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APRIL 17, 2025
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Harper Woods recontracts with GPAAS

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — Animal control services in Harper Woods resumed last week after three months with no means of dealing with strays; however, tensions remain high between city council and the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

Nothing changed from the contract the city was presented with and tabled in December, aside from its length and city officials being forced to acknowledge there are no other viable options for animal control other than the nonprofit they’ve partnered with since 2012.

“We explored all kinds of options (and) it all kept on coming back to GPAAS,” Director of

Public Safety Jason Hammerle said. “We discussed getting our own animal control, contracting with other communities, all of these things, but they kept coming back to (the fact) we don’t have a facility to house these animals in our city. We had to take the animal down to I-75 in Hamtramck, the Humane Society, and I’m taking a police officer off the road for an hour. That is a non-starter.”

The majority of council last Monday reluctantly agreed to a three-month contract with GPAAS through June 1, for a cost of \$19,824, which equates to a quarter of the \$79,300 annual charge city officials are protesting.

See GPAAS, page 3A

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Hoppy Easter!

Grosse Pointe Shores hosted its Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 12, at Osius Park. The event included face painting, games, snacks, drinks, gift bags and more. Grosse Pointe Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni and his grandson, Stephen Wheble, took part in the fun, including spending time with the Easter Bunny. For more photos from the event, see page 8A.

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See our LIFE section

Park allied with GP school board

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Leaders worthy of the role respond to threats with clear intent.

“If I am to accomplish one thing tonight,” said Mayor Michele Hodges during the April 14 city council meeting, “it is to make it abundantly clear we will not tolerate violence or threats of violence, and to stand against bullying, for it and violence are intertwined, with one leading to the other. Enough is enough.”

She spoke in the presence of two public safety officers deployed to the meeting as a show of solidarity with the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

“There were comments made at the last school board meeting that brought concern,” City Manager Nick

Sizeland said. “We felt it was important to show the community that we want to protect our council, staff and community members.”

Comments to which he referred came during a March 31 school board meeting in an apparent death threat by a Grosse Pointe Woods resident against school trustee and owner of the Grosse Pointe News, Sean Cotton.

Coverage and a video recording of the rant percolated from local media to Newsweek because he invoked the name of a man also shown on video last December allegedly shooting to death health care executive Brian Thompson in New York City.

“To some disgruntled teen with his or her father’s pistol or rifle, any of the other things you prefer in school

See ALLIED, page 2A

Colter tree-planting on Arbor Day

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — When the rising sun draws open the day’s curtains, it reveals the late City Forester Brian Colter’s memorial to the community for which he worked 30 years.

“His presence in the Pointes will be felt in the legacy of the many, many trees he planted that will outlive all of us,” said Pat Deck, Colter’s friend and fellow member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

A united city council on April 14 passed a resolution in Colter’s honor.

Comments in and about the resolution foreshadow those to come during a tree-planting ceremony in his honor at 1 p.m. Friday, April 25 — Arbor Day — at Patterson Park, on Essex at the foot of Three Mile Drive.

Colter died March 15, one month ahead of heart surgery.

“Upon Brian’s passing, the outpouring of community love and support to the man who dedicated his life to urban forestry will never be forgotten, with vendors and residents generously donating trees in his honor; with warm

See COLTER, page 3A

Woods going with parking meter app

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — No more fishing for quarters for people patronizing businesses on Mack if they don’t want to.

“In response to numerous requests from both residents and patrons, the city will be moving forward with implementing Passport Parking, which is already in use in the City of Grosse Pointe

and Grosse Pointe Park,” according to an email from Assistant City Administrator Sue Como. “Passport Parking will be installing their technology to assist patrons with parking through a mobile app which gives users the option to pay using the app or continue with the traditional coin method. It’s the best of both worlds.”

The app functions by dividing the city meters into zones, which will be

clearly identified with signage and stickers from the company. When a patron parks and chooses to use Passport, they can open the app or webpage, enter the zone in which they are parked and provide their license plate number.

Those who choose to use the app will incur an additional charge of 35 cents, in addition to the city’s standard rate. For

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Pointer of INTEREST
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Kathy Gaughan
Longtime Grosse Pointe Public Library employee retires from Woods branch

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Fire units form pact

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Park firefighters run with the big dogs under a mutual-aid pact with Detroit.

“We probably respond to as many fires in a year as they do in a month,” said Jim Bostock, director of Park public safety.

An agreement signed between the jurisdictions this week prescribes that Detroit fire investigators assisting the Park root out causes of suspicious fires, plus help put out fires in general.

“It’s a reciprocal agreement,” Bostock said.

It also expands upon a weeklong training session a Park fire investigator did late last year with a team of Detroit counterparts.

“We are going to be able to send him out with the squad so he can get hands-on, eyes-on, real-world experience with people who do this every single day,” Bostock said. “That’s the benefit for us.”

Detroit also comes out ahead.

“They can show people in charge of grants and purse strings that they are reaching out to communities outside their bubble and bring in more training funds,” Bostock said.

Terms are contained in a memorandum of understanding signed

by Bostock, Park City Manager Nick Sizeland and Detroit Chief of the Fire Investigation Division Dennis Richardson.

“The purpose of the understanding is to establish a cooperative working relationship between Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety and the Detroit Fire Department to enhance the investigation of suspicious fires, provide evidence collection assistance and offer fire suppression support when necessary,” according to the agreement.

“The success of a public safety operation depends upon collaborative efforts and partnership,” Bostock said. “This (agreement) establishes a seamless exchange of resources and personnel and enterprise. It’s going to increase community resilience, improve operational effectiveness and build trust among our mutual-aid partners and our partners in Detroit.”

Terms supplement and are independent from the Park’s mutual-aid pact with the other four Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

“It does not replace it,” Bostock said. “It adds to it.”

A unanimous Park council approved the agreement April 14.

“There are increased resources you’ll be able to utilize,” Councilman Brent Dreaver said. “I

see nothing but great things coming from it. It also seems like a great opportunity to strengthen bonds with our neighbors.”

“It also opens the door to us for training with the Detroit Fire Department,” Bostock said.

“There’s a termination clause in case, for some reason, it doesn’t work out,” Councilman Max Wiener said. “I don’t see why it wouldn’t.”

Until now, when Park police needed outside help investigating fires, they called the Michigan State Police post in Jackson.

“It took an hour and a half to two hours before they’d get here,” Bostock said. “We can have (Detroit) here in a phone call.”

Among goals the council set for Bostock this year was building a relationship with the Detroit Fire Department.

“This is a nice companion to other efforts underway to make sure we are protecting the property of our community as well as the health and safety,” Mayor Michele Hodges told Bostock.

“I have a team that really worked hard on it,” Bostock said.

“This is what leaders do,” said Councilman Marty McMillan, chairman of the Public Safety Committee. “Yes, people helped you, but you’re our leader and that’s why your chief. Thank you and your team.”

Egg Stroll in the Woods

Grosse Pointe Woods hosted its annual Egg Stroll Saturday, April 12 at Lake Front Park.

Mr. E. Bunny took lots of photos with kids and families, while event-goers strolled through the park to collect plastic eggs, which they turned in for bags full of treats.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Silas Pletscher, Leighton Pletscher, Madeline Brown and Adam Brown rest on a bench lined with Easter egg cutouts. Madeline Brown gave herself “bunny ears” with her hands because she gave her ears to her brother to wear.



Above, Fallyn Jamieson poses for a photo with Mr. E. Bunny and can’t resist making “bunny ears” behind his head. Mr. E. Bunny was OK with it, giving his thumbs up. Right, Lia and Sophia Joseph stand near a sign that reads, “Mr. E. Bunny says, ‘Walk silly.’” They obliged with a few silly movements, then moved on to collect their treat bags.



Quinn Kapuscinski loves the color pink and was thrilled when she saw so many pink Easter eggs to collect. She was even more excited when she turned them in to receive a pink bag filled with treats.



ALLIED:

Continued from page 1A

other than rainbow flags, you might be a Brian Thompson,” the man said during a public comment section of the board meeting.

Cotton and his family have backgrounds in health care.

Hodges said, “Many (people) make the

choice to mislead rather than lead for reasons that have nothing to do with community, or building it, and no likelihood of eliciting any kind of productive result.”

She called them cowards.

“We must condemn the chaos that some seem to prefer and that makes violence and threats of violence more

likely and somehow acceptable,” Hodges said.

Sizeland said he’s not aware of any threats against Park officials.

The public safety presence wasn’t in response to a specific threat nor a spoiling action against a potential threat.

“The officers are here just to let the community know we’re here for

their safety,” he said.

“The community can no longer be dragged down by those who do not know how to move us forward,” Hodges said.

She continued, “Bullies are not welcome here and certainly not in the bullying location of their choice — social media. Fake profiles that are allowed

to shape and mold our community. Voices who make it their profession to attack and mislead. Go away, along with the enablers who give them legitimacy.”

She specifically addressed youth watching the meeting live-streamed and recordings on the city’s YouTube channel.

“They need to know

there is another way and that the addictive and cult-like need of many adults to attack and threaten and mislead is not the way,” she said. “Fight, but with facts. Fight with dignity. And those same youth need to see leaders stand up to the bullies and threats of violence, as I am doing tonight. Enough is enough.”



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APP:

Continued from page 1A

example, while the city charges 25 cents for every 30 minutes, using the app will cost 60 cents for the same duration.

Here’s how it works:
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◆ confirm the payment

to start your session.

The app allows users to extend their session remotely and can send notifications about how much time remains.

Cost to the city includes a one-time fee of \$2,000 for two mobile devices for parking enforcement officers to use, as well as

a \$375 monthly software licensing fee. The city has close to 900 parking meters.

“The enforcement officers will still have to check the meters, just like they’ve always done,” said Jim Kowalski, director of public services. “Using the monitoring devices, they can check if the license plate on a particular vehicle matches that zone. If there are four cars parked in a certain zone, they should see four license plates listed.”

The project is set to be completed within the next couple of months, Kowalski said.

“We’ve been talking about doing this for about a year,” he added. “A lot of people have been asking for it and the business owners love it.”

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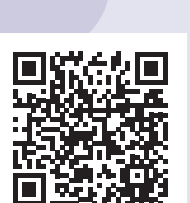
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Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock, left, with volunteers Mary and Maddie Mancus, Betsy Enders, Kelly Moore, Lynn Arrington and Susie Stefani-Bohrer at last summer's Main-opoly fundraiser in The Village.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Village to host volunteer event

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — April is National Volunteer Month and, as such, Main Street Grosse Pointe is inviting community members to get involved with ongoing efforts to continue revitalizing The Village.

A casual volunteer event will be held 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the St. Clair plaza near Starbucks, during which those curious

about volunteer opportunities may drop in to get more information.

“Whether you’re interested in planting flowers, organizing events or simply spreading joy, we’ve got something for everyone,” Executive Director Cindy Willcock noted. “Every effort — big or small — makes an impact and every moment is a chance to shine. Plus, it’s a fantastic way to connect with like-minded

neighbors and leave your mark on The Village.”

Community members also are welcome to fill out a volunteer interest card to stay in the loop about upcoming volunteer opportunities and be the first to know about future events and projects.

“Swing by, meet some incredible people and dive into the buzz of creating something amazing together,” Willcock said.

Park makes paving plan; lot clutter to stay put

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A contractor was lined up this week to execute this year’s road paving campaign.

Work is scheduled on Charlevoix between Berkshire and Three Mile Drive. In addition, part of the overflow parking lot at Windmill Pointe Park will be resurfaced.

Repaving the lot brought false hopes to Councilman Tom Caulfield and others seeking removal from the site of public works vehicles, supplies, mounds of dirt and road salt, tree limbs and related storm debris that have been called eyesores during meetings of the parks and recreation and infrastructure committees.

Tom Jenny, head of public works, said the storage area is being left alone for now. Only the front portion of the lot is scheduled for repaving.

“Why not do all of it?” Councilman Marty McMillan asked.

“Price,” Jenny said. “It comes down to price.”

“There’s a lot of talk about what are we doing with equipment there,” Caulfield said.

“We are working on a project coming down the pipe for you guys (of) a salt dome,” Jenny said. “It (the vehicles, et al) will be removed?” Caulfield asked.

“It will be eventually, yes,” Jenny said.

Members of the city council on April 14 awarded the repaving contract to Birmingham Sealcoat, located in Oxford.

“Four bids were received, the low bidder being Birmingham,” Jenny said.

The company’s \$569,904 bid beat its closest rival by \$2,685 in addition to being lower than expected.

“The low bid is approximately 5 percent below the engineer’s opinion of probable cost,” said Patrick Droze, project manager at OHM Advisors, the city’s consulting engineers.

“Five percent below estimate — got to love that,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The highest bid was \$38,644 greater than Birmingham’s.

“This is going to be budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

The new fiscal year starts July 1.

“OHM contacted several references for current and past projects and received similar favorable responses for asphalt programs in various communities,” Droze said.

He said the chief engineering inspector of Farmington Hills described the company as “cooperative, easy to work with and constructed roads with good rideability during their asphalt rehabilitation program.”

The resurfacing process includes installing new curbs as needed and restoring topsoil and sod.

No alley repaving is scheduled this year.

GPAAS:

Continued from page 1A

Specifically, council members take issue with the fact Harper Woods is being charged more than four times the amount of the next highest user, Grosse Pointe Park, at \$16,900.

GPAAS began charging the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods for its services this year after establishing a new municipal animal protection facility, which is expected to carry \$130,000 in annual overhead costs — liability insurance, electrical, water and minimal staff.

Executive Director Corrine Martin previously explained the calculations were made based on usage and Harper Woods brings in 61 percent of the animals

housed at GPAAS.

The cities additionally are charged a fee per animal that is brought in.

“I have a problem with our paying the base fee for the facility itself at a rate four times higher than any other community that’s using the same facility and requiring the same base services,” said Councilwoman Vivian Sawicki, who was one of two dissenting votes against the three-month contract. “I do understand that our hands are tied, but I really believe that GPAAS needs to reevaluate how they are charging the communities. If that means you increase the per-animal fee to better reflect the number of animals that you take in, that’s one thing, but the base fee for what you have calculated is the cost of the facility — the electricity, the

water, your basic number of people that are working there — that is something that should be spread equally across all communities that are using that facility, period.”

Councilman Ivery Toussant also voted against the contract, stating the charges should take into account that the nonprofit, which is headquartered in Harper Woods, doesn’t pay taxes to the city but receives municipal services.

Come June 1, the city will have the option to continue the contract month by month or through the end of the year.

Should it continue its partnership with GPAAS, a meeting with GPAAS, Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods city managers will take place in December, at

which time the allocation of costs going forward can be discussed and presented to all six councils for approval.

“We can armwrestle over this in December, but today we absolutely need an animal control service in place,” interim City Manager John Szymanski said, adding he saw a stray dog jumping on residents a few weeks back. “This contract is only for three months. If we don’t like it, we can opt out. If we do like the contract, then we can go month by month or we can go until the end of the year, but essentially we need something in place today.

“Business is business,” he continued. “We have to put feelings aside and carry on with the business of the city.”

Martin shared a similar

sentiment.

“I think at this point, maybe we both are upset about what’s happened,” she said to council, “but it’s time to throw it under

the rug and be done with it and build a new relationship and get over the personal stuff, because we’re here to serve and we want to help.”

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, APRIL 21

◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

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

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Downtown Development Authority meeting, 7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Town Hall meeting about water and sewer systems, 9:30 a.m.

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DPW yard, 1200 Parkway. Residents only.

COLTER:

Continued from page 1A

gratitude extended to his longtime partner Lisa (Kyle, chair of the beautification committee), who is assisting the city in this time of transition,” according to the resolution which Mayor Michele Hodges read aloud.

“There are people who do more than are asked of them and leave the world a better place,” said Deck, speaking on behalf of commission members in the front row of council chambers. “Brian Colter was one of those people. There are more trees in Grosse Pointe Park today than ever in the history of Grosse Pointe Park. Grosse Pointe Park has the most canopy cover of the five Grosse Pointes. There are over 8,000 city-owned street trees in Grosse Pointe Park.”

Deck said Colter kept patient even when presented the absurd.

“A resident asked Brian to fill holes a woodpecker had dug,” Deck said.

Hodges had a meeting with Colter the day before he died.

“He was so full of life,” she said.

She intends to add Colter’s birthday to a timeline he made on a tree ring displayed in the lobby of city hall.

“We’re going to make that happen,” she said.

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Third time’s the charm

Longtime librarian retires, but won’t disappear

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

From now on when patrons see Kathy Gaughan at their local Grosse Pointe Public Library branch, she will no longer be there in an official capacity, but she may still be willing to help.

The longtime circulation clerk, who officially retired Friday, April 4, plans to continue to be a fixture where she feels most at home, surrounded by her favorite people.

“This will be my third try (at retirement),” Gaughan said, citing teaching and nonprofit work as her two previous careers.

Her fondness for books stems from her childhood, when her father served in the U.S. Army.

“I’m from everywhere,” she said. “We moved a lot my whole life, which led to my love of books. Books could be friends no matter where you were.”

Her family stayed put long enough for Gaughan to graduate high school in Missouri and earn degrees in education and library science from Southeast Missouri State University.

“I’ve always loved libraries,” she said. “Teaching was always what I thought to do. I love kids and I love working with people.”

Gaughan laughs recalling her first teaching job — at an elementary school



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Kathy Gaughan recently retired from her post as circulation clerk at the Woods branch.

in a rural community. A city girl, Gaughan said one of the first units she had to teach her third and fourth graders was on farming.

“I said, ‘You have to teach me,’ so they took my on my first field trip to a farm,” she said. “We were looking at this pasture of cows and something nudged me from behind. I thought it was one of my students. I turned and saw the biggest, hairiest thing I’ve ever seen. I said, ‘What is that?’ They said, ‘It’s a pig.’ I said, ‘No. I read ‘Charlotte’s Web.’ Pigs

are cute and pink and have curly tails. That’s not a pig.”

After briefly teaching high school in another rural Missouri community, she decided to get a master’s degree in library science. She followed her parents to Michigan — where they had moved after dropping her off at college — and earned a master’s from Wayne State University. She taught in a library in the L’Anse Creuse Public Schools district one year, but it was a good year; that’s where she met her husband, Rich.

Since 1980, she’s been in Grosse Pointe.

“I started at the old Park branch when it was part of Pierce (Middle School) as a children’s librarian and I worked with the schools,” she said. “After five years, there was a job opening in the schools. I taught everywhere except Maire, Poupard and Kerby. I fell in love with this community.”

Gaughan considers herself an honorary Grosse Pointer — she lives four houses from Grosse Pointe Woods, in St. Clair Shores.

“We tried to live in Grosse Pointe, but my husband was a ham radio operator and the Pointes won’t allow radio towers,” she explained.

Gaughan taught at Monteith the longest, from 1985 until her first retirement in 2010. After her husband passed away, she began dedicating her time to nonprofits. She worked with Kids on the Go, taught religious education at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School and was a Friends of the GPPL board member. During this time, she also was a caregiver for her ailing mother, then worked selling books at Le-Chateau Art Gallery in Grosse Pointe Park. She helped run the Friends of the GPPL bookstore as well.

“Through that I reconnected with my library friends,” she said. “I

started subbing and then this job came up, part time. I’ve been doing it 11 years.

“... When I first started here, a lady would call every morning and ask the day, the time and the temperature,” she recalled. “It made me realize there are people in this world who don’t have anyone else. I decided I’m going to be that person, no matter what kind of day they’re having, I’m going to smile and ask how you are and hopefully make the day a little bit better. That’s easy to do here. That’s the part of Grosse Pointe I love. People who live here are lucky to live in such a warm, caring community, create long-lasting relationships and friendships and walk into a place like this where they’re known.”

She made a point of getting to know library patrons early on.

“When I walked in here at Woods (branch), when I was a patron, they would call me by my name,” she said. “When I got the job, my goal was to learn the patrons by their names. They’re who I’ll miss the most.”

Gaughan said she’s always felt it important to give children the skills “to locate information and use institutions like the library for information and pleasure.

“I had the privilege while working in Grosse Pointe schools to help

write the K-12 library curriculum that I believe is still in place,” she said. “We started out with literature appreciation with the young children and the ability to find things in the library. We also began to teach the critical skills of locating information and discerning its accuracy. Our children these days are going to end up working in several different careers and their ability to teach themselves what they need to know to succeed in that particular career is going to be particularly important.

“Libraries have an integral role in this process,” she continued. “I think that’s why being an educator as well as a librarian was so special in my life. What I hope for all students is that they become lifelong learners and library users.”

Gaughan used to read the picture book “Goin’ Someplace Special” by Patricia McKissack to her fifth-grade students. It’s a story of a young black girl who wants to go by herself to “someplace special,” aka the public library. The story is set in the deep South during segregation. The girl knew once she got there, she would find she was accepted and welcomed.

“And that to me is what libraries are,” Gaughan said.

“The libraries here, I can’t say enough about them,” she added. “I’ve been to libraries around the country and this is the most amazing staff I’ve ever worked with. They’re creative geniuses. Jessica (Keyser, GPPL executive director) has addressed the needs of this community so beautifully. The staff she hired works together so well. I’ve never seen a patron walk out of here disappointed. I’m really proud to have been a part of this.”

Gaughan said she hopes to slow down a bit, but also travel more in retirement. She plans to get involved once again with charities. Kids on the Go and Gilda’s Club are in her sights.

“But I’ll stay around and be a menace around here, too,” she said of the Woods branch.

“Thank you — that’s the biggest thing,” she added. “Thank you for inspiring me, taking me in and making me part of this fantastic group of people. ... It’s hard to leave. I’ve made a lot of friends and I hope to keep them.

“It’s a wonderful place to work. You don’t work when it’s something you love. All my life, I’ve never worked.”

CONTEST!

Kid Scoop

What’s your FAVORITE PART?

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

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Cosmetics thief

Cosmetics and liquor were stolen from a business in the 17000 block of Mack at 4:20 p.m. Monday, April 7.

Flee & elude

When officers attempted to pull over a 2005 Chrysler minivan for speeding 58 mph on Mack at 12:45 p.m. Sunday, April 13, it fled at a high rate of speed. The vehicle is registered to a 29-year-old Detroit man.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Unlicensed

A 21-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving while unlicensed at 2:44 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, after he was pulled over at East Warren and Canyon for an expired license plate tab. He was cited for the expired plate and received a warning for not having insurance.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Smoke & drive

A 43-year-old Warren man admitted to smoking marijuana while driving along Lakeshore at 4:31 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, after he was pulled over for an inoperative tail light on the commercial trailer he was towing. The man also was found to have a felony warrant out of Macomb County, for which he was arrested.

U-turn

After making a prohibited U-turn on Mack at Kerby in a vehicle with a broken tail light, a 22-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at 9:10 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. The man was cited for defective equipment and driving with a suspended license.

Fraud

A 63-year-old Farms man last week discovered two accounts fraudulently opened with the University of Phoenix using his Social Security number.

Charges total \$2,379, but the man is not out any money.

Too slow

For driving 18 mph on Lakeshore and weaving within the left lane, an intoxicated driver was pulled over at 12:19 a.m. Sunday, April 13. The 41-year-old Detroit woman had a blood alcohol content of 0.11 percent, for which she was arrested.

Harassment

A 25-year-old Farms man since March has received dozens of harassing and threatening text messages from a young man he attended college with six years ago.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Lost and found

Two vehicles were

recovered unoccupied in Detroit last week the day after they were stolen in the Park. One was found before its owner reported it missing.

The first, a 2015 Jeep Cherokee, was stolen while parked overnight Monday, April 7, in the 1400 block of Maryland. The second, a 2019 Dodge Challenger, was taken sometime after sundown Thursday, April 10, in the 900 block of Beaconsfield. “(It) was recovered unoccupied by Detroit police before (it) was reported by the owner,” according to Park police.

Caught

Detroit police chased an assault suspect into the Park the evening of Tuesday, April 8, and caught him on foot at 9:35 p.m. at Charlevoix and Buckingham. Police didn’t describe the alleged perpetrator, but said in addition to being accused of felonious assault on a police officer, the suspect was charged with a crime involving alcohol and

other drugs.

A car chase into the Park preceded foot pursuit.

Also caught

Park police terminated the car chase of a man reportedly speeding on eastbound Jefferson at Bedford at 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 11. “Grosse Pointe Shores public safety officers observed the vehicle and pursued it into St. Clair Shores, where (it) struck another vehicle and light pole,” according to a Park investigator. “The driver fled on foot and was later arrested by St. Clair Shores police.” — Brad Lindberg
Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch. —Ted O’Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicle

A 2017 Audi was stolen from a driveway in the 700 block of Canterbury sometime between 10 p.m. Sunday, April 6, and 8 a.m. Monday, April 7. The owner believes a key fob may have been in the vehicle.

Vehicles broken into

There were three instances of items stolen from vehicles in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Brys overnight into Monday, April 7. Stolen were miscellaneous items from a console, a steering wheel lock and approximately \$5 in change. —Ted O’Neil
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Car chase ends in crash

A 19-year-old Detroit man was arrested around 11 a.m. Friday, April 11, after leading police on a chase along Lake St. Clair. According to Lt. Tony Spina of the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department, officers in Grosse Pointe Park attempted to pull the man over on Jefferson for driving recklessly. “They called it off when they got to Grosse



COURTESY PHOTO

stop him near Lochmoor and he sped off.” The suspect ended up in a subdivision just inside St. Clair Shores, then drove northbound in the southbound lanes where Lakeshore turns back into Jefferson. “He clipped another vehicle and lost control,” Spina said, “then ran off on foot.”

The light pole was next to the tennis courts at Grosse Pointe Woods Lake Front Park at the intersection of Jefferson and Marter. Officers found the man hiding in a garbage can on Doremus, the first street off Jefferson north of Marter.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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OUR VIEW

That time of year again

As Benjamin Franklin once wrote, the only certain things in this world are death and taxes.

The latter hit home two days ago for those of us who owed state or federal taxes. Might as well wait until the last second to pay, especially with the convenience of paying online. It also counts if your mailed return is postmarked before midnight on deadline day.

Those who filed early most likely have already received any refunds they were due. It can be a headscratcher, though, when people boast about how large of a refund they received. In reality, they gave the government an interest-free loan for a year and should probably talk to a tax professional about solving that.

To add insult to injury, the state of Michigan considers your tax refund from the previous year to be taxable income when you file the following year.

For those getting refunds, the question always comes up as how best they should spend it.

According to our reader poll (below, right), more than half of you — 53 percent — owe taxes rather than getting a refund. For those of you getting a refund, 19 percent will use it to pay off debt, 17 will invest it and 12 percent will use it for something fun, like a vacation.

Nerdwallet.com recommends paying down debt as a good option.

As we noted in this space last month, Wayne County ranks in the top 10 in the state for credit card debt as a percentage of income. To refresh your memory, the raw numbers per capita show an average income of \$28,402 and average credit card debt per capita of \$2,659.

Even better, almost 60 percent of our readers said they had less than \$1,000 in credit card debt.

According to nerdwallet, using that refund to pay down debt should be considered only after covering your priorities, including things like groceries and utilities. The American Institute of CPAs also recommends using your refund to set up or bump up an emergency fund, generally equal to three to six months of household expenses.

If you do want to pay off debt, experts recommend you focus on paying off those with the highest interest rates, be they credit cards or loans, then get to work on the next highest once that is paid off.

A recent survey by nerdwallet also found that people will use a portion of their refund to make a charitable donation, contribute to a retirement account or add it to either a flexible spending account or health savings account.

So, how did we get to this point? While a federal income tax was imposed on and off during the second half of the 19th century — most notably to pay for the Civil War — it was not fully implemented until the ratification of the 16th Amendment.

The main text says, “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.”

From whatever source derived. Therein lies the rub. Get a paycheck? Get taxed. Use that money to buy something? Get taxed. Invest some of it and earn interest? Get taxed. Pass it on to your heirs? They get taxed. Like the old wintertime joke goes, it is so cold outside I actually saw a politician with their hands in their own pockets.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST OPINION By Sarah Rokoczy

Where your tax dollars are going in 2025

Michigan is now operating under the 2025 state budget that was enacted by the Democratic legislature and signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last year. The budget is the largest in the state's history, and it includes nearly \$994 million in pork spending as calculated by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

The budget analysis reveals that some counties came out ahead and others came out behind. The most sparsely populated counties received nothing. Only 12 of Michigan's 83 counties received above-average funding for these pork projects.

What constitutes average funding? The average county would receive around \$100 per capita. However, that is not the reality. Thirty-one counties received below-average funding, or even next to nothing per capita.

Per capita spending was calculated by taking the amount of pork allocated to each county and dividing it by the Bureau of Economic Analysis' 2022 population data for that county.

Another major disparity found upon analysis of the state budget is that 40 Michigan counties were given no funding. This is not related to inputs — taxpayers in those coun-

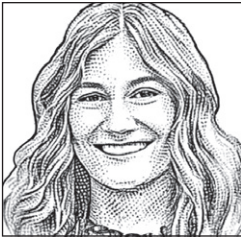
ties also contributed to the general fund revenue that is being used to fund the pork spending spree in the other 43 counties.

It may also come as a surprise that the county with the highest per capita spending is Mackinac County, with \$725 per capita, while the lowest recipient county this year is Livingston County, which receives a mere 62 cents. The analysis reveals stark geographic disparities in spending (not including the 40 counties that failed to receive any pork spending).

Some counties that received high dollar amounts, such as Oakland County at \$46,498,500 and Washtenaw County at \$27,773,800, still did not receive an amount that equals the average per capita. Oakland County received \$37 per capita and Washtenaw County received \$76 per capita.

The 2025 state budget clearly contains plentiful pork spending that almost none of the taxpayers who provided the money will be able to enjoy. Such uneven allocation demands public scrutiny. The spending numbers strongly suggest that last year's legislative majority engaged in clear favoritism when deciding how to spend your money.

Sarah Rokoczy is a communications intern with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a state-based, free-market think tank headquartered in Midland, Mich.



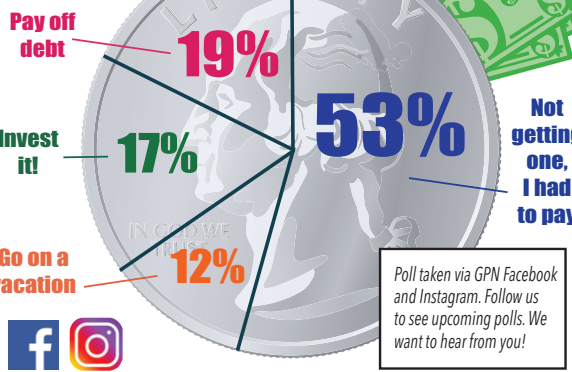
But fear not. Tax Freedom Day is right around the corner. Calculated by The Tax Foundation, it is the day Americans stop working to pay all local, state and federal taxes and begin working for themselves. This year it is slated for June 12, the latest on the calendar it has ever been.

The foundation also has some interesting research when it comes to who pays how much in taxes. Despite repeated calls by some politicians that “the rich should pay their fair share,” the top 1 percent of earners pay about 45 percent of all federal taxes. The top 10 percent pay 75 percent and the top 25 percent pay 90 percent.

The Beatles summed it up pretty well with their 1966 song “Taxman,” singing “Yeah, I’m the taxman, and you’re working for no one but me.”

Grosse Pointe News How do you plan to spend your tax return?

POINTER POLL



Poll taken via GPN Facebook and Instagram. Follow us to see upcoming polls. We want to hear from you!

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

April 17 – 23



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
59° 33°	70° 31°	61° 46°	58° 50°	68° 39°	79° 45°	64° 43°
Partly Cloudy	Rain	Chance of Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	Windy	Mostly Clear
0%	90%	40%	0%	70%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 6:45 am SUNSET 8:18 pm	SUNRISE 6:43 am SUNSET 8:19 pm	SUNRISE 6:42 am SUNSET 8:20 pm	SUNRISE 6:40 am SUNSET 8:21 pm	SUNRISE 6:39 am SUNSET 8:22 pm	SUNRISE 6:37 am SUNSET 8:23 pm	SUNRISE 6:36 am SUNSET 8:24 pm

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

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes 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.

I SAY By Mike Adzima



Evaluating the ‘Yzer-Plan’

Steve Yzerman was my biggest hero for the first nine years of my life, until he retired. I pretended I was him while playing mini-sticks hockey in my family’s living room. I was there the night in 2007, when they raised his jersey to the rafters at Joe Louis Arena. Steve Yzerman was and always will be my favorite Detroit Red Wings player of all time.

However, the time to officially question Yzerman’s leadership as general manager of the Red Wings has arrived. When he was announced as the team’s new GM back in 2019, I never imagined that six years

later, the Red Wings would be the furthest behind of any Detroit sports team in terms of being positioned to compete for a championship. We knew the rebuild would be long and arduous, but it is time to become fed up with the mediocrity.

In six years, Steve Yzerman and the Red Wings’ front office have not been able to put together a roster that is average enough to make the playoffs. In the NHL, all you have to be to make the playoffs is average. Half of the teams in the league make it in and you’re telling me the Red Wings can’t even get there?

They came close last year. Any Red Wings fan will remember the heartbreak the very last night of the regular season in 2024, and that was almost forgivable. They were

right there and things didn’t break their way, but there were still things they could have done better.

This year, I was pleased when the front office made the decision to let go of head coach Derek Lalonde and replace him with Todd McLellan. Do I think they waited too long to do it? Yes, but at least they did, and the team played significantly better under McLellan most of the rest of the season. For a while in January and February, the playoffs seemed almost certain, but then it all fell apart again.

The bottom line is the Red Wings have struggled for years to put together a complete NHL roster. For a long time, the issue was scoring. The team could not produce on offense, which naturally made it difficult to win games. The last couple of sea-

sons, that problem has been fixed, but then the issue of defense and goal-tending took over.

The biggest move Yzerman has made as GM so far — trading for Alex DeBrincat in the 2023 offseason — largely has been a success. However, there has to be more. While the top lines are stacked with solid production, the Red Wings seem content to not worry about depth and keep adding older, average players to short-term deals to fill out spots in the bottom forward and defensive lines.

Instead of witnessing some of the highly touted draft picks and prospects the Red Wings have accumulated, we are forced to observe these veteran players struggle to produce. The team needs to find a direction. While they appear poised for a full-blown youth move-

ment, they instead seem content to let the young prospects continue to play in the minor leagues or overseas while their spots are taken up by players on short-term contracts.

This off-season will be more of people saying how Yzerman and the front office need to make a splash — and it seems like we have been saying that for a few years now. There is little to hope for with the Red Wings. The past few seasons have felt like Groundhog Day, being close to making the playoffs but unable to get over the hump. The team needs to give fans something to hope for and be excited about, and it has failed to deliver.

The Lions are legitimate Super Bowl contenders. The Tigers made the postseason last year in exciting fashion and have young, talented

players who are blossoming into superstars and giving fans the hope that they will be playing baseball in October again this year. Even the Pistons, who won 14 games last season and were the punching bag of basketball, have turned things around in just one season and are going to be in the NBA playoffs this spring.

The Yzerman loyalists, of which I used to be, can say all they want. They can tell us to just keep waiting and that the team is in a better position now than it was when Yzerman took over in 2019. That is true, but enough is enough.

The Red Wings have to do better. The sport of hockey is better when the Red Wings are good and I can’t wait for the day when playoff hockey arrives at Little Caesars Arena. For now, that still seems a long way away.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

FOUR PROPERTY ASSOCIATIONS FIGHT JOINT BATTL **AGAINST NEW SUBDIVISION:** The Hawthorne-Hampton-Roslyn Protective Association is asking the Grosse Pointe Woods Council to hold its next meeting at the Mason School in order to accommodate the more than 400 persons expected to protest against approval of a new subdivision plat which the residents contend would constitute a safety hazard and in addition not be in conformity with the established neighborhood pattern.

ORPHAN TRACT SOLD BY WOODS MAY BECOME LITTLEST CITY: The Woods village has at last sold its little orphaned tract of 12 1/2 acres of ground in Gratiot Township, which it had acquired three years ago when it bought the 44 acre tract intended then to be used for a municipal park on Mack Avenue. The village has been dickering for some time to get rid of this tract for which it found it had no use after the decision was made to develop a municipal park on the lakefront on the Edsel Ford property.

GP BANK WILL UNVEIL SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT: To show its

newly installed Safe Deposit Vault and enlarged banking quarters, the Grosse Pointe Bank will hold Open House on Saturday. The new vault, modern-to-the-minute and encased in concrete and steel, together with a 5-ton door made of seven-inch plate steel and equipped with time clock and other modern safety devices, is located on the main banking floor.

1975

50 years ago this week

BRRR-OTHER! GP SURVIVES COLD SPELLS: Although it is difficult to determine what is the normal precipitation, as far as The Pointe is concerned, there is no doubt that the area came through one of the roughest cold weather spells as far back as can be remembered. Records showed when the cold snap first took hold in November, and continued through early April, The Pointe area had a total snowfall of 43.7 inches, with the heaviest (15 inches) falling during a two-day period on December 2-3.

SOUTH SWIMMERS WIN SECOND LEAGUE CROWN: South High School natators had a productive season. They not only posted an overall record of 13-1, but were undefeated in

Eastern Michigan League action, thus capturing their second straight EML title.

COTTAGE GETS ACCREDITATION: Cottage Hospital of Grosse Pointe has received a two-year accreditation from the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals. This accreditation is the highest the commission gives and is the result of an on-site survey made last December by field representatives of the Joint Commission’s Hospital Accreditation Program.

2000

25 years ago this week

HW, GP LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION TALKS RESUMED: The directors and the president of the boards of the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods libraries are having preliminary talks about consolidating the two library systems. The library systems have informally considered consolidation a few times since the Grosse Pointe Public Library broke away from the Grosse Pointe Public School System after the passage of Proposal A in 1994, which prohibited school districts from funding local library systems. However, both parties felt there was no benefit to consolidation.

PARK FORMS FOUR-MAN BIKE PATROL: Pedal-pumping police

will soon patrol Grosse Pointe Park on bicycles. Starting late May, the new unit will cruise the city from back-alley cran- nies to wide-open playgrounds. In addition to helping cut crime, bike patrols are a proven public relations tool.

NORTH AD GETS READY TO SAY GOODBYE: After 40 years in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, Tom Gauerke has decided it’s time to graduate. Gauerke, 62, has decided to retire from the position of Grosse Pointe North High School’s assistant principal and athletic director.

2015

10 years ago this week

MACK ISLAND UPDATES COMING: Mother Nature gets help this spring with the greening of Mack Avenue. A \$242,180 landscaping effort is on tap to rejuvenate 14 traffic islands from Fisher to just beyond the intersection of Moross. “Improvements call for the replacement of overgrown trees, shrubs and new irrigation and planting beds,” said Shane Reeside, manager of Grosse Pointe Farms. He wants everything finished by June.

WOODS ADDS K-9 TEAM **TO DEPARTMENT:** The Public Safety Department officially welcomed its newest member to the force Monday evening when

the city council unanimously voted to approve the “hiring” of K-9 Xander. Xander, and his partner, officer Dan Schewe, come to the force with a list of impressive credentials.

HVAC protects pump wiring

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Heating and air conditioning at a sewage pump station does more than make for a pleasant work environment.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment also cleans the air of humidity, corrosive chemicals and potentially combustible concentrations of methane gas.

Members of the city council agreed with Public Works Director

Tom Jenny April 14, to replace three 26-year-old HVAC units at the Jefferson pump station on Jefferson at the corner of Maryland next to city hall.

“This is an important maintenance item necessary to prolong the life of the pump station,” Jenny said.

He said an important benefit is reducing the station’s humidity.

See HVAC, page 8A

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Same company to put in new mains

GROSSE POINTE PARK — There are two reasons the city extended its contract with a company to replace water mains — the work is good and the price is right.

Bidigare Contractors picks up this year where it left off last fall in the city’s campaign to upgrade old, cast-iron mains with larger, plastic ones.

Plastic pipes don’t corrode and are less prone to breaking during frost-thaw cycles.

“Bidigare would like to offer the Park its current pricing for any other future water main replacements that may occur within the city,” company project manager Jordon Bidigare wrote Park Public Works Director Tom Jenny April 1. “This could save the city time and money on the bidding process as well as significant cost saving from new unit prices.”

Jenny agreed.

“Based on the current economic climate,” he

said, “including the increase in bid prices the city has experienced over the last few years, the city and (our engineering consultants) are recommending to extend Bidigare’s contract for the 2025 water main replacement program.”

The company’s performance last year earned the trust of Park officials.

“Bidigare has successfully performed the 2024 water main project under budget and in a satisfactory manner,” Jenny said.

City council members approved the contract extension April 14, without competitive bidding. They had two reasons:

“We have a high-quality vendor and appropriate cost,” Councilman Tim Kolar said.

Patrick Droze, project manager for OHM Advisors, the city’s consulting engineers, wrote in a memo to city administrators, “Bidigare was reliable, efficient, clean, responsive to (the Park’s)

and resident concerns. And the water main and (lead) service (line) replacements were of good quality.”

Water main replacements this year are scheduled for:

- ◆ Beaconsfield from Essex to Jefferson and
- ◆ the base of Grand Marais, where elimination of a dead-end pipe will connect with a main at the spot where Bedford turns into Windmill Pointe Drive.

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

Droze earlier this year estimated construction to cost \$1,675,000.

The main under Beaconsfield was chosen for replacement due to its frequency of breaks and the opportunity to coincide installation with the replacement of a high number of lead service lines.

— Brad Lindberg

HVAC:

Continued from page 7A

“The new units) will be better with efficiency and keeping it dry in summer for all the electronics we have,” Jenny said.

Council members contracted the work to Thermal Mechanical Service for \$22,000 per unit, a total of \$66,000.

“The city reached out to

three HVAC contractors it frequently works with,” Jenny said. “One did not respond. The lowest quote was submitted by Thermal.”

“It’s more efficient,” Councilman Max Wiener said of the new equipment. “Were going to reduce our energy consumption. It’s good all around.”

“The big thing is protecting electronics,”

Jenny said.

The only other bidder wanted \$12,724 more for the job.

“We propose to furnish all labor, material, tools and supervision to complete the work,” Brandon Wettlaufer, company representative, wrote to the city in March. “All work will be of the highest quality and meet national and local codes.”

— Brad Lindberg



Shenanigans in the Shores

During the Grosse Pointe Shores Easter egg hunt April 12, Alissa Case plays “Win-Lose-Draw,” during which players had to get three balls on the same color holes.

From left, Cora Case, Bridget Case, Alissa Case and Kelly Case show off the prizes they won playing games at the event.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Above, Charlotte Stowell rides in style with her bunny ears, juice box and Easter basket as her dad, Brett, pushes the double stroller. Right, Ally Ahee keeps an eye on the loot she and her two siblings won so it didn’t blow away in the wind.



Sophia Muccioli and her dad, Blake Muccioli, look through her Easter basket, which included a bubble wand.



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South to present ‘The Little Mermaid’

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Grosse Pointe South High School’s annual spring musical will feature a couple of firsts.

“The Little Mermaid” not only will include middle and elementary school students, it also will include a few private school students.

“That’s the first time we’ve done that that I’m aware of,” said Dan DeMarco, a South teacher and director of the Pointe Players. “We’re trying to recruit future members.”

That includes students from St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and The Grosse Pointe Academy. “The younger students



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South High School’s Pointe Players at a recent rehearsal for “The Little Mermaid.”

really bring some great energy,” DeMarco added. “It’s a direct line to students who we hope will continue wanting to do this when they get to high school.”

DeMarco said he and the production team started talking about this

year’s performance last spring, shortly after putting on “Little Shop of Horrors.”

“We wanted to do something on a larger scale than that,” he said. “We’ve got 57 cast and crew members for this one. Plus, we like to do

titles that are readily accessible and known by the community.”

DeMarco said he likes to alternate fun spring musicals with more serious undertakings in the fall. The last two fall performances were “12 Angry Jurors” and “Our Town.”

Performances will be 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 24 to 26, in the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, along with a 1 p.m. matinee Saturday, April 26.

“We’ll be doing a meet and greet after the matinee with the characters,” DeMarco said, “which we think the kids will really enjoy.”

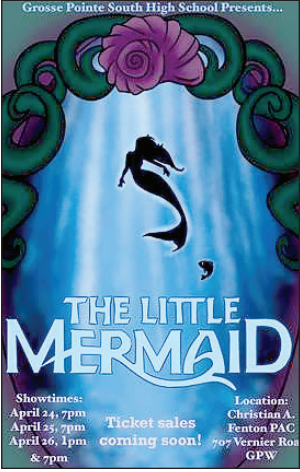
During the performances, Ariel and her sisters will wear Heely shoes to give the impression of floating through water.

“That’s what they used in the Broadway production,” DeMarco said. “And our tech team will make it look like that’s really happening by putting projections on the background screen.”

Some productions, DeMarco noted, have had those characters suspended by harnesses.

“That’s pretty dangerous,” he said. “And the liability insurance is super expensive.”

The production, which lasts two hours and 20 minutes, is slightly different from the movie, with some additional songs



and characters. “It’s the same storyline,” DeMarco said. “For those who have seen the film, it’s still fun.”

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. They can be purchased at shorturl.at/Qki0c or at the door.

Bond committee ranks project preferences

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — After ranking a list of 17 potential projects that could be paid for with a bond renewal, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Bond Advisory Committee had a chance to rank them individually at its meeting Wednesday, April 9.

Here are the results, along with projected costs:

- ◆ Grosse Pointe South High School main office relocation: \$750,000,
- ◆ Boiler replacements: \$14.5 million,
- ◆ Grosse Pointe North High School auditorium renovation: \$4 million,
- ◆ Pierce Middle School elevator upgrade: \$1 million,
- ◆ South media center renovation: \$2.5 million,
- ◆ District-wide lighting and ceiling upgrades: \$10.7 million,
- ◆ North art and TV studios renovation: \$1 million,
- ◆ IT department relocation: \$3 million to \$5 million,
- ◆ Parcels Middle School pool renovation: \$4 million to \$5 million,
- ◆ Elementary school furniture replacement: \$8.5 million,
- ◆ Middle school furniture replacement: \$5 million,
- ◆ High school furniture replacement: \$7 million,
- ◆ District-wide air conditioning: \$12 million,
- ◆ North Cooper’s Square renovation: \$750,000,
- ◆ South IA Building renovation: up to \$10 million,
- ◆ Athletic fieldhouse: \$15 million to \$25 million and
- ◆ Trombly Elementary School reuse/renovation: up to \$10 million.

“The objective of doing these rankings is to better understand the members of the committee’s identified priority projects to provide context for every community member to decide what’s on their priority list,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said.

When the committee ranked the projects in small groups at last month’s meeting, three of the six identified Trombly as a priority. None identified an athletic fieldhouse,

upgrades to middle school pools or the IA Building as priorities.

Paul Theriault of Plante Moran addressed a few of the projects, noting money needs to be spent on the Parcels pool even if the area ceases to be a pool.

“We were going to put a dehumidifier in there a couple years ago and the architect said the structural damage was so bad we shouldn’t proceed,” he said. “Dehumidifiers should be put in at Brownell and Pierce (middle schools) so we don’t end up with the same problems there.”

Theriault also said the IA Building could be renovated or torn down.

“Just having it sit mothballed is not a good long-term solution,” he said. “But it’s complicated because it’s attached to both the Boll Athletic Center and the main building.”

Tuttle said an athletic fieldhouse could attract new students to the district.

“People don’t move to a district because of boilers, however necessary they are,” she said.

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. It will meet again 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, in the North library, and possibly at the same time and location Wednesday, May 28. The board must make a final decision by its second meeting in June.

If the district proceeds, it would ask voters to approve a renewal of the 2018 safety and security bond on the Nov. 4 ballot.

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 55 percent of voters in November 2018. The district can collect up to 3.14 mills if the debt service schedule justifies that amount. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value. If approved, the bond would bring in \$120 million over 20 years to use on facility upgrades.

School buildings host more than just classes

THE GROSSE POINTES — When most people think of school, the notion of the traditional 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. school day comes to mind.

But what about everything else? Athletic practices and games, plays, concerts, musicals, open houses. The list goes on.

Ben Matteson, director of facilities for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, updated the Board of Education’s Facilities Committee about the “everything else” at its meeting Monday, April 7.

For calendar year 2024, his staff was responsible in one form or another for just more than 11,800 separate events. That was almost 1,000 more compared to calendar year 2023.

The issue first was discussed at last month’s committee meeting, when members asked Matteson for a more detailed breakdown.

He said there have been around 7,500 events from the start of the

2024-25 school year through mid-March.

The gymnasiums at the three middle and two high schools have seen the most activity by far, accounting for a combined 2,629 events last year. The pools at Brownell and Pierce middle schools, plus Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, saw 1,146 uses. Auditoriums at the five buildings hosted 885 events.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said the operations and maintenance budget accounts for more than 10 percent of the district’s general fund. Around 60 percent of the O&M budget was spent halfway through the current fiscal year, although Matteson said it would end the year on budget.

“My staff enjoys the community, but we have to be good stewards of our budget,” he said. “We’re happy to service the community and our students, but there’s a breaking point.”

Matteson said his staff primarily is involved with setup, tear down and cleanup for events.

“In some instances, we provide security,” he said. “Additionally, we assign a licensed engineer to monitor the pool chemistry at all aquatic events.”

School groups accounted for 10,416 events last year. Youth groups not affiliated with the district held 1,277 events on school grounds, while nonprofit community groups were at 97. Another 16 events were for what Matteson termed “other groups.”

“The trajectory is increasing in terms of what my staff has to manage,” Matteson said. “We definitely need to reduce those costs.”

Of the total, there were 405 Sunday events last year.

“Maybe at some point we black out Sundays,” Matteson said. “We can have that as an off day for our buildings.”

— Ted O’Neil

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Artist to host exhibition in home gallery

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

City of Grosse Pointe resident Bryan Grose is no stranger to showing his work.

The lifelong artist has exhibited paintings in five countries, as well as across the United States in galleries in Minneapolis, New York, Miami, Washington, D.C., and others.

Inspired by a fellow artist in Holland, Grose will open his home for an exhibition of his work 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 25, and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

Art lovers in the community and beyond are welcome to attend the show, titled “Form//Body,” which includes refreshments.

“I’ve got this open free space,” he said. “Why not use it? I wanted to share what I do in an accessible place for people in the area.”

Grose calls his art “sophisticated work (with a) cosmopolitan feel, inspired by 20th century modern art.” His pieces — in the styles of abstraction and abstract expressionism — are well-thought-out and poetic.

“I’ve been painting a long time,” he said. “My dad was a painter. I’ve been doing this since I was a kid.”

His passion from an early age led him to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in drawing and sculpture from Eastern Michigan University.

Now, nearly every wall in his home bears his creations, each of which has a story behind it.

“Being an artist is like being a storyteller or songwriter,” Grose said. “There’s this need to have something to say. This style expresses more of what I want to say visually as opposed to realism or pop art.

“The style I do is kind of retro,” he noted. “I didn’t plan it that way, it just kind of happens to be.”

He cited abstract expressionist painters Franz Kline and Willem de Kooning as influences.

“I’ll see things that I think are creatively worthy — art, film, fashion, someone walking on the sidewalk — and something in me, maybe ego, makes me want to be part of it,” Grose said. “In my own way, I’m showing what I can do creatively. ... It’s that internal ego that pushes you to prove something to yourself.”

He calls attention to the multiple mediums



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

City of Grosse Pointe resident Bryan Grose will host an art open house at his home April 25-26.

used, brushstrokes and texture, all of which create interesting moods and aesthetics to his pieces.

“Some of these have five, eight, 10 layers of paint, which really gives a piece depth and interest,” he said. “You see marks behind marks, brushstrokes behind brushstrokes, pigment over pigment. The problem-solving process gives the work interest. When I start, I have a feeling in my mind, but I don’t have an image of what the end result will be until I’ve worked on it for weeks. There’s no rulebook. You can’t look up how to solve this kind of work. I can just feel something in my brain going somewhere, trying to problem solve and come up with solutions to these things.”

Displaying the work throughout his home, where he also creates, “gives you feel for how the work can exist in a space and not in a controlled gallery environment,” he said.

Aside from several pieces on the main floor, the lower level has been converted into a showroom.

“The pieces downstairs, those are takeaways from me flying across the Atlantic after walking around Europe,” said Grose, who is largely inspired by travel and music.

“A songwriter writes a song, a poet writes a poem, a novelist writes a book,” he said. “With the arts, you’re a reflection of the place you live and your experiences. ... Artistically, I’ve always had something to say. Instead of writing or music, it’s on canvas.”



Grose’s abstract and abstract expressionist pieces will be highlighted during the open house.

Grose looks forward to greeting guests at his home, 886 Rivard, City of Grosse Pointe, at the open house, during which all of his original pieces will be available for purchase and are listed between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

To view Grose’s artwork in advance, visit paulgrose.com.



Each of the pieces in Grose’s home gallery has a story the artist is willing to share.

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Woods Flower Sale celebrating 50 years

Presale wraps up April 23

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

In November 1974, Dr. Albert Howe approached the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, urging the formation of a commission that would promote beautification projects throughout the city.

Four months later on March 17, 1975, the Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Commission was formed. Shortly after, the commission hosted its first flower sale, which this year marks its 50th anniversary in the community.

“The flower sale is a time-honored tradition,” said Rachelle Koester,

who co-chairs the sale with commissioners Toni Feltman and Lillian Korbus. “This is a huge event for our commission with planning starting in January, but every one of our 15-member commission contributes heavily the week of the flower sale in order to make it a success. Without the whole team, this could never be pulled off.”

The in-person sale takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 9, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10, but for those who want to first dibs on this year’s vibrant varieties, a presale is in full swing.

“I love the presale,” Koester said. “You get to

look at all the flowers and plan. ... You have more time to plan your garden, what colors you want. We’ll pull the best stock and your purchase is guaranteed.

“The presale does well,” she added. “This is the time of year when we all are done with winter and you just dream about what you want to do. I start my own plant list in the fall.”

The presale runs through Wednesday, April 23, and those interested may see what’s available and place their orders online at gpwmi.us/bc-bac.

For those who order \$300 or more, commission members will deliver the order within the Grosse Pointes the morning of Thursday, May 8. For those whose orders total less than \$300, the commission will host a drive-up option from 3 to 7 p.m. the same day at the Robert Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza.

“You stay in your car, give your name and we load your car with your order,” Koester said. “It’s very seamless.”

The sale includes six-, 10- and 36-count flats, as well as 4 1/2-inch pots, 10-inch hanging baskets and one-gallon porch pots of annuals and perennials.

“At the same-day sale we will have a much larger selection of plants,” Koester said. “We will have a variety of tomatoes, salad bowls and other vegetables, tropicals like mandevilla vines and hibiscus shrubs and trees.

“... The commission members also make spe-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Audrey Mackinnon and her brother, Lucas, picked out a hanging basket of lobelia and a hanging basket of petunia, one for each of their grandmothers, during last year’s Woods Flower Sale.

cialty pots that we sell at the sale with the plants,” she added. “These items are hot-ticket items for Mom because they are beautiful and unique, all at various price points for every budget. That’s what’s great about this sale, too — it’s the Friday and Saturday before Mother’s Day, so you can come and grab a couple porch pots for Mom.”

While people are drawn to the sale for its competitive prices, individualized attention and large selection of annuals and perennials, as an added bonus this year, there will be no sales tax or credit card processing fees.

“We’ll also have compost from Indian Summer Recycling, so you can

amend your soil,” Koester said.

Additionally, Deeplands Garden Club will host a kids’ outreach program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10. The club has planned a free seed-planting activity for elementary and middle school children who visit the flower sale with their parents.

“Involving the kids in the planting process will be a teaching opportunity for them that will create a sense of ownership and responsibility for the kids as they care for their plant and watch it grow,” Koester said.

Proceeds from the flower sale benefit the commission’s many efforts, including light-pole hanging baskets

along Mack and its new Adopt-a-Garden program, “where residents adopt a piece of city property, plan and care for it, and we pay for it,” Koester said. “Our flower sale also supports honoring residents and businesses for their beautification achievements at our November banquet.”

The Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, except December, in the conference room at city hall.

For more information, visit gpwmi.us/bc-bac.

“We’re grateful to the community for supporting us every year,” Koester said.



Rosie Conrad visit the flower sale last year with her grandmother to find a Mother’s Day gift.

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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:
◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.

◆ Pinochle Club, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Free for members, \$6 for guests.
◆ Texas Hold ’em Poker, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Free for members, \$6 for guests.
◆ Bocce League, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning June 3. Free for members, \$6 for

guests.
◆ Mahjong Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Free for members, \$6 for guests.
◆ The Friendship Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.
◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays. Free for members, \$3 for guests.
◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor

Janisse Green.
◆ The movie “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
◆ The movie “Here” is shown at noon Friday, April 25. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.
◆ Cards & Games Party, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for guests.

Library

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

◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre’s Secret Garden Celebration, 2 to 3 p.m. Friday, April 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Rep. Veronica Paiz, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
◆ Sensory Friendly Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
◆ Afternoon Drop-In Kids Craft, 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, April 21, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

See EVENTS, page 3B

Holy Week & Easter 2025 at St. Ambrose Parish

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 — HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:00 p.m.
Private adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church until midnight.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 — GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion and Death - 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 — HOLY SATURDAY

Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00 noon
THE EASTER VIGIL MASS - 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 — EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Easter Mass at 11:15 a.m.

St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, one block north of Jefferson and one block east of Alter.

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Raising awareness, showing support

Ninth annual Suicide Prevention Walk & Mental Health Fair takes place April 26

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Drivers along Lakeshore near Grosse Pointe North High School the morning of April 26, are encouraged to honk at the parade of people they pass.

Walkers will be showing support and raising awareness during the ninth annual Suicide Prevention Walk & Mental Health Fair, which takes place rain or shine, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26, at North, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The event is presented by The Family Center and the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods Coalition, in partnership with Kevin’s Song, The War Memorial, Henry Ford Health, CNS Healthcare and The Helm at the Boll Life Center.

“The last time we were at North, someone saw the signs and stopped,” said MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration for The Family Center. “She had experienced a recent suicide in her family and this was a great time for her to come and connect with people there. It’s a great event for those who’ve lost someone to suicide.”

The event also sup-

ports suicide survivors, those who’ve attempted and those who want to let people who are suffering know they care. While the walk gives a visual representation of camaraderie, a tent hosting 15 to 20 vendors will provide access to resources, therapists and nonprofits who can offer help.

“We’ll have vendors from different mental health resources and services,” Harris said. “It’s a great way for everyone to see all the resources available. People really do like visiting the vendors and there are giveaways for kids. It’s a good way to see so many therapists and nonprofits with mental health resources.”

As in years past, this year’s event includes students from North and Grosse Pointe South High School, as well as members of National Honor Society, South’s Wellness Club and North’s Peer to Peer group, among others.

“This is a really good fit for my group, which offers peer-to-peer mental health awareness and support,” said Christine Kuhl, the school psychologist at North who founded its Peer to Peer program. “We do a mental health campaign each year. ... When MaryJo

asked if we wanted to help, we thought it would be a perfect fit and a way to boost awareness and provide peer-to-peer support.”

Students will staff sign-in stations, as well as stations offering face-painting, temporary tattoos and yard games. They’ll also make Wellness Bags containing fidgets, candy, affirmation stickers and “things that help them tune into the present moment and help them deal with stress and anxiety,” Kuhl said.

Added Harris, “We couldn’t do this event without the help of the students. They do a great job planning it and are an integral part of the whole event.”

“They get in early, help set up, chalk the route, post encouraging signs, help the vendors unpack,” Kuhl added. “... The students love the event and have so much fun. The walk is one of the things they want to continue to do. It’s something big they can do to advocate for mental health. To see their friends and their teachers there, it’s an uplifting event.”

It’s also a free event and registration is not required. However, participants can add a colored heart to their name

tags signifying what — or who — brought them to the event. A yellow heart, for example, signifies the loss of a spouse while a red heart signifies the loss of a parent. Orange signifies supporting suicide prevention.

“Grief due to suicide is so lasting,” Kuhl said. “There’s also shame and stigma attached to mental illness and suicide. Events like this let people know they’re not alone, that people care about them and want to help. There are so many groups and therapists and nonprofits in the area that want to help as well.

“... When we were young, we didn’t talk about this,” she added. “That evolved into this isolated existence. Getting involved helps people to be connected and seen. I hope to see people come out and bring their friends and family. It really is a wonderful, fulfilling day.”

“It’s a great event to bring the family to,” Harris added. “The walk is not long either; it’s less than two miles.”

The Suicide Prevention Walk was started by a student at South who wanted to raise awareness for suicide prevention. It has grown over the years to what it is

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

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

Attendees may indicate their motivation for attending the event by wearing a color-coded sticker on their name tags.

today.

“I so appreciate the partnership the schools have with The Family Center,” Kuhl said. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with Jen (Bingaman, The Family Center executive director) and MaryJo. This is another collaboration that has worked out well for the school district and the community.”

“When people see the school so involved and see students support each other and talking about mental health, it’s

so inspiring,” Harris added.

For more information about the walk, call (313) 447-1374, email family-centerhelps.org or scan the QR code.



EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

- ◆ DREAM Lab Senior Open House, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ You Kill Me: The True Crime Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 1,000 Hours: Earth Day Celebration with Cleanup Club, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Mongolian Falconry and Wildlife Conservation with Dr. Carl, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Blood drives

- The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 18, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.
 - ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, April 18, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.
 - ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 24, Lakeview High School, 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28301 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, Holy Innocents Catholic Church, 26000 Ridgemont, Roseville.
- ◆ 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1, Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- Register at redcrossblood.org.
- POST Detroit**
- POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during March. To sign up for the following, visit muturaladoration.com:
 - ◆ Coffee Tasting Workshop: Cupping + Brewing Basics, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Cost is \$50.
 - ◆ Lettering Workshop: Brush Lettering Basics, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Cost is \$55.
 - ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Puff Pipes, for ages 21

- and older, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Cost is \$75.
- Ford House**
- The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:
 - ◆ Storytime: “The Busy Tree,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in April.
 - ◆ Native Plant Pre-Sale, order online through Wednesday, May 14.
 - ◆ Coffee with Collections, exclusive to Friends of Ford House members, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, April 24 and Dec. 4. Cost is \$25.
 - ◆ Bird Walks, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 26 and May 3, and Sunday, May 4; and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8.
 - ◆ Native Plant Talk, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26. Admission is \$10 for members, \$12 for the public.
 - ◆ WeGP presents

- Stand Strong: Pathways to Support, Solidarity and Rights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30.
- For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.
- Rotary**
- The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Mary Howlett of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.
- 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 grossepointeartistscenter.org.
 - ◆ Landscapes in the Style of Claude Monet with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Wednesday, April 23, and Thursdays, April 24 and May 1.
- ◆ Introduction to Kirie, the Japanese art of Paper Cutting, with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26.
 - 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.
 - ◆ Middle School Dance: Hollywood Nights, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$25 beginning April 21.
 - ◆ Vet-to-Vet, 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, May 1. Meet fellow veterans and chat over coffee and breakfast treats.
 - Harper Woods Library**
 - The Friends of the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts a book sale

- 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Visitors may fill a tote bag for \$5.
- Family Center**
- The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.
 - ◆ Community Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. In “Dopamine Nation,” Dr. Anna Lembke explores new scientific discoveries that explain why the relentless pursuit of pleasure leads to pain. Copies of the book are available at GPPL and the Harper Woods Public Library.

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OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

R. Douglas Wright Sr.

Retired attorney Richard Douglas “Doug” Wright Sr., 78, passed away at his home Saturday, April 5, 2025, surrounded by family.

Doug was born Feb. 7, 1947, in Detroit, the second of two sons of Harriet and Rolla Wright. He was active in sports at Grosse Pointe High School and received varsity letters in football and baseball. Ranking in the top 10 of a class with more than 900 students, Doug graduated cum laude as a National Merit semifinalist and member of the National Honor Society. While receiving both an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy and a scholarship award from Princeton University, Doug decided to follow in his brother Al’s footsteps and attend Cornell University. From a field of 3,000 candidates, he received the Cornell National Award, the highest honor granted to



R. Douglas Wright Sr.

the university’s scholarship applicants. At Cornell, Doug was a Dean’s List student, a fellow of several national honorary scholastic societies, an active member and president of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and a member of the baseball and sprint football teams, earning MVP for the 1968 football season. After graduating from Cornell with honors in 1969, with a mechanical engineering degree, Doug began law school at the University of Michigan. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1971. After graduating first in his class from Officer Candidate School, Doug was deployed on the USS Chicago to the Gulf of

Tonkin in November 1971. His responsibility was to read radar screens, detect contacts and communicate whether they were friendly or hostile. He liked to playfully recall that his post was situated inconveniently between the ship’s ammunition and gasoline reserves. Doug went on to teach science and coach football and lacrosse at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Bainbridge, Md., from 1973-75. After his time in the Navy, Doug resumed studies at Georgetown Law, where he was the managing editor of Law and Policy in International Business. He graduated in 1978 and moved to Atlanta, where he practiced tax law for 38 years and retired from Holland & Knight in 2015. Doug’s interests outside of his career included coaching, teaching Bible study, playing golf and participating in his local Rotary Club. He was a charter member of the Dunwoody Rotary Club, a Paul Harris Fellow and served as club president in 1992 and 1993. In 1987, he was

a founding member of the Atlanta National Golf Club. Following retirement, Doug moved to Bluffton, S.C., where he made deep friendships, enjoyed activities including karaoke, golf and croquet and anchored two TV series — The Breeze and Sports Done Wright. Doug was predeceased by his father, Rolla Vernon Wright; mother, Harriet Louise Newcomb Wright; and brother, Alan “Al” Murray Wright. Doug is survived by his former wife, Catherine “Cathy” Schoonmaker Wright; son, Richard Douglas “Doug” Wright Jr. (Lauren) and their son, Holden Douglas; and his daughter, Catherine “Katie” Newcomb Wright (Chris) and their son, Shackelford “Shack” Newcomb. His children will remember Doug for his patent wit, gentle wisdom, sound advice and faithful presence anywhere they were, doing anything they loved. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 31, at Dunwoody United Methodist Church in Dunwoody, Ga., with a social gathering to follow.

LWVGP sponsors Civics in Action program

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe hosts the “We the People: Civics in Action” program 6:45 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch, 20680 Mack. The program will focus on civics that may have been forgotten, specifically as it relates to checks and balances. After reviewing basic principles of the relationship among the three branches of government, the speaker

will look at some recent headlines to determine if the process is working and provide tips on how to fully understand the news. To register, go to lwv-grossepointe.org. The registration deadline is Sunday, May 11. Those who require accommodations should notify the league at lwv-grossepointe@gmail.com. Questions about this program may be directed to lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn at noon Thursday, April 24. Guests will play Plant Bingo and will learn about house plants. To reserve a seat, call the church office at (313) 884-4820. The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 20.

FAN’s 17th annual Run Drugs Out of Town 5K is June 21

Face Addiction Now, or FAN (formerly Families Against Narcotics), a Michigan nonprofit based in Macomb County, will host its 17th annual Run Drugs Out of Town 5K Run/Walk fundraiser at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 21, at Macomb Community College’s Center Campus in Clinton Township. This family-friendly community event helps increase awareness of

addiction and raise money to fund the many programs FAN provides to individuals and families who have been affected by the disease. FAN was founded in Fraser in 2007, and has since expanded to more than 20 chapters statewide. The agency has helped tens of thousands of people whose lives have been impacted by substance use disorder,

ranging from men and women who are struggling and ready to get help, to family members who are desperate to know how best to support their loved one who is battling addiction. FAN is there for anyone who needs assistance, offering them compassion, support, resources and services, all of which are completely free of charge. This year’s 5K will hap-

pen entirely at Macomb Community College; no major roads will have to be closed. Run Drugs Out of Town participants will run or walk the 5K either individually or as a team. All registered runners and walkers will receive medals, with the top three finishing runners in multiple age groups getting gold, silver and bronze medals. FAN also will give recog-

nition to the top fundraising team and top fundraising individual, as well as to the largest team. Following the 5K, a community gathering features free food, refreshments and fun things to do, including a Detroit Institute of Arts activities table. Macomb County Community College’s Center Campus is located at 44575 Garfield, Clinton

Township. To register as an individual or team, or to sponsor the event, go to faceaddictionnow.org/run-drugs-out-of-town or call (586) 438-8500. Participants who register before May 14 may be eligible to receive a reduced price. Packet pick-up takes place 1 to 7 p.m. June 16 to 18, at FAN’s office, 43800 Garfield, Ste. 200. Walk-up registration also will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. race day.

The Grosse Pointe Academy 2025 Action Auction TAKING FLIGHT... A JOURNEY TO SUCCESS



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Winners and Runners Up Of The Grosse Pointe News Coloring Contest



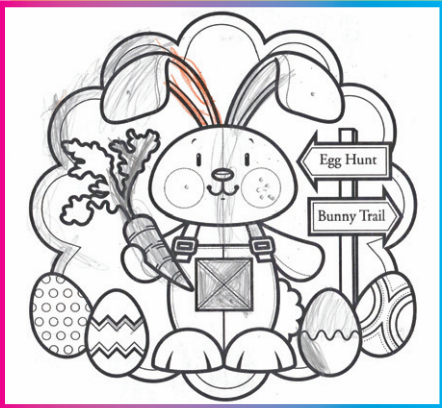
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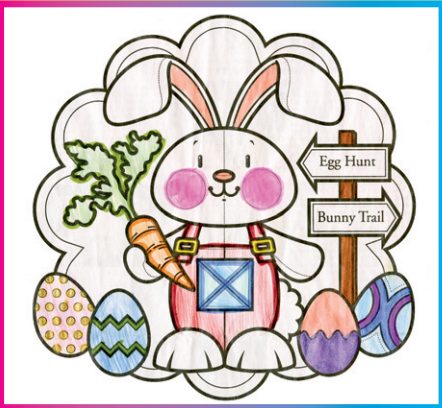
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Congratulations
to our two winners
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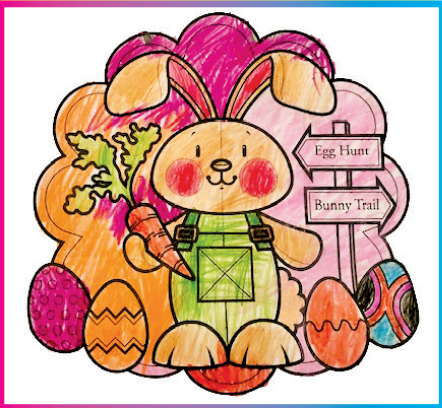
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Olivia Robinson



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Detroit Zoo’s Bunnyville welcomes spring with family fun April 18-19

The Detroit Zoo invites families and friends to celebrate the arrival of spring at Bunnyville, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19. Presented by Meijer, Bunnyville promises excitement for visitors of all ages — combining engaging seasonal activities, educational opportunities and memorable animal experiences.

Highlights of Bunnyville 2025 include:

- ♦ **Golden Egg Hunt:** A total of 100 golden eggs will be hidden daily in easily accessible locations across the zoo, which can be redeemed for prizes.
- ♦ **Easter Bunny Photo Op:** Capture memorable moments with spring-themed backdrops, including a chance to meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny.
- ♦ **Festive Activities:** Get into the spring spirit with whisker painting and complimentary bunny ears for visitors of all ages.
- ♦ **Live Entertainment:** Delight in family-friendly performances by local entertainers.
- ♦ **Educational Connection Stations:** Explore interactive stations throughout the zoo that emphasize wildlife conservation and sustainability.
- ♦ **Animal Enrichment Activities:** Witness enrichment sessions



COURTESY PHOTOS

All ages are invited to attend Bunnyville, which takes place at the Detroit Zoo this weekend.

offering a glimpse into the daily lives of the animals who call the zoo home.

Guests are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to Gleaners Community Food Bank, supporting local families in need. A portion of the weekend’s ticket sales also will be donated directly to Gleaners.

“Bunnyville truly embodies the joy and energy of spring,” said Megan Gregg, senior events manager. “It’s inspiring to see families come together, making memories and discover-

ing more about conservation and the importance of caring for our environment.”

Admission to Bunnyville is included with regular zoo entry and free for zoo members. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online.

For more information, visit detroitzoo.org

Bunnyville is presented by Meijer and sponsored by Corewell Health Children’s, Doetsch Environmental Series, Michigan Educational Credit Union and Goldfish Swim School.



Happy hunting on Merriweather

COURTESY PHOTOS

Families on Merriweather were asked to hide 10 to 15 Easter eggs in their front yards Saturday, April 12, when the street was closed for an Easter egg hunt block party. Pictured clockwise from top, children on Merriweather gather for an Easter egg hunt; Cameron Wirkus quickly fills his basket; and Chloe Wirkus takes a look around for more Easter eggs.



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**DANCING QUEEN
AN ABBA SALUTE**
Friday, July 18 at 7 p.m.

Sing and dance under the stars to the hits of ABBA at this high-energy tribute concert, featuring favorites like “Mamma Mia” and “Dancing Queen.”



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The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and National Historic Landmark.



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Finding common ground when planning a successful Easter brunch with family

Dear Gabby: We're trying to plan Easter brunch, but coordinating with extended family has turned into a stressful mess. Everyone wants different times and places, and I'm stuck in the middle trying to make it all work. How do we keep the peace and still enjoy the day? — Experiencing Bunny Burnout

Dear Bunny Burnout: Ah, Easter: the holiday of pastels, chocolate eggs and family group texts that go off the rails. You are definitely not alone. Holidays have a way of turning into logistical puzzles, especially when multiple families, traditions and

expectations collide. The first thing to remember is this: You cannot make everyone happy. Trying to please every single person will leave you exhausted and resentful. So take a deep breath and start with what works best for your own household. If you are hosting, you get to choose the time and place. Share your plan early, make it clear and let others decide if they can make it work. You can be kind and warm while still holding boundaries. If you are the one doing the driving this year, don't feel obligated to be everywhere. It is perfectly OK to attend one celebration and make plans to

see others another day. Holidays don't lose meaning when celebrated a little early or a little late. Sometimes the stress isn't really about the day itself, it is about old expectations or changing traditions. Be mindful of emotions, but also give yourself permission to simplify. Celebrate with the people who are excited to be there. Let go of perfection. Focus on joy, not logistics. And remember, nobody ever complained about a holiday brunch being too relaxed. We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointe-news.com.



Spring has sprung

DEAR READERS: Wishing you and your families a very happy Easter and Passover. Spring is a time to get outdoors and play. It is a time for new beginnings and fresh starts. It is a time when the flowers begin to bloom and kittens are born. Below are some of my favorite poems about spring and joy and the innocence and beauty of childhood.

“Spring” by William Blake

“Sound the flute! Now it's mute! Bird's delight, Day and night, Nightingale, In the dale, Lark in sky, — Merrily, Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little boy, Full of joy; Little girl, Sweet and small; Cock does crow, So do you; Merry voice, Infant noise; Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little lamb,

Here I am; Come and lick My white neck; Let me pull Your soft wool; Let me kiss Your soft face; Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.”

Sweet joy befall thee! Pretty joy! Sweet joy but two days old. Sweet joy I call thee: Thou dost smile. I sing the while; Sweet joy befall thee.



“Infant Joy” by William Blake

I have no name: I am but two days old. What shall I call thee? I happy am, Joy is my name.—

“Lines Written in Early Spring” by William Wordsworth

“I heard a thousand blended notes, While in a grove I sate reclined,

In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link The human soul that through me ran; And much it grieved my heart to think What man has made of man.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane

The birds around me hopped and played, Their thoughts I cannot measure:—

And I must think, do all I can, That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent, If such be Nature's holy plan, Have I not reason to lament What man has made of man?

“Easter Bunny” by Leanne Guenther

“With a hip and a hop Easter bunny won't you stop, At my house to hide some yummy little eggs. Then you'll jump out and run Down the street for some fun, Zippity quick on your fuzzy, furry legs. To hide treats for the others — Boys and girls — even mothers, Treats galore packed in baskets and bright bags!”

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2024 CREATORS.COM.

CONTEST!

Kid Scoop

What's your FAVORITE PART?

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JUST EMAIL us at media@grossepointenews.com with your photo, name, city and a brief reason why you like KID SCOOP. Your photo may be used in our next promotional ad. The deadline is FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025.

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



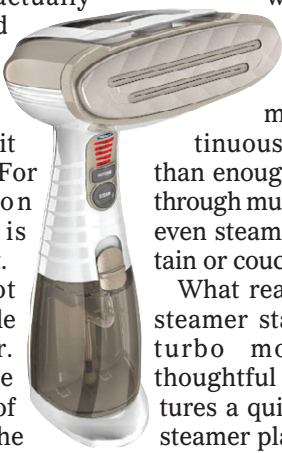
I never planned to become the designated dress steamer in my friend group, but after borrowing (fine, stealing) my parents’ Conair Turbo Handheld Garment Steamer, I somehow became the go-to wrinkle remover on every wedding morning.

Over the past few years, I have been a bridesmaid more times than I can count and I always pack this steamer in my suitcase. It is compact enough to travel easily, but powerful enough to smooth out

any dress emergency.

On one chaotic wedding weekend, I actually lost my beloved steamer. I missed it so much that I repurchased it immediately. For just \$49 on Amazon, it is totally worth it.

This is not your flimsy little travel steamer. It combines the performance of an iron with the



power of steam and heats up in just 40 seconds. The water tank holds 7.3 ounces, which gives you up to 15 minutes of continuous steam, more than enough time to work through multiple dresses or even steam a wrinkly curtain or couch cushion.

What really makes this steamer stand out is the turbo mode and its thoughtful design. It features a quilted aluminum steamer plate and a built-

in creaser, so you can get that crisp, freshly pressed look without dragging out an iron and ironing board.

It also comes with three attachments that make a huge difference depending on what you are steaming. There is a silicone band to keep fabric taut, a delicate fabric spacer to protect trims and fine materials, and a bristle brush that helps the steam penetrate thicker fabrics.

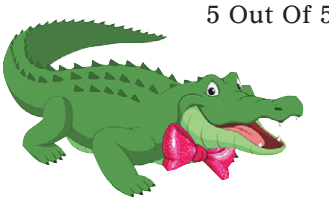
It also claims to kill 99.9 percent of germs, dust mites and bed bugs, which

makes it great for refreshing clothing, upholstery or anything else that could use a deep steam clean.

Whether you are getting ready for a wedding or just want to stop pretending you will iron that blouse one day, this steamer is a total game changer. Compact, powerful and easy to use, it is one of those household staples you do not realize you need until you have it. And then you never want to be without it.

This product gets 5 out of 5 alligators from me!

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.



Lemony spring dessert

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

The daffodils are in bloom, the birds are chirping, yard work is underway and my mood is generally much better. Spring has arrived!

It’s so refreshing to see new life sprouting up all around while taking advantage of the longer days. My propane tank is full and I’ve been grilling as much as I can. Even though I accidentally singed my hair while flipping burgers for the family, I’m so happy to be outside cooking. And now I have a few less gray hairs in the front.

The nicer weather has completely changed what I want to eat as well. Menus that are bright and fresh have taken over those that are long braised and all brown.

Lemons, leeks, tarragon and peas are front and center. My focus is on colorful and vibrant dishes that are healthy and, most importantly, tasty. This week I decided to focus my attention on Easter dessert. And what better way to celebrate than with a lemon bar.

This is a lemon and raspberry bar. It has a rich, citrusy custard mixed with fresh raspberry puree. And the crust is a buttery shortbread. This recipe comes

from the website, “The Flouring Kitchen.” I’ve made this a few times and it always gets rave reviews. It’s tart, sweet and comes out to be a beautiful blush color from the raspberries. A dusting of powdered sugar at the end brings some extra flair as well.

Here are some notes when making this dish. First, these bars have lots of lemon zest in both the crust and the filling. They suggest you rub the zest together with the sugar. This is a great way to help release all the oils from the zest into the sugar creating extra lemony flavor.

Second, make the filling while the crust is baking. Pouring the filling into a hot crust means less time in the oven after. I’ve made the crust beforehand and baked it and the cook time was almost double.

And finally, you can use fresh or frozen raspberries that have been defrosted. It takes a bit of elbow grease to strain the seeds but it’s worth it to have a fresh, seedless puree. This is a great joy for kids.

I encourage you to wow your family with this dessert! It’s the perfect way to finish a meal.

Cheer’s Mombeau

Shortbread Base

½ cup sugar

1 lemon, zested

1 cup softened butter

1 tsp vanilla extract

¼ tsp salt

2 cups flour

Preheat oven to 355°F. Brush or wipe the inside of an 8” square baking pan with a thin layer of oil. Line with parchment paper: Cut a square of parchment paper a few inches larger than the baking pan. Place the parchment paper on a counter and put the baking pan on top in the middle. Cut one straight slit on each side of the parchment that will meet the corner of the baking pan. Place the sheet inside the baking pan, tucking the flaps in.

In a large glass bowl or stand mixer, combine sugar and grated lemon zest. Rub together with your fingers until fragrant and moistened. Add softened butter into the lemon sugar and beat until smooth, creamy, and lightened in color.

Scrape down the bowl so that it mixes consistently. Add vanilla and salt, beat to combine. Sift flour into the butter mix-

ture, and fold just until no more dry streaks of flour remain. Transfer dough into the parchment lined baking pan and spread it out in an even layer. Push a thin layer of dough up the sides to create a border or crust. This will help hold the filling in later on.

Bake in the preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes — until the edges are lightly golden brown and the top isn’t shiny anymore. Work on the filling while it bakes.

Raspberry Lemon Filling

2 lemons, zested

1 cup sugar

½ cup flour

3 large eggs

Pinch of salt

1 cup raspberries, fresh or frozen

½ cup lemon juice (2-3 lemons)

2 tbsp powdered sugar for dusting

Rub the sugar and grated lemon zest with your fingers in a large bowl until fragrant and yellow. Add flour and stir with a whisk to remove any lumps of flour. Add



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

eggs and salt into the lemon sugar mix and whisk very gently by hand — just until the eggs are smooth. Don’t over-mix or you’ll get too many air bubbles. Mash the defrosted raspberries and strain the seeds out by pushing the berries through a sieve. Do this into a separate bowl to make sure you have a ¼ cup of raspberry puree. If you have slightly less, add a bit of water to bring it up to ¼ cup. Add lemon juice and raspberry puree into the filling and whisk gently to stir.

As soon as the crust bakes, remove from the oven. Do not adjust the parchment paper, you don’t want the crust to detach from the sides of the paper and leave a gap. Immediately pour the filling on top of the crust. Remove large bub-

bles by poking with a toothpick or using a kitchen torch to gently heat the top.

Bake for about 17 to 20 minutes. It’ll be ready when the filling is completely set on the edges and slightly set in the middle. If you shake the pan vigorously, the middle will have a slight wiggle — it should NOT be liquid.

Let it cool in the pan at room temperature for two hours, and then for one hour in the fridge. It will set as it cools. Remove from the pan by lifting up by the paper.

Use a sieve to sprinkle powdered sugar on top and cut into bars. Sprinkle powdered sugar on top right before serving so that it doesn’t have time to dissolve. Serve chilled or at room temperature.



Wine Touring

It’s still pretty cold in most of the country, but I just received an email from someone seeking advice as they plan a spring trip to a wine country region.

For many people, spring wine touring conjures up visions of idyllically sipping great wines amid flowering vines, feasting on esoteric hors d’oeuvres and learning about wine’s joys.

But without advance planning, a visit to any wine region can be a challenge that might result in poor lodging, bad food, GPS nightmares and a strained credit card limit. Since wine regions are unique, suggestions on how to plan vary from place to place.

However, some basic rules apply. Here are a few:

- Never go to a new wine region without doing a thorough reconnaissance. Get a good guidebook to the region and identify wineries that sound interesting. Be sure to then calculate distances from where your lodging will be to the wineries you want to see.
- (A friend once asked me to help with a trip to Sonoma County. He wanted to visit five wineries in one day, two of which were Buena Vista and Ferrari Carano. I asked him if he owned a jet helicopter; those two wineries are at least an hour apart. Unless his other stops were brief, he’d never see five wineries in one day.)
- Be prepared to accept modest lodging; not every wine region has a resort. Many wine

regions are remote and in agricultural zones. So, hotels and cafes are often seasonal. There are few five-star spas.

- Determine winery tasting fees ahead of time. Long ago, no one charged for small sips. But in recent years, wineries have viewed tasting rooms as profit centers. In some prestige areas, tasting charges can be outrageous.
- Often the tasting charge may be applied to the purchase of a bottle of wine. Calling ahead can save money.
- Price alert: Wines bought at tasting rooms are usually priced higher than at your local store. The best reason to buy at a winery is if the wine you like is sold only at the winery.
- Call wineries ahead and find out if tasting room reservations are required. Also, ask about special tours.
- Lunchtime: Plan well ahead. Some wine country regions have few cafes, and seating can be limited between noon

and 1 p.m. Sound strategy: Eat either earlier or later. (Tip: While others are eating lunch between noon and 1:30 p.m., tasting rooms are less crowded.)

- Use the spit bucket. It’s there for a reason. Tasting wine is not drinking. The idea is to get basic ideas on which to base a buying decision. An ounce or two of each wine is typically all that’s needed.
- Plan on having a solid breakfast. Since most tasting rooms don’t open until midmorning, there’s ample time to prepare for the alcohol that’s to come.
- Always ask if the winery has any cellar or “library wines.” Many do; some are rare wines and many can be special.
- If you buy wine on your trip, keep it out of the sun and as cool as possible until you return home. Plastic foam carriers are best; some wineries even sell them.

Wine Tip of the Week: Before visiting a win-

ery, check prices of the wines they’re selling and check your local stores to see if the same wine is available near your home. Buying wine at a winery could be more expensive.

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

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LENTEN DINNERS
Yellow Belly

- PERCH DINNER
- COD DINNER
- SHRIMP DINNER

ALL DINNERS INCLUDE fries, cole slaw or salad and a warm roll

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BAR & GRILL EST. 1980

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SEE MENU



Left, Maia Reficco as Olivia and Scott Foley as Eric from the movie poster for the 2025 movie “La Dolce Villa,” written by Elizabeth Hackett and Hilary Galanov and directed by Mark Waters.

MOVIE REVIEW
“La Dolce Villa”
2025 - Rated TV-14
1 hr 39 min
★★★★☆

If you’re a regular reader of this column, you know I review a fair amount of serious films. Which means, I end up watching a lot of dramas before I whittle it down to one worth writing about.

With all the craziness going on in the country, I occasionally need a bit of escapism. You know, something predictable and entertaining where you can sit back and just enjoy yourself. Well this one turned out to be way more charming and adorable than I was expecting.

You could loosely call it a rom-com — sort of in the Lifetime/Hallmark vein, that’s more amusing than LOL funny. It’s from director Mark Waters (“Mother of the Bride” “He’s All That”) and was written by Elizabeth Hackett and Hilary Galanov.

The cast features some lesser know actors who I must say turn in respectable performances and have notably decent chemistry.

“La Dolce Villa” takes place in the fictional town

of Montezara, Italy, which is so incredibly beautiful, it just might make you rethink your future vacation plans. The cinematography by Theo van de Sande is pure magic. He makes the scenery look like Renaissance paintings.

The story has



Discovering a hidden wood brick oven.



Eric (Foley) & Olivia (Reficco) meet with their contractor Nino, played by Simone Luglio.



Eric (Foley) works out a schedule.



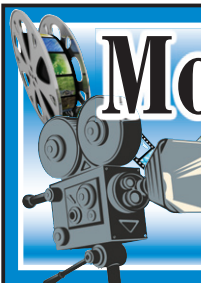
The restored villa.



Mayor Francesca (Violante Placido).



Eric greets the grandmas.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



been done a million times before, so there aren’t too many surprises. But that’s OK in this case.

Eric (Scott Foley) is a widower who runs a highly successful restaurant consulting business. He’s a former chef who gave up cooking to work at something a bit more lucrative. When he finds out his estranged daughter Olivia (Maia Reficco) is in Italy and considering buying a villa, he immediately hops on a plane to talk some sense into her. The two haven’t been close since he lost his wife a few years before to cancer.

Soon after he arrives in Italy, the town’s mayor Francesca (Violante Placido), takes him and his daughter house hunting to check out homes available for the paltry sum of just one euro. It’s part of an actual program that offers run down properties to young people, to bring fresh blood to help revitalize small towns.

The only catch is the new homeowners need to rehab the homes within a set timeframe. When they find a villa that shows some promise, the wheels in Eric’s head immediately start spinning, and he can visualize what it could turn into.

As luck would have it, the mayor is quite attractive and roughly Eric’s age. The two of them hit it off and you know, even though they agree to keep things professional, they’re going to fall for each other. Absolutely no surprise here.

Once the paperwork is completed, Olivia is the new owner of a monstrous, ramshackle fixer-upper.

Work commences immediately on making it habitable. While overhauling the massive kitchen, they discover a plastered over wood burning oven. This gets Eric thinking about his previous career as a chef and the possibilities of turning the place into a cooking school.

Like any respectable movie filmed in Italy, “La Dolce Villa” has its fair share of food scenes. The meals featured are mouth-watering feasts that’ll

have you dragging out your favorite Italian cookbook and planning your next dinner.

One of the most amusing interactions in the movie is from the three Italian grandmas who spend their days sitting around the fountain in the town’s square. Not only do they interact with Eric, they’re constantly making humorous observations about what’s transpiring around them. They help make it a delightful, light-hearted film that’s the perfect date night movie.

If you’re in the mood for a little bit of escapism, you could do worse than give this one a try. It’s a charming, fun, well made film that, and while being totally predictable, will certainly put a smile on your face. It’s simply one of those “...and they all lived happily ever after” fairy tale films Netflix seems to excel at.

Currently streaming on Netflix.

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.



Gelato time!

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

4/17 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

© 2025 by Andrews McMeel Syndication

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

4/10 Solution

Contract Bridge

A DOUBLE DISASTER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	7 5 3	♠	Q J 8 4
♥	5	♥	K J 6 3 2
♦	J 7 5	♦	8
♣	9 8 7 5 3 2	♣	A J 10
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	—	♠	A K 10 9 6 2
♥	Q 4	♥	A 10 9 8 7
♦	A K Q 10 9 6 4 3	♦	2
♣	K 6 4	♣	Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass 3 NT
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Dble
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

This deal occurred in a high-level team-of-four match. West's three spade bid at the first table asked his partner to bid three notrump if he had a spade stopper.

East was more than happy to comply; he had much more than he needed for his three-notrump bid. When South next bid four hearts — which was corrected to four spades by North — East doubled.

Perhaps West should not have passed — many players would have bid five diamonds instead — but he did pass. West then led the king of dia-

monds followed by the ace, on which East discarded the ten of clubs and South the queen of clubs!

As a result of this play to the second trick, declarer made four spades doubled. He ruffed the next diamond, cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club, ruffed another heart, ruffed another club, then ruffed the fourth round of hearts with the dummy's last trump.

Nine tricks had been played, and East's last four cards were the Q-J-8-4 of trump, while South's remaining cards were the A-K-10 of trump and ten of hearts. Declarer now led a club from dummy, ruffed by East with the jack and overruffed by South with the king. Declarer then played the ten of hearts, forcing East to ruff and return a trump from the Q-8 to South's A-10, and the doubled game — worth 790 points — was home.

At the second table, West leapt to five diamonds over the one-spade opening. After two passes, South ventured five hearts — a dubious tactic, especially considering the vulnerability. North retreated to five spades, doubled by East, and South finished down three after he failed to discard the club queen on West's diamond lead at trick two.

Plus 800 at this table, combined with the 790 scored by their teammates at the other table, gave the successful team a gain of 1,590 points on the deal.

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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.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 17, 2025:

You are organized, ambitious and protective of loved ones. Your confidence encourages others to fall in line with your convictions. This year's about socializing and exploring your zest for life! Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Have fun, but remember your goals.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today Mercury and Neptune are lined up in ARIES, which enhances your ability to communicate with others. This is why you will speak with originality and greater subtlety today. This is an excellent influence for any kind of artistic expression. Remember: You are the artisan of the zodiac. Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Tread carefully today. You're more curious about mysterious subjects like the occult or spiritual philosophies because your imagination is heightened. Postpone important decisions for another day. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a tricky day, because Mercury is lined up with fuzzy Neptune, which can make you admire and idealize a friend or be inspired with a group or an organization, especially if it's charitable. Your common sense might be skewed, or you might put a friend up on a pedestal. Caution. Tonight: Be agreeable.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Be careful about conversations with authority figures today (parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs or the police). Because Mercury is lined up with Neptune today, your idealism and expectations are heightened. Others might not grasp where you're coming from. Tonight: Work.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today your ability to appreciate beauty is heightened, which is why this is an excellent day to visit museums, art galleries, beautiful buildings and pristine parks. Give yourself a chance to enjoy the beauty of your surroundings, as well as the artistic creations of others. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

When it comes to decisions about how to divide something like an inheritance or jointly-owned property, give things a sober, second thought today. Confused thinking might tempt you to give away the farm, or weaken your confidence to defend your best interests. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You appreciate beauty because, more than other signs, you're affected by your immediate surroundings. Today discussions with partners and close friends might include the appreciation of beauty. Postpone important decisions for another day. Tonight: Share ideas.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today you might see ways to introduce creative ways of doing something at work. You also might feel sympathetic with a co-worker and be willing to listen to their concerns or help them. Note: This is a poor day for financial or legal negotiations. Be suspicious of "way-out" ideas. Tonight: Check your money.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today your ability to deal with creative projects is superb. You will express yourself with sensitivity and subtlety. You will see original, fresh ways of doing things. It's a fantastic day for artists and all creative activity. It's also a meaningful day to deal with the needs of children. Tonight: You're strong.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Family discussions will go well today because people feel mutually sympathetic with each other. It's easy to see what it's like to walk a mile in someone else's wedgies. Admittedly, there is room for confusion and over-idealism. Bottom line: Be generous. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today you'll express your ideas in a way that you usually cannot because your Spidey sense is heightened, along with your artistic appreciation of your daily surroundings. Be careful of falling prey to illusions. Enjoy your heightened imagination, but don't do anything you will later regret. Tonight: Welcome friends!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Although this is a wonderful day for creative expression, working in the arts and sympathetic discussions with others, it's a poor day for important financial decisions or important, practical negotiations. Caution against spending too much money on luxury and art or rescuing someone else. Tonight: You are admired.

BORN TODAY
Actress Jennifer Garner (1972), actor Sean Bean (1959), fashion designer, singer Victoria Beckham (1974).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Stainberg April 17, 2025

ACROSS		54	Corn unit	10	PC hookup spot	43	___ bracelets ('90s fad)
1	Certain protests	55	Division indicator	11	Leaves off	46	Hoops org.
9	"And I ____"	57	Computer plug-in spots	12	*Begins flying	51	"That's it!"
14	Get too hot	59	Bit of info on a plane ticket	13	Alternative to a foil or saber	53	Toby Flenderson and Holly Flax in "The Office," for short
15	Some election night graphics	61	Power sources for a Game Boy Color	16	ID assigned to newborns	56	Citrus fruit that's technically a hybrid
17	Starting salary	63	NBC weather anchor AI	21	In the style of	58	Rich cake
18	Chargeable transports	66	___ crackers	24	*Household liquidation events	59	"Hit the ____!" ("Floor it!")
19	"Slippery" thing	68	Bank head-quartered in Dallas	25	Time to roll the dice, say	60	Against "Shoo!"
20	Has been	71	One in a classic comedy trio	27	"When ya gettin' here?"	62	Off-white hue
22	Typical high schooler	72	Compatibility gadgets	28	Presents	65	Speak hoarsely
23	Sublease, for example	73	"ER" actress Laura	29	"See if ____!"	67	Get better, as wine
26	Fertile soil	74	Stiffens ... or, when parsed differently, what the answers to the starred clues collectively have?	33	Pleasing smell	69	"____ to Joy"
28	Gimlet spirit			34	Theater employee	70	"Geez!"
30	Baton Rouge sch.			36	Surveillance org.		
31	Back, at sea			38	Puppy's bark		
32	Greek T			40	Employer for some vets		
35	Venerated figure						
37	___ out (audition)						
39	Shaving tools						
41	Helpful website pages, briefly						
42	Licorice-like spice						
44	"Alternatively ..." in a text						
45	Absentee						
47	"Thx" precursor						
48	"Goodness!"						
49	"Understand now?"						
50	"The Golden Girls" actress Arthur						
52	"Geez!" in Germany						
DOWN							
1	Some shortish hairstyles						
2	Roller derby track shape						
3	*Binary inquiry						
4	Dosa relative						
5	"That's life!"						
6	Spill it!						
7	"You're it!"						
8	Fret						
9	*Crumbly taco topper with a rhyming name						

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

4/10 Solution

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4/17

Braces Oneself by Taylor Johnson

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						
	73							74						



THURSDAY COMICS



Peanuts Charles M. Schulz



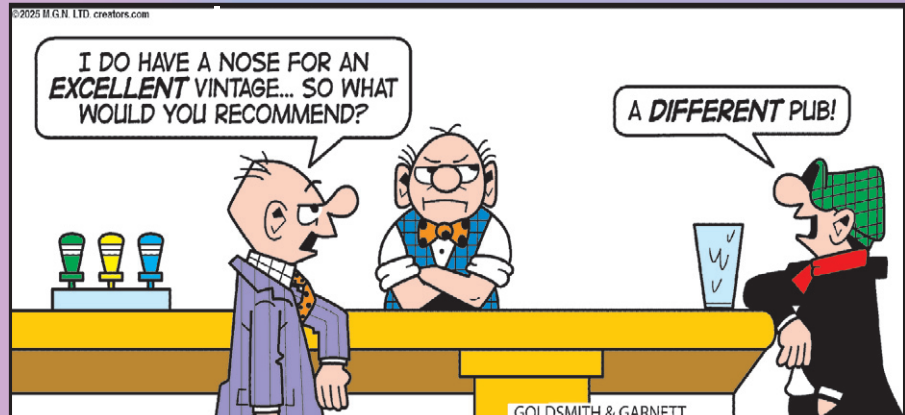
Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp



Reg Smythe



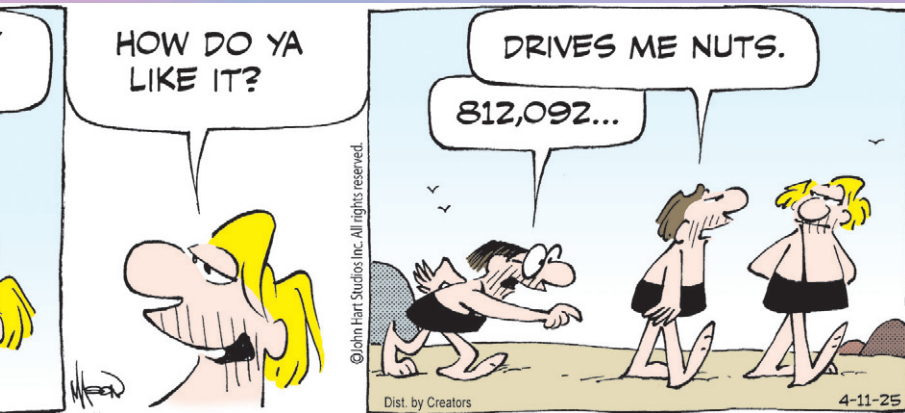
Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy



B.C.



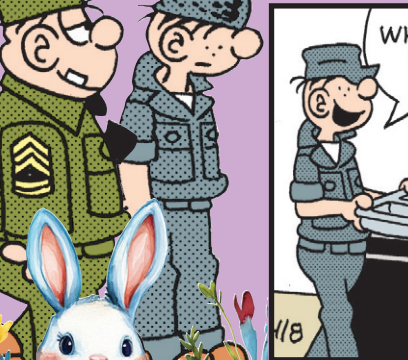
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



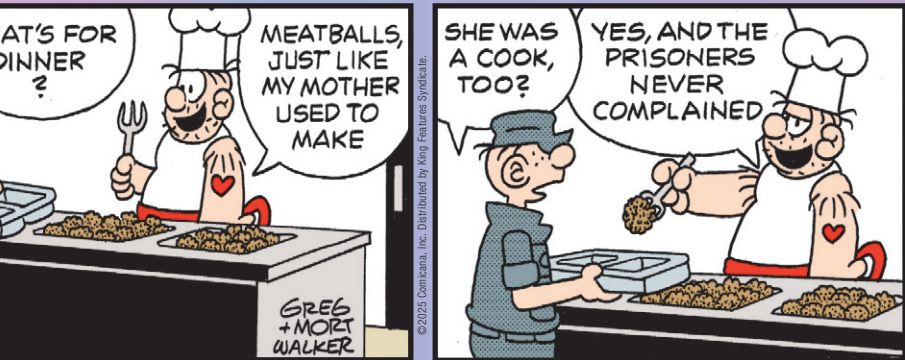
Reality Check Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey



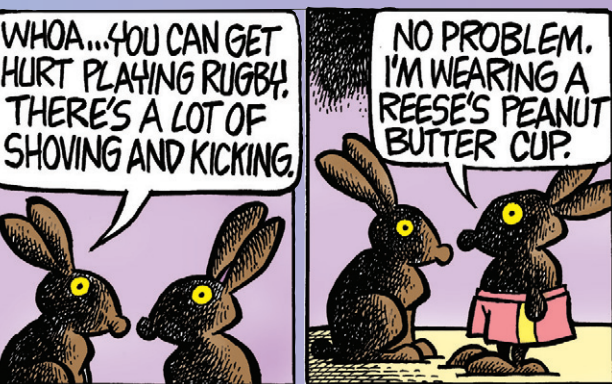
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Mother Goose and Grim



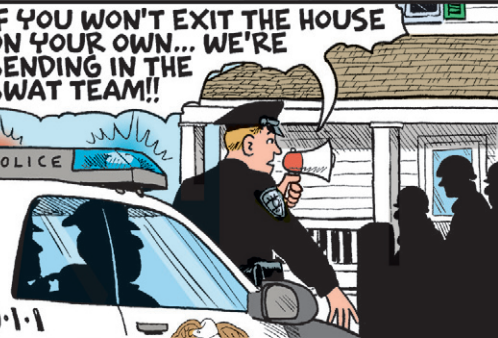
Mike Peters



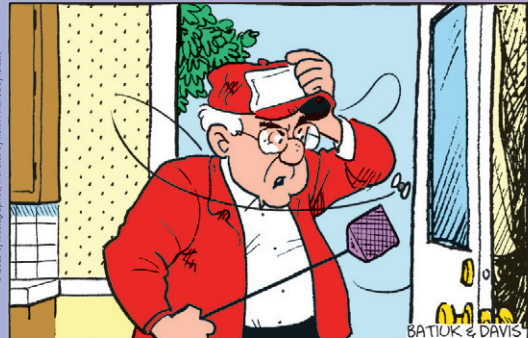
The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



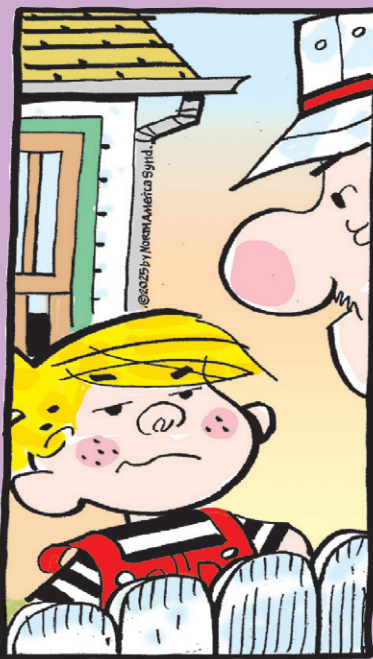
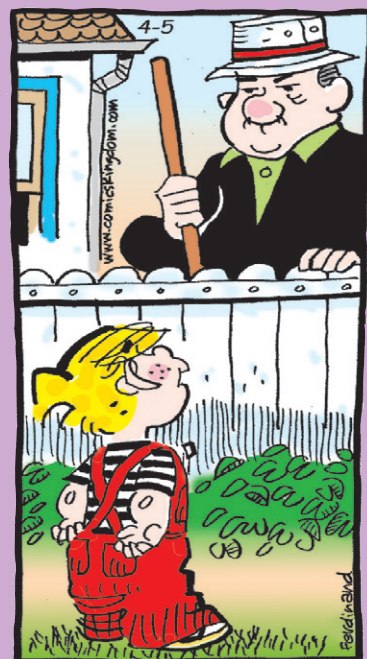
Crankshaft



Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Dennis the Menace Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Carpe Diem



Niklas Eriksson

Wumo



Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

HAPPY EASTER

Garfield

Jim Davis

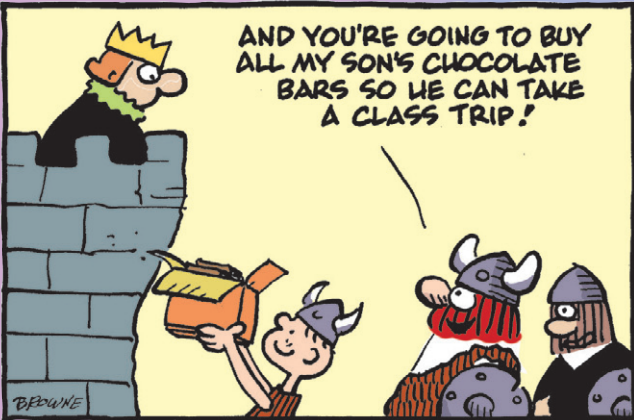
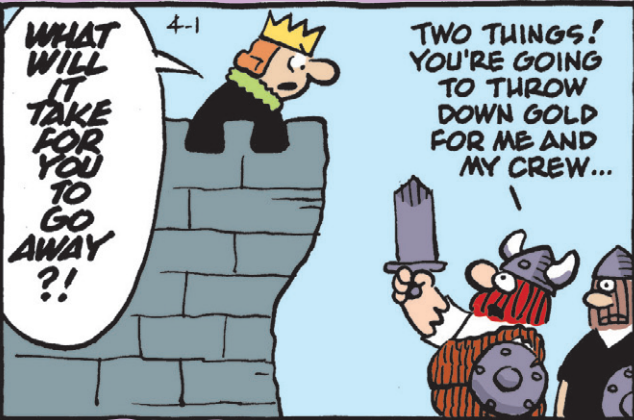


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

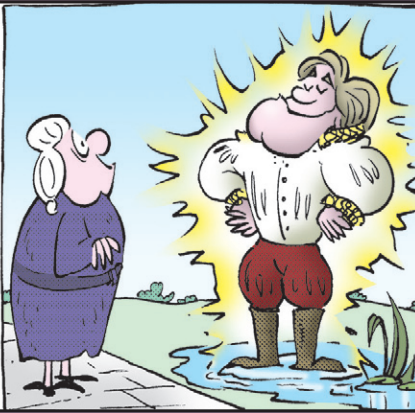
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



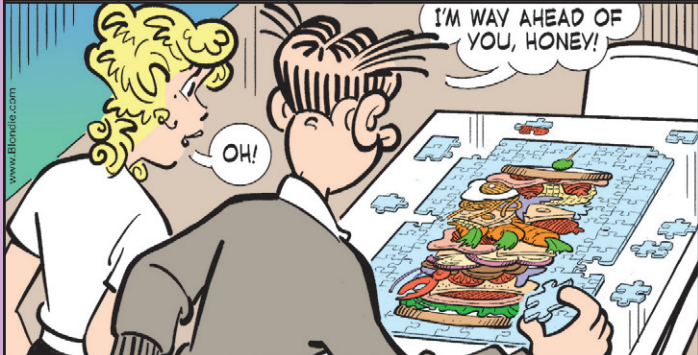
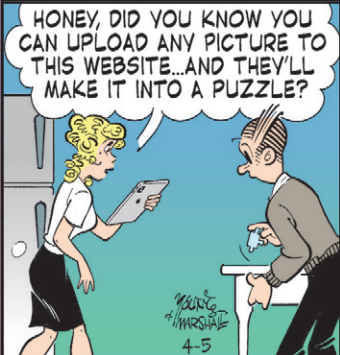
"Before his long career as a cereal icon, Cap'n Crunch was famous for his harsh but effective ab workouts."

Ziggy

Tom Wilson

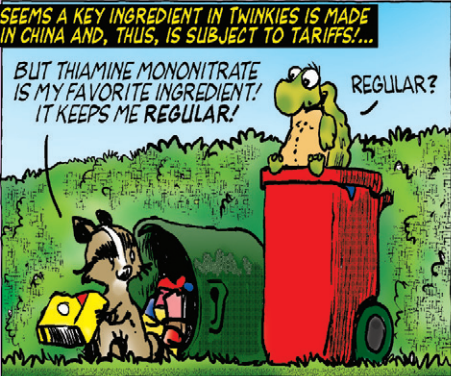
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



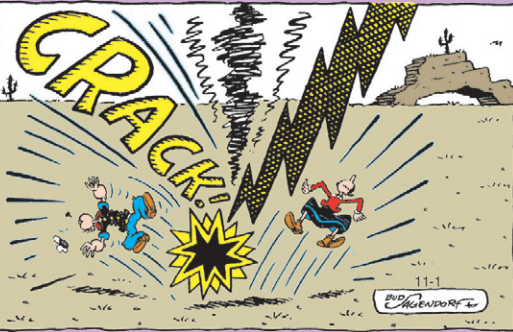
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



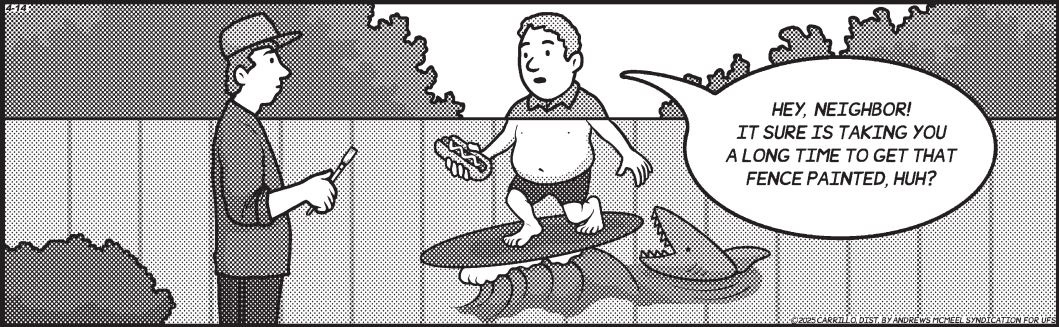
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Marmaduke

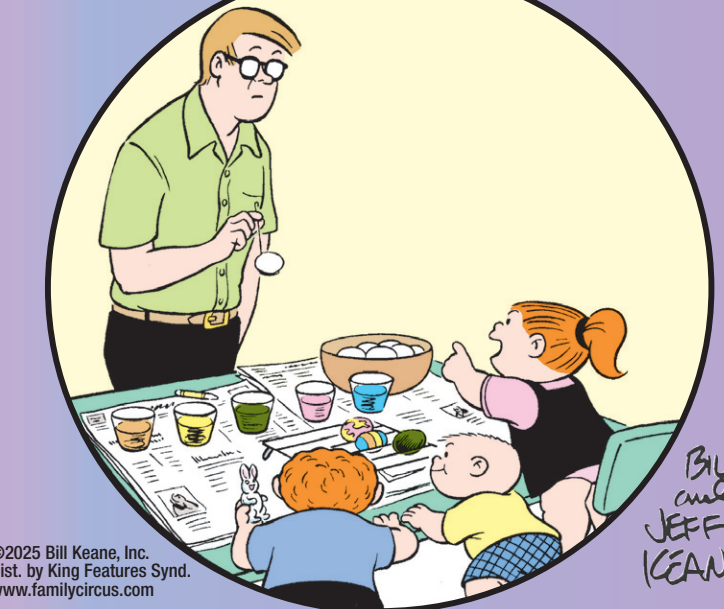
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SPORTS



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Baseball teams navigate early tests as spring season heats up

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

While it is still early in the high school varsity baseball season, teams from the Pointes are already making plenty of noise on the diamond. Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School all were in action last week. While it appeared at times some teams might still be trying to shake off some of the early-season rust, all of the squads fought hard to secure key victories early in the spring.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen began their season Wednesday, April 9, after their scheduled opener Monday, April 7, was postponed due to weather. The first game of the new campaign for North was a matchup against Henry Ford II, hosted at Oakland University, and the Norsemen started the spring in the loss column after falling to the Falcons in a closely contested 4-3 game in extra innings.
The game remained scoreless the first four innings, until the bottom

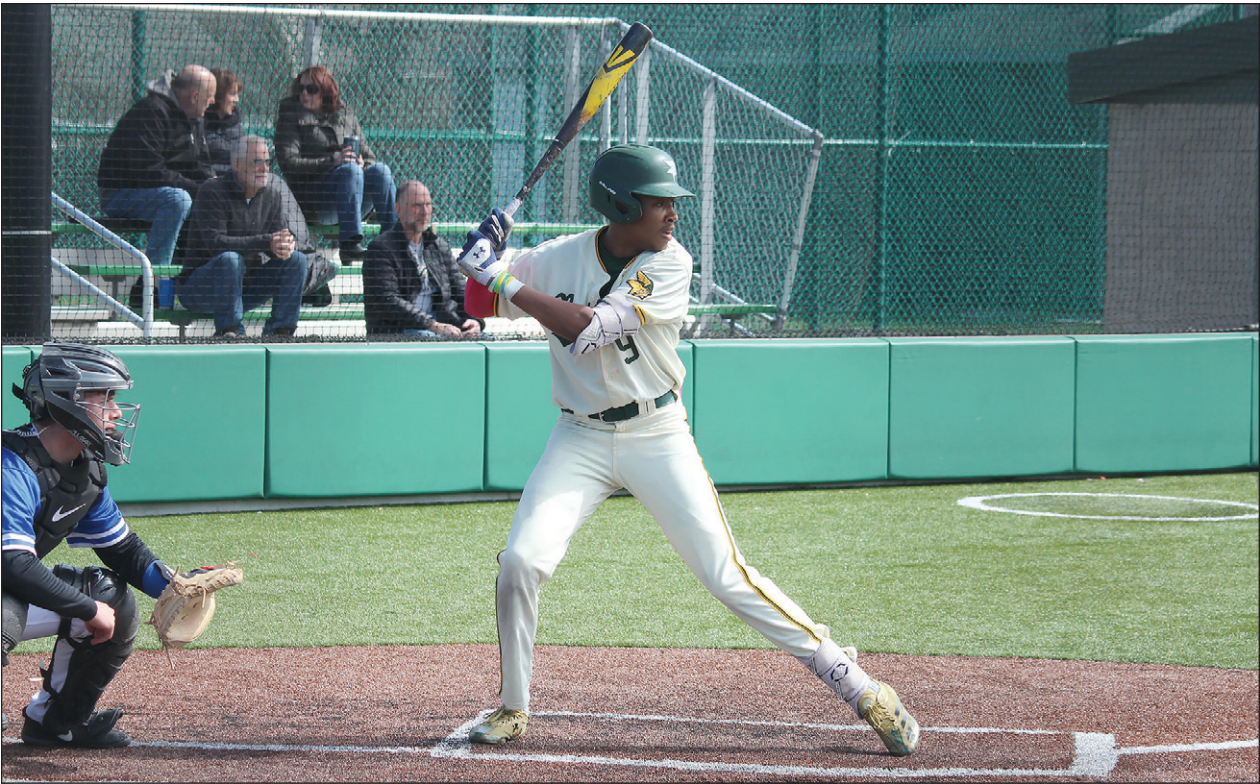


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Deshawn Edwards steps up to the plate for North in Game One of the team’s doubleheader against Eisenhower last Saturday, April 12. Edwards finished the game with two RBIs in a 7-2 victory for the Norsemen.

of the fifth when Ford II took a 1-0 lead. The Norsemen quickly equalized in the top of the sixth when Shane Ulferts drew a walk with the bases loaded, bringing in a run. However, the Falcons rallied in the bottom of the sixth to jump ahead 3-1.

The late drama continued into the seventh inning, where North evened the scales again. Deshawn Edwards brought in a run on a single to bring North back within one and Edwards eventually reached home as the tying run after an error

by the Falcons’ defense. With the game tied 3-3, the teams went into extra innings. The game remained deadlocked until the ninth inning, when the Falcons were able to walk the game off and come away with the one-run win.
The Norsemen and

Falcons met again the next day, Thursday, April 10, with North hosting. This time, the game was not nearly as close and North was on the losing side yet again as Ford II dominated with an 11-0 win. North’s bats went cold last Thursday as the team

accumulated just four hits while being shut out. North looked to bounce back Friday, April 11, when the team went on the road to face Romeo. However, it was another quiet day for the Norsemen’s bats and the result was another loss, falling to Romeo 1-0 while only having one hit. Despite the loss, North’s pitching and defense still had a strong day, with Brandon Keyes pitching all six innings and allowing just one run on only three hits.
“Our pitching is in a good spot,” North baseball head coach Phil Kozlowski said. “... (Against) Romeo, we lost 1-0, and we had one hit, but Brandon Keyes threw a three-hitter. The pitching has been pretty good. ... We’re deep there and I’m happy with what I’ve seen.”
The first win of the season finally came for the Norsemen Saturday, April 12. North hosted Eisenhower in a doubleheader and earned a 7-2 victory in the first game. Edwards led the team on offense with a pair of RBIs, while Trevor
See BASEBALL, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Senior captain Agosta at home behind home plate for South softball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The past four years, Luna Agosta has become almost synonymous with Grosse Pointe South softball. On the varsity team since she was a freshman, the Blue Devils’ catcher is now in her senior year and ready to embrace the grind with her teammates to not only end her career with plenty of wins, but also leave the program in a better place than when she joined.
“I’ve always grown up with softball and it’s just always been around me,” Agosta said. “Now, being in my senior year, it’s almost bittersweet now that it’s almost all coming to an end because I’m not playing in college. It’s always just been around because of my family.”
Softball has been part of Agosta’s life as long as she can remember.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Luna Agosta

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Softball

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

the years by being skilled as a catcher and has grown her reputation as one of the best in the area at the position, being named to the All-District team last season.
With more unique positions in sports like catcher, it is always interesting to see how an athlete has ended up there. For Agosta, it was simple because of the way she has always

been: willing to do anything and everything to help her team.
“My dad was a catcher in high school and went into college as a catcher when he played baseball,” she said. “When I was little, I just always kind of turned to that and he would put me behind the plate when we were rotating around positions. That’s where I had the most fun. ... I’ve always been very flexible with softball, where I’ve always just been thrown into situations just to help and it always was very fun for me and I never minded it. As I got older and had more resources and got to meet more people ... I just became more interested in it and narrowed down the different techniques and stuff with catching.”
Selflessness on and off the field is something everyone who knows Agosta seems to say



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Agosta waits patiently behind home plate for a pitch during South’s game against Stevenson last Saturday, April 12.

defines her. It is part of who she was named a captain of South softball last spring as a junior and again this spring her senior year.
“Luna has been one of

the best leaders and captains I have ever coached,” South softball coach Bill Fleming said. “She holds players
See ATHLETE, page 6D

- Luna the Leader**
- Senior captain of Grosse Pointe South softball
 - Career BA .371 with 71 RBIs with South varsity softball
 - Caught 28 runners stealing in career at catcher



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Track and field teams continue strong start to spring campaign

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

As the early part of the spring sports season continues, the varsity track and field teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North are continuing to get into stride with their first meets and invitationals of the year. Last week saw both the Blue Devils and Norsemen compete in more races and continue to show strong performances as the season heats up.

Grosse Pointe South
Grosse Pointe South's girls track and field team earned a big 90-47 win in a dual meet against Eisenhower Wednesday, April 9. The Blue Devils went down early after the first few events, trailing by as much as 20 points, but stormed back throughout the day to end up with the win. "Our team keeps demonstrating our depth strength week after week," South girls track and field coach Steve Zaranek said. "Major contributions keep coming from all 17 events." Olivia Barba helped propel South to the win with two victories in field

events, winning both the discus and shot put. Ciara Pongratz won the high jump, Morgan Duff was victorious in the long jump and Evie Wodzisiz took first place in the pole vault. South's distance runners shined once again on the track. Chloe Caulfield set a personal record of 12:10 while winning the 3200, and teammate Sarah Koval won both the 800 and 1600. The Blue Devils took a mix of varsity and JV athletes up north over the weekend to compete in the Freeland Invitational. South's boys track and field team finished in third place while the girls team ended up in ninth. For the girls team, Koval set her personal record in the 3200 with a time of 11:44, good for seventh place at the event. The 4x100 relay team of Ryan Wright, Sabine Stackhouse, Evie Baer and Duff had their best time of the season at 53 seconds while finishing in fourth place. Jack Martin had two top-five finishes for South's boys team. He took fourth in the 800 and was fifth in the 1600.

The hurdlers for South's boys team also had a strong day, with Tristan Wininger taking fourth in the 110 hurdles and Edmund Shall also getting fourth in the 300 hurdles. The 4x800 relay team of Josh Sonnenberg, Brody Fitzgibbon, Tethyan McKenzie and Martin finished third. In the field, Conrad Squitieri took first place in the discus and Jaiden Spratt placed third in the long jump. South's boys and girls teams hosted Port Huron Northern in a dual meet after press time Tuesday, April 15. The Blue Devils travel across town for a rivalry dual meet against Grosse Pointe North Tuesday, April 22. **Grosse Pointe North** The Norsemen made the trip to Woodhaven Saturday, April 12, to compete in the 32nd annual Warrior Invitational. Neither team was able to crack the top 10 in the stacked field of competition, as the girls team for North finished 12th and the boys team ended up 20th. The biggest highlight of the day for North



PHOTO BY LEILA OSKUI

South's Ciara Pongratz competes in the high jump during last weekend's Freeland Invitational.

came from the girls team as senior Mimi Trupiano took first place in the 400 with a time of 1:01.62, achieving a new personal record. North had two relay teams finish in the top five of their respective events. Coming in fifth in the 4x100 relay was the team of Maliyah Jones, Kymberly Walker, Adriana Pearson and Kayli Johnson. Johnson, Liliana Ivanaj, Quinn Notebaert and Cassidy Finley also earned fifth place in the 4x400 relay. Ivanaj had North's best finish in the field events by taking fourth place in the high jump. North's boys team had a few top-10 finishes during the day, including a seventh-place finish by Frank Jackson in the 110 hurdles. Paul Stephens was ninth in the 800 and Sam Parish took 10th in the 1600. Martez Jones, Dimitris Sabanis, Elijah Sewell and King Jackson teamed up to earn 10th place in the 4x100 relay. The best finish in the field for the Norsemen was Russell Warner's eighth-place finish in the pole vault. Both the boys and girls teams for North travel to Monroe Saturday, April 19, to compete in the Throwdown in Trojan Town. The Norsemen then host crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South for a rivalry dual meet Tuesday, April 22.

Girls tennis season gets into full swing

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS

SPORTS



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!

Scan the QR code to follow us!





By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The girls varsity tennis season is starting to heat up as teams from the Pointes are taking the court for some early-season matches. Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School were all in action last week, trying to get their feet under them as the new campaign ramps up, while also looking for some key early victories.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen took their home court for the first time this season Saturday, April 12, hosting a quad match. Going up against Flushing, Troy Athens and L'Anse Creuse, North finished the day with plenty of wins in its home opener. The Norsemen earned a close victory against Troy Athens. Laila Aslam, Akansha Nagori and Daniella Pietrowsky all had singles wins for North against Athens, while the only doubles

victory came from the pair of Kiki Vasilos and Kate Hubmeier.

North then went on to beat Flushing 6-3. Aslam, Nagori and Pietrowsky all were victorious again, while Emma Dombrowski also won for the Norsemen to help the team sweep all four singles matches. Mia Melhem and Gianna Wagner earned a doubles victory for North, as did the team of Tala Mazzorana and Avery Griffiths, to help the Norsemen secure the win.

Another victory on the day for North came 5-4 against L'Anse Creuse. The team's strength once again came in the singles matches, with Aslam, Nagori, Pietrowsky and Dombrowski all winning. Sasha Kezhaya and Julia Puzzuoli accounted for the only doubles victory for the Norsemen in the match.

North hosted North Farmington for its next match after press time Wednesday, April 16. The Norsemen are back

in action at home Monday, April 21, hosting Eisenhower at 4 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils began last week with a win over Berkley on Wednesday, April 9. South dominated the day with big wins in both singles and doubles. Dalina Kokoshi, Olivia Kowal and Charlotte Kowal all earned singles wins. In doubles, South got victories from the teams of Katelyn Strong and Taylor Lewis, Grace Vollmer and Andia Nazarko and Mia Fakh and Ella Brennan.

South then traveled to Chelsea over the weekend for a quad match that was another strong showing for the Blue Devils. The team finished the day with three wins over all three of its opponents throughout Saturday.

The Blue Devils defeated the host team, Chelsea, 6-3. Among the winners in that match for the Blue Devils were the singles players again, with Kokoshi and both Kowal sisters earning wins to help spur the team to victory.

South dominated North Farmington 7-2 for another win. Kokoshi was victorious in singles again, but it was the doubles teams who shone in this victory. The pairs of Strong and Lewis, Vollmer and Nazarko and Fakh and Brennan all collected wins again in a dominant day for the Blue Devils.

The closest match of the day for South was a 5-4 win over Battle Creek Lakeview. Charlotte Kowal picked up a singles win for the Blue Devils, while Strong and

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED
2025 CITY PROPERTY TAXES
AND 2025-2026 BUDGET

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230, 313-885-5800, will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Offices, 17147 Maumee Avenue, on the proposed 2025 City tax levy and on the proposed 2025-2026 City budget. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection during regular business hours in the office of the City Clerk beginning May 2, 2025

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

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

Christopher Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 4/17/25

South stacks wins, North looks for early victories in softball season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The action on the diamond for the high school varsity softball season is heating up as teams start to get back into the swing of things. It was a week full of games for Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett. The ups and downs of the early season continued in some ways, but all of the teams were able to come away with some victories as they prepared for the heart of the season.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils continued to stack early-season wins last week as the team’s success to start the spring kept rolling. The week got off to an exciting start Wednesday, April 9, when South earned a narrow 3-2 win over Lake Shore in extra innings.
Down 2-0 in the sixth inning, South came back and tied the game on an RBI single from Lucia Gabel. She ended up as the hero again in extra innings, coming through with a walk-off RBI-double in the eighth inning to give the Blue Devils the win. Makenzie Waterson pitched all eight innings of the game and ended up getting the win for South, tallying 11 strikeouts along the way.
“(I’m) extremely proud of how we scraped and clawed and found a way to that win,” South soft-

ball head coach Bill Fleming said.
Offense was the name of the game in the next series of matchups for South as the team hosted its first round-robin event of the season Saturday, April 12. The first game of the day was a dominant 16-1 win for South that was spearheaded by a strong day from freshman Sophia Husek.
Husek brought in four RBIs on two hits at the plate while also getting the win on the mound for the Blue Devils. She pitched all five innings while allowing only two hits and one earned run with seven strikeouts.
South continued to look dominant on offense in the second game of the day, winning 16-1 yet again, this time over Stevenson. Mackenzie Simon had three RBIs in the win, while Murphy Russell also brought in a pair. Russell was the winning pitcher in the game for South as she tossed four innings and surrendered only three hits with five strikeouts.
The day ended with a 12-9 Blue Devils victory over Grosse Ile. South trailed early on after Grosse Ile put up three runs in the top of the first inning, but a nine-run third inning for the Blue Devils put them back in front for good. Simond had another multi-RBI game with two, while Kelsie Georgie brought in a pair as well.
“Round Robin Day was

an awesome display of Blue Devil power,” Fleming said about his team’s performance at the plate over the weekend.
South traveled on the road for its next game after press time Tuesday, April 15, taking on Port Huron. The Blue Devils Wilkins knocked a two-run home run over the fence and Victoria Mangol tallied three RBIs with a bases-clearing double in the game.
North quickly got back in the win column in its next game Friday, April 11, beating Chippewa Valley 8-7. Isabella Boedeker had two hits and two RBIs in the win, while Elliott Jarvi also had a pair of RBIs on two hits as well. Also with a multi-hit game was freshman Emma Barr, who added an RBI to the box score to cap off a strong day.
return home Thursday, April 17, hosting Warren Woods-Tower at 4:30 p.m.
Grosse Pointe North
North had mixed results last week as the team navigated the early part of the season, picking up a couple of wins while also being handed a few losses. The week started with an 18-8 loss at home to Dakota Thursday, April 10. Despite the loss, North still had plenty of highlights on offense by scoring eight runs. Liesl

The Norsemen traveled to the Lake Orion Tournament over the weekend for a series of games Saturday, April 12. The day started with a 5-4 win for North over Alpena, led by a winning performance on the mound from Kate Stemmler. The junior scattered seven hits and struck out three batters while pitching all seven innings. On offense, Addie Wakefield and Charlotte Julien both had three-hit games with Wakefield also bringing in two RBIs.
In the second game of the day, the Norsemen fell to host Lake Orion 9-4. The Norsemen had a 4-2 lead in the fourth inning, but the Dragons came back and took the lead for good to eventually hand North the loss. Julien, Wilkins and Addison Moses all had RBIs for North in the loss.
North ended the day with another loss 10-4 against Clarkston. Barr hit a solo home run to help lead North on offense in the loss, with Wakefield and Wilkins once again tallying RBIs.
The Norsemen hosted Eisenhower after press time Tuesday, April 15. North goes on the road for its next game Thursday,

April 17, to face Henry Ford II. The team then goes across town to face rival Grosse Pointe South at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 21.
University Liggett
The Knights hosted a doubleheader against Riverview Gabriel Richard Monday, April 14, and earned a couple of big wins.
Game One of the doubleheader was a 15-0 win for the Knights. Louisa Dragovic had five RBIs on three hits in the win, with Keegan Price also bringing in a pair of runs with her bat. Price was also the winning pitcher, tossing three scoreless and hitless innings while tallying six strikeouts.
The Knights dominated again in Game Two on Monday, winning 14-3. Jasmine Maxwell and Kendall Butler led the offense with three RBIs each. Price was the winning pitcher yet again, going five innings and allowing three runs on two hits with 11 strikeouts.
Liggett visited Lakeview after press time Wednesday, April 16. The Knights return home Tuesday, April 22, to host Grosse Pointe south at 4 p.m.

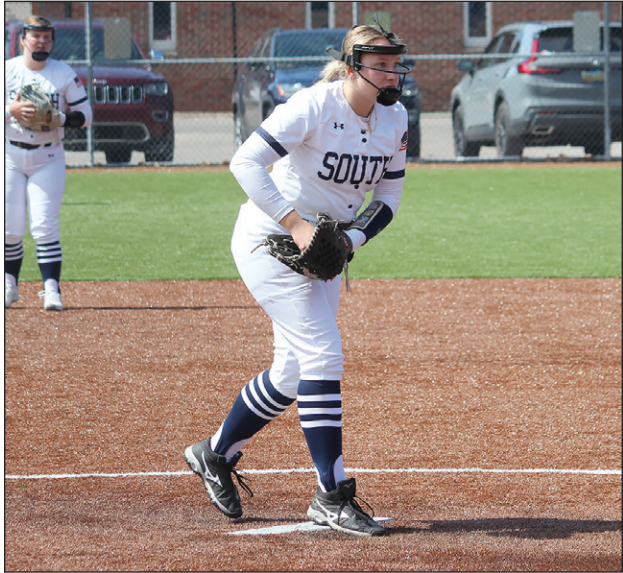


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Murphy Russell winds up for a pitch against Stevenson last Saturday, April 12.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 7, 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 March 17, 2025 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Election Commission meeting held on March 20, 2025 and the Planning Commission meeting held on March 26, 2025.
- 2) to open the Public Hearing on the Request for a Land Vacation from Robertson Brothers.
- 3) to close the Public Hearing.
- 4) to schedule a public hearing on May 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the continuation of a Special Assessment District and further to schedule a second public hearing on May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the effect of the Special Assessment on the tax roll, and further that the City Clerk publish a notice of these in accordance with City Charter requirements.
- 5) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) Approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 132171 through 132381 in the amount of \$2,614,995.81 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 Hannah Architects in the amount of \$67,470.00 for the design development and construction documentation for the Harper Woods Community Center Project. (3) Approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$9,242.52 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of March and for IT support services for all departments. (4) Approve payments to Truist Governmental Finance in the amount of \$71,020.01 for the Principal and Interest on the bond for the water meters. (5) Approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,384.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of April 2025.
- (6) Approve payment in the amount of \$8,545.98 to Drive Creative Services, LLC for the production of the April/June Newsletter. (7) Approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$9,450.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (8) Approve payment to Core and Main in the amount of \$8,457.79 for the purchase of water main and water system repair parts. (9) Approve payment in the amount of \$12,400.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with a water main break, a replacement of a stop box and repair to a fire hydrant. (10) Approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$21,646.54 for professional services during the month of April 2025 for the following projects: City Hall Generator, #180-291; Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; 2025 Misc. Concrete Rep. #180-363; 2025 Joint Crack/Seal, #180-366; CDBG Sidewalk PGM, #180-350; Paser Rating, #180-297, HWHS Clubhouse #80-327; Miss Digs, #180-255; WAMC Water Amp Survey, #180-371; NB Harper GLWA Water Main Repl, #180-368; Roscommon Pkt Park, #180-329; Updated Voting Precinct Map, #180-343; Comcast Review, #180-372; Eastland Center Dev., #180-244; 2024 San. Sewer Cleaning FCIPP Pgm #180-339, 2025 San. Sewer Cleaning FCIPP Pgm, #180-364; 2025 Storm Sewer Rep., #180-362; DWRF Lead Water Svc. Repl., #180-331; DWSD Sewage Dischg District, #180-347. (11) Approve payment to BS & A Software in the amount of \$5,546.00 for the online system software for the period of February 2025 through February 2026. (12) Approve purchase of a Positive Pressure Fan in the amount of \$6,620.00 from Macqueen Fire Supply. (13) Approve purchase of EMS and NFIRS Reporting Software in the amount of \$5,400.00 from First Due Software. (14) Approve payment to Northern Insurance Agency in the amount \$5,417.13. for the renewal of the City’s annual underground fuel storage tank insurance policy. (15) Approve payment to SAFEbuilt LLC in the amount of \$58,901.08 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of March 2025. (16) Approve payment to Plante & Moran PLLC in the amount of \$9,450.00 for the financial/accounting services provided for preparation of the 2024 financial statements.
- 2) to approve the request to vacate a segment of Lennon street’s right-of-way that abuts the right-of-way with Harper Avenue, as submitted by Tim Loughrin of Robertson Brothers Homes.
- 3) to approve the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS) for three months, April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$19,824.00.
- 4) to approve payment to CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services in the amount of \$5,480.20, for the actuarial evaluation for the “Other Post Employment Benefits” (OPEB).
- 5) to Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01 entitled “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 7 Section 7-2 of the Code of Ordinances to Change Voting Precincts” and further, to direct the City Clerk to publish a notice of this in accordance with City Charter requirements, Section 8-3, giving it immediate effect.
- 6) to approve the Addendum to the Participation Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) incorporating the neutral cost “DROP” retirement plan on behalf of retirement eligible COAM members, and further, to authorize the Acting City Manager to sign the agreement.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, April 17, 2025

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4D | SPORTS

BASEBALL:

Continued from page 1D

Lipscomb, Caleb Butler, Jacob Sahadi and Peter Rheume all brought in runs with their bats as well.

After winning Game One of the doubleheader, the Norsemen dropped the second game to the Eagles 5-2. Brady Collins and Max Praet drove in the runs for North on offense in the loss as the teams split the weekend doubleheader.

The Norsemen took on their first MAC White Division opponent Monday, April 14, traveling to face Anchor Bay. The day ended with another loss for North, falling 4-0 to the Tars while only managing three hits at the plate.

It may have been a shaky first week of the season for the Norsemen, but the coaches are making sure to keep everyone focused on the big picture. The team knows it is a long season and that trying to keep their heads up is most important.

“Stay the course and these balls will eventually find their way into the gaps and we can move forward,” Kozlowski said. “... This year, we’re replacing seven starters out of our nine. It’s almost a completely different team from last year. ... It’s a learning curve for them and for us to try to figure out who can play where and, the more we play, the more the picture becomes clearer.”

North hosted Anchor Bay after press time Wednesday, April 16.

The team goes on the road for a final game in the series against the Tars Thursday, April 17. Over the weekend, North hosts a doubleheader against Berkley at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 19.

Grosse Pointe South

South continued its early-season roll with a series of wins last week on the diamond. It started with a narrow, extra-innings win 3-2 over Stevenson Wednesday, April 9, thanks to a walk-off hit in the 10th inning by one of the Blue Devils’ senior leaders.

The scoring was largely spaced out in South’s win last Wednesday. The Blue Devils jumped out to a 2-0 lead with RBIs from Dane Lezotte and Drew Hess. The lead remained 2-0 for South until the seventh inning, when Stevenson tied the game at two runs apiece.

That sent the game to extra innings, where things remained even all the way to the 10th inning. Finally, senior Alex Dilodovico broke the tie and brought in the winning run with an RBI single to secure a third-straight win for South.

The momentum kept rolling for the Blue Devils into their next game Friday, April 11, against Royal Oak. South dominated with a shutout 10-0 win over the Ravens in five innings. Charlie Michelotti got the win on the mound by throwing four shutout innings and allowing just two hits with seven strikeouts. Hess also pitched one inning with no hits or



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Henry Danielewicz delivers a pitch from the mound in Game One of South’s doubleheader against Wyandotte Roosevelt last Saturday, April 12.

runs.

On offense, Henry Domzalski led the way with three RBIs on three hits. Lucas Ogden and Evan Bernard tallied a pair of RBIs each, while Hess and James Michelotti brought in runs at the plate as well.

More dominant wins for South came over the weekend when the team hosted Wyandotte Roosevelt for a doubleheader Saturday, April 12. The Blue Devils’ bats continued to stay hot and the pitching was once again solid in a 9-1 win for South in Game

One of the doubleheader.

Bernard had another multi-RBI game by bringing in two runs yet again. Domzalski, Dilodovico, Lezotte, Ogden and James Michelotti all tallied RBIs in the win as well.

Henry Danielewicz got the win on the bump, pitching five innings and allowing three hits and one run. Lezotte threw two shutout innings and allowed just one hit to close things out.

Game Two of the doubleheader was another lopsided win for South,

this time beating the Bears 11-2. Ben Kocick had a stellar performance at the plate with three hits and four RBIs. Alex Foote was the winning pitcher for South, allowing six hits and two earned runs in four innings, while Trey Grabowski pitched two shutout innings and allowed just two hits.

South kicked off MAC White Division play with a win Monday, April 14. The Blue Devils visited Utica and had another big day on offense, winning 10-1. Domzalski, Dilodovico, Lezotte and Jack Lupo each had a pair of RBIs. Jack Danielewicz pitched all seven innings and got the win, allowing only one earned run on five hits with seven strikeouts.

The Blue Devils hosted Utica after press time Wednesday, April 16. They go on the road for one more game against the Chieftains Thursday, April 17. South hosts Royal Oak for a weekend doubleheader Saturday, April 19, starting at 11 a.m.

with eight strikeouts.

The Knights went from shutting out Lumen Christi in Game One to being shut out in Game Two. Liggett’s offense was unable to do much with just four hits in the 6-0 loss to end the day.

Liggett went on the road Saturday, April 12, for a doubleheader against Dearborn Divine Child. The road trip was not kind to the Knights, as the team dropped both games of the doubleheader to the Falcons.

Game One was a 4-2 loss for Liggett. The Knights jumped out to an early lead in the third inning, going up 2-0 on a two-run double by Barr. However, that was the most offense the Knights saw all day as the Falcons eventually took over the lead in the fifth inning and never gave it up. In Game Two, Liggett only managed a couple of hits in a 4-0 loss.

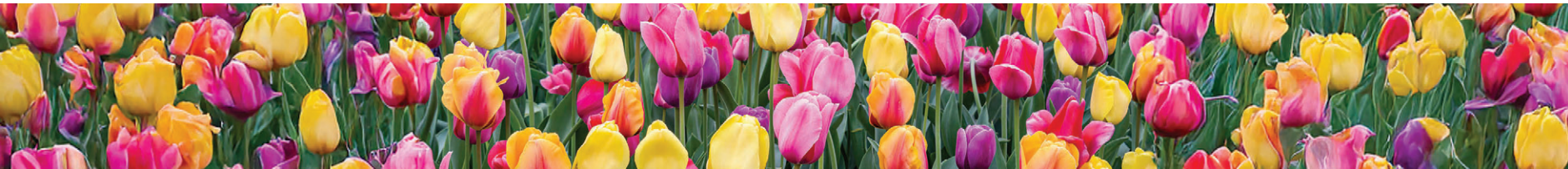
The Knights got back on track Monday, April 14, dominating a doubleheader against Riverview Gabriel Richard. Liggett won the first game of the day 15-0 in just four innings, with Phillips not allowing a single hit in the shutout on the mound.

Game Two of the doubleheader was a 10-2 victory for the Knights, highlighted by four RBIs from Jackson Fetter, including a three-run home run.

Liggett hosted Detroit Country Day in a doubleheader Wednesday, April 16, after press time. The team takes the diamond again Tuesday, April 22, at home against Allen Park.

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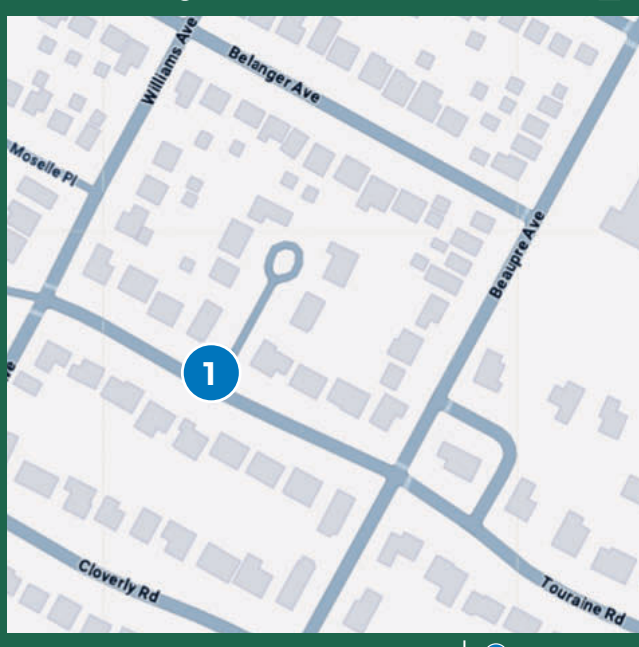
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6D | SPORTS

ATHLETE:
Continued from page 1D

accountable and strives to get the best out of everyone. ... Luna leads by example, working hard in the off-season, putting in extra work during the season and playing hard until the last pitch.”

Leadership is something from which Agosta has never shied away. She knows helping mentor the younger players is one of her biggest duties as both a veteran and a captain, learning from her own experiences when she was beginning her high school softball career years ago.

“I was one of the only freshmen on varsity, so I started off sort of feeling like an underdog,”

Agosta said. “I ended up getting more playing time because of injuries and such. Since then, I’ve just shown Coach Fleming and everyone my leadership skills. ... It’s really very exciting to kind of almost view the younger kids almost like how I used to view myself. ... I understand what it is to be that nervous freshman who’s so scared to make a mistake with everything being so new.”

The 2025 season is still young for the Blue Devils and Agosta and her teammates are just getting on the way to achieving their goals. South’s team motto this season is ‘Embrace the grind’ and Agosta has completely bought into that, knowing she is going to continue doing whatever it takes to help her team.

Sure, winning rivalry games and playoff games would be the best way to close out her senior year. However, Agosta knows that all will come in time if she helps her teammates remain focused every day. The selfless attitude Agosta brings to every practice and game is what she wants to become infectious to the rest of her team, because she wants her legacy with the Blue Devils to be her team spirit.

“I just want to be helping the team out, honestly,” she said. “I don’t care if I’m hitting a home run or if it’s a groundball. I just want to be able to go up to bat and know that I’m there for my team and that, whatever I do, I can move a runner or score an RBI. I just want to do what’s best for the team.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South’s Verona Relan kicks the soccer ball past North player Charlotte Truss.

South dominates first soccer rivalry match

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls soccer visited crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North last Friday, April 11, in the first matchup of the season between the two teams. It was a dominant performance for the Blue Devils, who came away with the win 6-0. Savannah Spangler and Lilia Moussiaux had two goals each, while Lila Brundage and Verona Relan added the other goals for the Blue Devils.

TENNIS:
Continued from page 2D

Lewis and Vollmer and Nazarko helped to bolster the winning effort in the doubles matches.

The Blue Devils picked up another win on Monday, April 14, against West Bloomfield. South swept the competition, winning 10-0. South traveled on the road to face Romeo after press time Wednesday, April 16. The team takes the court again Monday, April 21, at home against Lake Orion, starting at 4 p.m.

University Liggett

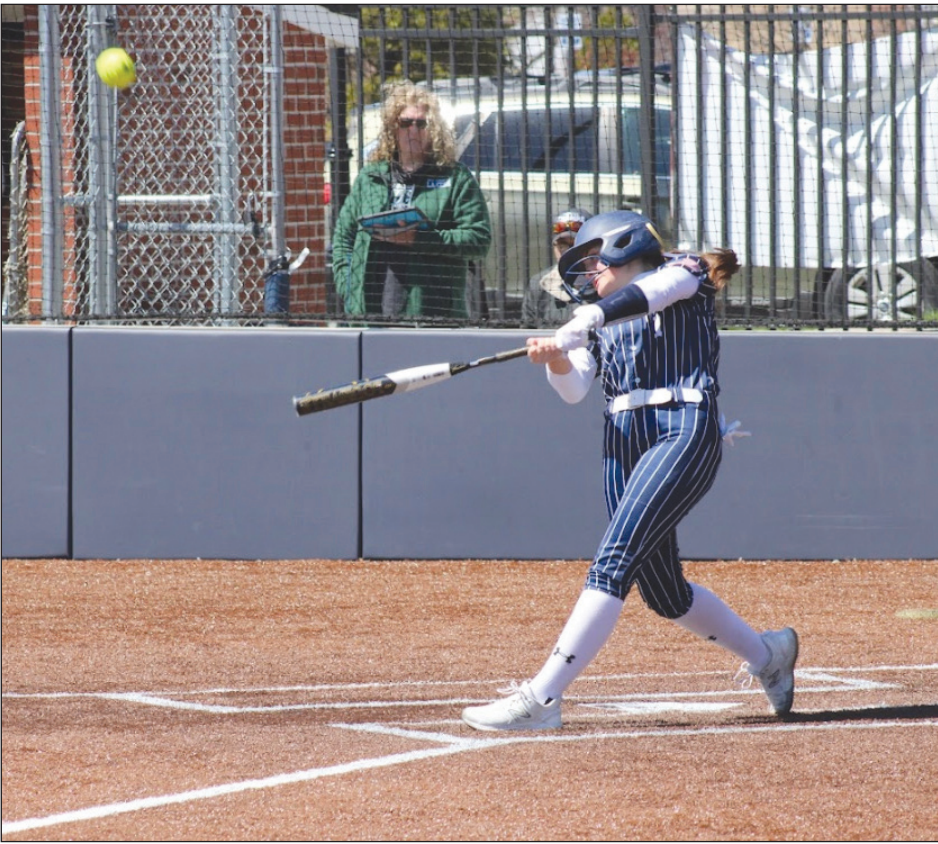
Still in the early stages of the season, the girls tennis team from University Liggett hosted a quad tournament Saturday, April 12. The Knights picked up one victory in three matches during the day on their home court.

The lone victory for Liggett came 5-3 over Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central. Sonya Jayakar and Audrey DiDio picked up wins in singles play, while the pair of Peyton Caldwell and Iris Wimmer helped the team’s winning effort with a doubles victory.

The other matches during the day last Saturday were lopsided defeats for the Knights. They fell 7-1 to L’Anse Cruese North, with DiDio getting the only win in the match for Liggett. The other match was an 8-0 loss to Traverse City St. Francis.

The Knights suffered another loss Monday, April 14, losing to Bishop Foley 5-3. All three of Liggett’s victories in the loss came in singles play, with Jayakar, DiDio and Nina Shanidze all earning wins.

Liggett hosted Shrine Catholic after press time Tuesday, April 15. The Knights compete again Thursday, April 17, going on the road to face Almont.



COURTESY PHOTO

Agotsa has been a captain of South softball for the past two seasons.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe North varsity girls tennis celebrated a few big wins last week, including a series of victories in a quad match last Saturday, April 12.

Grosse Pointe News

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