

Great Lakes Boating Festival is this weekend

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The 36th annual Great Lakes Boating Festival returns to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club this weekend.

The event runs noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 17, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Parking on-site is \$20, but there will be a free shuttle running between Grosse Pointe North High School and the club.

Sponsors are the Grosse Pointe News, Great Lakes Wine & Spirits and Lucky Lemonade.

There will be 65 boats from 40 exhibitors on display, ranging in length from 16 to 60 feet, both on land and in the water, and a variety of vendors will be selling boating accessories. Attendees will be able to stroll the grounds of the club with cocktails, lawn games and food trucks available.

A Sail into Summer party and auction runs 6:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe News, Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers, Colony Marine, Sassy Marina, Genesis Cadillac and the DTE Foundation. Proceeds benefit the Youth Nautical Education Foundation, which awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships to youth sailors each year.

The evening will feature a race car simulator, letting users race any car on any track in the world. VIP tickets are \$160 and include special seating, roving dinner, cash bar, the racing simulator and auction. Regular tickets are \$135 and include all but the special seating.

See greatlakesboatingfestival.com for more information.

SOLDIER:

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someone blowing bubbles.

To register, visit neighborhoodclub.org or call (313) 855-0460.

Russell said he enlisted in the Army at age 17.

“To join the military and be sent somewhere you don’t know where you’re going takes a different type of person,” he said. “I went in as an MP (military police officer), did four years and went to the police academy.”

Three veterans founded Stop Soldier Suicide in 2010.

“The key to preventing

suicide is to identify, understand and address the underlying issues — things like financial strain, post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues, and difficulties navigating the transition from military to civilian before they escalate to a point of crisis,” according to the website.

Russell suspects soldier suicide has been a problem all along.

“I think it’s something we’re just learning about,” he said. “Look at a lot of the guys who were in Vietnam. I don’t think they got the treatment they should have. That’s one of the culprits.”



From left, Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Art Bryant, City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, Grosse Pointe Farms Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Grosse Pointe Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski and Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROD AROYO/ PORTRAITS BY ROD

From unbelief to belief

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — There were a few interesting strings woven through the Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast, held Thursday, May 1, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Before Eric Backman shared his faith journey, the Rev. Andrew Smith of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church noted it was fitting the event was held on the same day the Catholic calendar recognizes the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker — carpenter and foster father to Jesus — because the breakfast is sponsored by the Grosse

Pointe Chamber of Commerce and the feast day is meant to recognize the value of work.

Backman began his remarks by noting the Gospel reading at the previous Sunday’s Mass detailed the story of St. Thomas the Apostle, often referred to as Doubting Thomas.

“My journey is similar to his,” Backman said. “I went from doubt to faith, resentment to trust.”

The Grosse Pointe native said he grew up in “an amazing family,” but without much faith.

At age 13, the day he came home from the hospital after surgery for epilepsy, his father felt unwell and went to the



Eric Backman delivers the keynote address at the 39th annual Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast.

hospital.

“He was diagnosed with lung cancer, even though he never smoked a day in his life,” Backman said.

Treatment initially was successful, but the cancer returned more severe and widespread.

“That was the first time

I ever prayed, but he died,” Backman said. “I wrote God off.”

While at Albion College, friends, including his now wife, Carrie, would invite him to Mass.

“It stirred a bitterness in me,” he recalled. “So I

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development, whose daughter is a high school senior this year. “So it’s a wonderful opportunity to support those who may not choose the traditional path of university, but instead choose to enlist.”

Planned 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 22, The War Memorial’s OCS ceremony is the only one taking place in Michigan this year.

“This year across the country, there’s OCS ceremonies in 26 states and we’re the only one in Michigan and there’s only one in Ohio,” said Alex Szwarc, patriotic pro-

gramming and communication administrator. “So, in this region, we’re the place to be.”

The event serves as a means through which the community may express gratitude, offer support and celebrate the enlistees’ transition into military service.

It kicks off with a 6 p.m. resource fair and reception. Local organizations taking part include Raising the American Heroes, the Macomb County Veteran

Navigators and Michigan Army National Guard.

The 7 p.m. recognition ceremony features the oath of enlistment, a tribute to the future service members and featured remarks by Army Brig. Gen. Ravindra V. Wagh, assistant to the adjutant general-Army for the Michigan National Guard.

“With our mission, this is a perfect event to really honor those who are about to serve,” Szwarc said. “We do a lot for veterans and this is a unique event in that they’re not veterans yet — they’re just walking into military service. It gives us a chance to send them out right and then 10, 20 years from now, whenever they’re veterans, (they can) come back to The War Memorial for our veteran programming. It’s nice to go full circle. We do a lot for veterans and now, with OCS, do this for the new enlistees.”

Enlistees currently registered for the ceremony hail from Seaholm High School, Anchor Bay High School, Detroit International Academy, Oak Park High School, Chippewa Valley High School and Warren Woods Tower High School.

Additional enlistees still may register at community.ocsusa.org/detroit/.

“This is open to the public,” Szwarc added, “so it would be great to have lots of community support. Hence the name, Our Community Salutes, to really get the public involved, to give their support to these young men and women.”





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City idles art center lot

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It turns out that memorandums of understanding make good handshake opportunities, but lack the legal grip of signed contracts.

The distinction was made by a municipal representative who said the Downtown Development Authority neither is nor ever was obliged to provide offsite parking spaces for the forthcoming Schaap theater.

The point remains topical despite the city council determining three months ago that land on which the DDA agreed in 2021 to build a parking lot for shared use by the Schaap Center isn't DDA property.

The land, an undeveloped and normally grassy area located in front of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch on Jefferson at Lakepointe beside city hall, belongs

to the city.

Ownership of the property was determined through due diligence begun last fall by the Urban Renewal Foundation Initiative, backers of the theater. The DDA's lack of ownership rates an MOU between the authority and center phooey, according to Kevin Kilby, the authority's attorney.

"It was never owned by the DDA," Kilby said of the property.

Members of the council agreed unanimously Feb. 3 to affirm ownership of the land. They said nothing about transforming it into a parking lot for anyone.

Council members thereby removed the land from the grasp of the DDA and people wanting to use it as overflow parking for the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

The 49,000-square-foot,

424-seat facility is due for a gala charity grand opening Friday, Oct. 17, one block from the defunct DDA lot being used temporarily as a sewer separation construction staging area on Jefferson between Maryland and Alter Road.

"If we were to lease a parking lot, would that fulfill the obligation under the MOU?" DDA Trustee Laura Ochab asked Kilby during the authority's May 6 meeting. "If we can't find something to lease, how do we take action on that?"

"The obligation under the MOU is very specific to this lot," Kilby answered. "It would have to be an amendment to the MOU."

"So even if we lease something, that wouldn't alleviate that obligation?" Ochab said.

"Assuming we have an obligation, correct," Kilby said. "I don't want to say we have an obligation. In our opinion, we don't."

Kilby is limited in what he can say due, in part, to the property not being controlled by his client, the DDA.

DDA Director and City Manager Nick Sizeland didn't comment, citing instructions from the city attorney.

City Attorney Morgan McAtamney, of The Kelly Firm, representing the property's municipal owner, didn't respond to a voice message or email last week requesting clarification.

Ochab was the only DDA board member to oppose an MOU with the URIF Dec. 8, 2021, approving construction of a parking lot.

"Taking away a large space of greenery to put in a parking lot, visually on the Jefferson corridor, I'm not sure how that looks," she was reported saying at the time.

Schaap backers preceded the MOU by one year in pitching the center's community support.

"The DDA has committed to support the project by funding the construction of a public parking area in front of the Ewald Library and adjacent to city hall," according to the backers' 2020 presentation to the city planning commission.

"We're proceeding with our grand opening and our first season with the parking we have available to us, the ability to valet and have a smooth guest experience," said Jaime Rae Turnbull, executive director of the Schaap Center. "Whatever happens with the library lot happens with the library lot."

The center is required to provide at least 126 parking spaces, according to documents filed with the city.

"We have 88 parking spots on our property alone and have 80 at the municipal building existing," Turnbull said. "We have over 160, which is perfect. Our goal is for nobody to have a bad experience when it comes to parking. Their first and last experience will be positive because we're going to have valet parking and a hospitable way to manage our patrons."

Sizeland is trying to line up leased space in commercially owned neighborhood lots.

"I'd like to entertain the possibility of seeing if we could partner with the (vacant) Bank of America building," he said. "You also have office space down toward Barrington. We have a couple opportunities."

DDA board member Richard Ansell, also a board member of the Full Circle Foundation, which is due to open a new headquarters this fall on Jefferson at Somerset, said, "There have been conversations about the parking we have there and the possibility, particularly in the evening, of making that available to patrons of the art center. One of the concerns is, whatever we might do, we don't jeopardize our 501(c)3 status."

Kilby said state law regulating DDAs allows them limited leeway to own and operate property outside their boundaries.

"You can lease it," he said. "You can grant a license on it. You can be the lessor or lessee. However, you can't improve it. You can buy, hypothetically, a parking lot and use it as a parking lot or lease it, but you can't not physically improve that with (DDA) dollars. When it comes to improving (property), that has to be within the DDA district."

New leadership sets stage for improvements

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — With the March departure of parks and recreation coordinator Rebecca Jenzen, city administrators saw an opportunity to restructure the leadership at Neff Park and fill a gap in oversight of the harbor.

In addition to hiring Grosse Pointe Farms resident Chad Murphy as the new parks and recreation coordinator, parks maintenance technician Trent Hunter was promoted to the newly created position of parks and harbor supervisor.

The position oversees maintenance and care of the city's park properties and especially the Dale N. Scrace Marina — an area which hasn't been kept up to the city's standards due to stretched-thin park staff.



Chad Murphy



Trent Hunter

"(The city) wanted someone who can specifically look at these properties that we're taking care of, instead of someone doing a whole bunch of other stuff and (these responsibilities) on top of that," said Hunter, who ran a landscaping business prior to his employment with the city. "They created this job just to try to make things a little bit better than they have been in the past."

Murphy, concurrently, is responsible for over-

seeing pool operations, swim programs and special events programming.

"I love putting programs together for families and all that goes into that," said Murphy, who spent the last five years in programming leadership roles for the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA. "... I had talked with my friends and family for years, saying my next move is going to be somewhere in parks and rec."

Though the two are keeping specifics close to the chest as they settle into their respective positions, Murphy and Hunter intend to tag team a series of improvements and refurbishment to parks and recreation in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"My goal, as far as me and Chad being down here, is in a few years or however long it takes, people look back and say, 'Man, the park, the marina, everything, has never looked better,'" Hunter said. "And I think we can get there for sure."

Murphy lives with his wife, Natalie, and daughter, Mara, in the Farms — just a 1.5-mile commute to work on his bike.

Hunter lives in New Haven, where he and his wife, Malissa, welcomed their son Grant in November.

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, MAY 19**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Infrastructure Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
 - ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, MAY 20**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- THURSDAY, MAY 22**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Central Library.
- FRIDAY, MAY 23**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods municipal offices closed all day.
- SATURDAY, MAY 24**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park plant exchange, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Windmill Pointe Park.

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Award-winning architect enjoys creating learning environments

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Louisiana State University’s live tiger mascot has nothing on monkeys at the American School in Singapore. Mike the Tiger lives in a cage near the football stadium in Baton Rouge. The American School’s monkeys swing free. “Just hanging out on campus,” Ellen Duff said. “I wouldn’t say they’re as common as squirrels, but there are enough.”

After all, monkeys were there first. Duff planned the campus to ensure it stays that way.

“The whole design was catered to a connection with nature and having authentic experiences of nature,” she said.

Duff, a North Carolina native living in Grosse Pointe Park, is an architect. Upon earning a master’s degree in the discipline 10 years ago from the University of Michigan, she sought employment with a firm, Fielding International, that let her do what she likes best: design school buildings in Michigan and halfway around the world.

“I hadn’t planned on staying in Michigan, but a place popped up that was down the road and I’ve been there ever since,” Duff said.

The arrangement is mutually beneficial.

“My boss is incredible and supports me in advancing my career,” Duff said, referring to James Seaman, Fielding’s managing principal. “He submitted me to be the young architect of the year for both Detroit and Michigan.”

She won the young architect award for Detroit in 2022 and for Michigan in 2023. Awards were issued by the American Institute of Architects Michigan.

She considers the interaction between architecture, education and culture as a dynamic give-and-take.

“I went to an international elementary school in Greensboro, North Carolina,” Duff said. “I learned Japanese for six years, took extracurricular Spanish and spent years learning about different cultures and appreciating what the



COURTESY PHOTO

Architect Ellen Duff drew inspiration from students when designing the Singapore American School.

world brings to the table, knowing that everyone’s different, but they still operate in the same space. I attribute a lot of my appreciation for global culture from that.”

She enjoys creating environments that facilitate learning.

“There’s a lot of fun to be had,” she said. “And you get to talk with kids. It’s fun.”

It’s her niche.

“You have your niche and a niche within your niche and you keep going into your niche as you age,” Duff said.

Conferring with students is essential when designing a school. No two campuses, let alone communities, are alike. And a cookie-cutter approach to creativity doesn’t allow for the individual attention Duff said every project deserves.

“Learners are a key constituent of the space,” she said. “They understand how they want to learn. Getting ideas from them not only gives me a better understanding of their needs, but also gives me a better understanding of their daily user experience — where they feel the most safe, happy and comfortable in their schools; what are some of the puzzle pieces that bring out those feelings.”

She knows firsthand that students in China have different needs than those at a rural school in Ballarat, Australia.

“One of the main reasons I went into architecture is I went on a people-to-people program in high school,” Duff said. “I was in Europe for three weeks going through five countries. Everything was different architecturally. You start interacting with space very differently. I appreciated that from a user-experience stand-

point and ended up in architecture as a result.”

In Australia, she designed an elementary school at which students also spend a year working on a farm.

“The connection with nature is already embedded in their curriculum,” Duff said. “That plays into the design of the building in a very different way than a building in Seattle. I’d say, across the globe, people want connections with the outdoors. It’s healthy. It helps with learning. Test scores go up when you’re daylighting. There’s just a lot of pros to it, but there’s also conflicting priorities a lot of times.”

One of her guiding principles is proxemics, the study of how much personal space people feel comfortable having between themselves and others.

“I like how people interact with each other based off space,” Duff said.

She designs for it.

“If you are farther than 12 feet from someone, it is less likely you are going to talk to them or be in a group of people and talk to them,” Duff said. “So, if I’m designing a space where two groups are working collaboratively, I know that I might need more than 12 feet because that’s how the metrics work. I can design toward that and make spaces more communal for people, but still have individual nooks and crannies for people to feel like they have their own space.”

Safety also is a component of good design.

“You can’t have an outdoor access point in every classroom because there are safety concerns with that,” Duff said. “Being strategic about where you have outdoor ameni-

ties becomes different depending on different cultures and how people are approaching safety.”

The Singapore American School has about 4,000 students from preschool through high school. More than half are United States citizens.

“The site is pretty tight,” Duff said.

Tight enough to require building up rather than out. One building is six stories tall.

“I’d talk to kids and they didn’t realize they had a catchment forest behind their school,” Duff said.

The forest catches rain which drains into a reservoir that doubles as a 37-acre state park. Unconfirmed reports of crocodiles living in the reservoir are taken seriously enough to prompt warning signs along the shoreline.

“So, even though it’s a six-story building, you have outdoor experiences on every floor and always have views of the catchment forest,” Duff said. “Even though it’s six floors, you have different play spaces on each floor, so you do not have to go from the sixth to the ground floor for recess. Having that immersive, outdoor experience throughout the whole building is pretty awesome, in my opinion.”

Some of the students’ ideas made it from the drawing board to the construction site.

“(An) indoor waterfall turned into a small water feature at the schools’ welcoming entry that helps with sensory needs for students,” Duff said. “An outdoor hammock garden became a design feature of a shared outdoor amenity in the school’s learning courtyard.”

Schools have different needs and visions tied to their physical environment.

“With a lot of clients I interact with,” Duff said, “it’s understanding what activities they are trying to do, what barriers their current architecture has and how can I make even incremental changes for better opportunities for those activities to be made so they can be operating at a higher capacity.”

Exchange more than plants May 24

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES

— It isn’t required to exchange plants during the annual spring plant exchange Saturday, May 24.

“We also accept gardening books people want to give away and, if they have old gardening tools or clean flower pots, we put those out as well,” said Lisa Kyle, head of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, event organizers. “We’ll have educational materials about plants. The (Grosse Pointe Public) library is sending over packets of seeds.”

The exchange, rain or shine 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Park, is free and open to everyone, including residents from beyond the Park.

“We’ll have information about pollinator gar-

dens and native plants,” Kyle said. “Of course, we’re going to have plants to give away.”

Special guests this year are representatives of the Deeplands Garden Club from Grosse Pointe Shores.

“They’re interested in doing outreach and a children’s activity that involves gardening,” said Kelly Konieczki, a Park beautification commissioner. “I thought this would be a perfect fit to have them at the exchange helping kids plant seeds.”

Despite seeds, tools, books and kibitzing, the exchange is centered around gardening and the free give-and-take of extra plants, bulbs, seeds and houseplants. It isn’t required to donate anything in order to pick up anything else.

“Healthy plants only,” Kyle said. “Please label

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BELIEF:

Continued from page 2A

took a class on Christian writings, C.S. Lewis, St. Augustine, not to learn but to prove them wrong.”

Backman said he eventually started to open up and joined RCIA, which stands for Right of Christian Initiation of Adults, a program for adults who want to join the Catholic Church.

“I told them I wasn’t joining, I was just there to learn,” he said. “But I kept finding good answers to my questions.”

Backman eventually did join, but said he still struggled.

“I needed more evidence, so I found a podcast about the non-biblical, historical evidence of the Resurrection,” he said. “I must have listened to it 30 times.”

“I realized I’d gotten 1,500 answers to 1,500 questions,” he laughed. “It’s not like I was going to stump them on 1,501.”

The doubts, however, still persisted, until he and Carrie attended a prayer conference at Sacred Heart Seminary in 2017.

“A seminarian prayed over us and I just felt this rush of the Holy Spirit come over me,” he said. “We both had tears in our eyes.”

They then accompanied the seminarians to Detroit, asking people if they could pray for them.

“We met a guy who had a brace on his arm due to a stroke and he couldn’t move it,” Backman said. “His fingers were all bunched together. We put our hands on his shoulder and prayed and he still couldn’t move it.”

The day happened to be the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of Fatima.

“People were coming out of Mass at Old St. Mary’s and a guy came over and asked to join us,” he said. “We prayed again and the guy was able to separate his fingers and move them. That’s when it all went from my head to my heart.”

He experienced another leap in faith during COVID.

“It was like the ground

was shaking under my feet,” said Backman, founder of Backman Wealth Management on The Hill, which helps clients invest in ways that meet biblical principles. “The market fell 34 percent in 30 days. I was grasping for certainty because my entire living is based on the stock market.”

“I went to church and prayed, just to get out of the noise, and I realized my stress was a gift,” he continued. “I had to go be a rock for my family, my clients, my employees. It gave me peace.”

He also related a story of prayer and healing with a friend who has dealt with various types of cancer over the past several years.

“Six or seven years ago he was diagnosed with leukemia, so we met to review his finances and we prayed,” Backman said. “Then he was diagnosed with bile duct cancer, so we met again and prayed, even though the doctor told him it was unlikely he’d survive surgery. He did and the surgeon called it borderline miraculous.”

“Last year he learned he had liver cancer and it had spread to his spleen and lymph nodes, so we met to review his finances again and prayed and went to St. Paul for eucharistic adoration,” Backman continued. “At his next appointment, it was gone from his spleen, gone from his lymph nodes and 80 percent gone from his liver.”

Backman learned on Good Friday, however, the cancer had spread to his friend’s spine.

“I sent him a reflection I read from a cancer survivor that said there’s no such thing as getting back to normal in that situation,” he said. “He thanked me and said it was a good opportunity to reflect on how he lives his life. He said he still has terminal cancer, but then again, we’re all terminal.”

Backman’s final message was to put your trust in God’s hands.

“No matter where you are, if you’re an atheist, if you have doubts, if you’re a believer, God will meet you where you are,” he said. “But he won’t leave you there.”

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Beautifying Patterson



PHOTOS BY KELLY KONIECZKI

Volunteers got down and dirty during last Saturday morning's Adopt-A-Garden at Patterson Park, May 10. Volunteers meet once per month at the park to tend flower beds and perform light maintenance. Working near the playscape are, at left from left, Beautification Commission members Anne Billiu and Pat Deck. Working in another area of the park are, at right from left, Teddy Hirschfield and Recreation Commissioner Patrick Gleason. For more information, contact Beautification Commissioner Kelly Konieczki at momcatkelly@yahoo.com.

ALERT:

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nose; glowing green eyes and aggressive behavior. "The one I had (recently) was probably end-stage distemper and it scared me so bad I jumped out of the car and I have never done that," said Corrine Martin, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. "The officer had gotten it into the carrier and I picked it up at the garage at Grosse Pointe City, put it in the back of my vehicle, started driving and heard this growling like a bear. The whole carrier was moving all around and it had glowing green eyes and then I pulled over and jumped out. I wanted to make sure it was secure and once I was sure, I threw a blanket over it to drive it to the vet. She said it was horrible and the whole face was covered in ticks."

The virus, which tends to cycle through wildlife populations every five to seven years, can be spread from raccoons to unvaccinated dogs and cats, as well as foxes, coyotes and skunks. It is spread through urine, feces and direct contact. "It's so important that the residents know, don't let your pets' vaccines overlap just in case they

do tangle with a raccoon," Farms Animal Control Officer Mark Jacob said. "It can lead to the dog being very sick or the worst ultimatum. To my knowledge, it's a 50/50 survival rate for dogs once they get distemper and they haven't been vaccinated."

To date, there have not been any reported interactions between raccoons with distemper and pets in the Pointes. GPAAS recommends Pointers:

- ◆ contact the local police department if a raccoon is seen out during the daylight,
- ◆ ensure pets are up to date on vaccinations,
- ◆ keep dogs on a leash when walking them,
- ◆ do not let pets interact with any wildlife,
- ◆ take steps to minimize the interest of raccoons in visiting yards, such as having no pet food available outside and minimizing availability of household food waste,
- ◆ avoid keeping water and food bowls outside to limit possible contamination
- ◆ and teach children not to touch any wildlife.

That said, CDV is a species-specific virus and cannot affect humans. "A zoonotic illness is one that can be transferred from animals to humans or vice versa and that usually is pink eye or

scabies, but Canine Distemper Virus, CDV, is absolutely not transferable to humans in any way," Martin said.

For raccoons, however, it is a death sentence. There is no treatment or cure, making euthanasia and cremation the most humane option and best way to slow the spread.

"These poor things suffer," Martin said. "There's animals that are injured or need to be saved, but raccoons with distemper are neurologically sick and suffering. It's not something you can save."

Anyone who spots a raccoon acting strangely should keep their distance and call their local public safety department, Jacob said. Rabies, though far less likely, could be a concern.

On the other end of the spectrum, a raccoon out during the day also could be perfectly fine.

"Everybody kind of panics when they see a raccoon out during the day, because they are obviously nocturnal animals," Jacob said. "But sometimes, especially in the spring, there's a lot of tree services out and they're disturbing a lot of raccoon nests, so the raccoons sometimes have to relocate during the day."

"... The best thing to do is call the public safety department and we will come out and take appropriate action."

City of Grosse Pointe

High beams

A 33-year-old Detroit woman was cited for never having acquired a valid driver's license after being pulled over at Kercheval and Cadieux for driving with her high beams on at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Trespassing

A 54-year-old Chesterfield woman was arrested at 8:20 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, for trespassing into a home in the 800 block of Notre Dame, from which she previously was warned against entering.

Ran red

A 27-year-old Highland Park woman was cited for running a red light on Mack and driving with a suspended license at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Public disturbance

A 44-year-old Detroit man was cited for urinating in public into bushes surrounding a business in the 400 block of Moross at 8:41 a.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Tough luck

An officer on routine patrol noticed a 36-year-old Detroit man riding a bike along Touraine and carrying an open Amazon box at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

Upon spotting the officer, the man appeared surprised and took a sharp turn.

Because of the prevalence of porch pirates, officers attempted to stop the man and he initially fled. After his arrest, investigation revealed the man had grabbed the empty box from a dump-

PUBLIC SAFETY

ster and filled it with a hair dryer and other items he stole from a store in the 20000 block of Moross. Store employees further stated he is a regular thief, sometimes multiple times a day.

The man was arrested for possessing stolen property, heroin possession, obstructing an officer and a misdemeanor arrest warrant out of St. Clair Shores.

Lights out

After traveling along Mack at Kerby with a headlight out at 9:35 p.m. Friday, May 9, a 30-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and cited for defective equipment and driving while license suspended.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Same story

The rear driver-side window of a vehicle parked in the driveway of a house in the 1000 block of Three Mile was smashed at an undetermined time Tuesday, May 6.

The incident, which police logged as malicious destruction of property, was reminiscent of damage caused one week earlier in the 1300 block of Bedford.

Auto rifled

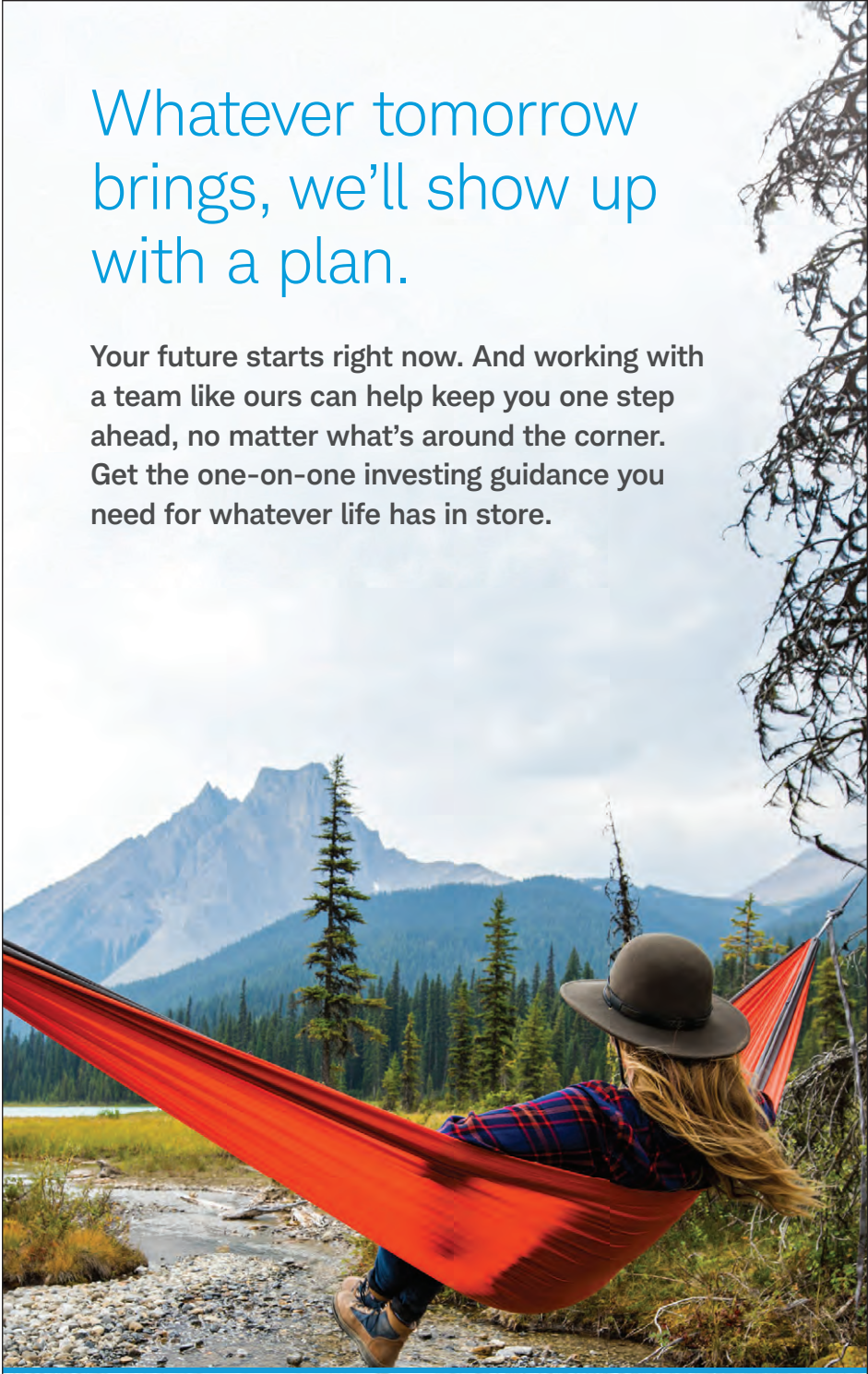
No, this crime brief isn't about an automatic rifle. It's about an auto through which someone rifled at an unspecified time Tuesday, May 6.

The vehicle was parked curbside in the 800 block of Beaconsfield.

"(It) appeared to be gone through with nothing missing," according to police.

—Brad Lindberg

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



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Go blue!

No, not the University of Michigan athletic teams. Our public safety officers. National Police Week this year started Sunday, May 11, and ends Saturday, May 17. It began in 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day to pay homage to those who lost their lives in the line of duty. The week in which that date falls is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

And we certainly have a lot to be appreciative of. Here is a look at our local officers who have been honored for their outstanding achievements.

Grosse Pointe Shores

◆ Lt. Ron Coste, director’s award
“The presentation of this award is not for any one incident or project that he supervised in 2024,” Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said. “Instead, Lt. Coste is receiving this award because of his 25-year commitment to our core motto, ‘customer service.’”

◆ Sgt. Jason Cook, certificate of merit.
Last October, with the assistance of MedStar, Cook responded to a resident suffering cardiac arrest. They were able to stabilize the man and transport him to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

“Our resident was provided excellent customer service,” Werenski said. “That service started with Sgt. Cook responding within minutes and continued with his 20 years of EMS experience.”

◆ Officers Dillon Taylor and Billy Howe, department citations
They apprehended a driver who fled a traffic stop and turned onto a dead end street.

Werenski said the actions of Howe and Taylor were impressive because each had been with the department just three years at the time.

Grosse Pointe Farms

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

◆ Detective Roger Wierszewski and Reserve Officer Ted Roney, departmental commendations

The pair were instrumental in the arrest last spring of a seven-time convicted felon who pointed a realistic fake weapon at a Village Market employee when confronted for stealing liquor.

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

◆ Detective Derek Lazarski and Officers Keith Colombo, Paige Thomas and LaBeau, departmental commendations

They arrested a Detroit Athletic Club employee who exposed himself while following a minor female down Moran last July.

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

◆ Officers Jason Newberg, Kris Desmadryl and Jon Ross, departmental citations

They disarmed an adult woman last December who attempted suicide at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

This gatehouse on Oxford Road near Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores has a history tied to the development of the area back in the late 1920s. The land that now includes Oxford Road was part of larger ribbon farms dating back to the 18th century. One of the earliest owners of this piece of land was Detroit attorney Benjamin Streeter Warren, who purchased the original 107-acre “gentleman’s farm” on Lakeshore in 1907. The property was later subdivided, clearing the way for several new properties, including Oxford Road, which was developed in the 1920s. The Oxford area was developed by Realtor and developer Arthur J. Scully. The gatehouse, now marking the entrance to Oxford from Lakeshore, is believed to have been a bus stop shelter for staff who worked at the homes on Oxford Road.

Sources: Grosse Pointe Historical Society and Katie Doelle/Higbie Maxon Agney

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

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

◆ Officer Mike Ryan, citation
He operated the department’s drone last December that helped locate and arrest three suspects seen rummaging through a vehicle.

“PSO Ryan is recognized for his skill in drone operations, while assisting officers in apprehending multiple suspects involved in over a dozen larcenies from vehicles,” Hutchins said.

◆ Sgt. Veronica Cashion, Officers Richard Rosati, Bryan Orlowski and Brandon Coats and Wierszewski, citations

Responding to an alarm and burglary in progress at Enterprise Rent-A-Car on Mack last July, they arrested a suspect after officers threatened use of a taser.

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

◆ Officer William Madsen, citation

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

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

◆ Deputy Director Andrew Rogers, Detective Lt. Antonino Trupiano, Lt. Wes Kipke, Wierszewski, Lazarski, Colombo, Officers Paul Reygaert, Newberg, LaBeau, Mark Laquere, Ross and Thomas, director’s unit award

All were involved in an undercover sting operation last June into a criminal enterprise selling stolen vehicles after retagging them with legitimate VIN numbers

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

tenacity and professionalism are commended and appreciated.”

City of Grosse Pointe

◆ Officer Jacob Gentile, officer of the year
“In addition to his outstanding body of work in 2024, Jake works hard every shift and always keeps an infectious, positive attitude, which is nice to be around,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. “He’s a team player. He watches out for his partners and always has an eye on officer safety.”

Gentile also earned the department’s annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving award for the most drunken driver arrests last year.

◆ Detective Sgt. Joe Adams, Lt. Alan Gwyn, Lt. Tom Martindale, Detective Mike Narduzzi, Sgt. Justin Strohmeier, Sgt. Chris Saunders and Officers Joshua Ina, Jarod Jones, Gentile, Austin Giarmo, Mark Dombrowski, Andrew Prueter, Jacob Carpenter, Andre Jones and Steven Mukavec, unit commendation

The above all were involved in the investigation that led to the arrest of the Detroit man who broke into people’s homes during funerals.

Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman, supervisor of the year

Public Safety Director Jim Bostock called Pittman his “right hand man” in announcing the award in February. He has since retired from the Park and now works in global security for GM.

◆ Scott Gilchrist, officer of the year

See OUR VIEW, page 7A

LETTERS

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

Heartfelt thanks

To the Editor:

I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for the swift, courageous and accommodating response from the Grosse Pointe City, Farms and Park fire departments during the recent fire at our home on Lincoln.

We are so grateful for the efforts of the firefighters and for the tremendous amount of support we have received from our wonderful community.

See LETTER, page 7A

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May 15 – 21						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
81° 63°	83° 61°	78° 54°	73° 50°	70° 47°	71° 54°	79° 58°
Partly Cloudy	Chance T-Storms	Chance of Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance of Rain
20%	70%	30%	10%	10%	30%	30%
SUNRISE 6:10 am SUNSET 8:47 pm	SUNRISE 6:09 am SUNSET 8:48 pm	SUNRISE 6:08 am SUNSET 8:49 pm	SUNRISE 6:07 am SUNSET 8:50 pm	SUNRISE 6:06 am SUNSET 8:51 pm	SUNRISE 6:05 am SUNSET 8:52 pm	SUNRISE 6:04 am SUNSET 8:53 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



Softball is better than baseball

Professional baseball games are too long. Stadium announcers won't shut up and let fans hear the sounds of the game or the murmur of the crowd. Pampered, out-of-shape players dog it after committing errors instead of hustling extra hard. They shrug off striking out and, despite being paid thousands of dollars each inning, often are so out of shape they pull muscles that would earn a ninth-grade football or basketball candidate a rejected tryout in anything but a participation league.

At the college and high school levels, the pinging sound of aluminum bats counts me out. On a baseball social media site, a true believer of wood bats compared the sound of aluminum hardware to "women talking without permission." Uh oh.

So, a few years ago while covering the Indianapolis 500 — practice sessions, qualifying and the race — I had time on my hands at night in a hotel room.

There wasn't much on TV except the NCAA college softball tournament. I didn't know there was such a thing as college softball. It was fun to watch. Impressive, too.

Players showed amazing athleticism and great spirit. They never dogged it or pouted. They ran like mad after fly balls and dove to intercept hot grounders. They seemed to slide into bases more than necessary as though they liked getting their uniforms dirty. They cheered each other and didn't hide their joy upon completing a great play or laughing at themselves when doing something clumsy.

They seemed appreciative. Of the sport, the opportunity to play, of each other, their coaches, their schools and fans. Appreciative also, by inference, of the commitment in time and money I

later learned were required of families to support little girls wanting to play as collegians.

Members of one team, the Oklahoma Sooners, won me over. When a player hit a home run, she'd round third base and extend her arms sideways imitating the wings of an airplane. I ran around as a kid imitating airplanes and, therefore, became an Oklahoma fan.

My female high school classmates had few competitive athletic opportunities other than the swim, tennis and track teams. They had little to look forward to beyond swimming back and forth, hitting a tennis ball back and forth or running in circles.

I don't know if girls still play powderpuff football, but the team I coached had a great time. I initially advocated running a single-wing offense because I was too shy to teach the center and quarterback how to transfer the ball. A team member took on that responsibility as sort of a player-coach and we ran a dynamic pro offense

with wideouts, shifts, cross blocks, pulling guards and players in motion. My playbook and log of the single game we played and won are things I regret losing track of as keepsakes.

At about the same time I was covering the 500, my friends' daughters were getting old enough to play organized softball. As their unofficial uncle, I started attending their games to show support. That also made me a de facto softball fan.

And still every May I enjoy watching the college playoff tournament on TV.

A few years ago, the Big Ten held playoffs at Michigan State University. The softball field is located on a flood plain of the Red Cedar River. Trees line the outfield wall, beyond which is the river and, on the far side of that, a traditional, four-story brick dormitory, Williams Hall.

On the day I attended, three games ran one after the other between mid-afternoon and early evening. Ohio State beat Illinois 5-1. Northwestern

beat Wisconsin 5-2. Michigan beat Maryland 7-0. It was obvious during Michigan's pregame warmup that the Wolverines players liked joking around with Carol Hutchins, an MSU grad. I caught a foul ball.

One player impressed me most. She was a right fielder for Ohio State. An opposing batter hit a popup beyond the right field line. The fielder sprinted to catch it. The stadium was silent as everyone watched and wondered what was going to happen. The campus was as silent as it gets. Classes were over for the semester. No sound came from the river. No ducks suddenly quacked, as though laughing at a flock member's joke. The stadium is isolated from road traffic and noise. It was early enough in spring that a breeze had no leaves to rustle. The stadium announcer was quiet.

The foul ball was out of reach. She launched herself into an almost prototypical, old-time swimmer's racing dive; a

belly flop. She landed outstretched, prone, flat on her torso, bounced once and ground to a stop on her chin, her back arching and feet in the air. The impact compressed her torso and forced air from her lungs with a grunt, ugh-ph. It was the only sound in the stadium and, therefore, loud as hell.

If trees weren't shielding sound waves from bouncing off that old dorm, there would have been an echo.

She missed the catch but brushed off the crash landing. She spit dirt and grass from her mouth but didn't swipe them from her jersey, wearing them as medals for meritorious service. Show me a \$25,000-per-game big-leaguer who would do that without having to take a week off to recuperate. It helped make me a fan of softball.

That fielder, Melina Wilkison, now plays for Indiana, which leads the nation in team batting average. The Hoosiers play Oklahoma State in the first round of this year's tournament.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950
75 years ago this week
WOODS TO VOTE ON

SHIFT TO CITY: The Grosse Pointe Woods Council has accepted the recommendation of the City Charter Study Group that the village convert to city status. The recom-

mendation was submitted to the council at its regular meeting and and at a special meeting called for its consideration two days later, the recommendation was approved and provision made for calling a special election by the voters in

June.

1975
50 years ago this week
IMPROPER BICYCLE RIDING CREATES YEARLY PROBLEM: Bicycle riding has always proved popular in The Pointe and undoubtedly this year will be no exception. Throughout the past year the Grosse Pointe Farms Police Department has made a concerted effort to educate youngsters on the proper use of the bicycle.

in the mouth and sent it, like an old nag, to the glue factory. The rejection couldn't have made everyone happier, including members of the Woods City Council, who mistakenly thought they were doing residents a favor by developing a grassy plot of municipal property on Sunningdale Drive called Sunningdale Park.

April 20.

2015
10 years ago this week
PROPOSAL 1 FAILED BEFORE ELECTION DAY: Michigan voters on May 5 kicked to the curb statewide Proposal 1 raising the sales tax to 7 percent and auto registration fees to bring road maintenance up to speed. The measure fell 78 percent to 22 percent.

OUR VIEW:

Continued from page 6A

Bostock said Gilchrist's qualification set high standards for every candidate to follow.

"The officer earning this award embodies the values and commitment of the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department," he said. "Criteria we consider (are) outstanding service, excellence in leadership, community engagement, problem solving abilities, professionalism and ethics, exceptional performance, teamwork and cooperation, a positive impact on the department and values that align with the department's mission and values."

- ◆ Detective Ryan Willmer, citation

He rid the community of a bully and arsonist last February.

"Detective Willmer is a credit to the professionalism of this department," Bostock said. "Detective Willmer gained the trust of a domestic assault victim with apprehension to give officers details of the abuse endured at the hands of the assault suspect."

Grosse Pointe Woods

- ◆ Detective Miles Adams, officer of the year
- ◆ Lt. Detective Keith Waszak, supervisor of the year

Both also received department commendations for their work in the arrest

of a Detroit man who used obituaries and estate sale notices to break into homes of the deceased during their funerals.

"When it first happened, I met with the detectives and they were infuriated that someone would do that while those family members were grieving," Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "They put together a plan to catch the guy and they did within three weeks."

The man eventually confessed to 12 home invasions in metro Detroit, including in the Woods, Farms and City.

"They worked tirelessly around the clock for six straight days," Kosanke added. "He's now serving time in prison," Kosanke said.

Adams also was involved, along with the FBI, in arresting a Harper Woods resident believed to have sold drugs laced with fentanyl that killed three people in the Woods — including two sisters — in June 2023.

"I saw right from the beginning his (Adams) drive and conviction," Kosanke said. "That was another great case brought to justice."

"Miles is a great officer and is always there for others," he said. "I couldn't do what I do without the dedication of him and every officer."

Thank you, one and all, including those who have been recognized in the past and will be in the future, for keeping us safe.

2000
25 years ago this week
WOODS: POCKET PARK A BAD IDEA: Residents living near a proposed pocket park in Grosse Pointe Woods have looked a gift horse

LETTER:
Continued from page 6A

We have always heard how this community goes above and beyond when

times are tough; however, you can't really understand the magnitude of such a response until you're on the other end of it.

Thank you from the

bottom of our hearts to each and every one of you. Your compassion and support mean so much.

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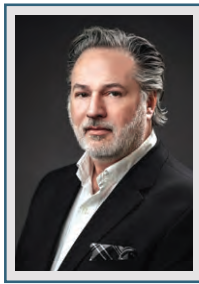
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STRENGTH AND CLARITY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Dedicated pretzel bakery opens in Pointes

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Steve Dothage grew up in St. Louis, where a handful of popular pretzel bakeries are scattered around the historically German town and the twisted treat is a pretty big deal.

“I moved to Michigan about 12 years ago and I noticed there weren’t many dedicated pretzel bakeries around,” he said, “so (my wife, Irda, and I) started making them ourselves.”

The couple and their two children, Louis and Mila, have lived in the City of Grosse Pointe going on three years, but have been perfecting their soft pretzel craft more than a decade.

“We got a little bit more serious about it the last few years, honing a recipe,” Steve Dothage said of the natural transition to

Millie Lou’s Pretzel Co. offers custom pretzel designs such as this Old English “D” for the Detroit Tigers.



COURTESY PHOTO

opening the only dedicated pretzel bakery in the Pointes and beyond.

Millie Lou’s Pretzel Co. — named for their daughter and operating out of their home kitchen under Michigan’s Cottage Food

law — started taking orders in late February. The Dothages said they were blown away by how much interest there has been.

“The first couple of weeks we were swamped,”

Irda Dothage said. “There really was a gap and I think people are excited to have more authentic-tasting pretzels too. Our pretzels are not like anything at Auntie Anne’s or like a local spot. They’re really more flavorful and I think people have been really surprised. We already have some repeat customers (including) someone who buys for a euchre tournament every two weeks.”

Baked fresh each morning, orders are available for pickup Saturdays and Sundays from the Dothages’ home on St. Clair near The Village.

Millie Lou’s Pretzel Co. currently offers pretzel twists for \$4 a piece and 20 pretzel bites for \$10, as well as custom shapes for specific occasions.

Recent designs include an Old English “D” as the Detroit Tigers symbol, a shamrock for St. Patrick’s Day and custom orders

for birthdays and upcoming graduation parties.

“We’ve had a lot of interest in vegan pretzels,” Steve Dothage noted. “Our recipe does include butter, so we’ve been playing around with a vegan recipe (and) we’re hoping to offer that in the future. We’re thinking about different things — maybe cinnamon sugar pretzels.”

Michigan’s Cottage Food law allows for home kitchen production and sale of non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require time or temperature control for safety.

“That does limit us,” Irda Dothage said. “We have a really good pub cheese dip that we bake for ourselves and family and friends, but we’re not able to offer any dips. Everything has to be shelf stable, so that’s one of the reasons we’re definitely thinking about what’s

next for us.”

While Trader Joe’s dips are a good option for Millie Lou’s customers for now, the Dothages see potential to one day obtain a commercial license and dream of opening a brick-and-mortar storefront.

“We’re just really excited to share our love of soft pretzels with everyone,” Irda Dothage said.

Order forms may be found at tinyurl.com/millielous or via the QR code below.

Keep up with the business on Instagram @millielouspretzelco and at Millie Lou’s Pretzel Co. on Facebook.



Shift Kitchen shifts to sushi concept

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A year and a half since opening, the owners of Shift Kitchen & Cocktails in The Village have taken market feedback and are adjusting the restaurant’s

concept accordingly.

The lounge-style cocktail bar was not fully embraced by the community, co-owner Mark Adamo said, and fits better the demographic of Birmingham — its original location — than it does The Village, where patrons are more recep-

tive to a family eatery.

“There’s a lot of positive things people like to say about Shift,” he added, “but there’s positive things that can be said and then there’s having a line outside the door or not — and there wasn’t a line outside the door.”

Shift Kitchen & Cocktails quietly closed Saturday, April 26, to make way for Ryuu Sushi, which opened Wednesday. Ryuu is the Japanese translation for “dragon” and lends itself to the restaurant’s interior burgundy theme.

“Let’s face it, the options you could get at Shift, they’re mostly available at 95 percent of everything else that’s in The Village, in the Park, on The Hill,” Adamo said, noting customers often mentioned interest in a different dining option. “It wasn’t anything extremely unique and for the last, I’d say, six months, we constantly got feedback around sushi.”

Ryuu, a full-service sushi restaurant, is led by chef and sushi artist James Lee, who previously operated a number of metro Detroit sushi establishments. The initial menu serves a variety of sushi rolls and appetizers. Phase two will see a handful of entree options added, including noodle dishes and other items traditionally found at Japanese-style steakhouses.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Lunch is carryout only Monday through Thursday with dine-in available Friday through Sunday.

“Our goal has always remained the same,” Adamo said. “That is to provide a quality concept to the community, to provide the community with things that it doesn’t have and try to do that at a very high level.”



Partner business, Sidecar Slider Bar, which shares the building space at 17051 Kercheval, will remain status quo. The only changes coming down the line for the family eatery will be a slight downsizing of the arcade to incorporate more gathering space for groups and parties.

“All in all, the concept is doing very well,” Adamo said of Sidecar Slider Bar. “The community has embraced us. We couldn’t appreciate it more and we definitely feel like we’ll be a staple for the long term.”

PLANTS:

Continued from page 4A

the plants. If you don’t know what they are, we will help identify them. The most important thing is healthy plants only. We’ll have plastic bags and little containers people can use to divide plants.”

The exchange provides the opportunity to clear cluttered garages of flower pots and unused tools.

“Bring them down and give them to someone who can use them,” Kyle said. “That was popular last year.”

Garden knowledge typically shared during the exchange includes how to identify invasive plants.

“I tell people who are itching to get into their garden that spring is a great time to look around their property and iden-

tify invasive species,” Konieczki said. “Invasives leaf out sooner because they have no natural processes to keep them in check. They have the advantage and they take it.”

Non-native honeysuckle and English ivy are common examples.

“I spent the morning helping a woman dig up a bunch of ivy that was climbing on her house,” Koniecki said. “It will destroy a foundation.”

Although English ivy is a ground cover, it also grows up and around tree trunks, stymying growth and providing settings for pests and diseases.

“When you’re trying to get ivy off a tree, there’s no way to pull it down,” Koniecki said. “You have to find the big root, cut it and let those vines die. Once they die, you can pull them off. You really

want to get that root out. Some can be as thick as a shrub.”

Even native plants, such as Virginia creeper, can cause trouble due to aggressive growth.

Virginia creeper is identified by five leaves emanating around a single point.

“I have it along my fence line,” Konieczki said. “I have to keep it in check.”

This year’s spring exchange is scheduled a few weeks later than normal. Kyle figures the delay has an upside. The ground is warming. Soil is closer to the minimum 50 degrees recommended for successful planting.

“We’re past our official last freeze date, May 15, for our growth zone,” she said.

“Temperatures are warming,” Konieczki said. “It’s feeling like spring, finally.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

County launches business initiative

Wayne County recently announced the launch of the \$3 million Business & Community Impact Initiative, a new program aimed at strengthening small businesses and nonprofit organizations that are driving positive change.

Administered by the

Wayne County Economic Development Department, this initiative supports local economic recovery, neighborhood revitalization and long-term resilience through place-based investments. These projects must be focused on prioritizing

efforts that improve public well-being, expand access to services, promote equitable economic growth and have a clear public benefit.

The initiative provides funding opportunities ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for eligible small businesses and nonprofits in Wayne County. Investments can support critical upgrades like new equipment, space improvements, technical assistance or program expansions that serve a public benefit.

To qualify, applicants must meet basic criteria such as being in operation for at least 12 months and maintaining good standing with the state and county.

For more information, tinyurl.com/3dmw5cdx

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?
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Grosse Pointe News

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GPPSS students excel at film, press awards

The high school TV production programs at Grosse Pointe North and South high schools and the broadcast journalism program at Brownell Middle School had impressive showings recently at the Michigan Student Film Festival sponsored by DAFT (Digital Arts Film and Television) and the MIPA (Michigan Interscholastic Press Association) student competition.

Grosse Pointe South TV production received a Best of Show award from DAFT for “The History of TV Production” documentary produced by Grace Geresy, Annabelle Kraydich, Siobhan McGlone and Sara Dimitrijevic and was shown last month at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Grosse Pointe North TV production received 11 Awards of Excellence from DAFT.

Josephine Cueter, Everley Aldridge and Madeline Pflaum received awards for their production of North’s “Norsemen News” and “Sports Openers.”

Carter Cole and Lilou Fowler were awarded for their short film “Cards with Jeremiah.” Kennedy Hasting, Kiley Hasting and Blerta Berisha received two awards for “A Day in the Life with Mr. Smith” and their public service announcement “Norsemen News Car Safety.”

Tessa Ragle, Kennedy Hasting, Ava Villani and Meredith Dodenhoff received an award for their promotional commercials called “Join TV Production.”

Pflaum won for her “Norsemen Sports Promo.” Colin Smith received an award for his “North vs. South Basketball Hype” video. Smith,

Michael Roustemis and Donell James were recognized for their PSA “Put Your Phone Down” and Sarabeth Thomas received an award for her PSA “Sportsmanship.”

Grosse Pointe South TV production received three Awards of Excellence, including the group production of a “GPS Freshmen Course Selection” video. South’s video club members Eliot Rothkop, Javier Lopez, James Van Marcke and Andrew Holloway won for their short film “The Exchange Student.” Geresy and McGlone won for their documentary “South Expedition-The Tower.”

Brownell’s broadcast journalism students received two excellence awards in the area of narrative film: Anna Sonnenberg, Kenzie Harris, Will Buhalis, Rose Blake, Sloan Harris, Chloe Palazzolo, Ace

Steinhauser and Gabe Nielubowicz for their short film “Missing Brownies” and Cecily Hartung, Lila Curtis, Elizabeth Northey, Navaeh Dawnrich, Rebecca Lundberg, Greg Arendoski, Robert Legault and Will Hey for their short film “Project Panic.”

South students received three certificates of honor: Luna Agosta, Bella Peruski, Nora O’Reilly, Hannah Agnone, Slone Rosati, Lauren Crawford, Geresy and McGlone for their “Homecoming Hype” project and public service announcements.

North students also received three certificates of honor. Smith, Sofia Gualdoni, Molly Lucido, Jack Sendoykas and Brady Collins won for their behind-the-scenes and commercial projects.

South students Calaen

Livingstone, Peter Howlett, Jack Leonard and Nate Yeamens were awarded first place by the MIPA for their documentary about being a baseball announcer. North students Ava Villani, Dodenhoff, Kennedy Hasting and Pflaum were awarded first place for their sports promo and hype videos. Sarabeth Thomas received second place for her PSA on sportsmanship.

Smith received a third place for North’s promotional commercial.

Honorable mentions went to South students Geresy and Dimitrijevic for field reporting and Maggie Houk and Geresy for their short film. North students Cara Kaslatas and Piper Marshall received an honorable mention for their on-camera talent as anchors of Norsemen News.

Pierce student earns national recognition

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Sienna Mann likes to keep herself busy.

“I was actually baking cupcakes with a friend,” she said of the moment she learned she received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Junior Honor Society. “I just joined NJHS in September and submitted my application. I didn’t think I’d actually win.”

In addition to NJHS, the seventh grader at Pierce Middle School is involved in musical theater, is a member of the school’s Green Team and also plays tennis and field hockey in addition to hanging out with her brother Charlie, a fourth grader at Maire Elementary School.

“Sienna is very involved and always includes everyone,” Pierce Principal Sara Dirkse said. “She is always giving back to the school.”

The award only goes to 500 students nationwide each year and comes with a \$500 college savings plan. It is based on the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

“This is my first year in NJHS and it’s been great,” Mann said. “I’ve met a lot of new people.”

Her parents, Kristin and Matt Mann, obviously, are proud of her.

“Sienna has always had an abundance of energy and a fearlessness to go after anything,” Kristin Mann said. “She loves learning and trying new things and is never afraid to take on a new challenge. But we are mainly



Sienna Mann

proud that she always works hard and tries to be friendly to everyone.”

“We are also so blessed to have the most dedicated and invested teachers and community in Grosse Pointe that have been so supportive and continue to help her find new opportunities like with NJHS,” Matt Mann added.

Sienna Mann said she likes all of her school subjects, but primarily is drawn to literature and ancient history. To that end, she thinks “it would be cool” to be an anthropologist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN DILODOVICO

South Mothers’ Club recognizes seniors

The Grosse Pointe South High School Mothers’ Club last week honored 66 seniors with scholarships totaling just over \$59,000.

Recipients, alphabetically, were: Matthew Agnone, Luna Agosta, Elloyse Beckerman, Constance “Connie” Bedsworth, Evan Bernard, Ava Biter, Sofia Boddy, Betsy Bouton, Lucas Bower, Lucy Cantin, Alexander Cline, Sophie Coats, Elizabeth Davey, Ian Davis, Katelyn DeGrand, Monroe DeSmyter, Andrew DiLodovico, Kate Dixon, Henry Domzalski, Kate Everham, Kelsie George, Charlotte Glasser, Emma Hanoian, Mira Haurani, Jolina Huchingson, Lillian Irby, Kaylee Jelinski, Stella Kartsonas, Joshua Koch, Josh Lemanski, Avery Lenglet, Ayden Lollar, Jack Lupo, Audrey MacGillis, Jonathan “Jack” Martin, Olivia McMillin, Urania Meyers-Magkanaris, James Michelotti, Margaret “Maggie” O’Brien, Adelina Parikh, Luca Parlangei, Anthony Pilutti, Molly Reynolds, Anthony Ricci, Cedar “CJ” Rihani, Jack Riley, Aliana Ritter, Julia

Roeder, Isabella Rondini, Eleanor Ryan, Omar Siddiqui, Maryn Smith, Mikayla Smolen, Lucy Stidham, Tenley Stiyer, Joseph Strong, Nikolas Tecos, Kalliope Tsagaratos, Lucy Tull, Cecilia Webber, Sawyer Weisbrodt, Julia White, Brigid Williams, Alexander Willson, Ashton Zimmerman and Steven Zrimec.

The group has been awarding scholarships to South seniors for more than 80 years. Scholarships are funded by The Mothers’ Club, community partners and private donations and are available for both financial need and academic merit.

“While the checks presented at the event are certainly exciting, it’s the process behind them that’s just as rewarding,” said President Jennifer Kendall. “Meeting each senior through the interview process brings their résumés to life, giving them a chance to share their stories, dreams and all the hard work that’s brought them here. It’s a powerful reminder that, along every path, there are caring adults cheering them on.”

Liggett students honored by C-SPAN for documentary

University Liggett School students Otto Massie, Kerith Short and Anna Gray were recognized by C-SPAN for their award-winning documentary, “The State of Social Security in the U.S.,” which earned an honorable mention in the network’s national StudentCam competition. The students were awarded \$250 for their work and honored at a

ceremony hosted by C-SPAN.

The trio said they chose Social Security as their topic because it affects — or will eventually affect — every U.S. citizen, regardless of age.

Now in its 21st year, StudentCam invites middle and high school students to produce original documentaries on issues that matter to them. This

year’s theme, “Your Message to the President: What issue is most important to you or your community?,” drew more than 1,700 submissions from nearly 3,500 students across 42 states and Washington, D.C.

The ULS team’s documentary, advised by Upper School history teacher Scott Pangrazzi, explored the future of Social Security in the

U.S., combining interviews, research and narrative storytelling to deliver their message to national leaders. The project emerged from Pangrazzi’s first-semester course, “History: American Electoral Process,” where students engage with real-world issues through experiential learning. This course exemplifies the Liggett Approach — Practical

Learning for Life — by using every available resource to ensure that student work is relevant, applicable and impactful beyond the classroom.

State Rep. Veronica Paiz, Sen. Kevin Hertel and a representative from Congressman Shri Thanedar’s office attended the award ceremony to help celebrate the students’ achievement.

The documentary may be viewed online at tinyurl.com/5c8tu4sv

All 150 winning videos are available for viewing at StudentCam.org.

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TIME TO VOTE



Grosse Pointe News

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BEST

20 ★ 25

It's time for Grosse Pointe to shine once again — and we want to know your favorites! Choose your best of the best in each category and we will honor them for their excellence. It's a great way to share with the community! Vote online or by mail and then stay tuned for the winners.

VOTING DEADLINE: June 5, 2025

Winners will be announced in the July 17 issue of the Grosse Pointe News.

2025 CATEGORIES

FOOD & DRINKS

- Best All-Around Restaurant
- Best Restaurant/Bar for Watching Sporting Events
- Best Coffee Shop
- Best Breakfast
- Best Dessert
- Best Bakery
- Best Nachos
- Best Seafood
- Best Wings
- Best Happy Hour
- Best Ice Cream Shop
- Best Carryout
- Best Place to Meet Someone
- Best Place To Host a Party or Event
- Best Specialty Food/Beverage Market

RETAIL & SERVICES

- Best Aesthetician
- Best Orthodontist
- Best Veterinarian
- Best Massage Therapy
- Best Urgent Care
- Best Manicure
- Best Hair Salon
- Best Window Sales Dealer
- Best HVAC Contractor
- Best Handyman Services
- Best Nonprofit to Volunteer
- Best Long Weekend Destination In Northern MI
- Best Place to Stay in Downtown Detroit
- Best Public Place to Hang Out on a Rainy Day
- Best Classic Women's Fashion
- Best Trendy Fashion
- Best Grosse Pointe Style Fashion
- Best Store to Buy a Gift
- Best Store to Buy a Wedding Gift
- Best Store to Buy a Baby Gift
- Best Financial Planner
- Best Auto Dealership
- Best Real Estate Agency
- Best Family-Owned Business
- Best Curb Appeal/ Charming Grosse Pointe Storefront

WHO will receive this year's awards?

Ballots will be available in the May 22 and May 29 print editions of the Grosse Pointe News.

Online voting begins May 22.

TO VOTE ONLINE:
Visit grossepointenews.com/best

Completed ballots must be received by deadline and can be dropped off in person or mailed to:

GPN Best of the Best
16980 Kercheval Place, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

For more information, see contest rules online at grossepointenews.com/best/rules or call (313) 882-6900.



COURTESY PHOTO

Top teachers

Ahead of Teacher Appreciation Week, which started Monday, May 5, and ran through Friday, May 9, the Grosse Pointe Public School System in late April recognized the Grosse Pointe Education Association Teachers of the Year. Pictured from left are Taryn Loughlin, GPEA co-president; Angie Kuczewski, Kerby Elementary School; Todd Hecker, Grosse Pointe South High School; Jackie Rabaut, Richard Elementary School; Lisa Thomas, Barnes Early Childhood Center; Sarah Neely, Maire Elementary School; Katie Griesbaum, Defer Elementary School; Susan Jordan, Brownell Middle School; Beth Schrader, Ferry Elementary School; Bill Thompson, Pierce Middle School; Karen Cole, Mason Elementary School; Michael Viviani, Grosse Pointe North High School and Shelley Denison, Monteith Elementary School. Not pictured is Nan Sabella, Parcels Middle School.

NUMBERS:

Continued from page 1A

attended a private pre-school. Among parents of children 4 and younger, 60 percent said they would eventually send their children to Defer Elementary School if Trombly was not an option by then.

Of those who said they would not, half said it was due to overcrowding issues. Another 28 percent said they preferred private or parochial schools. If Trombly were to reopen as a preschool, 86 percent of parents with children too young for kindergarten said they would send their children there, including all Trombly parents whose preschoolers currently attend Barnes Early Childhood Center.

Among children ages 5 to 9 in the Trombly catchment area, 20 percent attend either a private or parochial school or are homeschooled. Of those, 70 percent said they would choose Trombly if it reopened as an elementary school. Of parents with children attending Defer, 71 percent said they would switch to Trombly.

"We estimate there are 93 additional households with children kindergarten through fourth grade

at Defer Elementary School the survey didn't catch," said Matt Kahl, a software engineer who lives in the Park and helped analyze the survey findings along with Luke Donahue, who works in data analytics.

Both have young families and children who would attend Trombly if it reopens.

The pair broke down the survey results into five categories and applied three methodologies to each. They are:

- ◆ non-GPPSS families who said their students would attend Trombly,

- ◆ non-GPPSS families who said they are unsure their students would attend Trombly,

- ◆ families of 4-year-old preschoolers in the Trombly catchment area who said they would attend preschool at Trombly,

- ◆ families of 4-year-old preschoolers in the Defer catchment area who said they would attend preschool at Trombly and

- ◆ non-GPPSS families in the Defer catchment area who no longer have overcrowding concerns about Defer.

Kahl said the last two groups are based on assumptions from the survey.

"If the parents south of Jefferson are that interested in preschool classes

at Trombly, we thought parents north of Jefferson would feel the same way about Defer," he said.

Based on assumptions of having a mix of pre-K offerings and kindergarten through fourth grade at both Defer and Trombly, the pair believe the district could capture between 236 and 342 new students. That includes both tuition-based preschool and the possibility the state will move toward a Great Start Readiness program that doesn't have income guidelines.

"To be as conservative as possible, we gave ourselves a 25 percent margin of error on the low end," Donahue said. "That leaves us with 177 new students."

GPPSS Board of Education President Colleen Worden said the district was not involved with the event.

"The board is committed to a transparent, data-driven decision-making process that reflects the best interests of our students, staff and community," she said in an email. "Our decisions will be guided by expert analysis from Plante Moran, current and projected enrollment data, building utilization studies and the district's budgetary considerations."

"At this time, GPPSS is focused on engaging the entire community to build broad support for the bond proposal on the November ballot," she continued. "Our efforts are centered on bringing together all parts of the district to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our schools."

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CORRECTION

The public hearing notice for Grosse Pointe Woods regarding rezoning of 20160 Mack Avenue from RO-1 Restricted Office to C Commercial stated the time and date correctly, but the day was incorrect. The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 05/15/2025



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Awash with history

Students clean headstones during St. Paul Cemetery project

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Cemeteries across the nation may be falling into disrepair, but students locally have taken to sprucing up St. Paul Cemetery as part of a new project that has gained traction.

“In two years, it’s just exploded in interest,” said Izzy Donnelly, who provided seventh graders from St. Paul Catholic School and The Grosse Pointe Academy lessons in Grosse Pointe history before the youngsters cleaned more than 60 headstones.

Following a successful inaugural year, St. Paul students, led by Director of Evangelical Charity Tricia Kesteloot, welcomed the participation of Academy students, led by history and social studies teacher Trevor Clor.

“Mr. Clor reached out to us and said, ‘I’d love to do this with you,’” Kesteloot said. “We live in a small community. It’s wonderful when we can partner together, especially these students.”

“... Not only is this one of the Corporal Works of Mercy, to bury the dead and honor them, but it was also building the relationship of being a good neighbor,” she added. “Watching them all work together was really important to me.”

The program involved a combined 43 students, who learned how to properly clean headstones as well as about the people who lie beneath them.

In advance of cleaning day, which occurred



Tuesday, April 29, Kesteloot and St. Paul historian Marcia McBrien visited students at both schools, “to make sure they understand the historical significance of the cemetery and also what the actual cleaning process was going to look like when we were in the cemetery,” Kesteloot said. “We did a lot of research in advance so we know how to properly clean gravestones, especially gravestones as old as these are.”

Part of the process involved identifying which among the 600-plus plots in the cemetery were in greatest need of cleaning, as well as whether or not they were able to be worked on.

“We had to go through each one and make sure they’re not wiggling, they’re not broken,” she said. “Many of them are very, very old. We had to make sure they were eligible for cleaning.”

Rather than using bio-logics or bleach, the crew

used the highly recommended Dawn dish soap. The church also purchased four-gallon irrigation tanks so students had a nearby water source.

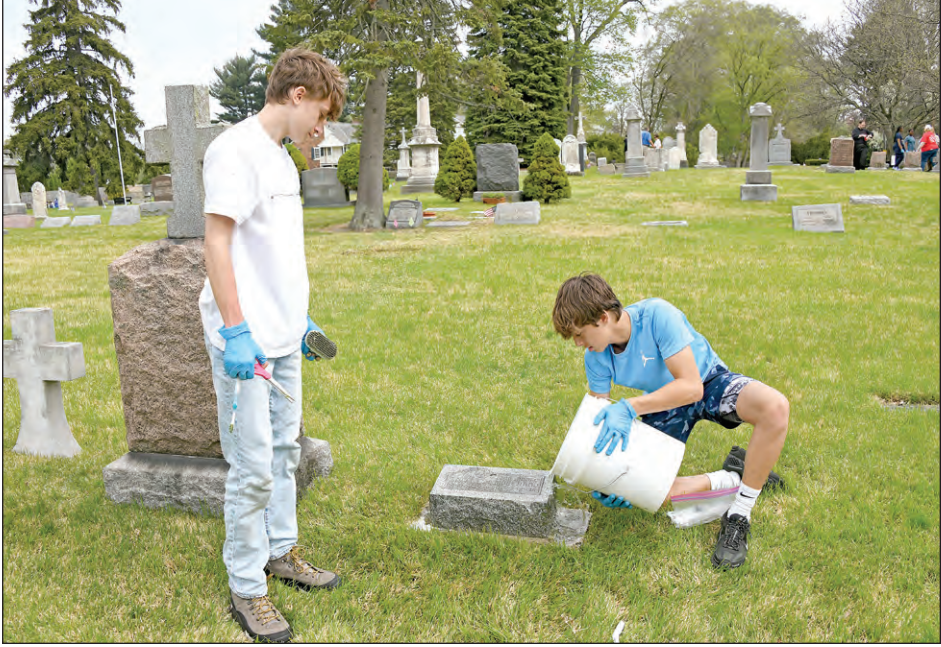
“We flagged the graves in advance so there was no misunderstanding of which were approved to be cleaned,” Kesteloot said.

McBrien assigned groups of students to each gravestone to keep the outing organized.

Seven parent-drivers, each of whom also was trained in the cleaning process, served as small group leaders.

Helping make the connection between the headstones and the names etched into them, McBrien and Donnelly presented historical information to students, who also cleaned the cemetery’s altar during the program.

While McBrien delved into the history of the St. Paul Cemetery and gave a tour of grave locations, Donnelly discussed a



broader history of the area, citing the Grosse Pointe and Detroit historical societies, St. Paul Catholic School and Theodore H. Mecke Jr.’s “A Brief History of St. Paul’s Parish” as her sources.

She spoke about the earliest days of Antoine Laumet de la Mothe Cadillac and local life in the 1700s, including the

development of ribbon farms. She brought up names with which students likely are familiar — Beaufait, Moross, Rivard, Allard, Cadieux, Moran and Trombley — because of the streets named for the ribbon-farming families. She related those street names to the families buried at the St. Paul Cemetery.

Donnelly also discussed the history of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, from its modest beginnings as a log cabin to its modern-day magnificence. Construction of the current church began in 1895, under the leadership of the Rev. John Elsen, who died before it was completed. His funeral was the first service to occur in the building that stands today.

Another connection was made as Donnelly noted that during construction, Elsen was assisted by Father Kraemer, a chaplain of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, which now is The Grosse Pointe Academy.

Further connections

were highlighted by the attendance of Betsy Conlan, the great-great-granddaughter of George and Polly Martin, who donated the Rose Window at the front of St. Paul.

“One-third of the people buried there are her ancestors,” Donnelly said of Conlan. “The kids spent all day cleaning (the Martins’) tall tombstones. Another window at the church was donated by the children of George and Polly.”

“I want the impact to stay forever with these kids,” she added. “We met at the church two weeks ago and I showed them the Rose Window. Then they were given the chance to clean the gravestone. This isn’t just a gravesite on Moross; there’s a connection. People who were here before us thought of us.”

St. Paul Associate Pastor Andrew Smith also attended the event, to watch and to learn.

“Father Andrew is a huge history buff,”

See HISTORY, page 2B



Evelyn McAtee, Isabella Zuk, Avery Miller and Lily Getz clean two headstones, one of which was for a man who was in the 32nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War.

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OBITUARIES

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

Mary Kathleen Clarke

Mary Kathleen (nee Brennan) Clarke, 81, of Grosse Pointe, passed away peacefully Friday, May 2, 2025, surrounded by love and family.

Kathy was born and raised in Detroit, where she attended St. Anthony High School. She began her career at Michigan Bell, where she worked for seven years. Kathy went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and an MBA from Wayne State University. She worked in training and development at the Detroit Medical Center and Visiting Nurses Association. Later, she founded her own company, Clarke Performance Consulting, through which she played a key role in helping the city of Detroit prepare for Super Bowl XL in 2006.

In 1966, Kathy married her first love, Dick. Together they built a beautiful life in Grosse Pointe, where they lived for more than 45 years. Kathy was a devoted mother to Dick (Eileen) and Christopher, and a proud grandmother to Ronan, Quinn and Erin, who brought her endless joy through backyard Olympic games, basement WWF reenactments and their boundless energy.

After Dick’s passing, Kathy found love again with her cherished companion, Richard “Rick” Colombo, who also predeceased her.

Kathy had a deep love for gardening and was a member of five different Grosse Pointe garden clubs, serving as president of three. Always ready for a celebration, she hosted countless gatherings over the years with friends, cousins, nieces and nephews — all of whom will miss her warmth, kindness and infectious laughter.

Kathy is survived by her son, Dick (Eileen); sister, Terri (Jim); and her beloved grandchildren. She also was predeceased by her son, Christopher; and sister, Patricia (David).

Visitation takes place 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, May 16, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass will follow at noon at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic

Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 610 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, MI 48162, ihmsisters.org.

James Daniel Sullivan

James Daniel “Sully” Sullivan, 79, passed away at home Wednesday, May 7, 2025, with his loving family by his side.

A quintessential Irishman with a perpetual smile and warm manner, Sully was born Aug. 18, 1945, to Elita (nee Farley) and Edward Sullivan. He was raised in Detroit and Harper Woods and attended St. Joan of Arc Catholic School in St. Clair Shores and Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods. He also attended St. Michael’s College in Santa Fe, N.M., before returning home. He began his business career as a sales executive with Splane Electric Supply. He then joined Madison Electric Co., and ended his career as an independent contractor in the construction and painting industry.

A talented athlete, Sully golfed often throughout his life, but found his first love in ice hockey. This was not surprising as his father, Ed “Cyclone” Sullivan, played professional hockey with the New York Rangers system, including a stint in the National Hockey League.

Hockey played a major role in Sully’s eventual marriage to Patricia Mancinkowski, who he met on a trip to Detroit’s Cunningham’s Drug Store. Captivated by the young girl, Sully found his conversation with her somewhat awkward, but pushed on, until he eventually blurted out, “Would you like to see me play hockey?”

Jim and Pat were married three years later Sept. 27, 1969, beginning a close 56-year relationship with a blessed family of two daughters and one son.

Sully was a starter on the Notre Dame High School hockey team and flirted briefly with basketball, but hockey won out. Eventually he became a charter mem-

ber of the Grosse Pointe Old Devils senior men’s hockey club. He skated for more than 60 years and competed in amateur leagues in the Detroit area and tournaments across the U.S. and Canada. He was particularly fond of the Old Devils’ annual trip to Quebec City, where they competed during the Carnaval de Quebec. Sully’s son, Bryan, said since his father was an only child, the Old Devils were like brothers to him.

Later in life, he particularly enjoyed playing hockey with Bryan and his grandson, Jake Kolk.

A father and family man first, Sully loved family gatherings during the holidays, as well as weekend outings and boat rides with his kids and grandkids at their cottage on Long Lake in Hale. Summer brought frequent golf outings with his sons-in-law, Chad Hamilton and Jon Kolk.

In retirement, he cherished his role as the family Uber driver, picking up his grandkids from school and taking them to soccer games or school events.

His memory bank of clever jokes was endless and his April Fools Day practical jokes were legendary. He was easily the life of the party. Sully’s trademark smile and infectious laugh made friendships easy for the Irishman. His daughter, Chrissie Kolk, said they could never go anywhere without someone knowing Sully. Dr. Chris Lee, an Old Devils teammate, said the team didn’t know anyone who didn’t like Sully.

However, behind that winning smile was a tough, determined personality. Sully was unrelenting in his battle with cancer not once, but twice. His daughter, Kelley Hamilton, said her dad never complained and instead fought quietly. His illness was particularly tough on him the last few months, but he kept a smile through it all.

Sully is survived by his wife of 56 years, Pat Sullivan; daughters, Kelley Hamilton and Chrissie Kolk; son, Bryan; sons-in-law, Chad Hamilton and Jon Kolk; daughter-in-law, Ashley Sullivan; and grandchildren, Amanda, Alyssa



Mary Kathleen Clarke



James Daniel Sullivan



Terri Harthen



Beverly Ann Taylor



Claudine Nicole DuPont



Angela Bresciami

and Addison Hamilton, Kaitlyn and Jake Kolk and Finnegan and Lucy Sullivan. He was predeceased by his parents, Elita and Edward Sullivan.

A memorial service and visitation will be held from 2 to 7:45 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Side Youth Sports Foundation, bit.ly/3H2Umv4, or Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202, bit.ly/43sNvnq.

Terri Harthen

Terri Harthen, 75, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 8, 2025.

She is survived by her husband of more than 55 years, Kenneth Harthen; children, Eric (Shannon), Christopher (Natalie) and Michael (Erin); three grandchildren, Dylan, Anna and Evan; and four siblings, Kathleen Schanz O.P., Betty Schachermeyer (George), George Schanz (Diane) and Mary Jo Klausung (Mark).

Terri lived the lessons people read about in books with joy and empathy for her community.

The family will receive visitors at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 17, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Michigan, hom.org/donate, or Freedom House Detroit, P.O. Box 9208, Detroit, MI 48209, freedomhousedetroit.org/donate.

Arrangements were

entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Beverly Ann Taylor

Beverly Ann Taylor, 95, passed away Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Beverly was born April 25, 1930, in Detroit, to Albert and Beulah LesPerance.

She was educated at St. Catherine of Siena Academy and married to Richard Taylor for 69 years prior to his passing in 2019. She was a homemaker and enjoyed many hobbies, such as rose gardening, painting, sculpting, needlework and travel. She and Richard were longtime members of the Friends of the St. Clair Shores Library, where they made many friends.

Beverly is survived by her caring son, Kevin (Sandra); beloved grandchildren, Meghan and Sean; and cousin, Ernest.

A memorial Mass was held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/donate, or the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak, MI 48067, detroitzoo.org/ways-to-support/donate.

Claudine Nicole DuPont

Claudine Nicole DuPont, 51, passed away Monday, April 21, 2025, in Fredericksburg, Va., with friends and family by her side.

Claudine was born April 10, 1974, in Grosse Pointe, to Tom and Mary DuPont. She enjoyed an active and energetic childhood, spending her sum-

mers at the family cottage in Lexington.

She was accepted to Brown University in 1997, and pursued a postgraduate degree in podiatry from Yale University in 2006. Throughout her life, she was driven by a love for animals and almost always was surrounded by pets. She was active in associations dedicated to the prevention of animal cruelty.

After a successful career in podiatry and following the birth of her son, Brooks, in 2014, Claudine decided to pursue an alternate career in financial services. Her circle of friends was wide and varied, which serves as a tribute to her zestful appetite for life.

A brief memorial service was held following Claudine’s death. She is survived by her son, Brooks; sister, Renee; mother, Mary; and her beloved dogs, Spotsy and Elle.

Angela Bresciami

Angela Bresciami, 69, passed away Friday, April 18, 2025, at her home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Angela was born Feb. 23, 1956, in Detroit, to Jasper M. and Teresa A. Bresciami, both now deceased. She graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1974, and worked at her family-owned business, Eastern Produce Co., in Detroit’s Eastern Market.

Angela was predeceased by her parents; husband, Dennis Dundas; and brother, Joseph Bresciami. She is survived by her sister, Diane Holme (Jeffrey); nephew, Jeffrey Holme Jr.; and niece, Ellen Gomez.

Angela was laid to rest at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit, alongside her parents and brother.

Korver Richards rinsing a family headstone after cleaning it.



PHOTO BY
RENEE
LANDUYT

HISTORY:

Continued from page 1B

Kesteloot said. “One of the great things to see was he walked around with the kids and they were learning together. ... That’s the whole reason we’re doing these things — to preserve history and honor those who have gone before us.”

“For seventh graders ... a couple people commented how dutifully, how seriously they were taking this,” Donnelly noted. “I told the kids history is hip. Tricia said the kids loved it, too. At that age, they want to be able to contribute something, to feel they matter,

and this gives them a sense of pride. And there’s the whole community part of it too; of giving, not getting.

“I think it’s a wonderful thing Tricia and Trevor did,” she added. “They’re such wonderful teachers and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

“It’s a special day,” Kesteloot said. “To watch them really put their heart and soul into what they were doing, there’s instant gratification in that. They started something, got educated about it, did the cleaning and could see instantly the washing away of lime-stone and moss. And they’re honoring that person. Some of those headstones haven’t been

cleaned in a very long time.”

To remedy that issue, Kesteloot said future cleanings will occur. A group of adults plans to visit the cemetery later this month to do so.

“We organize these events to provide our young people with a deeper appreciation of our local history and an opportunity to show their respect for life and death,” Kesteloot said.

The community is invited to celebrate Memorial Day Mass at 9 a.m. Monday, May 26, at the St. Paul Cemetery, located at Moross and Country Club Lane in Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call (313) 885-8855.

Great Lakes Groove Fest is June 1

Day-long fundraiser benefits Kevin’s Song

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The tagline for the first Great Lakes Groove Fest perfectly describes the full-day fundraiser: “Banding together for hope and healing.” Eleven bands will take the stage, performing for audiences of all ages during the festival, which takes place, rain or shine, 1 to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit.

Proceeds benefit Kevin’s Song, a nonprofit dedicated to generating public awareness about the causes of suicide, its prevalence in society and possible preventive measures.

“We’re looking forward to this group of bands we’ve pulled together,” said Justin Urso, vice chairman of the Kevin’s Song board of directors. “They’re different styles, different genres. There should be something for everyone.”

The day kicks off with a set by Rock & Roll Prep School, a Shelby Township-based group of young artists who perform classic rock. The lineup continues with Ben Allemon, Matt and Carson, TradeMark, Uncle Brown and ME, Bad Dudes, James McGovern Band, Social Work, The Firewalkers and Noah Dakho. The evening’s headliner is Sam Be Yourself.

Each band will perform 45-minute sets over two stages. While one band plays, the next sets up, so there will be continuous music throughout the event.

Through sponsorship,



the venue’s feather bowling lanes have been reserved for festival guests during the day. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

“We’re providing an opportunity for people to come together for a family-friendly event, enjoy the historic Cadieux Cafe and enjoy the music,” Urso said. “Hopefully it will be a beautiful day as we’re entering the summer season.”

Proceeds from Great Lakes Groove Fest will support the annual Kevin’s Song Conference on Suicide, which brings together clinicians, educators, first responders, loss survivors and others for a weekend designed to raise awareness about suicide and its impact, as well as highlight the importance of suicide prevention and risk mitigation.

Proceeds also will support general operations of Kevin’s Song and its work in the community.

“Kevin’s Song’s mission is to save lives through suicide preven-

tion education and offering hope and healing to survivors,” Urso said. “We want this event to bring a lot of joy and happiness to the community, but we also want to bring people together to raise awareness to these topics. Through this event, we also want to honor those we’ve lost to suicide.”

Additionally, Urso said, a goal of the festival is to de-stigmatize conversations around suicide and suicide prevention.

“This event is about bringing together the community and offering hope and healing,” he added. “Music, in many ways, can be a release, a resolve, an outlet that brings hope and healing. I’m looking forward to the day, to friends, family and the community coming together to support the cause.”

While this marks the inaugural Great Lakes Groove Fest, Kevin’s Song proudly co-hosted last year’s Z Fest Music Festival alongside Alex and Allyson Rockwell.

The event was held in honor of their son, Zach. This year, the organizations are pursuing separate events, continuing their shared commitment to raising awareness around mental health and suicide prevention.

“We plan on it being an annual event,” Urso said about Great Lakes Groove Fest. “We look forward to growing it and reaching more people.”

“This really is an opportunity for multigenerational folks to attend,” he added, noting three generations of one musical family will be performing in three different bands. “Music is bringing together these different people to support this cause. I want to reach students at our community’s high schools, but also students coming back from college, providing them an opportunity to be with their parents, so there’s representation at every level.”

That representation, Urso hopes, will extend beyond age groups.

“When you’re talking

suicide prevention, there’s not a demographic or population or culture that is not impacted,” he said. “With these diverse groups, we’ll reach as many people as possible. A festival like this is the way to do it.”

Tickets for Great Lakes Groove Fest are \$20 general admission; \$15 for students with student ID. Urso recommended purchasing tickets in advance at tinyurl.com/mr46v8mh

Sponsorships also are available online.

For information, visit the Facebook event page at tinyurl.com/2w48zkak



AREA ACTIVITIES

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 15, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, May 16, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 11 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Richard Elementary School, 176 McKinley, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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:

◆ New to Medicare, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15.

◆ Ballroom Dancing, 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, May 20 to Aug. 5.

◆ Palliative Care vs. Hospice, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, with presenter Dr. Lisa Peleman.

◆ Guitar for Beginners, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursdays, May 22 to Aug. 7.

◆ The last four episodes of “Man on the Inside” will be shown at noon Friday, May 23. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

Library

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

◆ Readers’ Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 1,000 Hours World Bee Day Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ High School Exam Study Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ PBS Kids Party, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Talk the Walk: Camino de Santiago, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 24, at

See EVENTS, page 4B



Welcome spring with Detroit Concert Choir

The Detroit Concert Choir presents its spring concert, “Follow the Sun,” at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The 90-voice choir, directed by Michael A. Mitchell, presents this musical voyage of songs from around the world, including selections from India, Japan, Brazil, Slovakia and other locales.

The Detroit Concert Choir is an

award-winning vocal ensemble, housed in Grosse Pointe Woods. Now in its 38th season, the choir offers timeless and diverse musical experiences for everyone.

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Cost is \$25 for

adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Order online at detroitconcertchoir.org or call (313) 882-0118.

For more information on the Detroit Concert Choir, visit detroitconcertchoir.org.

Claremont Trio to perform at South

The 2003 inaugural winners of Chamber Music Detroit’s Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award return in a concert celebrating the Claremont Trio’s 25th anniversary season.

The trio will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Lauded as “one of America’s finest young chamber groups” by Strad Magazine, the Claremont Trio is sought after for its virtuosic and communicative performances. First winners of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award and the only piano trio ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, the Claremonts are con-

sistently lauded for their “aesthetic maturity, interpretive depth and exuberance” (Palm Beach Daily News).

The Claremont Trio was formed in 1999 at the Juilliard School. Twin sisters Emily Bruskin and Julia Bruskin grew up in Cambridge, Mass., and both play old French

See TRIO, page 4B

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Yoga Moves MS offers annual forum to share knowledge about living with neuromuscular disorders

Grosse Pointe resident Leslie Rentschler’s story began 35 years ago when she received the diagnosis of an advanced degenerative disease. Multiple sclerosis, or MS, is a specific type of degenerative disease, as is Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS.

In 2024, she learned about the nonprofit organization Yoga Moves MS, an adaptive yoga organization that is free for anyone with MS, Parkinson’s or any other neuromuscular disorders.

“Coming to the Yoga Moves classes changed my entire attitude,” she said. “I wake up feeling like I can tackle whatever the day holds. It has allowed me to feel stronger and more capable in every aspect of life, not just physically.”

Rentschler credits the “wonderful teaching and lovely people” she’s met — all of whom struggle with mobility but show up anyway. She is one of many students in the metro Detroit area who



COURTESY PHOTOS

Leslie Rentschler of Grosse Pointe, a Yoga Moves MS student.

have benefited from the nonprofit organization.

Yoga, sometimes intimidating to those unacquainted with its benefits, is made accessible to those with neuromuscular challenges such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s and others, by adapting traditional poses and positions with mindful modifications, breathing techniques and supportive props like chairs, blankets, blocks and straps.

Rentschler has been practicing yoga at the Yoga Moves MS Grosse Pointe location, Full Lotus Yoga, for one and a

half years. Whether seated, standing or on the mat, inclusive adaptive classes empower individuals of all abilities — including those with MS, Parkinson’s and other conditions — to enhance mobility, manage symptoms and improve overall well-being in a safe, supportive space.

Yoga Moves MS offer a free forum Wednesday, May 21, which will address the often-overlooked and sometimes awkward topic of intimacy and sexuality for individuals living with physical challenges. To set the tone for the event, Damian Washington — an actor, comedian and MS influencer — will provide humor and inspiration.

The complimentary in-person and virtual Holistic Health and Wellness Forum for MS takes place at The Mint, 27000 Evergreen, in Lathrup Village. Registration and the exhibit hall open at 4 p.m., with the program



Guests enjoy a previous Holistic Health and Wellness Forum.

beginning at 5 p.m.

Dr. Jeanie Cote, a neurologist from Memorial Healthcare Institute for Neuroscience in Owosso will dive into the topic addressing sexuality concerns she often hears from patients, including fatigue, erectile dysfunction, reduced sensation and more.

Leading the panel discussion, “Navigating Intimacy and Sexuality With MS,” will be Amy Raad, LMSW, CST, an MSW and certified sex therapist with the University of Michigan. She will be joined by Cote, as well as Allison

Bell, a physical therapist specializing in pelvic floor, also from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Taylor Hess, a neuroimmunologist from the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders MS Center, will offer an update on emerging MS therapies. Other participants include Dr. Martin Belkin, D.O., director of the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders MS Center, and Mindy Eisenberg, founder and director of Yoga Moves MS.

The forum offers individuals with MS and their care partners a broader

understanding of a whole-system approach to wellness. The event includes an exhibit hall, healthy meal, accessible nearby parking and connecting and socializing with others in the MS community.

Eisenberg has built a mighty Yoga Moves MS community, through which her mission is to educate individuals with MS, Parkinson’s and other neuromuscular conditions about yoga as an umbrella for healthy lifestyle choices and a way of life. Eisenberg’s mother, challenged with a progressive form of MS and using a wheelchair and bed for most of her adult life, is her guiding light.

The event is free; however, a \$35 donation is appreciated.

Registration for live in-person and virtual events may be found at yogamovesanybody.org/events/holistic-event. For further information, call Eisenberg at (248) 417-5985 or email Mindy@yogamovesms.org.

TRIO:

Continued from page 3B

instruments. Emily Bruskin’s violin is a Lupot from 1795; Julia Bruskin’s cello is a J.B. Vuillaume from 1849. Sophiko Simsive grew up in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The Claremonts are all now based in New York

City near their namesake: Claremont Avenue.

The program will feature Fauré’s Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 120; Agocs’ Queen of Hearts, commissioned for the Claremont Trio in 2017; and Brahms’ Trio in C Major, Op. 87.

For tickets, visit chambermusicdetroit.org/tickets?eid=135473



COURTESY PHOTO

The Claremont Trio, from left, Emily Bruskin, Sophiko Simsive and Julia Bruskin.

Selfridge Air Museum announces Veterans Appreciation Weekend

The Selfridge Military Air Museum invites the public to salute the men and women who served in the U.S. military during a special tribute from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18.

The 126th Army Band will perform 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday only.

The weekend event will feature unique displays presented by historians dressed in period uniforms who are experts in the features of the displays, which highlight the life of servicemen and women in the European and Pacific theaters, as well as experiences of a World War II pilot of a Corsair fighter.

Some historic military vehicles will be displayed, including Gen. Eisenhower’s staff car, Gen. MacArthur’s staff car and the 1941 Buick that was owned by a U.S. fighter

pilot who was shot down during the Pearl Harbor attack. The Buick has been restored into like-new condition, but it was strafed with machine gun fire during the attack.

Guests also are invited to take a walking tour of the museum’s Air Park featuring more than 30 historic aircraft and displays. Additionally, complimentary food and beverages will be provided by National Coney Island, Mission BBQ, Texas Roadhouse, Better Made and Faygo.

Base access and museum admission are required. Guests are advised to visit selfridgeairmuseum.org for additional information, including help with pre-registration for base access. Veterans receive a reduced-price admission. Active service members in uniform are always admitted free of charge.

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EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. ◆ Read Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Cupping + Brewing Basics Coffee Tasting Workshop, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Cost is \$50.

◆ Square Market Baskets Weaving Workshop, 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Cost is \$90.

◆ Brush Lettering Basics Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Cost is \$55.

◆ Enameled Copper Bowls Workshop with Courtney Fischer, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Cost is \$100.

◆ Polymer Clay

Jewelry Workshop with Trice Clark, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Cost is \$75.

◆ Pom Pom Garland Workshop, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 21. Cost is \$60.

Concert

Planet D Nonet will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Cover is \$10. Reserved seats are recommended. Call (313) 882-8560.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The club will present scholarships to students from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: “Flowers are Calling,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in May, for ages 7 and younger.

◆ Bicknell Lecture:

The Centennial of Ford Aviation, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21.

◆ Yoga at Ford House, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays, May 27 to July 15. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for the public.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods has partnered with Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Farms to offer a free Family Movie Night at 8 p.m. Friday, June 13, at Ghesquiere Park in the Woods. Families should bring snacks, lawn chairs and blankets to watch “Trolls Band Together.” Treat Dreams Ice Cream will be available for purchase.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

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Colorful crossing

Notre Dame bears City’s 1st painted crosswalk

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Instead of heading home after school Thursday, May 8, third- and fourth-grade Defer Elementary School Girl Scouts made their way to The Village to play in the street — adding to a crosswalk their marks, which perhaps could remain through the time they graduate the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

“My idea was to just go crazy, just let the brush go where it wants to,” said Cecelia DeRosier, whose contribution to the painted crosswalk is a lavender fish with splays of teal, red and orange, and a teal eye to boot.

The Notre Dame crosswalk connecting the parking garage to Kercheval Place is the first painted crosswalk in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Main Street Grosse Pointe volunteers, led by Posterity Gallery owner Michelle Boggess-Nunley, spent the morning scrubbing the section of street, painting waves with blue parking lot paint and outlining

exactly 40 fish — one for each girl scout to paint.

Best friends Maddy MacKinnon and Eva Seng strategically chose fish next to each other and preplanned to each write “BFF” on their design. Nearby, Chaya Devi Grytsyuk took her time creating unique and colorful spirals, which reminded her of waves.

“I know a couple friends who have dyslexia,” said third grader Lydia Shriner, who decorated her fish with streams of color and polka dots. “It looks like scattered dots, they’re not all perfect and the colors are mixed, so it’s kind of like how it’s like with dyslexic kids.

“And I also like the colors,” she added.

To keep the art long-lasting, Main Street will budget in future years for touch-ups and resealing.

“Prep and sealing is the biggest part of it,” said Boggess-Nunley, whose extensive mural experience includes the artwork at Alma Kitchen in the Park. “This is actually parking lot paint that we’re using, so it’s made for the sur-



Charlie Rossi paints a fish gold and outlines it in purple.

face. Once it’s dry, we’ll seal it with a water repellent and then do a matte clear coat. We’ll have to come out three to four times a year to put a coat on top and hopefully it lasts.”

The concept of painted crosswalks is as strategic as it is aesthetic.

Studies have shown they lead to a 50 percent decrease in the rate of crashes involving pedestrians or other vulnerable road users, Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock reported, and a 27 percent increase in the frequency of drivers immediately yielding to pedestrians with the right of way.

“I have been wanting to do this for a long, long time,” Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak said. “I’ve seen painted crosswalks in other communities and it just automatically slows traffic in a fun way.”

The functional public art also encourages people to use the crosswalk rather than cut across mid-block on Notre Dame, as well as high-lights Kercheval Place as an active street with storefronts rather than an alley.

“It’s a way of starting to extend what people think of as The Village to encompass what actually is the entire business district,” Willcock said. “... I really like the idea of being able to highlight that The Village is more than just Kercheval.”

The project, championed by Main Street, is the first in “what hopefully becomes a series,” she added. Initial plans called for the St. Clair crosswalk between the parking deck and CVS lot to be the first under the brush; however, a scheduled street resurfacing project on that portion of road put the artwork on hold.

“Maybe we even do the one on Notre Dame by Kroger and start

really celebrating our other areas, not just Kercheval,” Willcock said.

Implementation of painted crosswalks is significantly more attainable to communities today than even just a number of years ago.

“The technology in doing this kind of thing has come so far,” Willcock noted. “We did a rainbow crosswalk when I was in Ferndale. It was specialty paint and it was like a \$10,000 project.”

The Notre Dame crosswalk came in at \$497.



Best friends Maddy MacKinnon and Eva Seng paint “BFF” on their fish in celebration of their friendship.



Chaya Devi Grytsyuk paints a beautifully colored fish with spirals.



Lydia Shriner paints her fish in recognition of her friends with dyslexia.

Main Street Grosse Pointe volunteers paint the crosswalk with waves and fish outlines in preparation for the Defer Elementary School Girl Scouts project.



PHOTOS BY
RENEE
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Summer Garden Party



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SCAN ME

GROSSE POINTE

Gabby

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Graduation party etiquette for inviting friends and family

Dear Gabby: My daughter is graduating from high school this year and we’re hosting a party. What’s the etiquette these days around who to invite? Should we include people she isn’t super close to anymore, like old teammates or family friends? And what are the expectations around gifts? I don’t want to overstep or make things awkward. — Proud Parent in the Park

Dear Proud Parent: Congratulations to your graduate — and to you,

too. Behind every cap and gown is a parent who’s helped with homework, driven to practices and packed hundreds of lunches. Graduation season in Grosse Pointe is such a special time, filled with open houses, family celebrations and lots of sheet cake. But you’re right, figuring out how to handle the guest list and gift expectations can be tricky. When it comes to invites, the best rule of thumb is to keep it meaningful. Graduation is a milestone and the people you invite should be

those who have supported your child in some way — emotionally, academically, athletically or simply by being present over the years. If your daughter hasn’t spoken to someone in months or wouldn’t feel excited to see them show up, it’s OK to leave them off the list. Your party doesn’t need to become a neighborhood-wide drop-in if that’s not your style. That said, it’s also OK to include people like former coaches or longtime family friends if the connection still feels genuine, even if it’s not



as close as it once was. As for gifts, most guests who attend an open house will bring a card with a check or gift card, but there’s no strict rule. Many people stick to a modest amount, especially if they’re attending multiple parties in a single weekend, which is common in our community. A heartfelt note of congratulations

can be just as meaningful as a monetary gift. For your grad, make sure they have a plan to write thank-you notes. It’s one tradition that should never go out of style. Lastly, don’t stress about throwing the “perfect” party. It can be as big or as simple as you like. What people remember most is the atmo-

sphere, the pride, the photos and the joy in the air. So lean into that and celebrate all the hard work that brought your family to this moment. You’ve earned it. *We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointe-news.com.*

Caring for an aging parent who won’t cooperate

DEAR ANNIE: I’m an only child in my early 40s, and I’m at my wits’ end trying to care for my 74-year-old mother. She lives alone and insists she’s “just fine,” but I can see she’s slipping — physically, mentally and emotionally. She has high blood pressure, diabetes and serious arthritis, but she won’t stay on her medications. She hasn’t been to a primary care doctor in over five years. She flat-out refuses can-

cer screenings or even basic lab work. Lately, I’ve noticed what could be signs of early dementia — getting lost on familiar roads, forgetting appointments, struggling to follow conversations. I finally got her to see a neurologist last fall, and they recommended a brain scan and further testing. She never followed through. Now she’s barely leaving the house and won’t let me bring in any outside help.

I’ve tried small changes to keep her safe — grab bars in the bathroom, meal deliveries, even offering to go with her to doctor appointments. Every single time, she shuts me down with, “Don’t start” or, “I’m not an invalid.” She’s isolating more and her mobility is getting worse. I’m scared she’s going to fall or end up in the ER with something that could’ve been managed earlier. How do I respect her

independence while also not sitting back and watching her decline? — Worried and Worn Out

DEAR WORRIED: You are carrying a heavy burden, and I commend your patience and devotion. But here’s the hard truth: You can bring a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink. No matter how much you care or how hard you try, you cannot force your mother to seek help if she refuses it.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

What you *can* do is focus on safety. Make the home as secure and fall-proof as possible. Consider a home health consultation or speak with her primary care physician about ways to support her from a distance. And for your own well-being, talk to a coun-

selor or support group for caregivers. You need support, too. Loving her the best you can is enough. *Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.* COPYRIGHT 2024 CREATORS.COM.

THE BLUEPRINT

by Suzanne Blanchard

Part 2:

The date for the opening of the new building was June of 1952. My father adroitly stated he did not want any politicians exploiting the podium at the opening ceremonies, as there was no government money involved in the establishment of our hospital. This was a grass roots effort. He prepared a time capsule and selected an appropriate burial place for it. The high school band participated in the celebration. My sister, Sally, and I were members of the marching band. On this day, Sally was one of the several majorettes. Ordinarily she played the saxophone. I played cornet. We gathered at the school grounds just after noon on Sunday. We marched west wearing our gold and maroon uniforms, turned right a few blocks later, marching to the cadence of the drums. My mind pondering the possible changes the new building could provide for my father, perhaps lengthening his life. My mother wanted this hospital for my father. My gutsy mom could create most anything she wanted. She was almost fearless. I was more observant of my father’s opening comments than I was of the notes I played on my horn. I wanted to hear what

credit he gave to my mother. There would never have been a hospital if it had not been for my mother. She was the instigator, the dedicated female in his life, the best wife and mother you could ever wish for. She catered to his every wish. He hated public speaking. He had to give speeches at the high school for the graduating senior class each year. He did the same thing for the eighth grade graduating class. He mentioned her efforts toward the project. He stated he hoped she would enjoy her stay in the hospital in the fall, without identifying why she might become a patient. She had just turned 40 and recognized the risk of delivering a baby at her age. At the age of 40 this would be her fourth child. After the opening ceremonies, six people came to our house for brunch. They were high school friends of my father’s. My mother had a buffet set up with cold prime rib, my favorite 24-fruit salad, cold asparagus and her fresh dinner rolls. My father had even purchased whiskey and a bottle of brandy for the occasion. We rarely had liquor in our house except when they gave the annual hospital employee Christmas party. The table centerpiece was made of pyracantha leaves with their orange berries set among green

grapes, mounted on a tiered crystal platter. For dessert she provided a Vernor’s ginger ale float, topped by a red cherry, which was a treat we kids loved. We were never allowed any soft drinks except ginger ale. One of my father’s high school friends, Llyod, told the guests a story about raising chickens with my father. They placed the chickens inside feed sacks, secured the sack closed with twine. After loading the sack in a little red wagon, they proceeded to the place where the sale would take place. But, before placing the chickens for sale, my father decided to look in on the chickens. When he opened the sack, some appeared hypoxic. The chickens were panting, breathing rapidly. My father rushed to the soda shop, grabbed a handful of straws and returned to the stressed out chickens. He placed a straw in the chicken’s beak, while handing a fist full of straws to Lloyd. My father blew air from his lungs into the straw as Lloyd watched the procedure and did the same. The chicken’s perked up, appearing ready for sale. “Even then,” Lloyd assured the brunch guests, “Jack had great instincts.” My father was sometimes called Jack, a name taken from his Uncle Jack who helped raise him.

His Uncle Jack was a brother to his grandmother. My mother always called him Jack, his real name was Ernest. Mother woke me early in the morning Nov. 1 and whispered, “I’m going to the hospital.” It was three a.m. “Aren’t you going to wake up daddy?” “No, he needs his sleep.” My father asked me to man his office that morning while he participated with Dr. Hart’s delivery of our baby. My father called to tell me we had another sister. He had parked his car in his office driveway before he walked to the hospital that morning. I wanted to share the news that we had a new baby. I found a cake of soap in one of the office bathrooms and went outside to write on the back windshield of his car, “It’s a girl!” As soon as he came back to his office to relieve me, I walked to the hospital to see my mother. I revealed my prank of writing, “It’s a girl!” on the back window of his car. Once the hospital was opened, the next concern was whether or not the patient’s census would be high enough to pay the bills. When would that pattern be established? Those numbers would be measurements we could use to ascertain the strength of our hospital business. After the hospital was



up and running, my father curried a relationship with his alma mater, the University of Michigan. He hired professors to come work for several weeks at a time, often covering him when he went to Chicago to attend special courses in surgery at Cook County Hospital. The word spread at U of M that chosen doctors loved coming to our little hospital. They were amazed at the broad spectrum of services that were being provided. One of the professors was Dr. Feller, the founder of Feller Burn Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. He came to Deckerville before he established his renowned Feller Burn Center. There had been talk of establishing a rotation for medical students to come from Ann Arbor to learn about rural medicine. It was a special time, led by a driven visionary and a cooperative husband, both who understood the importance of good medical care and the healing abilities of man. After the establishment of the hospital I realized my father paid a visit to his hospital patients twice a day. “Why don’t you use that time for yourself?” I asked. “They don’t require a second visit per day from the doctor.”

“Oh, but they do!” He protested. “So, what is the advantage?” I asked. “Patients who see their doctors twice a day heal faster.” Apparently, my parents were so busy on Fridays they ate dinner at the hospital. The business was thriving! As the only doctor in town, professional life could be lonely. There was no one with whom to discuss difficult cases. My father spoke to my mother as if she was a physician. *I am thankful that they had each other. *Suzanne Blanchard, was born in Detroit, Mich., raised in Deckerville, Mich., and currently resides in Grosse Pointe, Mich., She graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in biomedical science. She spent her career working in hospitals throughout Virginia, Michigan and Colorado as well as working as a stockbroker and school teacher. Suzanne is an avid reader and loves writing.*



We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I have been wanting to buy some comfy loafers to wear with jeans, work clothes, etc. The Rothy's brand is touted as really comfortable, somewhat affordable and machine washable — but at around \$200, I still wasn't ready to commit. Enter the Amazon dupe. They look very similar and claim to be designed for comfort with a memory foam footbed. They are non-slip as well and easy to slip on and off, making them great for running errands. They are called "drivers," because they apparently are comfy for driving. However, they are good for shopping, travel, walking, the office, a casual dinner

— whatever. I usually wear a 9.5 or 10 and the 10 I ordered fit perfectly. The shoes look almost the same as the Rothy's, minus some details, and have been comfortable so far. I prefer the look of no socks with the loafer, so I

have gone both barefoot and with no-show socks. Wearing them with socks is slightly more comfortable on the heels, but either way I'd give them an 8.5/10 for comfort (keeping in mind that my benchmarks at this

stage of my life are Uggs and Birkenstocks). As far as cleaning them, I have not yet tried. The Rothy's claim you can machine wash and air dry them. The dupes suggest spot cleaning and do not mention machine washing. Since these are not athletic shoes and will be mostly

worn around town and in the office, I'm assuming I won't have the need to put them in the washing machine. When comparing the look of the \$35 dupe to the \$200 Rothy, I think anyone would say the Rothy's are somewhat cooler and have better details. I really like the detail on the back of the Rothy's that the dupe does not have. In addition, the tread on the Rothy's looks better in my opinion. However, for a casual driving loafer, I am OK with slightly less cool and much less expensive. Due to the design being less cool and the fact they are not machine washable (as far as we know), I am giving the dupe loafers a 4

out of 5 alligators. You can find them on amazon at tinyurl.com/3a4kjcjy. If I end up loving this style of shoe, I think I might splurge on something nicer at some point. 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. 4 Out Of 5



Rothy's loafers.



Amazon dupe.



Creamy kale dip

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I went to Chicago this past weekend ready to be inspired by all the exciting things at the Division Street farmer's market. To my disappointment, we were one week too early. Alas, we went to a quaint farm-to-table restaurant that evening and dug into an incredible creamy kale dip which I woke up thinking about the next morning. I knew my job was to come home and recreate it for you. This was a simple, light and fresh tasting bowl of warm goodness, served with housemade potato chips and pita chips. It stood out to me because it had such a beautiful, mild flavor that wasn't overpowered by any one type of cheese. You actually tasted the kale, which I didn't mind at all. The question was what type of mild cheese they used. Cream cheese and parmesan were obvious but there had to have been something else. So I went to Kroger and

stared at the cheese section and after a while came across stracciatella cheese. It's basically the inside of burrata soaked in sweet cream. This was the other mild, creamy addition that I was looking for. It came in an 8 oz container made by BelGioioso. Chives are already growing at an alarming rate in my backyard so I chopped a bunch up for a subtle onion flavor. Lemon zest and chili flakes give some needed zing and heat. I chose lacinato kale, or Tuscan kale, because it is considered less bitter and more tender than its cousin, curly kale. Plus the texture of kale stands up to the heat and doesn't wilt away to nothing like spinach. It's lightly sauteed with garlic, salt and pepper and wilted until soft. Then the rest of the dip is made in the same skillet and transferred to a baking dish. This is so much lighter and fresher tast-

ing that your regular old hot spinach dip. You can truly taste each ingredient here. It's simple, hearty and satisfying. So next time you see freshly picked kale at the upcoming farmer's market, try this recipe out. Cheers, Mombeau

Creamy Kale Dip

1 tbsp olive oil

2-3 cups roughly chopped lacinato kale

2 minced garlic cloves

2 tbsp chopped chives

Pinch of red chili flakes

8 oz plain cream cheese, softened

8 oz stracciatella

1/3 cup parmesan cheese

1 tsp lemon zest

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Wash and remove the stem from about five large lacinato kale leaves. Roughly chop the kale so you have no large pieces or long stringy pieces. This should yield about two to three cups depending on the size of the kale. Heat the olive oil in a skillet and add in the kale. Toss the kale around in the hot pan until it wilts slightly then add the minced garlic and chili flakes. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper. Add in about two tablespoons of water to help everything further wilt down and steam. This should take just a couple minutes. Once the water has

evaporated, turn off the heat. Add in the softened cream cheese, stracciatella and lemon zest. Add in the parmesan cheese, reserving one tablespoon for the topping. Thoroughly combine everything together.

Put the mixture into an ovenproof dish and sprinkle the reserved parmesan cheese on top. Bake for 17 to 20 minutes or until bubbling around the edges. Serve with pita chips and potato chips.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



German riesling

One of the world's greatest wine regions produces so little red wine that it can be considered negligible. I refer to Germany, where the riesling grape has near complete dominance and for a good reason: it makes one of the world's greatest wines. It has established such a reputation that all rieslings in the world are compared to it. Europeans have appreciated German riesling for hundreds of years. In fact, at the turn of the last century, dry German riesling was so widely respected that at the London wine auctions, it sold for more money than any other wines. One reason is that technology in the early 1900s was so rudimentary that it was difficult

to make a dry white wine that wasn't spoiled. And the Germans not only had the greatest climate to make great riesling but also had a system that identified the best growing regions. Weather patterns were also so erratic 125 years ago that some German vintages were awful. Spoilage was a common pitfall, leaving great dry German rieslings to represent a tiny category of wine. Today, however, technology allows Germany to produce some of the greatest wines it has ever made, and they are more widely available. Warmer temperatures generally permit newer regions to emerge that previously never made great wine. Today, all that has changed.

One problem for most Americans is the German wine terminology. When a term implying quality is as long as Erzeugerabfüllung, many Americans' eyes glaze over and they begin to ignore the product. Indeed, German Rieslings are not necessarily friendly to the eye because of the complicated terminology. It would require a good-sized book to explain all the details of riesling, so what follows is a rudimentary guide to the sweetness levels of quality wines (Qualitätswein mit Prädikat). Kabinett: A lighter style riesling that's often the least expensive wine a producer makes. Spätlese: Technically, this means "later harvest," and although the wines usually have

some residual sugar, they can be dry on the palate because of high acidity. Auslese: This term designates a select harvest. The sweetness level typically is significantly higher than the prior category. Almost always, these wines are best with cheeses or dessert. There are higher levels of sweetness as well, and most of the time, these wines are outrageously expensive. In addition to these categories, there are separate sweetness levels that may apply to the previous designations.

Trocken: This term refers to the driest wines that are being imported to the United States. Halbtrocken: Literally half-dry, this term is for wines with some residual sugar, but usually they are relatively dry in the aftertaste. Feinherb: The wines that carry this unofficial term are similar to the previous designation, but the producer has discretion as to how much sugar is in the wine. Wine of the Week: 2023 Clean Slate Riesling, Mosel-Saarl-Ruwer (\$13) — The aroma of this striking,

reasonably priced wine shows tropical fruit and peach. I would put the sweetness level at approximately halbtrocken. The sugar is relatively low. It's a good example of an exceptionally well-balanced relatively dry white that would work nicely with delicate foods — or all by itself on a warm patio. To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2025 CREATORS.COM.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEXICON (II), BLUESTONE ENTERTAINMENT AND EXILE CONTENT STUDIO
Left, Allison Salinas as middle Eva, Residente as Vicente and Kimaya Thais as middle Violeta taking in a glorious view in the movie “In the Summers,” written and directed by Alessandra Lacorazza.

MOVIE REVIEW
“In the Summers”
2024 - Unrated
1 hr 35 min
★★★★☆

AAh...summer! When you’re a kid, you look forward to it all year. It’s simply the best season of all. Total freedom to do what ever you want. Playing baseball. Riding bikes, swimming and skateboarding. Family vacations. Picnics. And best of all — no school! That’s the backdrop for this remarkable new film by writer/director Alessandra Lacorazza and it’s the first full-length feature for this immensely talented young woman. It’s loosely based on actual events in her and other family members’ lives. Ms. Lacorazza weaves these experiences into a quietly powerful story of complex and evolving family dynamics and the struggles of growing up. This is the story of two

sisters, Violeta (Dreya Castillo, Kimaya Thais and Lio Mehiel) and Eva (Luciana Elisa Quinonez, Allison Salinas and Sasha Calle). They spend most of the year with their mother in California, and every summer in Las Cruces, N.M. with their father Vicente, played by Puerto Rican rapper and songwriter “Residente” aka Rene Perez Joglar. The tale is told in four acts, each separated by a close-up shot of an ornate scene full of colorful memorabilia that resembles a Day of the Dead altar. Each one looks like an intricate, colorful painting loaded with memories. In the first section, the time they spend together is devoted to having fun. Vicente is the consummate “fun dad.” There isn’t anything he wouldn’t do to make his two daughters happy. Every day is a new adventure — going to

amusement parks, hikes out in the country, learning how to play pool and swimming in the backyard pool. It’s just one thrill after another. One of my favorite scenes in the movie is when he challenges Violeta and Eva to eat a plate full of spaghetti without utensils. You can’t help but laugh out loud seeing their faces dripping with tomato sauce. We also see that Vicente enjoys getting wasted. But he appears to have it largely under control. As the film progresses, the relationship starts to shift. He begins to party quite a bit harder, not quite to the point where he ignores his daughters, but the drinking and drug use is almost a tie with the attention he pays to his family. We also meet Carmen (Emma Ramos), who’s a childhood friend of Vicente’s. She’s a barkeep and she looks out for the two girls. When Vicente



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

gets too hammered, she drives them home. We also see a change in Violeta. She not only wears her hair short, she appears to be attracted to another girl in town, Camila (Gabriella Surojawan). She’s also exhibiting a great deal of independence from her father. There’s a crucial scene that I won’t reveal, which becomes the turning point in the film. Let’s just say it’s a near tragedy and it comes at the end of the second chapter of the movie. For the next visit, only Eva makes it to Las Cruces. It’s explained that Violeta is undergoing some surgeries — which we can assume is of a transitioning nature. When the chapter begins, I had a foreboding feeling that Vicente had slipped even further into a drug and alcohol fueled lifestyle. When Eva asks him for a beer, I was pleasantly surprised to hear him say he could drive into town and buy her some. And I was shocked to see him drinking pop for the rest of the time. I thought the acting by the six different young women was excellent. Transitioning among four different ages is

hard to pull off, but they were totally convincing. Residente did an absolutely amazing job playing Vicente. You could tell he was dealing with inner demons, while he was totally in love with his daughters and truly wanted the best for them. He could easily have played it over the top, but he didn’t. His performance was subtle and nuanced all the way. The movie is told in bits and pieces. I can liken it to an impressionist painting — with a dash of paint here, another couple dots there. And when you stand back, you’re amazed to find a colorful masterpiece. The telling of the story is a bit choppy at times. But ultimately it all comes together in a beautiful, rewarding package. If you enjoy “In the Summers,” you might also like a film I reviewed a while back called “Aftersun.” It’s another, perhaps more nostalgic look at childhood and coming of age. Currently streaming on Hulu. And to rent on Apple TV and Amazon. Note to parents: The film is unrated but I’d probably give it an “R” for language, drug use and a couple sex scenes.



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.



A tender moment.



Having a blast at the amusement park.



The family dune surfing.

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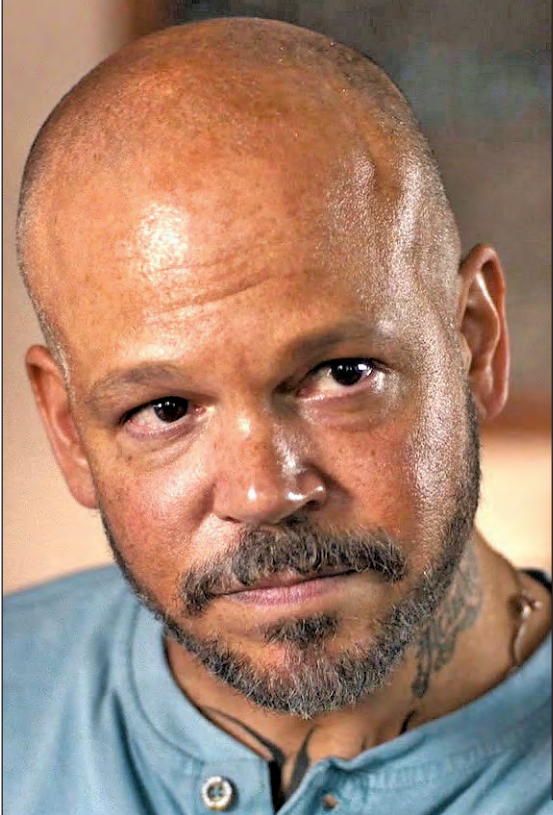
THE WIZ

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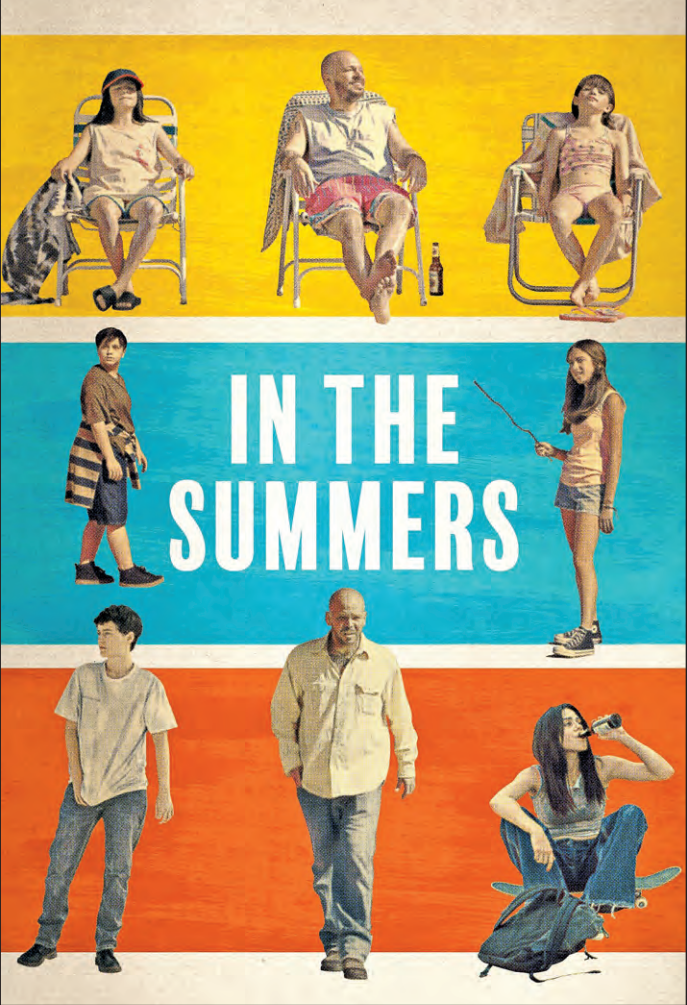
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A quiet moment between Eva (Sasha Calle) and Violeta (Lio Mehiel).



Vicente played by Residente.



Movie poster.



THURSDAY COMICS

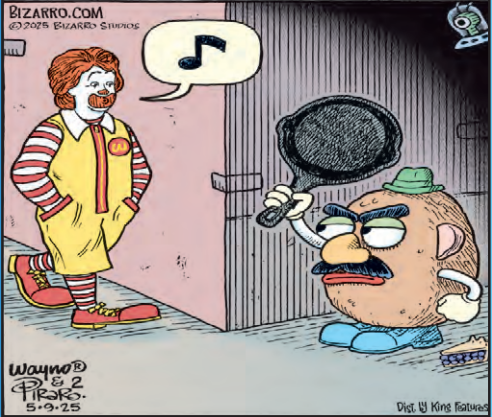


Peanuts

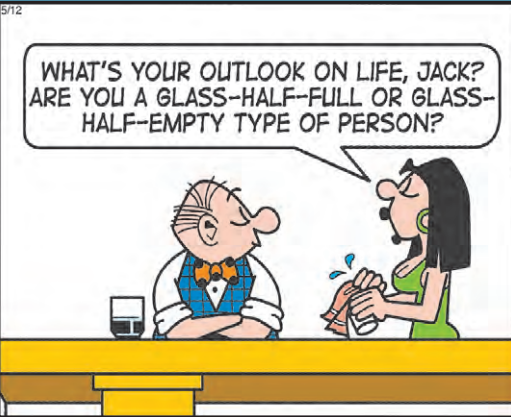
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp



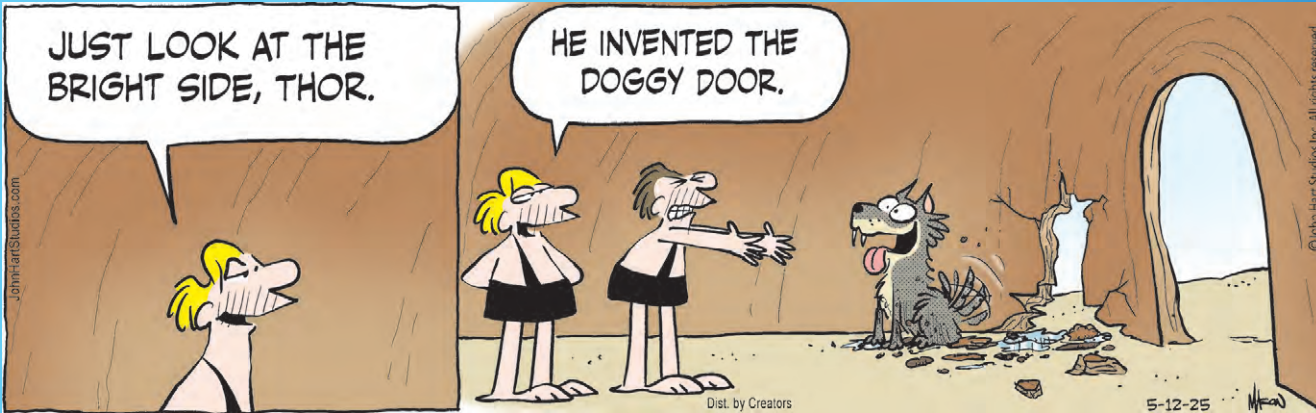
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy



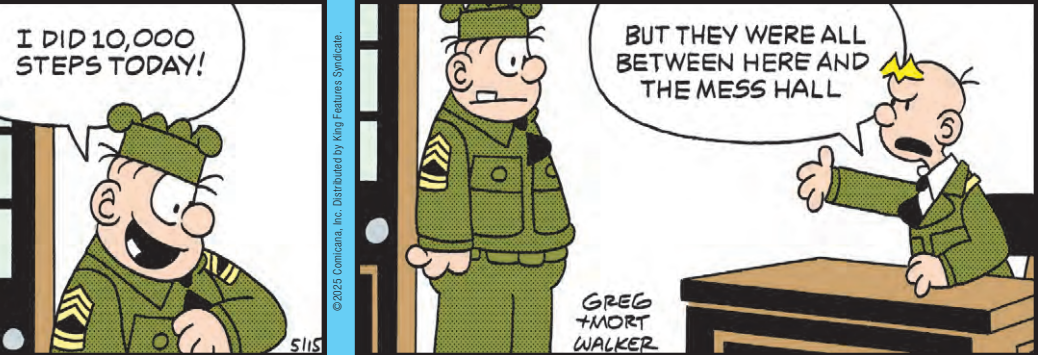
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Reality Check Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey

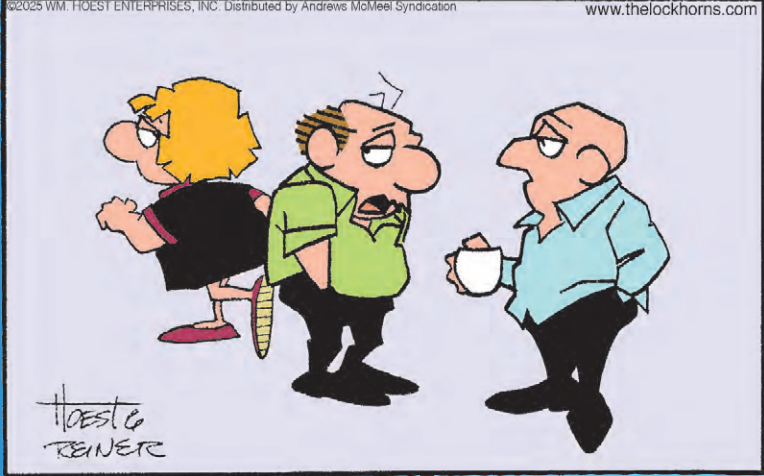


Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

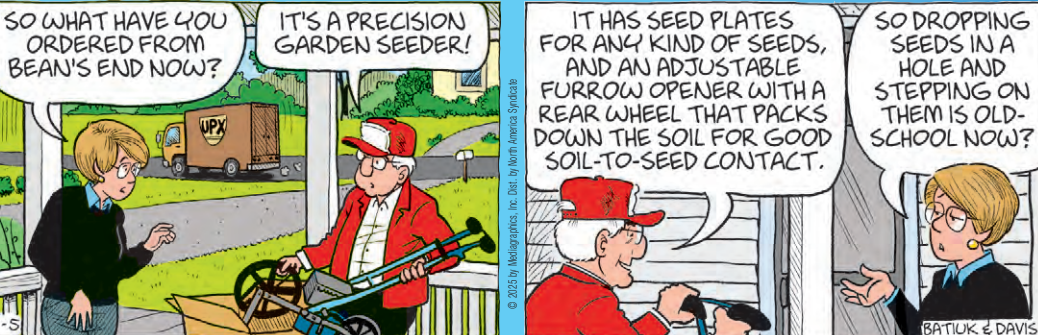


The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

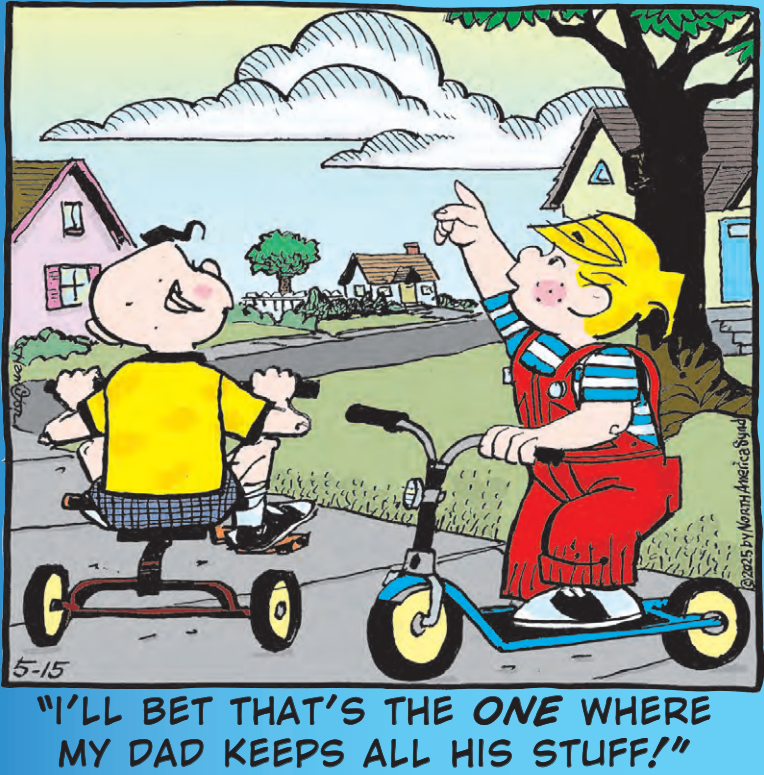


Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

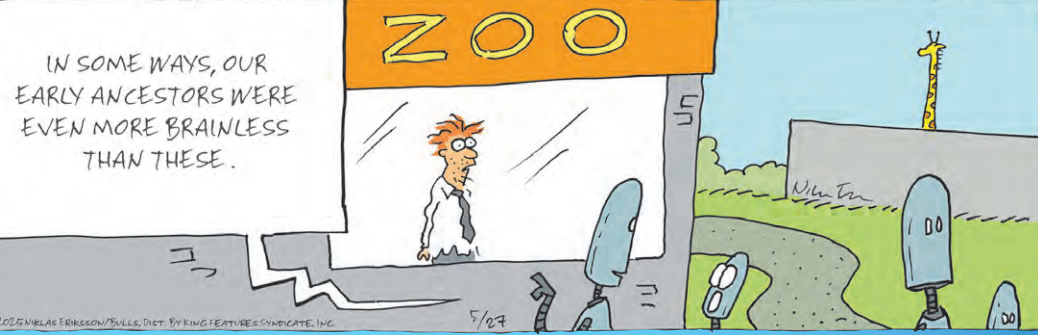


Dennis the Menace Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis

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Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

Close To Home

John McPherson

HAGAR, YOU ARE THE BEST HUSBAND A WIFE COULD EVER ASK FOR!

SWEETHEART, YOU WOULD SAY THAT EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T THINK SO!

AND YOU WOULD THINK SO EVEN IF I DIDN'T SAY SO!

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5-21

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Wizard of Id

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

SO WHAT DOES THIS TELL-ALL BOOK SAY ABOUT ME?

WELL...

IT SAYS YOU ARE BITTER, PETTY, INDECISIVE AND A BULLY

ANYTHING BAD?

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Facebook.com/WizardOfId

5-13-25

5-15

Blondie

Chris and Dean Young

MR. B. INVITED US OVER TO WATCH THE BALL GAME WITH HIM

COME ON IN

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE GAME SO FAR?

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, MR. B, WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE FOR THE SNACKS!

BURP!

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www.Blondie.com

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A HUG A DAY KEEPS THE PSYCHIATRIST AWAY!!

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Tom Wilson

Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson

Y'KNOW...I'VE GOT A WAY TO GET THIS TARIFF LIFTED ON IMPORTED TWINKIES INGREDIENTS...

HOW?

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Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

ANY LAST WORDS SCHNEEF?

CROCK IS A VILLAIN AND A DESPOT!

USE EXTRA-DUH BULLETS

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Popeye

Bud Sagendorf

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane

DOES YA HEAR A FUNNY WHISTLING NOISE?

IT'S COMING FROM UP THERE!

YIKE! RUN, OLIVE!!

IT'S A ROCKET BOMB!

IT MUST BE FROM THE PROFESSOR !!

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F Minus

Tony Carrillo

I LIKED THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL UNIFORM, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE I WOULD LOSE SOME OF MY FAVORITE WAYS TO JUDGE AND MOCK PEOPLE.

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Water Safety

It's fun to play in water, whether at a pool, beach, lake, river or water park, but it is important to know your limits and stay safe. **Remember, drowning can occur in less than two minutes.**

Swimming Pool Safety Rules

Put a check mark next to the rules that make swimming in a pool safer. Cross out rules that do not make pools safer.

☐

Never go in the water alone. Always be sure an adult who can swim is watching you.

☐

Do not depend on inflatable toys or water wings to keep your head above water.

☐

Dive only from a diving board, not the side of the pool.

☐

Don't crawl or walk on a pool cover.

☐

Stay in the shallow end of the pool if you are not a strong swimmer.

Great job!
ANSWER: Did you check them all?



Find It

Find these things hiding in this picture: a banana, a house, a crayon, a fish, a surfboard and a dinosaur.

Sort It

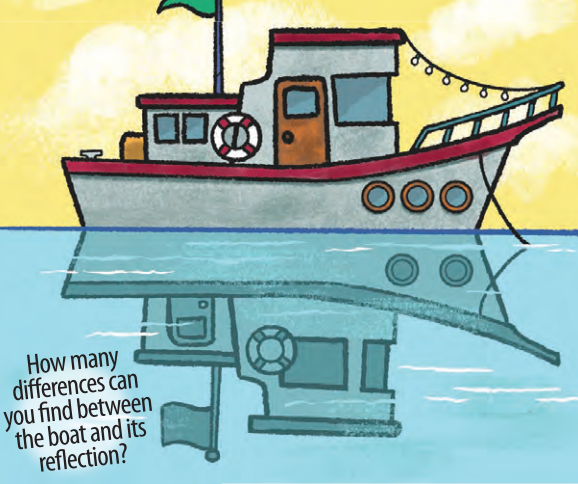
After finding the hidden pictures, sort each object by the number of syllables.

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Recognize syllables in words; decode words with two or more syllables.

SAFE BOATING WEEK

National Safe Boating Week is in May. If you're going to be enjoying boating, be sure to check out the great info and activities at safeboatingcampaign.com.



How many differences can you find between the boat and its reflection?

Fill in the missing vowels.

W _ RING WAT _ R
SH _ ES IN LAK _ S
C _ N PROT _ CT
Y _ R F _ T
FR _ M BR _ K _ N
GL _ SS AND
OTH _ R
UND _ RW _ TER
H _ ZARDS.



Splashy Search

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A photo that shows a pool, lake or ocean.
- Something that helps you stay cool in the summer.
- Something that floats in the water.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Lifesaver Letter

Use the Lifesaver Letter code to find out what you should always wear when on a boat at the beach or lake.

A _ I _ C _
▼ ♥ ▲ ● ▽ * ▼ ★ ♣ ▾ ▶

CODE:

A=▼	J=*
C=★	K=♣
E=▾	L=♥
F=●	T=▶
I=▲	Y=◆



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; students follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

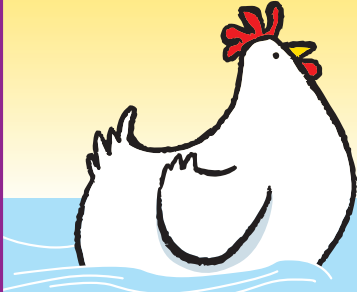
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Water Journal

Clip and collect articles about creeks, rivers, lakes and all kinds of water. Make lists of people, agencies and places that appear in the articles. What are the main topics of discussion or issues about water in your newspaper?

Standards Link: History/Social Science: Understanding environmental issues in the local community.



Which direction do chickens swim?

ANSWER: Cluck-wise!

Write On!

Safety Tips

Write three safety tips to help other kids.

Kid Scoop

FIT & FUN

Water Workouts

Gather some friends and try playing some of these games.

They're good exercise and a great way to beat the heat!



Water Cup Relay Race

Two-player teams each have a full bucket and an empty bucket. Place the full bucket at the starting line and the empty bucket at the finish line.

The first team member scoops a plastic cup of water from the full bucket and must walk quickly to the finish line, holding the full cup over their head.

The team member pours the water from the cup into the finish line bucket and runs back to the start, handing the cup to his teammate, who repeats the process.

The first team to move the most water from start to finish is the winner.

Water Balloon Freeze Tag

The person who is IT must protect a bucket filled with water balloons. If other players get soaked by a water balloon, even if one drop hits them, they must remain frozen until another player is able to snatch a water balloon from the bucket and unfreeze them by soaking them with it!

Sponge Volley

String a rope between two trees. Hang a tarp so that players can't see the other side of the court. Have full water buckets and big sponges on each side. Toss soaked sponges over to the other side to see if you can hit the other players.



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Blue Devils take rivalry series opener over North, Liggett adds more to win column

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was a fruitful week last week for the varsity baseball teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School. While the week was not completely perfect for any of them, it was still one filled mostly with positive momentum and plenty of victories.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils continued their battle for a MAC White Division title with some key wins in a three-game division series against L’Anse Creuse North. South swept the Crusaders across all three games, starting with a 10-0 win at home Monday, May 5. Scoring 10 runs became the theme for the Blue Devils in the series, as the game Wednesday, May 7, was a 10-3 win on the road at L’Anse Creuse North. South jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in the win. Drew Hess and Henry Domzalski ended the game with four RBIs each, with Domzalski launching a three-run home run over the fence in the second inning.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Adam Czarnik finished with a pair of RBIs in the Blue Devils’ win against Grosse Pointe North Monday, May 12.

Charlie Michelotti got the win on the mound, pitching all seven innings and surrendering six hits and just one earned run while tallying nine strikeouts. South returned home to finish off the sweep of the Crusaders with a 10-2 win Thursday, May 8. Evan Bernard had three RBIs and Domzalski brought in a pair of runs as well in another strong game.

Dane Lezotte was the winning pitcher, going 6.1 innings and striking out four batters with just one earned run allowed. Hess pitched 0.2 innings of hitless and scoreless relief to help close out the game. South hosted a pair of weekend games Saturday, May 10. The first was a 12-2 victory for the Blue Devils over Mount Pleasant. Adam Czarnik led the way on

offense with three RBIs, while Jack Lupo and Luke Thompson also brought in a pair of runs. Griffin Szatkiewski pitched all six innings with five hits and one earned run allowed. After a string of hot games, South’s bats went cold in the team’s second game last Saturday. The Blue Devils had only three hits in a 6-0 loss to Notre Dame Prep.

‘Every aspect of the game is going well, but when you get into the state tournament, it’s all about who plays well on a given day.’

DAN GRIESBAUM, GP SOUTH BASEBALL COACH

It was time for a rivalry showdown to begin South’s next MAC White Division series. The Blue Devils traveled across town Monday, May 12, for the first of three games against Grosse Pointe North. In the first meeting between the two rivals this spring, South was victorious in a shutout, 7-0. Czarnik, Szatkiewski and Lezotte finished the game with a pair of RBIs each. Jack Danielewicz pitched the complete-game shutout, going seven innings and giving up only three hits with six strikeouts. “They obviously believe in themselves and winning breeds winning,” South baseball coach Dan Griesbaum said about what is going right for the Blue Devils.

“It’s been complete. ... We’re hitting over .350 as a team. The pitchers are doing really well. ... they’ve all thrown very well. We’ve got over 90 stolen bases and our goal for the season was 100, and we’re fielding really well. Every aspect of the game is going well, but when you get into the state tournament, it’s all about who plays well on a given day.” South hosted the Norsemen after press time Wednesday, May 14. The crosstown rivals finish the three-game series at North at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15. **Grosse Pointe North** Before the loss to their rival Monday, it was a relatively strong week for the Norsemen. North came out victorious in a three-game MAC White Division series against St. Clair, winning the final two games of the series after losing the first. North’s first win in the series came Wednesday, May 7, as the team took down the Saints 4-2. Charlie Rocho and Lorenzo Dichio both finished the game with an

See BASEBALL, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Wakefield knocking it out of the park for Norsemen softball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Captain, starting shortstop and leading hitter are important and

impressive roles — and Addie Wakefield can do it all for Grosse Pointe North varsity softball. The senior captain for the Norsemen has an



PHOTO BY JOEL JARVI

North senior captain Addie Wakefield steps to the plate in a rivalry game against Grosse Pointe South.

impact in nearly every aspect of the game and has proven this spring she will leave a legacy as one of the best the program has ever seen. Wakefield has been with North softball since she was a freshman. She grew up playing the sport through Grosse Pointe Little League Softball and different travel teams. This spring season has been slightly different for Wakefield, however, with her transitioning from second base to shortstop for the Norsemen. It is not a completely foreign position to her, as she often plays shortstop for her travel team. Wakefield still was tasked with taking over for longtime North shortstop Natalie

Babcock and had to adjust to building chemistry with her teammates from the other side of the middle infield. “There was the same shortstop for all three years before this, so we built up that chemistry between us and could read each other,” Wakefield said. “... The most challenging thing this year was building up that chemistry with our new second basemen so that we could work from both sides and have just worked together to build that relationship.” It has seemed to work well so far, with Wakefield being the captain of the infield on a team that highly

emphasizes its strengths of pitching and defense. Her defensive abilities are strong, but what has truly cemented this spring as a monumental season for Wakefield is her performance at the plate. Wakefield is North’s leading hitter with a batting average of .425. She can hit the ball hard, too, with a slugging percentage of .685 and a team-leading four home runs this season. While her performance on offense has been outstanding, her confidence at the plate ties back to the belief and confidence she and her team-

mates have in each other. “It’s such a mental game,” Wakefield said. “... I’m so confident in my team because I have two hitters in front of me that get on base almost every time. I know that they’re out there and wherever I hit the ball, they’ll move around. ... I just need to put the ball in play. If I get out, it’s fine because

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Addie Wakefield

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Softball

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Softball teams sharpen up play as postseason gets closer

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The high school softball postseason is just a

few weeks away and every team is trying to reach its peak at the right time. Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe

South and University Liggett School had plenty of chances on the diamond last week to perfect their form and all of

the action came with mostly mixed results.

Grosse Pointe North

It was another busy week for the Norsemen on the diamond last week, which began with a 6-2 win over Lakeview Monday, May 5. The next day, Tuesday, May 6, North ended up not as lucky when it suffered a 5-2 loss on the road to Dakota. Liesel Wilkins ended up having both RBIs for the Norsemen in the loss.

North was on the road again Thursday, May 8, to take on Eisenhower. It was another loss for North, this one a narrow 2-1 defeat against the Eagles. Kate Stemmler pitched over four innings for the Norsemen and gave up just four hits and one earned run.

Despite the loss, last Thursday's game against Eisenhower was promising in the fact that it showed North's strengths are still there. The team takes pride in its pitching and defense and admits it has struggled with that at times this season, but can now see things starting to come together regardless of the results on the scoreboard.

"At the beginning of the season, we were giving up a lot of runs, but our hitting was carrying us through," North softball coach Ron Smith said. "In the last couple of weeks, our hitting has slowed down, but our pitching and defense are there. ... Our strength is in our pitching and our defense and I'm just hoping our hitting gets back on track so we're peaking at the right time."

Over the weekend, North hosted a doubleheader against L'Anse Creuse North Saturday, May 10. The Norsemen and Crusaders ended up splitting the games, with L'Anse Creuse North winning the first game 5-4. Addie Wakefield had a pair of RBIs on a couple of hits in the loss.

Saturday's second game was not as close and ended in a blowout 16-1 victory for the Norsemen. Wakefield opened the floodgates for North with a grand slam in the third inning and the team followed it with an 11-run fourth inning to seal the win. Isabella Boedeker also had three RBIs in the victory, while Emma Barr was one of three players to have at least three hits.

Barr has surpassed expectations this season as a freshman. Fellow freshman Addie Moses also has impressed at the plate and as a pitcher. Having a pair of strong freshmen on a veteran-led team could prove invaluable for North down the stretch.

"It far exceeded what I had expected and what I had hoped for," Smith said. "It's been a real plus and a pleasant plus for the team and, as freshmen, they fit right in. They've been embraced as strong players."

North hosted Henry Ford II after press time Tuesday, May 13. The Norsemen are home again Thursday, May 15, to take on Anchor Bay at 4:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils began last week with a show-down at home against Port Huron Northern Thursday, May 8. South was unable to keep up with the Huskies in a 15-5 loss. Sophia Husek finished the game with three RBIs all coming from a three-run home run in the fifth inning.

South then moved on

See **SOFTBALL**, page 6D

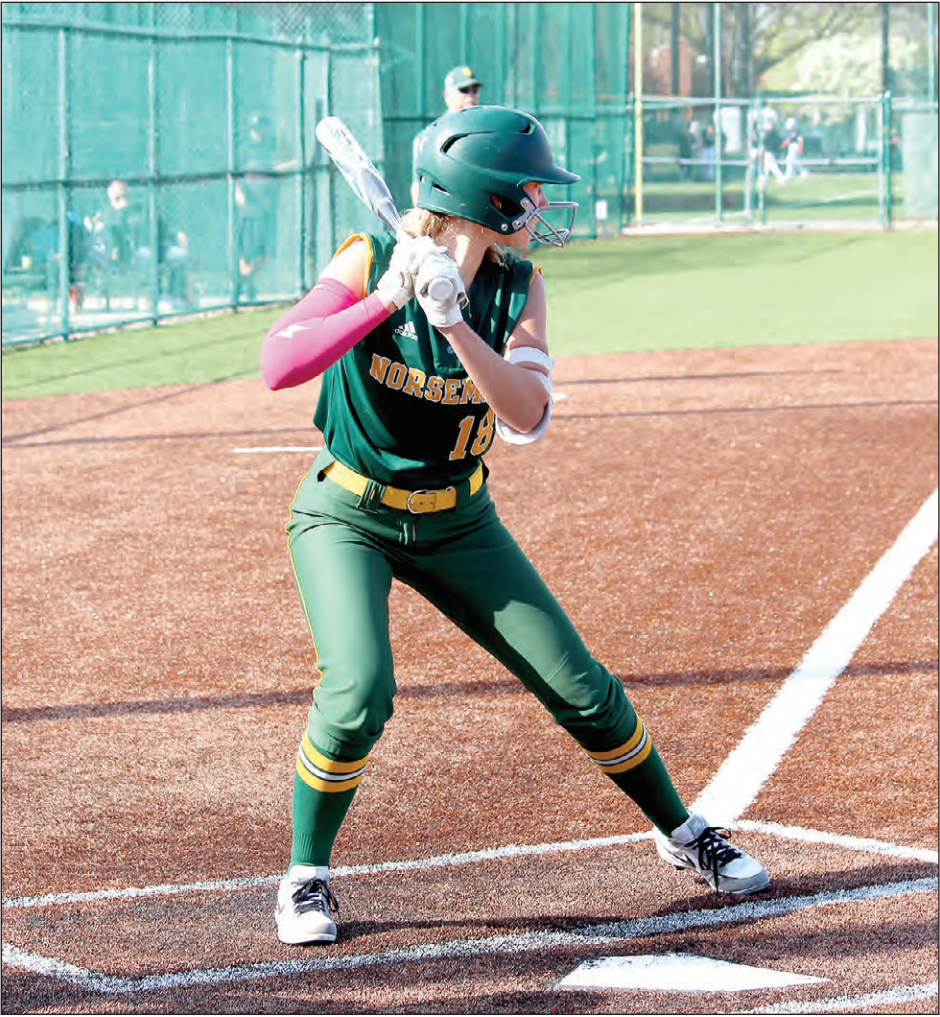


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Elliott Jarvi had two hits for North in the team's 16-1 win over L'Anse Creuse North Saturday, May 10.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

they'll move around and it'll still help the team. It's about shifting to less of an individual mindset."

Wakefield has learned to trust in her teammates more each year. Some of them she has been alongside for quite some time. She and her fellow seniors on this year's team have been together at North four years and, for many of them, it goes even beyond that, back to their days playing Little League.

"It's like we're a big family," Wakefield said. "Everyone is so welcoming and everyone brings each other up. We all teach each other new things. Hitting is contagious on our team. If you get on, the next person wants to get on for that person or, if you get out, the next person wants to pick you up. We all have this love for each other and believe in each other."

As the calendar gets closer to late May, the postseason looms closer for Wakefield and the Norsemen, with district playoffs set to begin May 31. There are still a couple of weeks' worth of regular-season games left to help the team prepare for the pressure of the postseason. With plenty of

playoff experience in her high school career, Wakefield knows the key to playing the best softball during the most important games is to remain confident and consistent.

"Keeping myself and the other seniors focused because we have a good chance to make it far this year, because we have a really solid team," she said. "Keeping everyone focused and wanting to be there and excited every day that we're there."

If there is anyone the Norsemen are confident can keep the team focused, it is Wakefield. There is a reason she was named a captain last season and this year. No matter what the outcomes end up being late in the season, Wakefield's teammates and coaches at North know she will continue to give her all until the very last out.

"Addie is one of those special players who comes through your program and, as a coach, is the reason you coach," North softball coach Ron Smith said. "Her commitment to herself to be at her best for the team and her passion for the team and her teammates is something to be admired. ... She's somebody who, no matter what you're doing, is going to be there for you and give you 100 percent."

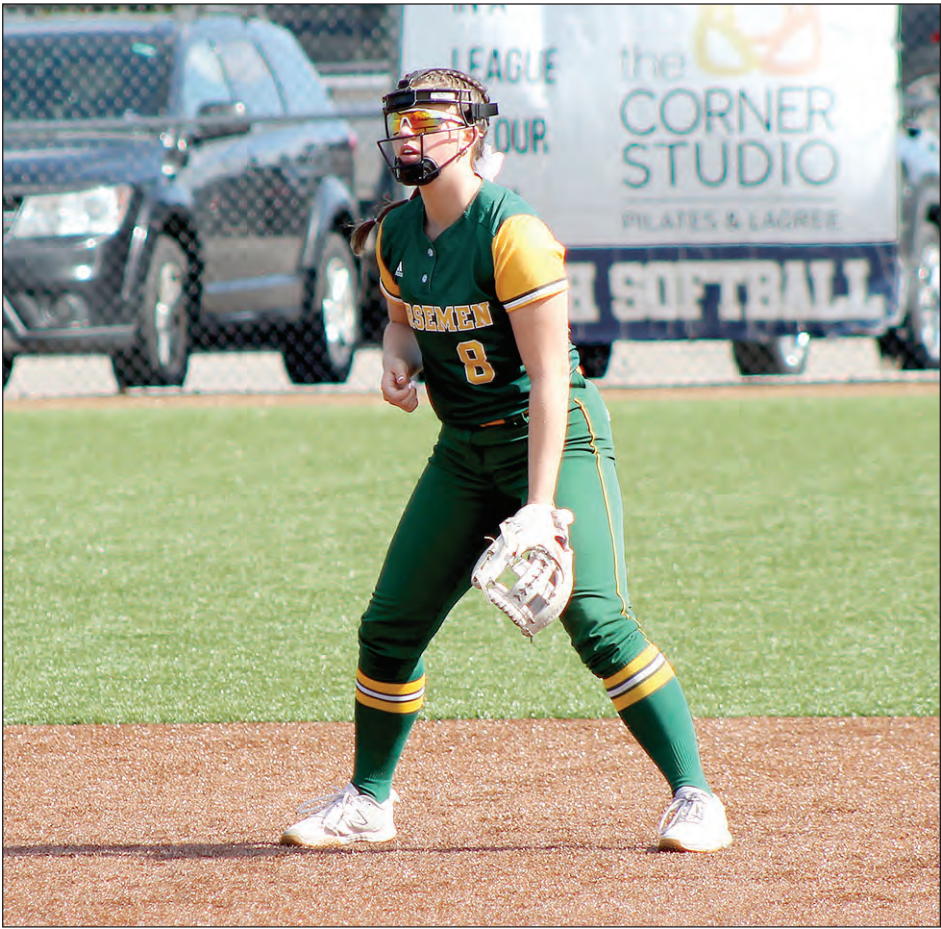


PHOTO BY JOEL JARVI

Wakefield made the transition from second base to shortstop as her primary position for North this season.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

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COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett School girls lacrosse won the CHSL Cardinal Division championship with a 12-11 win over Sacred Heart last Saturday, May 10.

Liggett girls lacrosse captures CHSL title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It has been an exceptional season for the University Liggett School varsity girls lacrosse team. The Knights had an undefeated record heading into the CHSL Cardinal Division championship game Saturday, May 10, against Academy of the Sacred Heart, and looked to remain unde-

feated and bring home some hardware for the trophy case. In thrilling fashion, Liggett achieved one of its biggest goals: being named Catholic League champion with a narrow 12-11 win over Sacred Heart. “It was an exciting game and I am so proud of the girls,” Liggett girls lacrosse coach Amanda Amine said. “It was a true team effort

and so much fun to be a part of. The game really had a ‘championship game energy.’ ... The girls handled the pressure extremely well and played with confidence, even as Sacred Heart made a run in the fourth quarter.” The game went into halftime knotted up at 8-8. Liggett established a lead and pulled ahead in the second half with two goals from Olivia

Marcero and another pair from Aliya Abraham. Abraham finished as the leading scorer with five goals while Marcero had four. Fiona Sierens had a pair of goals and Ally Orlick also found the back of the net once. Winning the Catholic League was a benchmark victory for the Knights. With everything the team has accomplished this sea-

son, being able to lift the league championship trophy, especially after losing in last year’s final, felt like a monumental achievement. “Winning the CHSL championship was our main goal of this season,” Amine said. “We lost in the CHSL championship game last year and we all came together and said this year we needed to get

the job done.” The Knights did end up suffering their first loss of the season Monday, May 12. Liggett hosted Birmingham Seaholm and fell to the Maples 18-6. Liggett hosted Royal Oak after press time Wednesday, May 14. The Knights begin post-season play in the state tournament Thursday, May 22.

Allaer gears up for another go at home race in second year of Indy NXT

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Year one of racing in the INDY NXT series had its highs and lows for Nolan Allaer, but the Grosse Pointe Woods native is hoping to take things to the next level in his second season behind the wheel of the INDY NXT car. The season is still young with plenty of races left, including Allaer’s hometown grand prix in just a few weeks. Even with

the competition getting tougher, every chance he has had to get behind the wheel last season and this year is helping Allaer feel like he is taking the steps he needs to get closer to the podium. “We’ve attracted a lot of really strong rookies to the field, so the series itself is way more competitive than it’s ever been,” Allaer said. “It’s a good challenge to have. One thing I know we’ve needed to work on is our qualifying pace ... and

also getting ready for the fitness aspect. When I first started the series, I don’t want to say (I was) unprepared for the level of physicality of the car, but it’s something you don’t really know until you do it for the first time, but now I know what it takes to drive the cars and the tracks.” The first couple of races of Allaer’s second season in INDY NXT did not quite see the results he and his team likely wanted. He finished near the bottom of the grid at both the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and the Grand Prix of Alabama, and was 16th in the first Indianapolis Grand Prix race last Friday, May 9.

However, every weekend is a new opportunity for better results. One thing Allaer focuses on is consistency, with his goals remaining the same and his work ethic being diligent as ever as he tries to achieve them. “We want to keep the same goals as we had last year of always finishing the weekend faster than we started it,” he said. “We always want to be learning. That’s the biggest key in motorsports. You have to be pushing always because the person behind you is pushing just as hard. ... Going into this year, we want to start looking into getting top fives and podiums as soon as possible. It’s something we know we can do through our



COURTESY PHOTO

Nolan Allaer from Grosse Pointe Woods is currently in his second season racing in the Indy NXT series and will race in the Indy NXT Detroit Grand Prix Sunday, June 1.

testing. We know we have the pace. It’s just a matter of putting together a complete weekend.” Perhaps that perfect weekend will come June 1, when Allaer races in the INDY NXT Detroit Grand Prix. The race once again will be run on the streets of downtown Detroit in a course Allaer feels he knows like the back of his hand. The buildup to his hometown race week-

end also brings plenty of hometown support for Allaer. He has formed partnerships with different Detroit-based brands and has seen his hometown take pride in him just like he takes pride in his Detroit origins. “I always make the joke that I’m the only driver on the grid with a 313 phone number and it really is my home race, getting to sleep in my own bed,” Allaer said. “... To see the city

endorse me in the way that it has and have our Detroit partners like National Coney Island, Faygo and the Detroit Lions, and getting to do all these amazing things like throw out the first pitch at a Tigers game, it’s nothing you ever expect to happen and it’s just been unbelievable.” The INDY NXT Detroit Grand Prix is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 1, and will air on Fox Sports 1.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Nolan Allaer shares a pre-race hug with his father, Rob Allaer, ahead of the 2024 Indy NXT Detroit Grand Prix.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school spring sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

MOTHER'S DAY TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE PUENTE WINKLER

The 12U Warstic team celebrates with their championship medals at the Grosse Pointe News Mother's Day tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM CRANDALL

The Lakeside Phillies were champions of the 10U division at the Grosse Pointe News Mother's Day tournament last weekend.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

GIRLS SOCCER

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls soccer earned a dominant rivalry win over Grosse Pointe North last Wednesday, May 7, with the Blue Devils winning 8-0. Ava Pappas scored twice for South while Brooke Hepner, Savannah Spangler, Sydney Hoffman, Lilia Moussiaux, Lila Brundage and Jill Adams all found the back of the net as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM CRANDALL

The Grosse Pointe Sluggers ended up on top of the 11U division at the Grosse Pointe News Mother's Day tournament.

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COURTESY PHOTO

South track victorious at Marysville

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys track and field team finished in first place at the Marysville Invite last Friday, May 9, winning the event for the third year in a row. Tethyan McKenzie helped propel South to the victory by winning both the 1600 and 3200. Sprinter Zach Wilson was first in the 200 and second in the 100. The Blue Devils’ varsity girls track and field team also took first place at Marysville, completing a sweep for South on the day.

BASEBALL:

Continued from page 1D

RBI. Brandon Keyes got the win on the mound, pitching all seven innings with six strikeouts and five hits allowed.

The Norsemen took

the rubber match of the series with St. Clair on the road Thursday, May 8. Three RBIs from Jacob Jarackas and another strong performance on the mound, this time by Max Praet, helped propel North to the 5-1 win. Praet tossed seven innings and struck

out eight St. Clair batters while allowing only one run on six hits. North then split a pair of weekend games Saturday, May 10. The first game was a 12-1 loss to Notre Dame Prep, with Trevor Lipscomb driving in the only run for the

Norsemen.

In Saturday’s second game, North bounced back to win 12-1 over Mount Pleasant. Deshawn Edwards had a banner day at the plate with three hits and five RBIs, including a two-run home run. He also was the winning pitcher, throwing five innings and surrendering just one run on two hits.

University Liggett

The Knights began last week with a dominant 18-5 win over Ecorse Tuesday, May 6.

Deagan Barr had three RBIs, while Javion Gray, Kanaan Taylor, Luca Marciano and Marc Abdul-Nour each brought in a pair of runs as well.

Liggett’s next game was another victory, but this time in a much closer and more exciting fashion. The Knights hosted Northville Friday, May 9, and won 6-5 thanks to a walk-off RBI single by Ben Wehrmann in the seventh inning.

The momentum from the walk-off victory was not enough to carry

Liggett to another win Saturday, May 10. The Knights hosted Cardinal Mooney and battled into extra innings, but ultimately the Cardinals ended up on top 5-4. Taylor, Jackson Fetter and Ravi Hines all had RBIs for Liggett in the loss.

The Knights hosted Detroit Western after press time Wednesday, May 14. They take the diamond again Saturday, May 17, at home for a doubleheader against Bloomfield Hills starting at 11 a.m.

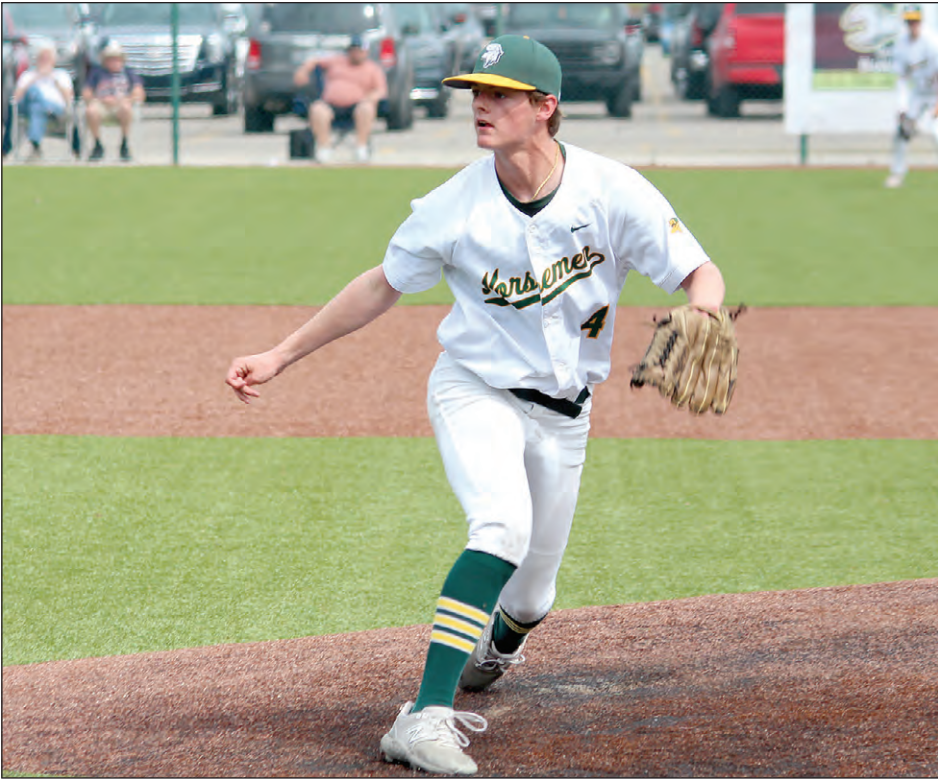


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North starting pitcher Shane Ulferts follows through from a pitch against South Monday, May 12.

SOFTBALL:

Continued from page 2D

to a series of games Saturday, May 10, that saw the team add a few tallies to the win column. The first game of the day was a 9-0 win for the Blue Devils over Melvindale. Kate Dixon had three RBIs, while Husek got the win on the mound, pitching 4.2 innings and striking out 13 batters in the shutout victory.

The Blue Devils kept the clean sheet going in the next game with a 4-0 victory over Royal Oak. Another stellar pitching performance, this time by Makenzie Waterson, helped lead the way for South. The sophomore pitched six innings and surrendered only one hit while tallying 13 strikeouts.

While South eventually did end up surrendering some runs in its next game last Saturday, the Blue Devils still were victorious 10-7 over Bishop Foley. Junior Piper

Obermok had three RBIs coming from a three-run home run in the fourth inning. Maddie Agnone also ended the game with a pair of runs coming in from her bat.

After three straight wins on the day, South was unable to finish it perfectly as the day ended with a 4-1 loss to Lutheran North. Mackenzie Simon brought in the lone run for the Blue Devils in the loss.

South was able to get back to its winning ways Monday, May 12, with a victory on the road at Marine City. The Blue Devils won 5-2, with Simon helping to lead the way with three RBIs on four hits. Waterson had another standout pitching performance, going all seven innings and allowing two runs on three hits with 13 strikeouts.

The Blue Devils faced off against L’Anse Creuse in a doubleheader after press time Wednesday, May 14. The team goes on the road again

Monday, May 19, for a matchup against Port Huron Northern.

University Liggett

The Knights took on St. Catherine Siena in a doubleheader Friday, May 9, with Liggett dropping both games. The first game was a narrow 2-1 loss to the Stars. Keegan Price brought in Liggett’s only run at the plate and pitched all six innings, allowing three hits and two runs with nine strikeouts.

The second game of the doubleheader was not as close as the first, with the Stars dominating 11-1. The Knights only managed one hit in the loss.

Liggett suffered another loss Monday, May 12, when the team went on the road to face Lakeview. The Knights were kept off the scoreboard completely with an 8-0 loss.

The Knights are back in action on the diamond Thursday, May 15, going on the road to take on Regina.



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The Grosse Pointe News is proud to announce our new social media page completely dedicated to bringing you the best sports news and moments from around the Pointes. @GPNewssports on Instagram is where you will be able to find instant updates from the biggest games and amazing highlights from athletes and teams at every level from youth sports to high school freshman, JV and varsity.

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