where it could be flooded out, maybe give items to the Eastpointe museum. They really take care of their archives. They are professionals — a really good group of volunteers; their archivists are excellent.

“If you have a part of history, that’s valuable,” she added. “So after the show, it could go to the military museum for

In addition to the opening of the Vietnam War exhibition in the Patriot Gallery, The War Memorial hosts a Vietnam veterans luncheon Saturday, March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Veterans and their families are invited to an afternoon lunch to commemorate their bravery and sacrifice during the Vietnam War. A resource fair, providing opportunities for veterans to connect with veterans organizations and learn about additional programs and resources, begins at 11 a.m. and resumes after lunch.

As part of the program, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Brian Love will give remarks and hold a pinning ceremony for any Vietnam veterans in attendance who would like to be pinned. The event also includes the participation of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 with the presentation of the colors, the playing of taps and a 21-gun salute.

The War Memorial is a commemorative partner of the United State of America Vietnam War Commemoration. To learn more, visit vietnamwar50th.com

To register, visit warmemorial.org/eventcalendar11/vietnam-veteran-luncheon.

safe keeping. If you really care about your things, it’s a good place to have them saved, so when we tell this story again, they’ll have more.”

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I was online searching and perusing lip filler and lip flips for a while — trying to find ways to get my tiny, small lips looking a little plumper and a little less, well, old.

After months of hemming and hawing and over-thinking, I decided to abandon that route and consider permanent makeup instead. I just didn’t want to risk looking fake ... or like a duck. Or both.

Lip Blush is a type of permanent makeup that enhances the color, shape and definition of your lips. Unlike actual tattooing, it’s like a unique pixelation and shading technique — and it lasts around two years. Lindsay Trudell at Chez LouLou is a local expert with multiple certifications and a passion for enhancing your natural look.

She’s been in the business more than 13 years

and provides several services, such as brow nano-blading, eyeliner enhancement, lip blush and even areola tattooing for those who have undergone breast surgery.

When the week of my appointment arrived, I was advised to avoid caffeine 24 hours before the service, avoid any blood thinners like Advil for 48 hours, no botox or fillers for 10 days before or after, no alcohol 24 hours prior

and no sun exposure for up to one week prior. Not too much prep: You just have to show up and lie down.

When you first arrive at Chez LouLou (which is a lovely salon), you will be ushered back to Lindsay’s room to discuss color options, then get going with numbing cream. Because I know Lindsay’s background and had spent a lot of time looking through her before-and-after photos, I knew I could trust her to mix up the perfect color for me. I am not sure if the color I got has a name, but it’s a pretty neutral rosy color.

After numbing for a bit and chatting about the latest breakthroughs in permanent makeup, the service began. First of all, it should be noted that I am an extreme wimp when it comes to any and all needles. I have fainted more times than I can count having my blood drawn and getting shots. I would say the pain level of lip blushing is spicy. Maybe a 3.5 on

a scale of 1 to 10. Most of the time I was just happy to be lying down and closing my eyes on a workday.

As the service progressed, there were several passes on each section of the lip. Lindsay is meticulous and a perfectionist. There were a couple of times after focusing on one section of my top lip I was ready to be done, but it’s nothing you can’t handle — trust me. The whole process lasts maybe 45 minutes.

After all is said and done, your lips will be swollen — but in the best way possible. They also will appear much darker than the end result will be. After a few days of flaking (do NOT pick at it; just keep applying the lovely lavender lip balm she gives you and it will be good in a few days), the swelling goes down and the color also fades to its true color.

I really love the results. Not only do my lips look fuller, but it

always looks like they are hydrated and healthy. And she actually created the cupid’s bow I have always wished for. All I do now is apply clear gloss and I look like I have the perfect amount of lipstick at all times.

I am giving this service 5 alligators. It’s a maintenance-free enhancement that makes me feel good about how I look without trying to be someone I’m not. Now that I’m hooked, I’m considering permanent eyeliner. I’ll keep you posted!

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



New England favorite Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

To continue on with giving you my favorite fish recipes, I’m going to share Ina Garten’s New England baked cod recipe. This recipe is the closest that I’ve found to the baked cod I would enjoy in Charlestown, MA.

I still remember schlepping my kids to the friendly neighborhood tavern through snow, sleet and rain just so I could order the cod. The weather didn’t matter. The fact that this tavern wasn’t stroller friendly because it was established in 1780, didn’t matter either. That cod was worth the trek.

It’s a simple dish with simple flavors. Beautiful white fillets of fish are topped with a buttery, herby and lemony crumb topping and baked until just cooked through. It’s

comforting and meaty and nobody complains that it’s too fishy. Some recipes don’t call for wine but I love the savory sophistication it gives the sauce. It makes it special. Some recipes even use a splash of sherry which goes so well.

I found my cod for a great price at Village Market. Keep your eyes out for deals on fish this time of year because it is the Lenten season. Bring some of New England into your kitchen with this dish. My family absolutely loved it!

Cheers, Mombeau

New England Baked Cod

4 skinless, boneless cod fillets (6 to 8 oz each)

Olive oil

Kosher salt & black pepper

½ cup Ritz cracker crumbs (about 15 crackers)

⅓ cup panko crumbs

2 tbsp fresh chopped parsley

2 tsp minced garlic

1 tsp lemon zest

3 tbsp melted butter

¼ cup dry white wine

2 tbsp fresh lemon juice

Lemon wedges for serving

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Pour two tablespoons of olive oil into a baking dish and

tilt to coat the entire bottom. Place the cod fillets in and give a flip to make sure each side is coated with oil. Sprinkle the tops with one and a half teaspoon of salt and half teaspoon of pepper. Bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the cracker crumbs, panko, parsley, garlic, lemon zest parsley and one teaspoon of salt in a small bowl. Add in the melted butter and stir until the crumbs are moistened.

Remove the fish from the oven and pour the wine and lemon juice directly over the fillets. Pat the crumb mixture evenly on the top of the fillets. (Don’t worry if some crumbs get into the sauce!)

Return the fish back



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

into the oven and cook for 12 more minutes. Serve hot with pan juices and lemon slices.



Rain in vineyards

Two weeks ago, several miles west of Santa Rosa, several Russian River Valley vineyards were almost completely underwater.

The scene was duplicated in many low-lying vineyards in Napa, Mendocino, Lake and nearby counties due to the heavy rains that hit the state’s North Coast, or what is essentially their wine country.

So much rain hit the area that it created lakes that normally are verdant vines. Driving along Sonoma County’s River Road, west of Highway 101, portions of vineyards on both sides of the road resembled lakes.

In one vineyard near Trenton Road, only the tops of vines could be seen, while the rest of the vineyard was submerged.

Almost every time this happens, a television station outside of wine country sends a cameraman to get shots of the “disaster.” If a reporter is sent, he or she will ask a grape grower how much money will be lost in this catastrophe.

The answer: almost none.

Grapevines, in addition to being hardy critters that can protect themselves from many stresses, are in hibernation now. Being underwater is no big deal.

Major city news folk from places such as Miami, Chicago and Dallas rarely understand the rigors of growing wine grapes, thus the knee-jerk reaction to call a normal situation a disaster at the fall of a fedora.

The fact is that “drowning” grape vines was once an annual tactic of grape farmers in France.

In the 1880s, when many French vineyards were hit with the scourge of the root louse phylloxera, vines couldn’t survive the infestation that would eventually kill them.

To hold off replanting as long as possible, farmers would often flood their vineyards to drown as many of the lice as possible. The vines were largely unaffected.

After the recent rains, a few plants might end up being uprooted and will need to be replanted, which can cost some money. But older vines with deep roots likely are safe. Rain damage will be minimal compared to the many other plagues that are regularly visited on growers.

On a positive note, the heavy rains raised the water table as well as the level of some of the streams and ponds — water that will be used later in the year, such as in the hot days of summer, when water is vital.

The current rains, as

heavy as they have been, still do not mean California is out of drought mode. Only so much of the rain that fell on wine country can be captured for later use.

Still, it does mean that the tremendous pressure placed on all North Coast agricultural enterprises has eased, and wineries can face a little less angst when it comes to the heat of next summer.

Wine of the Week:

2023 Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc + Viognier White Blend (\$16) — There may be no more versatile white wine than this delightful, aromatic creation that pairs the subtle and classic chenin blanc grape (80 percent) with the wildly aromatic viognier. It is succulent from a trace of sugar.

If served cold, it is dry enough to work with numerous kinds of food. The winery website says, “The Chenin aromatics bring citrus (notes) of tangerine, yuzu, pear, orange blossom, and honeydew melon. The Viognier

aromatics tend to be a little heavier (with) stone fruit of peach and mango with hints of honeysuckle.”

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE APARTMENT, KOMPLIZEN FILM AND FILM NATION ENTERTAINMENT

The regal Maria Callas as played by Angelina Jolie in the 2024 movie “Maria,” written by Steven Knight and directed by Pablo Larrain.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Maria”
2024 - Rated R
2 hr 4 min
★★★★☆

Kudos to Chilean director Pablo Larrain for pulling off a remarkable hat trick with the release of a trio of brilliant film biographies of three iconic women. First there was 2016’s “Jackie” about Jacqueline Kennedy, which starred Natalie Portman. This was followed by “Spencer,” which was a brilliant look at Princess Diana with Kristen Stewart playing the title role. Now we are treated to an exploration of the last week in the life of world-renowned opera diva Maria Callas. Here, veteran Angelina Jolie took center stage and totally immersed herself in the part. What an electrifying performance. Brava!

I’m rather surprised that the only Oscar category the film was nominated for was cinematography. Not that the camerawork was anything short of spectacular, but these days, almost nothing surprises me when it comes to Hollywood. Ms. Jolie at least deserved a nomination, in my humble opinion.

From early in her career with action movies like “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider” to her more recent serious roles, Jolie’s acting chops have sure matured. Without a doubt, this is her most challenging and captivating movie to date. Here she plays the Greek-American international singing sensation, Maria Callas, and she came well prepared. Jolie took voice lessons and studied Italian and opera for seven months prior to filming.

And the training obviously paid off. Not only was her lip-synching flawless, she also sang several arias herself, most notably at the end of the movie. Her performance here gives us an intimate look at a most fascinating and complex character.

Before I go any further I should confess that I’m a lifelong opera buff. However, you needn’t be a fan of the musical genre to appreciate “Maria.” The majority of the film’s music is taken from Puccini and Verdi operas, which is so romantic and emotional, just about anyone can appreciate it.

Ms. Callas has been retired for quite some time, even though she is only in her early 50s. Because of her world-famous career, she has an understandably immense



Angelina Jolie and the real Maria Callas.



Playing cards with Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher) and Ferruccio (Pierfrancesco Favino).

The movie begins in the opera star’s opulent Parisian apartment, where her two loyal servants Ferruccio (Pierfrancesco Favino) and Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher) discover her sprawled on the floor, dead from a heart attack. It’s a solemn scene that could easily have been lifted from any number of tragic operas. We then skip back in time to the week leading up to the diva’s untimely death.

ego. But she also has a deeply hidden frail and vulnerable side to her personality. She spends her days inside her sumptuous apartment with her butler Ferruccio and housemaid Bruna along with her two dogs. Maria comically has Bruno drag her grand piano from room to room, in her effort to redecorate her



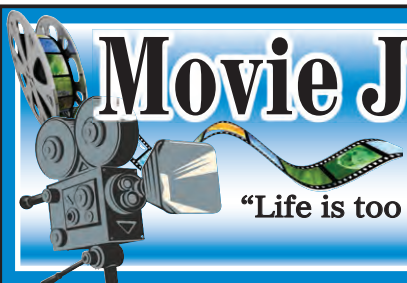
Rehearsing for a potential comeback.



At the Eiffel Tower.



Maria on stage at La Scala.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



place. Then she participates in an interview with a documentary filmmaker named Mandrax (Kodi Smit-McPhee). They discuss her career in intimate detail both in the apartment and at various locations around Paris. Coincidentally, the sedative she takes (abuses), is also called Mandrax. So are the interviews mere hallucinations or are they real? She also roams around the city and bursts into song, surrounded by a small orchestra, which



magically evaporates before our eyes. Obviously, figments of her imagination. At one point, she stops into one of her favorite bistros (in real life). When the waiter comes to take her order she says, “I’m not hungry, I come to restaurants to be adored.”

The bulk of the film is a random series of flashbacks, shot largely in black and white, detailing her life on and off the stage. It includes an early scene where as a young girl, she was forced to sing for an SS officer. A fair amount of time is centered on her torrid love affair with billionaire shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis (Haluk Bilginer) while both of them were married to other people.

I thought the cinematography was absolutely brilliant. Each frame was artfully composed and I’m not surprised cameraman Ed Lachman (“I’m Not There,” “Far From Heaven”) was nominated for an Oscar. The script by Steven Knight is also noteworthy. And the gorgeous wardrobe is something Ms. Callas herself would definitely have appreciated. Collectively, “Maria” paints an impressionistic portrait of a talented yet tortured individual. It’s a beautiful film and I highly recommend it.

Currently streaming on Netflix.

Note to parents: I’m not exactly sure why the film was rated “R”. I’d probably rate it “PG-13.”

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.



Being courted by Aristotle Onassis (Haluk Bilginer).



Maria with her housemaid Bruna (Alba Rohrwacher).



In front of an adoring audience.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

3/20 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

3/13 Solution

Contract Bridge

A GRAND SLAM

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	Q 4	♠	10 9 6 3 2
♥	K J 5	♥	6
♦	A 10 8 5 3	♦	J 9 6 4
♣	Q 6 2	♣	10 7 5
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	J 8 5	♠	A K 7
♥	7 4 2	♥	A Q 10 9 8 3
♦	—	♦	K Q 7 2
♣	A K J 9 8 4 3	♣	—

The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1 ♥	4 ♣	4 ♥	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
7 ♥			

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Let's say you're declarer in seven hearts and West leads the king of clubs. You ruff and see that you're sure to make the contract unless the missing diamonds are divided 4-0.

Even in that case, the grand slam can be made by playing the diamonds correctly. Thus, if West has the J-9-6-4, you can first cash the king and later finesse dummy's ten to nullify his diamonds. If East has the J-9-6-4, you can start the suit by playing dummy's

ace first and subsequently pick up the suit without loss regardless of how East defends.

Your only problem, therefore, is to try to discover which defender, if either, might have all four missing diamonds. This is not a difficult task if you go about it the right way.

You draw three rounds of trump, noting that West started with three of them. You next play the ace of spades, to which both opponents follow suit, and at this point the remainder of the play becomes crystal clear.

West surely must have had at least six clubs for his four-club bid, and since he's already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot possibly hold four diamonds. So, if either opponent has four diamonds, it must be East.

Accordingly, you lead a low diamond to dummy's ace at trick six. After West shows out, you continue with the ten. When East covers with the jack, you win with the king, cross to dummy's carefully preserved queen of spades and then lead another diamond, this time finessing against East's nine, to bring home the grand slam.

Note that if you had started the diamond suit by first playing the king from your hand, the grand slam would have gone down the drain.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Sagittarius. Today is the Spring Equinox.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 20, 2025:

You're compassionate and multitasking. You're also kind, empathetic and optimistic. You're a valued friend. Exciting changes will bring increased personal freedom. This is a year of learning. Let go of what holds you back. Be ready to act on new opportunities. Trust your intuition. Travel is likely.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today the Sun moves into your sign to stay for four weeks, giving you a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of year. Now is the time to put yourself first. Go after what you want. Enjoy the magic of people and favorable situations. Tonight: Seek ideas!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

You might discover some financial information you wanted to know by research, the grapevine or through an important contact. In fact, discussions about inheritances, shared property, insurance matters and shared responsibilities will be interesting. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Get ready for a lovely four-week window where your popularity will grow and you will love hanging out with others, especially younger, creative people. For some of you, a friend might become a lover. (At least, a saucy flirtation.) Tonight: Listen.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Once a year, the Sun sits at the top of your chart for four weeks. Today this begins, and it means you're thrust in the spotlight of the Sun, and this light is flattering! In a word — people will admire you. Use this! Tonight: Work.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Grab every opportunity to get out of town. In the next four weeks, you need a change of scenery. Book a vacation. Take a trip. If you can't travel, then be a tourist in your own city. Meanwhile, romance with someone different might blossom. Learn something new! Tonight: Play!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your focus on shared property, shared inheritances, insurance matters and the wealth and resources of someone else will be strong in the next four weeks. Quite likely, you will benefit. In other words, someone might give you a gift, a favor or an advantage. Tonight: Entertain.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

For the next four weeks, the Sun will be opposite your sign. This can happen only once a year, and when it occurs, it means you need more sleep. Get more rest and take catnaps. Meanwhile, your focus on partners and friends will yield excellent observations on how to improve your relations. Tonight: Schmoose.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You're willing to bust your buns in the next four weeks. You want to work hard, and you want to work smart. Actually, you want it all, because in addition to being productive, you want to boost your health as well. High standards are a good thing — motivation is everything. Tonight: Check your possessions.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Lucky you! For the next four weeks you'll enjoy vacations, parties, socializing, sports events, playful times with kids and opportunities to express your creative talents in the arts, the entertainment world and anything to do with the hospitality industry. All that fun stuff! Did I forget romance? Tonight: You're in charge.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Home, family and your private life will be your main focus for the next four weeks. Many of you will become involved more than usual with a parent. You will also focus on redecorating projects, home repairs and perhaps investigating another home by contemplating a residential move. Tonight: Solitude.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks. You have things to do, places to go and people to see! Enjoy short trips. Grab any chance to learn something new by taking a course or going back to school. Spend extra time with siblings, relatives and neighbors. Life is good. Tonight: Friendships.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Finances will be your strong focus in the next four weeks. Some of you will come up with some moneymaking ideas. You might look for a better paying job. You can actually attract money to you as well. However, at a deeper level, you will contemplate your values. What really matters? Tonight: You're proud.

BORN TODAY
Actress Holly Hunter (1958), filmmaker Spike Lee (1957), TV personality Fred Rogers (1928).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 20, 2025

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Suddenly bright stars	51	Ctrl+Y, on a PC	1	"SNL" network	10	"The fourth state of matter"
6	Millions	52	Shrinking Asian sea	2	Agreement in Arles	11	Pious
10	Smooch on the subway, e.g.	53	Slides on an icy road	3	Musical master	12	Two-time US Open champ
13	Encore or Enclave	55	"Contra" game console, for short	4	43,560 square feet	14	Food served with wasabi
14	Pops	56	Professional pursuit	5	Scandinavian toast	17	Shoe with 13 holes
15	Segment of a journey	59	Flashy jewelry	6	Gloria Vanderbilt, to Anderson Cooper	21	Summon
16	"Clouds in a mackerel sky"	61	Gratuity	7	College email ender	22	Droopy
18	Director DuVernay	62	Agree, or a hint to each	8	Nerve	23	San Antonio NBA player
19	Eye drops?	67	Take advantage of	9	Where most people live	25	&
20	Rodeo ropes	68	Fusilli or farfalle			26	CBS procedural
22	Shaq's Southern alma mater	69	TV spot seller			29	Fiasco
24	Lindsay of "Mean Girls"	70	Six or more games, for 12-Down			31	Hosp. area
27	The only birds with calf muscles	71	Village People hit			32	Stereotypical D&D player
28	Music player originally sold for \$399	72	Rhythmic silences in music			34	Buckwheat noodle
30	*U.S. city home to the most chili parlors per capita					37	Neither's partner
33	Ponders					38	Poetic tributes
35	Like the vegetables in a mirepoix					40	Winners of the Battle of Earth
36	Free, as legal work					41	Relinquish
39	Emerge from the ocean						
43	Dwelling						
45	Capital of the First State						
46	*Dino who's the only undrafted player in NHL history with more than 600 goals						

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

3/13 Solution

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3/20

Look Around by Kim Alswager

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14						15		
16					17							18		
		19						20		21				
22	23			24			25	26		27				
28			29		30				31	32				
33				34			35							
36					37	38		39				40	41	42
			43				44		45					
46	47	48						49	50		51			
52						53				54		55		
56				57	58			59			60			
61				62		63	64						65	66
67				68						69				
70				71						72				



THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts

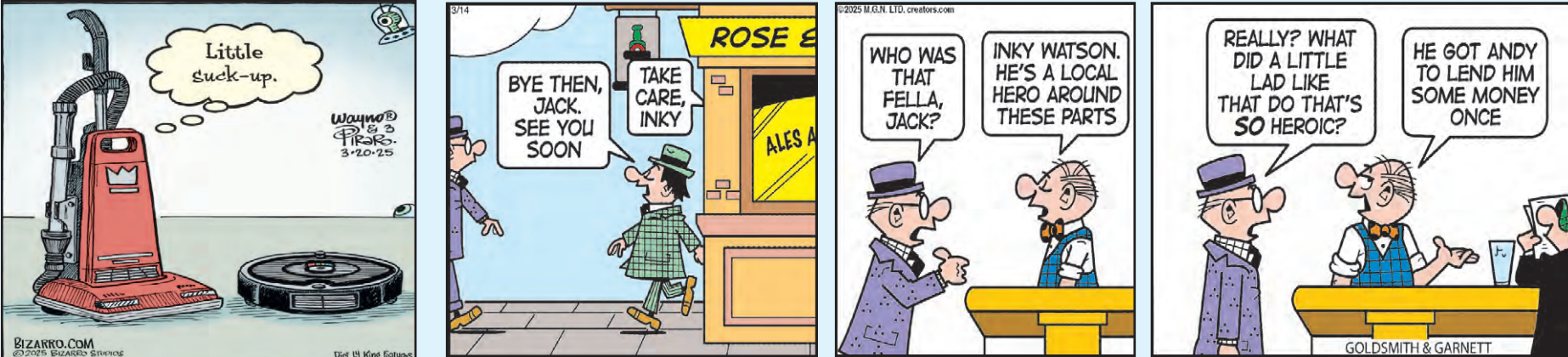
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

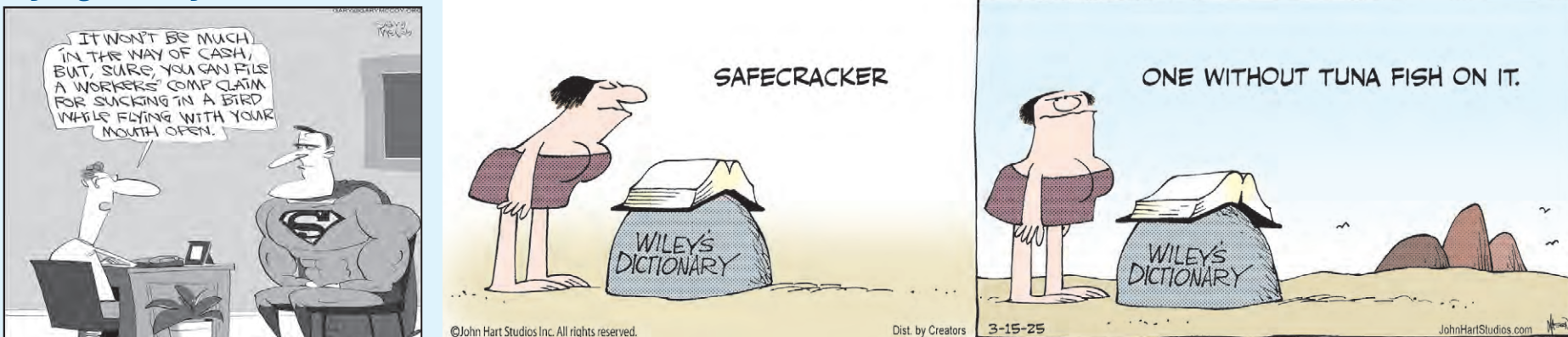
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

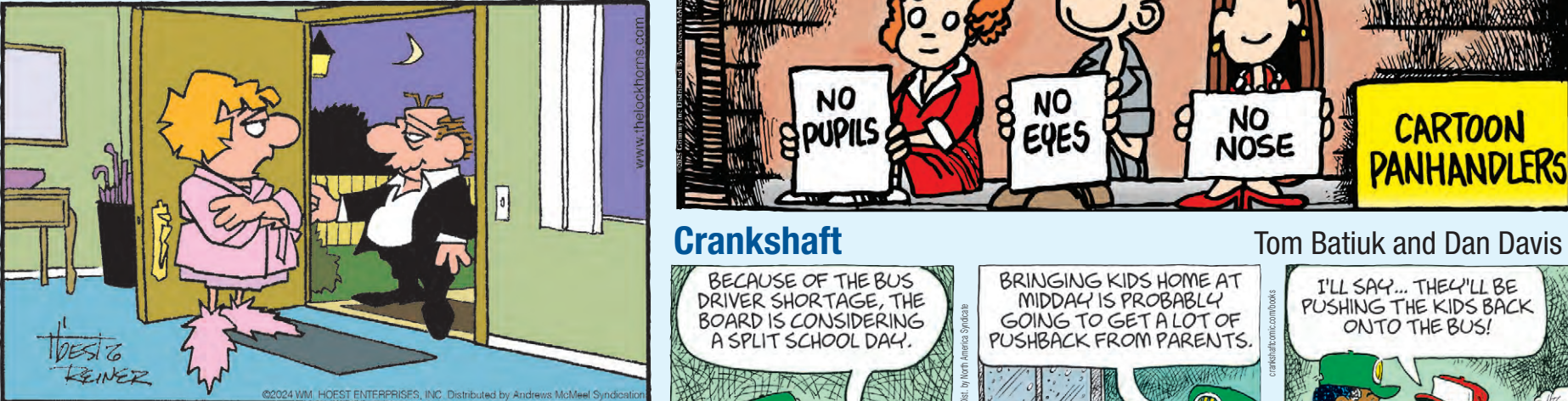


The Lockhorns Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Bill Hoest,

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum,

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

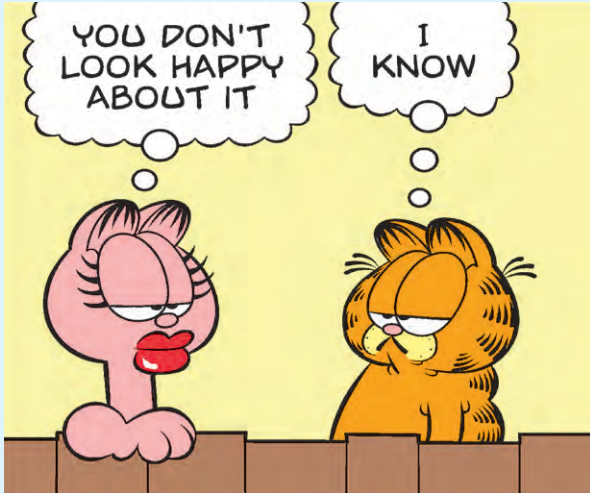
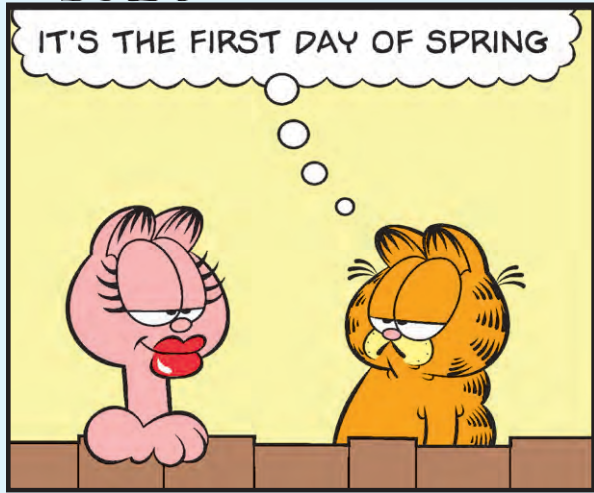
Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS



Garfield



Jim Davis

Hagar The Horrible



Dik Browne and Chris Browne

Ziggy



Tom Wilson

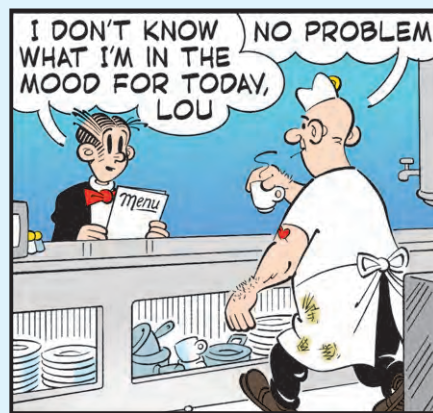
Wizard of Id

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



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Close To Home

John McPherson



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

Marmaduke

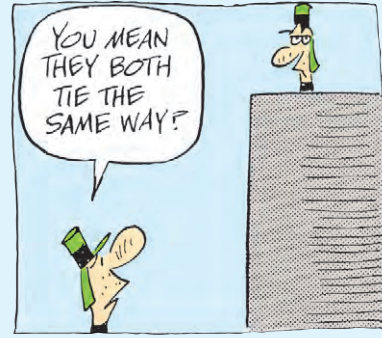
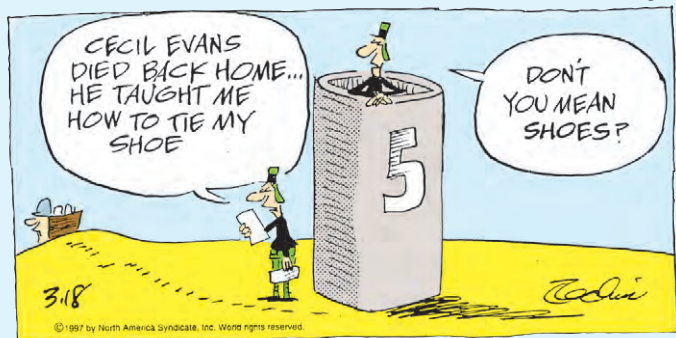
Paul & Brad Anderson



"Remembering how cute he was as a puppy isn't helping me sleep."

Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

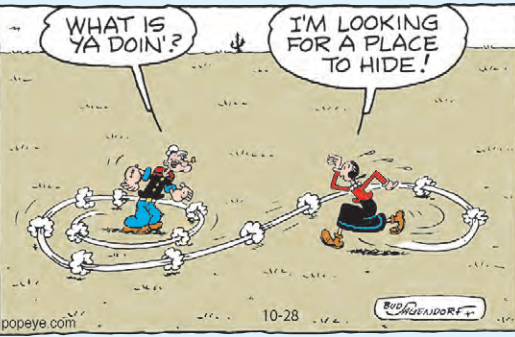


Popeye

Bud Sagendorf

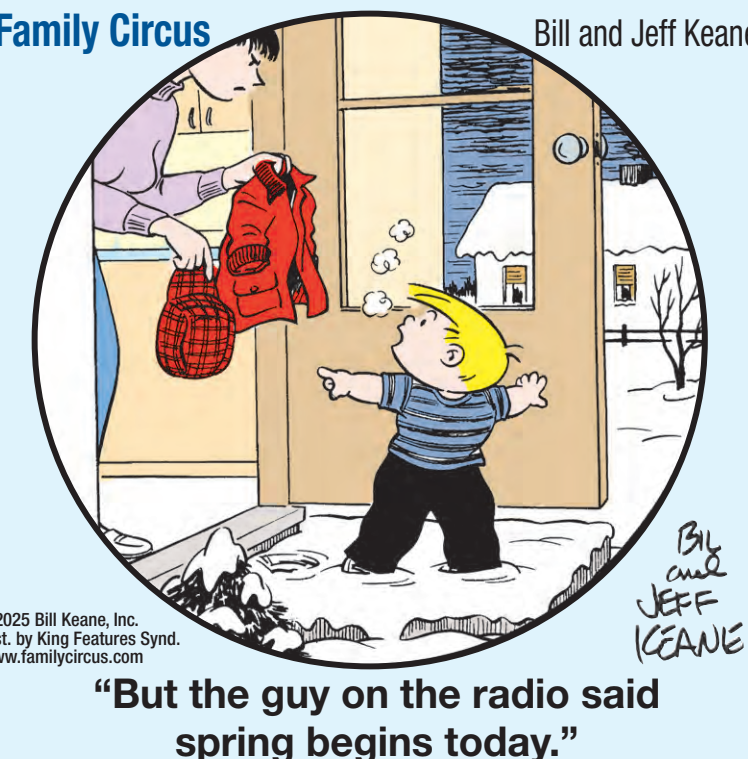
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



"But the guy on the radio said spring begins today."



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Kid Scoop Together: Lepre-coins

By selling fairy shoes, Lily Leprechaun has earned a lot of golden lepre-coins (that's Leprechaun money).

Work with a parent and help Lily count her money. You'll need a **RED, BLUE and GREEN** crayon to circle the coins that add up to each amount. **IMPORTANT:** You can only circle each coin once, and when you're done, every coin should be circled.

- Circle in BLUE:** \$1.30 worth of Lepre-coins
- Circle in RED:** 55¢ worth of Lepre-coins
- Circle in GREEN:** 40¢ worth of Lepre-coins



How Do Leprechauns Get Their Pots of Gold?

Around St. Patrick's Day, you will often hear legends about leprechauns and their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. **Have you ever wondered where they get all of that gold?**



Watching the Costs

Just making and selling shoes isn't enough to collect the gold needed to fill a leprechaun's pot. Leprechauns have to keep an eye on the **costs** of making fairy shoes, too.

Take a look at the cost of shoe supplies on this list.



What if the leprechaun spent more gold coins to make the shoes than he charged the fairies? He would run out of gold pretty quickly!

If it costs 7 gold coins for the supplies to make one pair of fairy shoes, what should the leprechaun charge so that he covers his costs and has some money left over to pay himself for his work to make the shoes?

Price matters!

Picking the right price is important. If the leprechaun charges too little, he will lose money. But if he charges too much, he will lose customers.

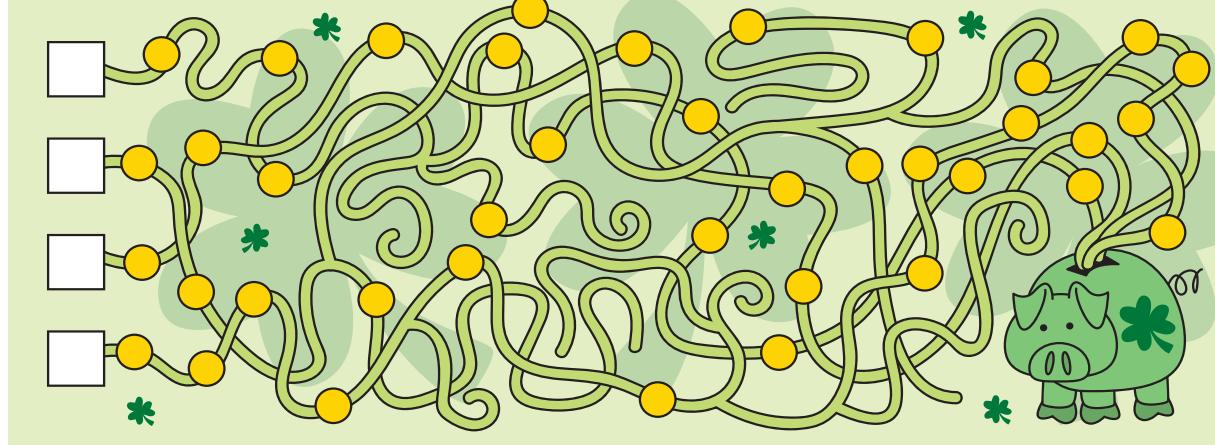
Use these worksheets to add up the costs of making each pair of shoes. Then find the difference between the costs and the selling price to determine the profit for each pair of shoes.

LEPRECHAUN'S GOLDEN VOCABULARY WORD:

PROFIT: Money earned after the expenses are paid.

Pixie Prancers	Pretty Petunias	Refined Rosies
TREE BARK	TREE BARK	TREE BARK
DAISY PETALS	DAISY PETALS	DAISY PETALS
PINE NEEDLES	PINE NEEDLES	PINE NEEDLES
LILAC PETALS	PETUNIA PETALS	ROSE PETALS
TOTAL COST:	TOTAL COST:	TOTAL COST:
PRICE: 13	PRICE: 16	PRICE: 20
PROFIT:	PROFIT:	PROFIT:

Add up the coins on each path that leads to the Leprechaun piggy bank. Which path has the most gold coins?



Extra! Extra!

Math is GOLDEN!

Numbers are useful every day. Look through the newspaper to find a number that tells each of the following:

☐ An address

☐ A price

☐ A phone number

☐ An age

☐ A year

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Fairy Shoe Sorter

Draw lines between each pair of fairy shoes to make exact matches. Look carefully!

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

LEPRECHAUN CUSTOMERS PATRICK LEGENDS FAIRIES PETALS PROFIT COSTS SHOES PRICE NIGHT GOLD PAIR BUSY POT

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

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

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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: DETERMINE

The verb **determine** means to learn or find out exactly.

The number of coins he collects will **determine** what he can buy.

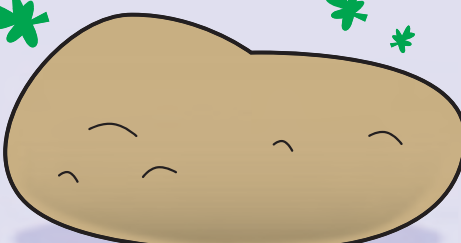
Use the word **determine** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Small, Large, Larger and Largest

Find four numbers in today's newspaper. Cut them out and glue them on a piece of paper in order from the smallest to the largest.

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



When are Irish potatoes not Irish potatoes?

ANSWER: When they are French fries!

Write On!

Four-leaf Clover

I knew my luck would change the moment I picked up a beautiful four-leaf clover ... *Finish this story.*



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2D BOYS SWIM & DIVE FINALS | 3D-5D SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS | 6D-7D CLASSIFIEDS

Winter athletes earn All-State honors as seasons conclude

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the winter high school sports season wrapping up this month, several sports have announced their end-of-season awards, including All-State lists. After some incredible performances this season, several athletes from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School found themselves among the best in the state at their respective sports by

receiving All-State honors. The Pointes were well-represented in the All-State lists for girls hockey. After winning the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 state championship for a second year in a row, South varsity girls hockey had five players make All-State. Goalie Rosie Smith, defenseman Charlie Harr and forwards Abby Evans and Molly Reynolds were all named first team All-State, while defenseman

Ana Zieleniewski received second team All-State honors. Liggett's girls hockey team also had five players receive All-State recognition. Avery Welsh, Maggie Weiss and Kate Ricci all made first team All-State. Miranda Alcalá was second team All-State, while goalie Maddie Hexter earned honorable mention. North girls hockey had four players who earned All-State recognition to end the season. Forward Josie Cueter was first

team All-State and Leanna Phillips made first team All-State on defense. Forward Leah Burney was named second team All-State and Annie Cleland was an honorable mention. Two wrestlers from South received All-State honors based on their respective finishes at the MHSAA wrestling state finals. Senior Wyatt Hepner was All-State in Division 1 at 150 pounds after finishing third in the weight class. Fellow senior Lex Willson also

was All-State in Division 1 at 190 pounds after his seventh-place finish. In boys hockey, Liggett had a pair of players make the All-State lists from the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association. Defenseman Andrew Johnson was second team All-State in Division 3 and goalie Ben Wehrmann earned an honorable mention. North also had a player make the All-State list in Division 3, with sophomore defenseman Levi Olsey being an honorable mention.

In gymnastics, senior captain of the Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics team, Lucy Tull, earned All-State status with her score on beam. Tull earned a 9.325 on beam, placing her fourth in the state in Division 2. In swimming, Brendan Beland achieved All-State honors in two

events based on his finishes at the recent Division 3 state finals. Beland finished fifth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:44.48 and was fourth in the 100 fly at 0:51.87. For more All-State announcements, come back to the Grosse Pointe News in the next few weeks, as All-State lists for other winter sports, including boys and girls basketball, were not announced by press time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett's Brendan Beland earned All-State status with top-five finishes in the 200 freestyle and 100 fly at the Division 3 swim and dive state finals.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Senior goalie Rosie Smith was one of five players from the state-champion Grosse Pointe South girls hockey team to receive All-State recognition.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

South's Evans plays crucial role in Blue Devils' girls hockey championship

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Like many of her Grosse Pointe South teammates, Abby Evans began her hockey career by playing for the Bulldogs Hockey Club and eventually the St. Clair Shores Saints before joining South's varsity team in high school. Her entire career seemed to lead up to one moment March 8, when Evans scored the game-winning goal in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 championship game to help crown her team as back-to-back state champions in her final game as a Blue Devil.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Abby Evans served as one of South girls hockey's senior captains this season.

"I got (a pass) from Molly (Reynolds) and I saw the open net and it looked like the goalie was screened," Evans said. "I saw an opening, so I just kind of shot it

and hoped for the best. Thankfully, it went through. It didn't really feel real in the moment. ... I thought that it was really lucky, but it was such a good play." The goal was Evans' 18th of the season, the second-most by any player on South's team this winter. She also had a team-high 21 assists to give her 39 total points, once again the second-most of any Blue Devil. Evans also served as one of

South's senior captains this season. She served alongside goalie Rosie Smith and fellow forwards Bella Peruski and Molly Reynolds. Evans and her co-captains all have at least a few years of experience on the ice together in their time with South, but Evans' bond with some of her teammates began before she reached high school. "I've played with a lot of these girls through most of my career," she said. "... It's like we know where each other is going to be on the ice at all times. Nothing would have been possible without how

close we are as a team." That strong team chemistry was on display throughout the season. South had an impressive season, with a record of 23-3-1. While the team looked dominant at times this year, Evans and her fellow Blue Devils faced adversity at times — and high expectations as the defending state champions. "There definitely was some pressure," Evans said. "... Instead of being pretentious and thinking we had it locked down, we had to work towards

it. Having that as a goal and knowing it was attainable really pushed us throughout the season." The most pressure-packed moment of the season came right before Evans helped complete South's state championship victory. The Blue Devils were down 2-0

See ATHLETE, page 8D

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Abby Evans

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management



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Boys swim and dive season wraps up with state finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The boys varsity swim and dive teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School had the chance to make a final splash in the pool this winter at the MHSAA boys swim and dive state finals last weekend. While no swimmers from the Pointes earned state championships, some athletes still ended the season with strong performances.

One of the highlights of the weekend came from the Division 3 state finals. University Liggett junior swimmer Brendan Beland earned All-State honors in two events with top-five finishes. Beland was fourth in the 100 fly with a time of

0:51.87 and took fifth in the 200 freestyle at 1:44.48.

South and North both competed at the Division 2 state finals over the weekend. The Blue Devils ended up finishing 20th in the overall team standings, while the Norsemen were 29th.

One of the top finishes for either team came in the diving competition, with South's Troy Richard making it into the top 10 in ninth place. His South teammates, Ethan Hurford and Myles Meldrum, finished 26th and 28th, respectively.

In the 50 freestyle, Brady Bond from South finished in 10th place while James Gusmano from North was 20th. Bond also earned 10th place in the 100 freestyle.



PHOTO BY ERIN COLLINS

North varsity swim and dive coach Kyle Kinyon, far left, with swimmers Paul Stephens, James Gusmano, Tyler Collins, James Jewell and Brady Winbigler at the Division 2 swim and dive state finals.

North's 200 medley relay team of Gusmano, James Jewell, Thomas Kezhaya and Paul Stephens finished 26th, while South's team of Henry Doyle, Everett

Wood, Joseph Fodell and Nadeem Haurani were 27th. Huarani, Bond, Thomas Brieden and Owen Mulcahy finished 12th in the 200 freestyle relay.

Brieden for South was 16th in the 100 breaststroke. Brady Winbigler from North cracked the top 15 with a 12th-place finish in the 500 freestyle. Winbigler,

Gusmano, Stephens and Tyler Collins earned 21st for North in the 400 freestyle relay. South's team of Mulcahy, Brieden, Bond and Jack Finazzo finished 18th.

Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club continues growth after successful 22nd season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For the last 22 years, the Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club has been helping introduce young athletes from the Pointes to the sport of wrestling. While the club has been on the rise since it began, it has experienced a boom in interest the past few years and recently wrapped up another successful season on the mats.

The club was founded by Tony Cimmarrusti, a former Harvard University wrestling captain and former Grosse Pointe South wrestling head coach. Cimmarrusti started the club after participating and coaching with a similar club in his hometown in California. After helping wrestlers win state and national championships there, Cimmarrusti had the opportunity to begin a club of his own when he moved to Grosse Pointe nearly three decades ago.

More than 20 years



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club, founded by Tony Cimmarrusti, recently had its 22nd season of introducing young athletes to the sport of wrestling and what they can learn from the sport on and off the mat.

later, the Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club is still going strong. The club had dozens of wrestlers

participate during the 2024-25 season, with some earning new personal records and

achievements and others being introduced to the sport and falling in love with it for the first time. No matter what the wrestlers can achieve on the mat, Cimmarrusti believes the true value of the wrestling club is helping young athletes learn the values of hard work, dedication and teamwork.

"Being part of a team is very helpful at any age, but wrestling is such an individual sport too that it teaches you how to be accountable," Cimmarrusti said. "You have to account for how you did when you went out there and give it a full effort. It's phenomenal for kids' development. Even if they wrestle for just a couple of years, to have that in their repertoire is very helpful."

The club is open to both boys and girls who are new to the sport or have previous wrestling experience and provides opportunities for the athletes to work with experienced coaches

and current local high school wrestlers to learn and grow their wrestling skills. It meets in the Grosse Pointe South High School wrestling room twice a week, with the season typically beginning in late November or early December and running through late February.

The club has had its share of success in recent years in competitions around the state and has produced its share of talent, like All-State high school wrestlers Wyatt Hepner, Josh Lemanski and Paul Wilson from South. However, the real focus Cimmarrusti and his fellow coaches have is teaching kids not only about the fundamentals of wrestling, but about what wrestling can teach them.

"It teaches you respect," Cimmarrusti said. "That's the No. 1 thing that we teach our kids — to respect their opponent and respect the officials and respect the game. In doing that,

they find that their self-respect grows. It's one of the first and foremost values that we teach and uphold."

"Talking about love for the sport and love for each other is really important," added Jeremy Linne, a former Grosse Pointe South wrestling captain who now coaches with the Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club. "We want to express to these kids that we care about them and their feelings matter. ... It's OK that you cry when you lose, but you're going to get back up and shake the hand of your opponent and shake the hands of the coaches and wrestle another match, and teaching them how to do that and recover in situations like that is really important."

With the current season coming to an end, the Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club has its sights set on continuing to grow each year. This summer, the club plans to host a summer camp at Grosse Pointe South to offer wrestlers the opportunity to continue working on their skills in the offseason.

With more athletes and their families becoming involved in the club each year, Cimmarrusti knows none of this would be possible without the help of his fellow coaches and the parents of the wrestlers themselves.

"It's a big group of kids with great parents," Cimmarrusti said. "... Next year, since we have such a great nucleus of kids, we're going to start wrestling in tournaments sooner. We're really having a fair amount of success wrestling in competitions and we really anticipate that the club is going to continue to grow."

For more information about the Grosse Pointe Wrestling Club, email gpwrestlingclub48236@gmail.com.

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

2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

What do you get when you take hundreds of athletes from three local high schools, form more than 30 varsity teams and spread them across nine sports? You have the makings for one action-packed 2025 spring sports season in Grosse Pointe. The GP News sports staff talked to the teams' head coaches to get the inside scoop on what fans can expect from some of their favorite teams this season. This week, we have your pre-game prep for boys lacrosse and girls soccer. Be on the lookout for more spring sports previews in the Grosse Pointe News in the coming weeks.

South boys lacrosse looks to ride talent, skill to success this spring

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After a 2024 season that had its ups and downs, the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys lacrosse team is getting ready for the 2025 season looking to lead the program back to winning ways. While the Blue Devils will have their share of veteran leadership this spring, the real heart of South's team lies in its young talent, with an exciting group of young players the Blue Devils hope can lead them to success both this spring and in the future. "The strength of this program is in its youth," South boys lacrosse head coach Justin Macksoud said. "... These young guys are talented and they're hungry. Everyone is committed to being here for lacrosse. It's exciting."

That young talent is mostly prevalent on the offensive side for South. The team's attack is led by a crop of juniors including Jack Smith, Jack Cotton and Eugene Agnone. What that group lacks in varsity-level playing experience, South hopes they can make up with both talent and heart. "They haven't played a lot of games at the varsity level, but what's different about this year's team is that our entire attack is back," Macksoud said. "... Our entire attack is back and since they're juniors, they'll be back again next year." While a group of juniors will anchor the attack, senior Henry Tiderington is going to be looked at as the focal point of South's mid-field. Alongside him will be sophomores Jackson Kean and Matthew Bejin,

who are expected to become impact players right away. Aidan Clarke and Davis Linnell are going to be looked at as key pieces of South's defense and anchoring it all in the back is returning All-State senior goalie Lucas Valice. The team will have to battle its way through the MAC Red Division and a challenging non-league schedule that includes games against Novi, Stoney Creek and Notre Dame Prep. While the young talent expected to lead the way for South this year might be inexperienced, the work they have put in to improve themselves leading up to the season is giving the team optimism that they can meet expectations. "This team is extremely talented, but the work that they put into everything on their own,"



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior Eugene Agnone is expected to be one of the leaders of a highly-skilled attacking group on this season's South boys lacrosse team.

Macksoud said. "... You have to put in some work on your own, throwing the ball against the wall and shooting and getting in shape." South opened the season against Novi after press time Wednesday, March 19. The team returns to action after a spring break with a game Thursday, April 3, on the road at Port Huron.

Young Norsemen eager to develop skills throughout lacrosse season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys lacrosse team comes into this spring season with a mixed bag of experience. Some players are coming back with another year of lacrosse under their belt while some are strapping on their helmets in a varsity lacrosse game for the first time. While the roster has its share of youth, including a group of 10 freshmen, the upperclassmen who are back for another lacrosse season have shown their coaches that they have grown bigger and better since last year. "They're playing with a bit more confidence," North boys lacrosse head coach Mark Seppala said. "They're more familiar with the game, so they're playing more assertively. Last year, when they were younger and smaller they weren't quite sure what to do. This year, they're stepping up. They want the ball. They want to score and be impact players. Having that confidence is going to make a big difference for these guys going forward." Teagan Harbin and Cameron DuCharme are this year's only seniors on the roster. They will bring the most veteran leadership and are expected to play key roles on the field alongside standout juniors like Emerson Hilliker, Stephen Listman and J.R. Smarch. North moves this year into the MAC White Division, putting the



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North boys lacrosse is looking to upperclassmen like J.R. Smarch to step into leadership roles on a young Norsemen team this spring.

team alongside Chippewa Valley, L'Anse Creuse, L'Anse Creuse North and St. Clair in the league. The Norsemen's non-league schedule includes challenging tests against Stoney Creek, University Liggett School and Ann Arbor Greenhills, among others. The team hopes its young players will develop quickly with the guidance of the more experienced veterans. There may be some bumps along the way, but the energy the players have given in the off-season and early practices have shown the coaches

they are going to be willing to learn and grow throughout the spring. "They're all very enthusiastic and there's a lot of good personalities," Seppala said. "If we can keep up that energy and the effort level, these guys are going to improve vastly in a short amount of time. I'm eager to see what we look like as the season goes on." North began the season after press time Wednesday, March 19, against Stoney Creek. After spring break, the Norsemen take the field again at home Tuesday, April 1, hosting L'Anse Creuse.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 3, 2025

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL:All Councilpersons were present
MOTIONS PASSED
1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on February 3, 2025 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Election Coordinating Committee held on February 11, 2025 and the Planning Commission meeting held on February 26, 2025.
2) to schedule a public hearing for April 7, 2025 to hear public comment and input on a request to vacate a portion of property located on the end of Lennon west of Harper Avenue.
3) to place an advertisement for the position of City Manager for the City of Harper Woods.
4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131911 through 132093 in the amount of \$673,770.60 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$45,999.92 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of January 2025. (3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,384.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of March 2025. (4) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$8,459.82 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of February 2025 and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of miscellaneous accessories. (5) approve payment to McKenna Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$7,353.57 for the professional services provided with the update to the Zoning Ordinance and for providing zoning verification letters. (6) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$6,638.87 for professional services during the month of December 2024 for the following projects: Roscommon Pocket Park, #180-329; Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; Kelly Road SS4A Grant, #180-346; CDBG Sidewalk Program, #180-350; Sanitary Sewer FCIPP Pgm, #180-339; Sanitary Sewer Clean and CCTV #180-340; Distribution System Materials, #180-357; DWRF Lead Water Service Replacement, #180-331; Miss Digs, #180-255 and the City Hall Generator, #180-291. (7) approve payment in the amount of \$55,100.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and hydrant repairs at various residential locations. (8) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$16,591.00 for sidewalk salting and snow removal in various residential and commercial areas of the City. (9) approve payment to Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund in the amount of \$13,822.00 for the annual payroll audit. (10) accept the proposal from Park Residential and Commercial Services in the amount of \$7126.00 for the soundproofing of the small offices in the Courtroom. (11) approve the request to purchase six (6) sets of turnout gear from MacQueen in the amount of \$22,596.42 with 2024 Firefighter Turnout Gear grant money being used to reimburse the City. (12) approve the purchase of eighteen (18) computers for various employees within the City from Simplified Business Solutions LLC in the amount of \$17,339.78. (13) approve the extended maintenance agreement with CDW-G in the amount of \$5004.79 for the wireless connectivity in the police squad cars. (14) approve payment to Hannah Architects in the amount of \$15,885.00 for the pre-design and schematic design on the Community Center project.
2) to approve payment to Insituform Technologies USA in the amount of \$5,152.10 for Progress Payment No. 2 (final) on the 2024 Sewer Rehabilitation by Full Length CIPP Lining, #180-339.
3) to approve payment to Super Construction LLC in the amount of \$38,205.00 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the DWSRF Lead Water Service Replacement Project, #180-331.
4) to approve payment to the US Bank Trust Company in the amount of \$175,000.00 for the principal and \$21,875.00 for the interest payment, a total of \$196,875.00, for the Michigan Clean Water Program.
5) to approve the land vacation request from Robertson Brothers and to accept the updated legal description for the portion of the cul-de-sac on Lennon as submitted by Robertson Brothers in conjunction with the Fraser Square development.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor
Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk
Published: GPN, March 20, 2025

2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Luke Slanec is one of several strong attacking players that Liggett boys lacrosse is going to rely on this spring.

ULS boys lacrosse sees scoring as strength in 2025

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School boys varsity lacrosse team put together an impressive regular season in 2024, reaching double-digit wins before falling early in the playoffs. As the Knights get ready to take the field for a new season this spring, a mix of seasoned veterans and young talent looks to step up to build on the positives of last year.

The biggest areas the Knights are looking toward to anchor this year's team are the attack and the midfield. Nick Gould and Luke Slanec are expected to lead the attack for Liggett, while veterans like Griffin Marchal, Alex Gould and Landen Maltby are going to be key pieces in the midfield.

While defensive pieces like senior defender Bobby Harthorn and goalie Ryan Cordero should still be impact players, Liggett is coming into the season facing some uncertainty with much of its defensive core. That means the Knights are going to rely on putting pressure on opponents and lighting up the scoreboard as their key to wins.

"We need to be able to score a lot of goals," Liggett boys lacrosse head coach Mike Costanzo said. "We're going to have to figure out who we are defensively. ... I'm not sure who's going to be the defensive unit yet, but we have a number of good players who are ready to fill in. We might have a different defense in every game based on circumstances, but the offense we're going to have to rely on to score some goals."

The Knights will have to rely on their scoring and try to work things out defensively while working toward their ultimate goal of winning the Catholic League and going on a deep run in the playoffs. While there may be uncertainty in some areas, the coaches are confident this year's team has strong chemistry, especially among the returning veterans. That confidence in each other could be another key that carries Liggett far this season.

"We talk a lot about trust," Costanzo said. "... The coaches are going to trust the players who are consistent and show up every day with a positive attitude and good energy. I think that's what we need to work on and build on."

The Knights open the season Tuesday, April 1, at home against Shrine Catholic at 4:30 p.m.

South girls soccer looks to build on 2024 success this spring

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls soccer team is ready to play another season and build on its strong 2024 campaign. Last spring, the Blue Devils finished second in the MAC White Division and advanced to the regional finals of the Division 1 state playoffs, making them one of the eight teams left in the post-season.

However, like any high school team, South will have to build on that success this season with a slightly different-looking group after graduating some key seniors from last year's squad. The players who will lace up their cleats for the Blue Devils again this year are still a well-seasoned group that has experience playing together and in big games.

"All the girls get along and our team chemistry is really good," South girls soccer head coach Chris Bolio said. "The team culture is pretty good, which it has been for a handful of years now. When you have a group that all gets along



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior Savannah Spangler, above left, and sophomore Brooke Hepner, above right, are part of a strong group of forwards for the Blue Devils heading into this spring season.

instead of having little cliques, everyone tends to play better together. We're going to try to play the style of soccer that we've been trying to implement the last few years and work more on ball possession than anything else and try to build out of the back."

That strong chemistry will especially be on display with the group leading South's attack this season. Lila Brundage, Savannah Spangler and Brooke Hepner are expected to be at the forefront for the Blue Devils this season when it comes to generating scoring opportunities. On the back line, senior Ava Pappas should have a major role defensively, while sophomore Abiah Karoshus also is expected to step in and contribute heavily on defense.

The Blue Devils will need everyone to contribute to overcome what they expect to be a challenging schedule this spring. South once again will compete in the MAC White Division and its league schedule includes two meetings with rival Grosse Pointe North. The team's non-league schedule includes opponents from the MAC Red Division such as Dakota and Anchor Bay, as well as a game against Salem, the team that eliminated the Blue Devils in the regional championship game last season.

The hope for South is that all of those challenges put them exactly where they want to be and when. That is, playing its best soccer when it matters the most.

"One thing that we always stress is that we want them to keep growing throughout the season and not peak too early," Bolio said. "... You want to make sure that you're climbing and climbing and climbing until you get to the end."

South begins the season Friday, March 21, with a road game at L'Anse Cruise beginning at 7 p.m.

All the girls get along and our team chemistry is really good ... When you have a group that all gets along instead of having little cliques, everyone tends to play better together.'

CHRIS BOLIO, GP SOUTH GIRLS SOCCER HEAD COACH

2025 Spring Sports Previews▶▶

North girls soccer ready to face challenges ahead in new season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the 2025 season set to begin, the Grosse Pointe North varsity girls soccer team enters this spring now two years removed from its 2023 Division 2 state championship victory. Last season had its highs and lows, with the team winning just six games with a new head coach and high expectations coming off of a state championship.

Expectations are mixed going into this season, with a relatively young group of Norsemen ready to step into major roles on the team. While youth and inexperience may bring some uncertainty, the group's eagerness to learn and grow is giving the team confidence that it can find success.

"It's a very coachable group," North girls soccer head coach Thalu Masindi said. "They're willing to learn already and had been asking a lot of questions in the offseason about how they can play certain positions or if they can try certain positions. ... We'll see a lot of youth-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Maria Castronero returns to North girls soccer this season as the team's only senior in the lineup this spring.

ful energy and a lot of learning throughout. It might not be easy at the start, but once we get a couple of games under our belts, they'll start to

gel together and figure it out on the field." The team comes into this season with just one senior in the lineup, Maria Castronero.

Juniors such as Meredith Dodenhoff and Leah Burney also are expected to be key leaders on this year's team as some of the more experienced

veterans. North moves from the MAC Red Division to the MAC White Division this year, so its conference opponents include

Chippewa Valley, Lakeview, St. Clair, Stevenson, Utica and crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South. The Norsemen are eager to face the challenges the schedule can give them and have been preparing for the season by challenging themselves in the offseason and on the practice field.

"I'm really challenging the girls to find that competitive edge within them and to push themselves 1 percent more every time they step on the practice field," Masindi said. "As much as we want to compete against other teams, we also have to compete against ourselves. ... We've been doing a lot of team bonding and getting to know each other and making sure that when we step on the field, we're comfortable enough to play alongside our new teammates."

The Norsemen began the season after press time Wednesday, March 19, on the road against L'Anse Creuse. They resume action after spring break with a game Wednesday, April 2, at L'Anse Creuse North.

Liggett girls soccer seeks balance with dynamic talent this spring

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the weather getting warmer and the grass getting greener, the University Liggett School varsity girls soccer team is getting ready to lace up their cleats and take the pitch for another season. Last spring was a bit of a mixed bag for the Knights, who finished the season with an 8-8 record and a loss in the

district championship game. While the team will have to cope with the loss of some key seniors from last year's team, including leading scorer Sofie Ancona, the Knights are confident the talent on this team will be able to help the program take another step forward.

"We've got a really good group of younger players coming in," Liggett girls soccer head

coach David Dwaihy said. "We do also have a pretty sizable senior

we left off. We ended at the hands of Shrine last year in the district and

so if that's the bar this year, then we can push for it."

'We've got a really good group of younger players coming in. We do also have a pretty sizable senior class with a lot of experience. I'm confident that we'll pick up where we left off.'

DAVID DWAIHY, LIGGETT GIRLS SOCCER HEAD COACH

class with a lot of experience. I'm confident that we'll pick up where

they're a top team in the state every year. We gave them a good game,

Some of this year's seniors expected to step up include Kerith Short,

who should be a main focus of the Knights' attack, and dynamic midfielder Addison Hamilton. Fellow seniors Addie Ancona, Elizabeth Dickey and Anna Gray will be key pieces on the back line for Liggett's defense, while sophomore Aline Rahaim is expected to step into the starting goaltender role.

With talent spread out around the field, the Knights are hoping they can have a dynamic style of play this year. The team wants to focus on not trying to rush chances, but rather sitting back and creating opportunities to strike from anywhere.

"More than ever, I like to think that we can play a true passing style where we're very rarely playing the ball forward in a panicked way," Dwaihy said. "Every pass is calculated and we're moving when we don't have the ball and are trying to spring some passes together when we're on the attack. ... Hopefully, we can be defensively organized and that will be a priority. When we get the ball on the ground and settle it and start moving it, we hopefully can create chances in very deliberate ways and pass our way in behind them."

Liggett begins the season Tuesday, April 1, hosting Grosse Pointe South at 4:30 p.m.

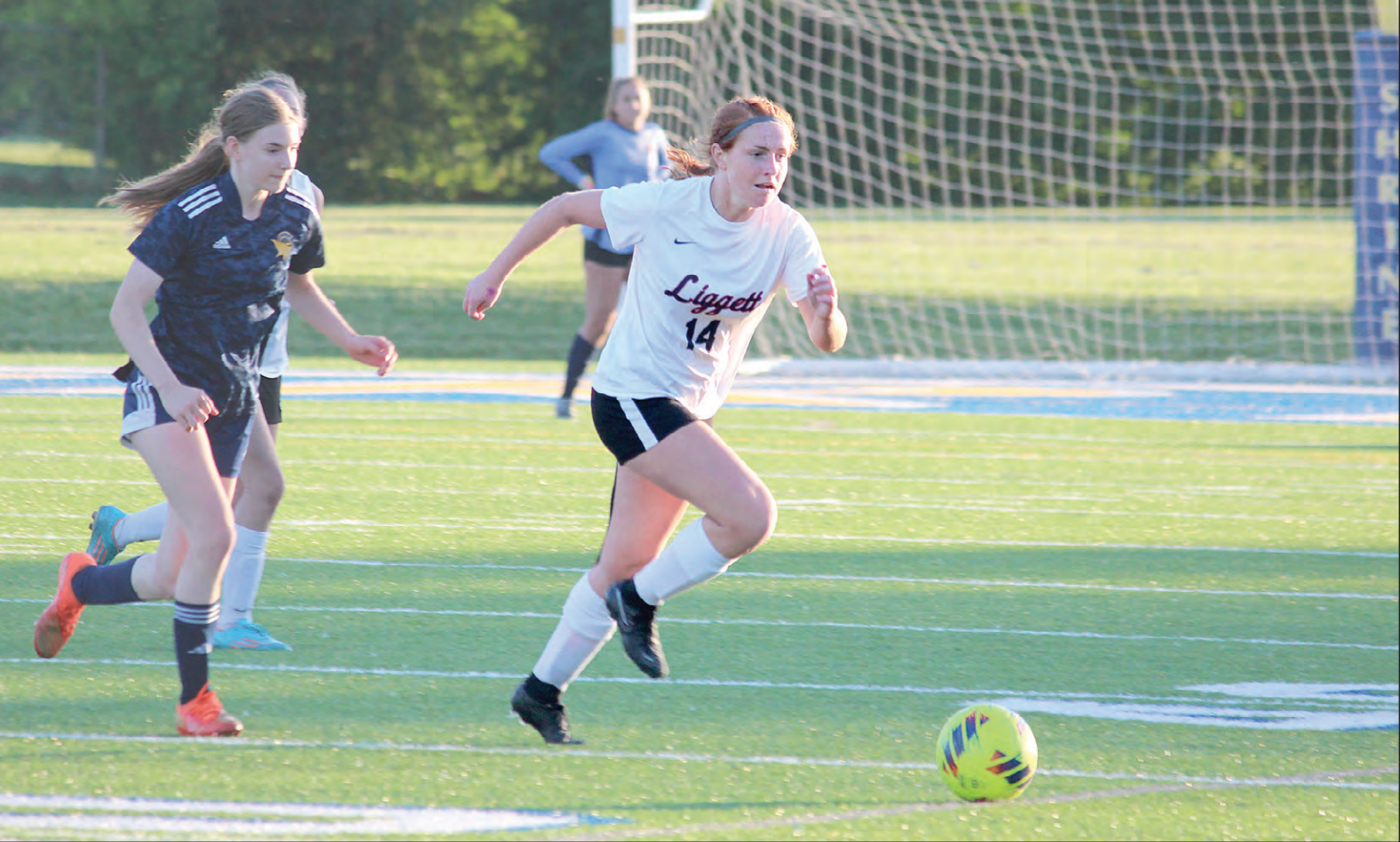


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Kerith Short returns to the Knights for her senior season this spring and is expected to play a major role on offense for the team.

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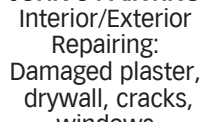
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8D | SPORTS

ATHLETE:
Continued from page 1D

after the second period against Mid-Michigan Alliance in the championship game, but the chemistry among the entire team, especially the veterans, gave Evans and her teammates faith that they could win.

“We definitely all knew that we could come back,” Evans said. “... It wasn’t super discouraging. I think it gave us the boost we needed rather than hold us back.”

South rallied in the third period, of course. Audrey Reynolds and

Molly Reynolds scored the two goals that tied the game before Evans scored the game-winner.

‘They know, especially in times when we’re down, that they have confidence in us and know that we’re going to get back up.’

ABBY EVANS, SENIOR, GP SOUTH GIRLS HOCKEY

Evans will always remember this season and her final goal, but everything she and her teammates accomplished were things they already knew they were capable of. They had faith in themselves largely because they had

the trust of the coaching staff, for whom Evans has enjoyed every minute playing during her

high school career. “They really get me settled in and get everyone hyped up,” she said. “They know, especially in times when we’re down, that they have confidence in us and know that we’re going to get back up.”



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Evans finished the season second on the Blue Devils in points with 39, including 18 goals and 21 assists.

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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:

STATE CHAMPS

Grosse Pointers Johnny Secco, Luca Cannata and Drake Gram were part of the Little Caesars AAA 16U hockey team that won the state championship earlier this month. Secco, Cannata, Gram and the rest of the team are now headed to the 2025 16U Tier I National Championships in Madison, Wisc. beginning April 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

MIKE'S
MARCH PICKS

It is finally time for some of the most exciting sports days on the sports calendar every year. The NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball tournaments are set to begin this week, and sports reporter Mike Adzima is here to give his picks for the Final Four and national champions of this year's brackets.

MEN'S PICKS

- **Final Four**
Florida vs. Michigan St.
Duke vs. Houston
- **National Championship**
Florida vs. Duke
- **National Champion**
Florida

WOMEN'S PICKS

- **Final Four**
UConn vs. NC State
South Carolina vs. Texas
- **National Championship**
UConn vs. South Carolina
- **National Champion**
UConn



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The Grosse Pointe News is proud to announce our new social media page completely dedicated to bringing you the best sports news and moments from around the Pointes. @GPNewssports on Instagram is where you will be able to find instant updates from the biggest games and amazing highlights from athletes and teams at every level from youth sports to high school freshman, JV and varsity.

Best of all, we want to highlight all of the moments that YOU share with us. Send your best sports photos and achievements to our DMs on Instagram or to our email, sports@grossepointenews.com, for your chance to be featured on our social media and even in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News each week!

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