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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Village sidewalk sale this weekend

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The Streetside Sale-ebriation — previously known as The Village's sidewalk sale — is back this weekend from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, July 26, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 27.

"We're shaking things up a little bit," Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock said, "because the primary focus is the sidewalk sale and people shopping at all our great local businesses and getting a really good deal, but we want to have activities for people who come down with their families to keep them a little bit busy. And of course dining opportunities."

In addition to sales at the majority of Village businesses and a hand-

ful of outside vendors, there will be face painting, the foam factory will make a return and Saturday will feature Karza, Queen of the Fire Dragons — an animatronic puppet and LED light show with more than 2,000 lights.

"It's like living art," Willcock said, adding parents can check her out at Dragonvisit.com. "She talks, dances and encourages people to touch her, pose and take selfies with her."

In acknowledgement of the Main Street Mini Masters returning for its second year in September, there also will be one mini golf hole for attendees to check out and where foursome tickets may be pre-purchased.

Ridge Crest, which closed in January, also will be back in The Village with a pop-up.

See SALE, page 5A



From left, Sgt. Mike Ryan, Sgt. Kris Desmydral, Lt. Matthew Hurner and Public Safety Director John Hutchins.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

New shifts lead to more promotions

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The recent ratification of a new contract with the Farms public safety department's command union transitioned department leadership from eight-hour to 12-hour shifts, creating three new openings for supervisory-level positions.

Lt. Matthew Hurner and Sgts. Kris Desmydral and Mike Ryan were honored with a ceremonial swearing-in ceremony before their families and city council Monday, July 14.

"These gentlemen performed admirably in the promotional process, consisting of an oral exam; oral board interviews comprised of police and fire command officers from outside of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods; and internal eval-



Sgt. Mike Ryan's wife, Katie, pins his badge.

uations from Grosse Pointe Farms command staff," Public Safety Director John Hutchins said. "We greatly appreciate the ability to publicly recognize the appointment of new leaders to the department of public safety."

Hurner joined the Farms department in

September 2001, bringing experience as an officer with the Woods, as well as past part-time positions in Memphis and Capac. He currently additionally serves in a part-time position in Gale.

"Matt's a busy guy," Hutchins said. "Over the course of his long career, he has served as a para-

medic, FTO, distinguished member of the honor guard, firearms instructor and as adjunct faculty member and teaching assistant at both Macomb Police Academy and Fire Academy.

"In his spare time, he has worked tirelessly to

See SHIFTS, page 4A

BoE votes on CFO salary range

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education approved one of two resolutions at its meeting Monday, July 14, to increase the salary range as it attempts to fill its chief financial officer position, although not to the level administrators think it will take to find a quality candidate.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Trustees Clint Derringer and Tim Klepp, raises the salary band to \$145,000 to \$180,000. Superintendent Andrea

See RANGE, page 8A

New park pass application method

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In-person applications for park passes are being handled at Windmill Pointe Park.

Upon applications being processed and approved, applicants now pick up their passes at Windmill's outer, drive-up gatehouse at the foot of Windmill Pointe Drive.

"To apply in person, go to the Lavins Activity Center front desk Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.,"

said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "There's an option to apply online or, if you want the convenience of stopping down and applying in person, you can do that as well."

Online applications are through the city's website, grossepointe.org. Regardless of the application method, in person or online, passes are picked up at the park. Passes are no longer issued at city hall.

The procedure began Monday, July 21, and replaces one that allowed in-person applications to be submitted at both the park and city hall.

Consolidation at Windmill is intended to simplify the process. "People are going to the park anyway," City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler said. "It makes it more convenient for residents."

The only twist in the tale is sometimes passes may be available at the Lavins Center instead of the gatehouse. "We've been doing online applications and

dropping off passes at the gatehouse for people to pick them up," Bowdler said. "Now, they can either do it online and pick up passes at the front gate, the same way as before, or, Monday through Friday, you can go to the park and they will print passes onsite for you."

"Depending on traffic flow, if you are applying in person, you can get it at that time," Craig said. "If you do it online, allow for a few days

See PASS, page 5A

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Pointer of INTEREST

Ron Tyjenski
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Landscape and adventurer

See story, page 4A



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2A | BUSINESS

Pendy's permanently closed

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Pendy's Grosse Pointe has closed permanently, a little more than three months after filing for bankruptcy protection.

"As you can imagine, I'm quite emotional about closing the restaurant and losing our dream," Susan Pendy posted on social media July 11. "I truly appreciate all the love and support from the community and our guests. We have had many challenges to overcome and unfortunately, I just can't do it anymore. Perhaps I'll write a book... The truth always prevails. So, as always,

continue to enjoy life... Eat out often and wear pink."

Pendy could not be reached for comment.

In filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March, Pendy said she intended to keep the restaurant open, listing liabilities between \$100,001 and \$500,000 to 27 creditors, including herself.

"We're in the process of reorganizing," she said at the time. "We're also trying to get things straightened out with the banquet room."

Pendy had found out the banquet room and one-third of the kitchen in the building that housed the restaurant has a separate owner from the rest of the

kitchen and dining room.

The building also is for sale.

"We can't come to an agreement on a lease," she added at the time. "Our hands are tied."

According to the IRS, Chapter 11 bankruptcy is designed to help businesses that are struggling financially but have the potential to be viable again. It allows them to negotiate with creditors, propose a plan to repay debts and continue operating while working through the process. It differs from Chapter 7 bankruptcy, which includes liquidating assets to pay off as much debt as possible.

Pendy in April said the restaurant was doing

well Friday and Saturday nights, but was slow during the week. Its Facebook page touted dinner specials and live music the four days leading up to the closure.

Pendy and her late husband, David, opened the restaurant at 20930 Mack in June 2023, two months before he passed away. They owned The Hill Seafood and Chop House from 2000 to 2003, which was named metro Detroit restaurant of the year by the Detroit Free Press and Hour Magazine in 2001.

The couple then spent two decades running country clubs in Michigan, Missouri and Maryland before returning to the Pointes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Dental symposium celebrates 25 years

The 25th anniversary celebration for the Grosse Pointe Ralph F. Sommer Endodontic Symposium, with the theme, "Bridging Pediatric Dentistry and Endodontics," takes place Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

The event opens at 7 a.m. with Grosse Pointe Farms native and recent Hope College graduate Marella Piazza, an award-winning soprano, singing the national

anthem.

In addition, the symposium will include a continental breakfast and barbecue lunch, as well as lectures from dental specialists, Joe Camp, DDS, M.S.; Jeff Johnston, DDS, M.S.; Susan Paurazas, DDS, M.S.; Patricia Klarr, M.D.; and Wilson Chimbara, M.D.

The symposium provides seven continuing education credits and includes two hours mandatory

licensure continuing education for pain management.

The day-long symposium is chaired by George Goodis, DDS, M.S., and co-chaired by Gerald Halk, DDS, M.S.

The registration fee is \$395; special discounted fees are available for University of Michigan and University Detroit Mercy dental faculty.

For more information or to register, visit rfes.org.

Passing the gavel

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Administrator Dennis Hyduk, left, and incoming President Mark Heppner, right, at Ford House June 24.

The weekly Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary meeting took on a festive atmosphere as Sandra Cobb presided over her last meeting as president. She recounted a few of the many club achievements in the last 12 months as she passed the gavel.

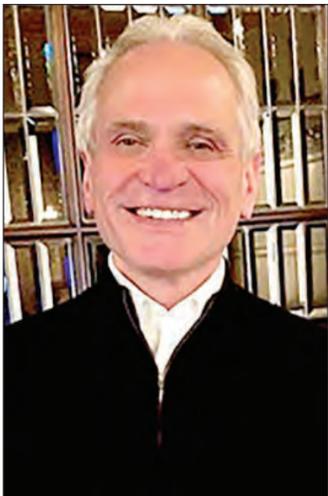
Locally, Sunrise supported the Grosse Pointe Woods safe drug disposal program, Kids on the Go, Grace Community Church, The Family Center, Grosse Pointe North High School's Interact Club, Pierce Elementary School's choir and presented college scholarships to 16 Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods high school students.

The Grosse Pointe Run, sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club, is the club's main fundraiser for its scholarship program. This year's Grosse Pointe Run takes place Sept. 20. Register at grossepointerun.com.

Bury named Notable Leader in Philanthropy by Crain's Detroit Business

New leader announced at Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford

Grosse Pointe Park resident Bob Bury has been named a 2025 Notable Leader in Philanthropy by Crain's Detroit Business. Bury was recognized for his contributions to numerous nonprofit organizations, most recently as president and CEO of Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford, where he oversaw the ongoing restoration and reimagination of the historic estate in Dearborn.



Left, Bob Bury recently was named a Notable Leader in Philanthropy by Crain's Detroit Business. Right, Devon O'Reilly was named as Bury's successor as president and CEO of Fair Lane: Home of Clara and Henry Ford.



honor. In 2024, Fair Lane was recognized as one of metro Detroit's Best Places to Work by Crain's.

Prior to joining Fair Lane, Bury served as executive director and CEO of the Detroit Historical Society, the nonprofit entity that manages the Detroit Historical Museum, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the expansive Collections Resource Center, for nearly two decades. During that time, the organization was reimagined and transformed, successfully completing the Past>Forward comprehensive campaign, a major step toward achieving financial sustainability.

In addition to his professional achievements, Bury has served as board chairman or trustee in a number of community organizations, including the Dominican Literacy Center, Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public

Education, Midtown Foundation, Schaap Detroit and Culture Center for the Source: The Cultural Performing Arts and Coalition. Currently, he serves on the board of and Detroit Athletic Club Foundation.

"The transformation of my great-grandparents' home over the past several years has been nothing short of extraordinary," said Edsel B. Ford II, Fair Lane's board chairman.

"Thanks to Bob's leadership and the talent and dedication of his incredible team, we are quickly approaching the day when the residence, powerhouse and magnificent grounds will be ready for the public to

experience and enjoy." The board of trustees recently named Devon O'Reilly as Bury's successor. O'Reilly, a lifelong resident of Dearborn and previously a senior director at the Detroit Regional Chamber, has assumed the role of president and CEO and is working closely with Bury during this transition.

Bury expressed his sincere appreciation to the leadership team at Fair Lane for nominating him for the Crain's



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Meet the Governor

Attending the Rotary District 6400 "Meet the Governor" dinner June 10, in Harrow, Ontario, Canada, were Ted Everingham and Brandon Elliott of the Grosse Pointe PM Rotary Club, and Bob Grambo of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club, along with outgoing District Gov. Nick Krayacich. The Grosse Pointe clubs are part of the International Rotary District of 50 individual clubs in southeast Michigan and Ontario. Rotarians value the fellowship and service aspects of membership, along with the 2025-26 focus of "Unite for Good." Membership is open to women and men interested in "service above self" in the community. Contact dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for information on Rotary membership.

Correction

The article, "Roll call: Project seeks community input," published in the July 17 Grosse Pointe News, should have read The War Memorial plans to publish the book in conjunction with Memorial Day 2026.

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SROs attend national conference

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND WOODS — School might be out for summer, but the public safety officers who protect them are still learning.

The school resource officers who work in the Farms and Woods attended the National Association of School Resource Officers convention in Grapevine, Texas, July 5 to 12.

"This was their 35th year and they said they had close to 4,000 people," said Farms PSO Jim LaBeau, who works at Grosse Pointe South High School. "There were people there from all different size districts, chiefs of police, even school board members and superintendents. They had just 300 people at their very first conven-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Farms Public Safety Officers Jon Ross, left, and Jim LaBeau at the National Association of School Resource Officers convention in Texas.

tion."

Woods PSO Jeff Martel, who works at Grosse Pointe North High School, said his key takeaway from the conference was a deeper understanding of online

platforms.

"Students are engaging in ways adults often aren't aware of," he said. "There are plenty of sites they can use to bypass school safety filters for things like chatting and sharing inappropriate content."

Martel said even systems like Xbox and PlayStation can be used for more than just gaming.

"One thing I'd like to do is put on some safety training sessions for parents," Martel said. "They need to be aware of this."

Farms PSO Jon Ross, who covers middle, elementary and private schools there, agreed about the influence of social media.



Woods PSO Jeff Martel

"Twenty years ago you might have a kid put another kid in a locker and that was that," he said. "Now, you can have a whole group of kids gang up and bully someone on social media non-stop."

Martel agreed, saying social media issues take up about 50 percent of his time.

Ross said he also enjoyed hearing a talk by

Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, a former Army officer who speaks on reducing violence and dealing with the aftermath of school shootings and is against violent video games he thinks train children to use guns and harden them emotionally to violence.

"He talked about everything that has happened since Columbine," Ross said, "what has changed and what still needs to change."

Another breakout session involved an SRO who talked about how best to connect to students.

"He developed a relationship with a struggling student and even now, at 30 years old, the guy still calls him for advice," Ross said. "We have to know how to talk to students to let them know they're safe."

LaBeau said it's just as

important for SROs to develop relationships with school staff.

"You have to work closely with them so they trust you," he said, "so they feel comfortable telling you if they're worried about a kid."

As for building relationships with students, LaBeau said the key is to not come across as intimidating.

"You can't treat them like criminals," he said. "We want them to know we have their back so they can come to us."

Martel said he learned about some technology he would like to see implemented here.

"Some districts have AI-monitoring software that can pick up on certain words or phrases on school-issued devices," he said. "Others have vape detectors."

Next year's conference will be held in Reno, Nev.

Sponsors sought for pool complex fundraiser

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — An open bar with strolling hors d'oeuvres catered by Waves and music by Uncle Brown and ME will set the stage for the annual Grosse Pointe Farms

"Come Play with Us" fundraiser.

Set to a Paloma Paradise theme, the sunset party is 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Pier Park beach and pool deck. As a continuation of last year's fundraiser, proceeds again aim to fund a portion of the

park's most ambitious improvement project in quite some time: a redesign of the pool complex.

"The fundraiser is the second year of us fundraising for the pool and the whole pool complex," said Nora Ezop, vice president of the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation. "... We are thrilled that this project has happened, because it is so needed."

Last summer, the fundraiser raised around \$175,000 toward the project.

"We would like to write a check to the city for \$500,000, as just a way to say the community backs this up and we're excited," Ezop said.

The foundation currently is marketing sponsorship opportunities for the event, which start at \$250 for the sponsor's name on the invitation and include various other opportunities up to \$25,000 for community banners, social media mentions and branded

cocktail napkins.

"Everything that we raise goes right back to the Farms," Ezop said, noting the sponsorship deadline is Aug. 7.

Tickets are \$75 and, along with sponsorships, may be purchased at tinyurl.com/yzmncpu or via the QR code below.

A silent auction also will offer opportunities for a VIP parking spot at Pier Park for a year, two reserved picnic tables on the Fourth of July for the fireworks show, private pickleball court usage at Pier Park, a spot in the paddle board rack for a year and more.

"This event, this is going to be our fourth

year doing it," Ezop said, "and truthfully every year, it just gets better."

The preliminary plans for a new pool complex will replace the park's pools originally constructed in the 1960s with a main goal of separating the competition pool from the recreational pool.

"They're tired, the equipment is old, there's certain things that have been failing," City Manager Shane Reeside said, "and frankly, some of the newer pools have amenities that are going to be more desirable, like zero-depth entry, and just different features that I think are going to be well received."

A conceptual design presented to the community last summer showed the project scope may include:

- ◆ a separate 25-meter pool for competitive swim with starting blocks (The current pool lanes are 33 meters, which is longer than desired for competi-

tive swim and has made Pier Park unable to host meets);

- ◆ a separate leisure pool with three additional lanes for lap swim, based on a forecasted continued increase of seniors using the pool;

- ◆ the introduction of a lazy river;

- ◆ a larger and relocated tot pool in the location of the current splash pad and which includes splash features; and

- ◆ the addition of an interactive fountain at the entrance to the bathhouse.

"There are some modifications that we've made to that rendering and that will be developed and will be shared with the public during a community meeting, hopefully in the next two months," Reeside said.

The intent, he added, is for the project to commence as early as this year, though construction primarily would occur in 2026.

New tactic to sell Alter lots

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Park officials switched from a real estate specialist to a generalist this month to invigorate the marketing of city-owned property they're trying to sell in Detroit.

Officials retained an agent they described as having broad commercial and residential experience to sell a pack of properties just outside the suburb's border on Alter Road.

"We're changing tactics because a couple of sales didn't work out," said Nick Sizeland, Park city manager. "We're trying something different."

The property — consisting of addresses 2170, 2174, 2180, 2186, 2194, 2226 and 2500 — runs along approximately 300 feet of Alter.

Most lots are north of Kercheval and fill half the block to Vernor. One lot is on the northern corner of Alter and Vernor.

The land had been the site of a landscaping company and supply yard. The rear of the property borders 10 residential lots on Wayburn in the Park.

Terms of the sale are simple: buy one, buy all.

"They're seven parcels, but they would be bought as one whole

SEE LOTS, PAGE 8A



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Peripateticus ambulata

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Ron Tyjenski is a gardener who doesn't like putting down roots.

"I don't think I want to be in any one place for good," he said.

Horticultural analogies embrace Tyjenski.

In some ways, he's an annual, as when studying computer programming for a year until realizing he's not the type.

"I found out I hated it," he said.

In others, he's a perennial, as with his commitment to his daughter, Meryl, now in her mid-20s.

"My daughter has been a love in my life that I had no right to deserve," he said.

Tyjenski wins the trust of big-name landscaping customers at premier addresses by emulating the mighty oak.

"Be an honest person," he said. "What matters to them is having somebody they like and trust, is a hard worker and is willing to learn. That goes a long way. I was tight with old-money families in the area. Word travels fast."

At other times in his life, he's lived on the edge, like a vine.

"A friend of mine and I started a junior gold exploration company in Guyana, South America," Tyjenski said. "We found some."

Diamonds, too. "Canadians owned leases to the land," Tyjenski said. "But they didn't have money to develop it. We raised a bunch of funds with friends putting in their Las Vegas money."

The story is part "Treasure of the Sierra Madra" and "The Maltese Falcon" with a dash of Robin Hood.

"We developed the company for a couple years," Tyjenski said.

Founders privately issued shares of penny stock that went public.

"When shares shot up to \$2, one of our investors (owner of one of the Pointe's grandest estates and a Tyjenski landscape customer) said maybe we should sell," Tyjenski said. "I said, 'No way. This could go to \$7.' He smiled, laughed, put his arm around me, pumped his fist and said, 'Attaboy.'"

Shares went up, then down. That's life.

"We had an exit strategy," Tyjenski said. "We took a reverse split and merged with an offshore oil exploration company that leased between Suriname and Venezuela."

Seismic studies indicated oil at a depth of 3,600 feet.

"Let's drill," Tyjenski remembers saying. "At the time, there was only one country that could build an offshore oil platform that could drill at that depth. France. They floated it down."

This was during the regime of corrupt Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez.

"We were getting ready to set up and Chavez sent out his gunboats and said, no, we're not going to allow this," Tyjenski said.

The excuse was a border dispute between Venezuela and Suriname.

"We got Chavez to agree to arbitration," Tyjenski said. "We won, but he wouldn't abide by it. It's all about money. We had to cut him in for a bigger piece of the pie. Shares were going up in price. I figured it might be a good time to sell. We made money."

Tyjenski lives in Grosse Pointe Farms and almost everywhere the sun shines.

"I like the snowbird lifestyle," he said.

It requires fast forwarding and zig-zagging to get through Tyjenski's travels and adventures. A straight-line chronicle is out of the question. Yet,

each vignette is comprehensive in its representation of his spirit and outlook on life.

"It's the challenge of life," he said. "That's what gets me out of bed in the morning."

He grew up in St. Clair Shores and graduated from Lutheran High School East in the late 1970s.

A classmate's connection with the Charles F. Irish Landscaping company led to him establishing a landscaping business of his own and enrolling in Ferris State College.

"The father of a buddy of mine was an executive at IBM," Tyjenski said. "He said if I went to college and got a dual degree in data processing and marketing, he'd get me a job as a sales rep at IBM. After a programming class, I figured that's not what I wanted to do. I was advised that the programming languages I was learning in 1980 would be obsolete within a year."

Time to change majors and, why not, schools, too.

"I transferred to Michigan State University where I graduated with an advertising degree," Tyjenski said.

But not before an Alaskan interlude.

"One day I got a knock on my dorm door," Tyjenski said. "Low and behold, it was my best friend. He'd dropped out of Central Michigan University to earn money in Alaska. 'What have you been doing?' I asked him. He grinned, rubbed two fingers together and said, 'Making lots of money.' The next thing I knew, I was moving to the bush."

Tyjenski dropped anchor in Bethel, on the Kuskokwim River. He described the place as "a good drinking village with a fishing problem."

"I ate king salmon almost every day and never got tired of it," he

said.

It was easy getting a job paying more than five times the minimum wage in Michigan. There was no income tax in Alaska. Residents received oil company dividend checks from the state. Even with milk costing \$5 per gallon, income accumulated fast.

"I saved lots of money, came back, was able to pay for all of my school and bought a white Corvette," Tyjenski said. "It wasn't much trouble getting a date with that car."

His license plate read, "TY-1-ON," a play on his nickname, Ty.

"On Lakeshore one day a cop pulled me over," Tyjenski said. "Smiling and shaking his head, he said, 'Don't worry. You're not in trouble. I saw that license plate and had to ask what it's about.' I said, 'Tie one on for safety, officer — buckle up.' I eventually named my Laser sailboat, 'Ty one on' and kept it at Bayview Yacht Club, where I was a member for 15 years."

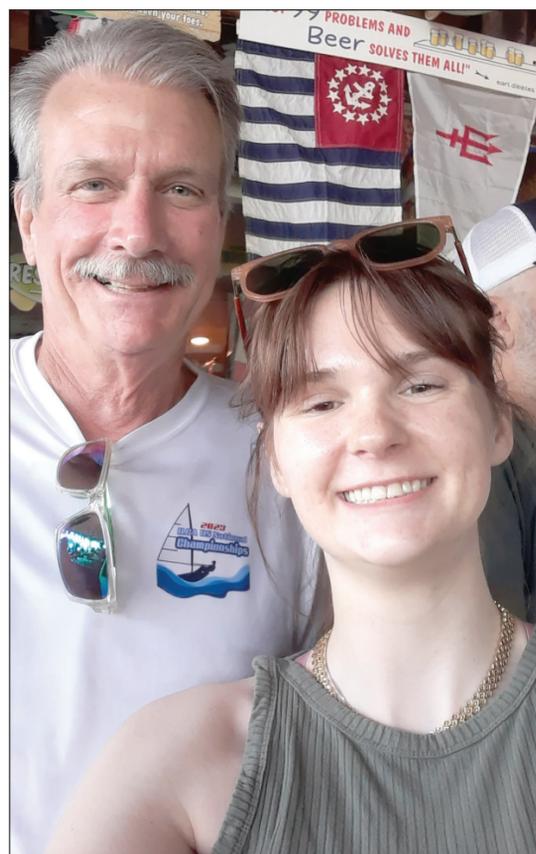
He never went into the advertising business despite being a distinguished student.

Tyjenski said, "I remember a professor shaking my hand at the end of my senior year telling me no one had ever won campaign class awards back-to-back. 'So, tell me your future plans in advertising.'"

Tyjenski didn't have the heart to be honest. "Advertising was like pulling teeth," Tyjenski said. "There was a lot of in-fighting and people trying to take credit for work they didn't do."

He continued growing his landscaping and gardening business.

"When winter came, I went to La Jolla, California," he said. "It's probably my favorite area of the country. In the evening, everybody migrates down to the



COURTESY PHOTO

Ron Tyjenski and his daughter, Meryl.

beach to watch the big ball drop and see if they can experience the green flash. Everybody's so active: bike riding, walking, Frisbee, golf. It's a great lifestyle."

While establishing operations out West, his Michigan employees kept things going.

"It's a neat trick to run a business 2,000 miles away," Tyjenski said.

Eventually he consolidated while also traveling back and forth to Michigan, going back and forth to Florida and returning to Alaska where work went in a completely new direction.

"I did substitute teaching," he said. "I decided to work on a second degree in education."

He taught mostly high school and, although baffled by the subject, mathematics.

"I never considered math to be a subject I was good at," he said. "But, between myself and the smartest kid in the class, we usually figured out what the answer was."

Back to California. Back to Florida. Back to Michigan. Back to Alaska, where he met the woman with whom he had his daughter.

"I had to go to Alaska to meet a blonde from Florida," Tyjenski said.

A singer-songwriter in a Florida bar overheard Tyjenski telling the story.

"He offered to pay me the rights to that expression," Tyjenski said. "I said, 'No, buy me a beer and it's yours.' I'm not sure what came of it."

Tyjenski is in Michigan for now. He's in season, horticulturally speaking, busy with business, logging experiences and making friends.

"If you live and work in Grosse Pointe long enough, you meet everybody eventually," he said. "This landscaping business is my favorite thing — providing a needed service, beautifying the neighborhood, where the customer is both appreciative and we both can feel good about the result. It's a win-win."

SHIFTS:

Continued from page 1A

acquire federal surplus equipment for the public safety department."

Hurner was promoted to sergeant in December 2021.

"It's the pension and the people that have kept me here," he said.

Desmydral was accom-

panied to the ceremony by his son, Isaac, and father, retired battalion chief John Desmydral from the St. Clair Shores Fire Department, who pinned his badge.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work toward bettering anything that I've complained about in the past," Desmydral said of his new supervisory position.

The officer transitioned to the Farms department in June 2016, with past experience with the Detroit Police Department and as a former EMT with MedStar.

Through the last nine years with the department, he's served as an officer, fire inspector and fire investigator, "which is the equivalent of a fire department detective," Hutchins said.

"Hailing from a family of distinguished firefighters, Kris consistently brings passion and dedication to his service to Grosse Pointe Farms," he added.

Ryan started with the Farms in October 2018, with past experience as an officer in Almont and Dryden. The sergeant also works as a paid-on-call paramedic firefighter in Utica, where he served the last four years as a city councilman.

"I knew I was possibly getting promoted so I ended up not running for re-election and ended back in December on council," he said.

In the Farms, he has trained new officers, con-



Lt. Matthew Hurner's wife, Gail, pins his badge.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Sgt. Kris Desmydral's father, retired battalion chief John Desmydral from the St. Clair Shores Fire Department, and son, Isaac, pin his badge.

ducts various department-wide training sessions as a certified fire instructor and has been instrumental in securing grants and procuring equipment for the department.

"I want the department moving in the right direction," he said, "providing the best service for our residents, making sure

that we're properly trained and prepared for all situations, both police and fire, and giving all our guys the best tools possible to provide the best service to our residents."

Last month, the Farms department also saw the promotions of Lt. Tim Harris and Sgt. Derek Lazarski.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Bank fraud

Two fraudulent transactions totaling \$302.49 were made from a 67-year-old Farms woman's PNC Bank account Tuesday, July 15.

Slept through it

A homeowner in the 400 block of Madison discovered the doors to his son's vehicle had been opened and left ajar at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, July 16.

It appeared nothing of substance was taken, but officers did not confirm with the man's son at the time because he was sleeping.

Traffic warrant

A 35-year-old Grosse Pointe man was turned over to the Park on a traffic warrant at 12:07 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, after being pulled over at Lakeshore and Provençal for driving an uninsured vehicle.

Double arrest

A 45-year-old Detroit woman was arrested on a felony warrant for shoplifting in Chesterfield after she was pulled over at Mack and Radnor at 10:32 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, for an expired license plate.

The passenger, a 43-year-old Westland man, was arrested for dangerous drugs when prescription pill bottles were found bearing his name and containing 69 assorted controlled prescription pills. He also was carrying \$530 in cash.

Stolen Jeep

A locked 2006 white Jeep Grand Cherokee L was stolen from the 300 block of McKinley between 5 and 6 a.m. Thursday, July 17.

Marijuana mishap

After making a wide turn and hitting a curb in the Kerby and Beaupre intersection at 6:09 p.m. Friday, July 18, a 20-year-old Eastpointe man told the officer he was dis-

tracted by following the GPS on his phone.

The vehicle contained the odor of burnt marijuana and a clear jar of the substance could be seen in the backseat.

The man was cited for distracted driving and possessing marijuana at 18 to 21.

No parking near hydrant

A 50-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving while intoxicated at 11:02 p.m. Saturday, July 19, after he was found disoriented in the driver's seat of a vehicle that was lodged against a fire hydrant near Moross Place and Moross Road.

Collision

After playing a role in a two-car collision at Bournemouth Drive and Mack at 6:15 p.m. Sunday, July 20, a 43-year-old Dexter man was arrested for heroin possession, narcotic equipment and parole violation.

The man already was on parole for home invasion, receiving stolen property and other felony crimes.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Fraud

Several fraudulent transactions were made from a Grosse Pointe man's Citizen's Bank account — including deposits, transfers and crypto — between Friday, July 11, and Thursday, July 17.

An investigation is ongoing.

Suspended license

A license plate check at noon Tuesday, July 15, showed a 34-year-old Detroit man driving at

Mack and Lincoln had a suspended driver's license, for which he was cited.

A second person — a 33-year-old Detroit woman — was stopped at Mack and Washington and cited for the same reason at 1 p.m. Friday, July 18.

Deposit scam

A Grosse Pointe man was scammed into withdrawing money from his Chase Bank account and depositing it into an unknown account at 3 p.m. Friday, July 18.

Hospital trouble

An employee at an area hospital reported receiving multiple threats from a coworker Friday, July 18.

The same day, a patient reported his wallet was stolen while he was in surgery. He received notifications about his credit card being used.

An investigation is ongoing.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Groovy bike theft

This is how the incident is reported in colloquial English:

A black and orange Outride mountain bike, valued at \$100, was stolen during the day or early evening Tuesday, July 15, while parked unsecured on the front porch in the 1400 block of Nottingham.

This is how the incident was reported when fed through the hippie translator option of anythingtranslate.com:

Hey, man! A groovy black and orange Outride mountain bike, worth a century of bucks, went missing on that mellow day or chill evening, July 15, just hanging loose on the front porch in the

1400 block of Nottingham, man.

Snatched

A man reported his wallet missing from his unlocked work vehicle parked late morning Thursday, July 17, in the area of Maryland and Hampton.

"(His) credit card was used to pay an unknown Cricket Wireless phone bill," police said.

Hippie style: Hey man, some dude lost his groove wallet from his ride parked free and easy late mornin' on July 17, by Maryland and Hampton vibes. The cops said someone used his credit to score a mystery Cricket Wireless bill, man.

Trimmers taken

The unknown driver of a Mazda CR was described last week stealing two RedMax commercial trimmers worth a combined \$750 in the 900 block of Bedford.

Police said the theft happened at 12:42 p.m. Thursday, July 17.

They outlined the suspect as a black male of medium build wearing a white T-shirt and purple shorts.

Drunken drivers

Two drivers with blood alcohol levels exceeding the state's 0.08 percent limit to legally operate a motor vehicle made it easy for police to arrest them last week, according to reports.

At 9:35 p.m. Thursday, July 17, an officer pulled over a 26-year-old Detroit woman on Mack near Yorkshire for speeding, swerving and hitting a vehicle stopped at a red light.

"(She) was found to be intoxicated with preliminary breath test results of 0.27 (percent)," according to the arresting officer.

At 3:03 a.m. Sunday, July 20, a patrol officer found a 33-year-old male

motorist from Detroit passed out at the wheel of a vehicle on Wayburn at St. Paul.

"The officer awoke the driver and put (him) through a field sobriety test," according to an investigator. "(The driver) was found to be intoxicated with a high blood alcohol content of 0.18 percent."

Car stolen, dig?

A 2019 Chrysler 300 was stolen while parked curbside in the 1000 block of Maryland during a 24-hour period starting 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 17.

Hippie style, couldn't resist:

A groovy 2019 Chrysler 300 went missing, man, while it was chillin' curbside in the 1000 block of Maryland, during a vibe session from 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, for a whole day, you dig?

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Domestic violence times two

Officers dealt with two cases of domestic violence last week.

The first occurred around 9 p.m. Friday, July 18, at a house on Ballantyne. A 34-year-old man told police his 33-year-old wife stabbed him in the right shoulder with a steak knife during an argument in the kitchen. He also told officers they had gone out for the evening and the woman had several drinks, then opened a bottle of wine when they got home.

The victim didn't have access to his cell phone, so he drove to the 7-Eleven on Jefferson near Marter, just inside

St. Clair Shores. He was transported from there by ambulance to Henry Ford St. John Hospital for treatment.

The woman was arrested and lodged in the Grosse Pointe Woods jail with charges pending.

The second incident occurred around 1 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at a house on Clairview.

A 76-year-old man was arrested after his 55-year-old wife called 911. He told officers he thought his wife's medication was affecting her driving, so he took her car keys.

Security footage from inside the residence showed he also grabbed her cellphone when she first tried to call 911 and threw her to the ground.

He was lodged in the Grosse Pointe Woods jail with charges pending.

— *Ted O'Neil*

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Unlocked vehicle

A resident in the 1800 block of Prestwick told officers someone entered his unlocked vehicle overnight into Sunday, July 13, and stole a laptop and earbuds worth \$2,300.

Stolen truck

A 2023 Dodge Ram was stolen from behind a business in the 19200 block of Mack around 6 p.m. Friday, July 18.

The report did not indicate if the truck was locked or if the key fob was inside.

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

SALE:

Continued from page 1A

"We're excited to have him back," Willcock said. "His wife, Amy, is a DJ — DJ La Dynasty — so she is going to do some DJing and we'll

have some music."

Kercheval will be closed to traffic starting Friday, to allow the businesses time to set up.

"Some businesses are taking advantage of that and doing some special pop-ups," Willcock said.

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Spice & Tea Exchange

Susie at Home
The League Shop
The Neighborhood
Club
Village Groom Room
Village Nutrition
Village Palm, LLC
Wildflower & Co.

PASS:

Continued from page 1A

depending on the number of applications we have to process. If you do it online, you'll pick up your pass at the gatehouse. Just pull up to the gatehouse and ask for your pass."

Passes are required for entry into the city's

two resident-only parks, Windmill and Patterson Park. The latter is located on Essex at the foot of Three Mile Drive.

Proof of residency is required when applying for a pass.

Homeowner passes are valid four years. Renter passes must be renewed annually with proof of residency.

Caregiver passes are issued one per household for \$25.

No more than two unrelated persons living at the same address are allowed passes.

Lost passes will be replaced only once per season at a cost of \$20.

For all questions about park passes, call city hall at (313) 822-6200.



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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Grosse Pointe News

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 16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
 PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
 E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner
 ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher
 JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Orwellian?

There is something troubling about what transpired at the most recent Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting and the comments of President Colleen Worden.

“Over the past several months, (the board) has worked diligently to make sure that our public meetings remain open, accessible and safe for everyone,” she said early in the meeting.

Sounds straightforward enough. People certainly should have a reasonable expectation to be safe when attending public meetings, especially given how contentious the board meetings have been over the past 30 months.

“Several months ago, following a veiled threat by a public commenter toward a trustee, we took immediate steps and serious action,” she continued. Ms. Worden noted that she, along with Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, met with local law enforcement to evaluate safety protocols at board meetings.

Again, fair enough. The board and administration took swift action.

As we reported at the time:

A speaker during public comments at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Monday, March 31, made what many interpreted as threats on the life of Trustee Sean Cotton.

“You don’t always have your life threatened here,” said Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News. “That was pretty disconcerting.”

The incident occurred around the 2:30 mark of the meeting, the recording of which may be viewed at gpschools.org/boe-meetings.

The speaker introduced himself as Ian Seaman and a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods. He began by noting he and his partner, a GPPSS alumna, recently moved there and that he was jealous of Grosse Pointe while growing up in Utica. He ended, wearing a blue and black backpack, saying, “Fortunate for you, I am no Luigi, but to some disgruntled teen with his or her father’s pistol or rifle, any of the other things you prefer in school other than rainbow flags, you might be a Brian Thompson.”

His comments were met with applause by many in the audience. The statement appeared to be a reference to Luigi Mangione, the man accused of shooting to death Brian Thompson, the former CEO of UnitedHealthcare, Dec. 4, 2024, in New York City. The Cotton family founded Meridian Health Plans in 1997, growing it to be the largest Medicaid benefits provider in the state. It was purchased by WellCare Health Plans for \$2.5 billion in 2018.

Since then, attendees at board meetings at Brownell Middle School have had to pass through a metal detector. There also have been at least two public safety officers at each meeting, one at the entrance and one on stage sitting at the board table.

The podium used for public comment also was moved from the foot of the stage to the area between the lower and upper seating in the auditorium.

“Aggressive or threatening behavior will not be tolerated by anyone,” Ms. Worden continued at the meeting Monday, July 14. “Be it a young person with a back pack making threats or others yelling out of order.”

Then things took a turn for the worse.

“I want to address a false rumor,” she continued. “There’s been no threat to summarily dismiss anyone or force anyone to be removed.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

The Kressbach Fountain at Kercheval and St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe is a lovely place to take a break, see some artwork, sit in a welcoming blue chair and drink a coffee or eat an ice cream.

The public art display, called “It Takes a Village,” is hosted by Main Street Grosse Pointe. Soon, new artwork will take the place the work that has been displayed on the Kressbach Fountain for the past year.

A second art installation, the Art Takeover Project hosted by Posterity Gallery, is a walkable, month-long art exhibit that spans all six blocks of The Village. Submissions are due July 31; the artwork will be displayed the month of September.

In an email from Ms. Worden to Dr. Tuttle dated June 24, 2025, she wrote:

“As board president, I am writing to formally document a serious safety concern regarding ongoing disruptions at our board meetings and request immediate action to ensure the safety of all attendees.

“On two separate occasions, Mr. Richard Schroeder has disrupted board meetings with aggressive behavior and yelling that has created a hostile and potentially dangerous environment,” she continued. “This pattern of disruptive conduct has escalated to the point where I, along with other board members and community members, feel unsafe during meetings.”

The Grosse Pointe News is comfortable naming Mr. Schroeder because he wrote a letter to the editor about the issue in the July 10 edition of the paper and commented on it at the meeting July 14.

What did Mr. Schroeder do that was so egregious? He spoke during one of two public comment sessions at the board meeting June 23 regarding the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. He did not speak during either public comment session at the board meetings May 27, or June 11.

“I know I’m flying over the target when somebody sends a letter to get the police to pay attention to me,” Mr. Schroeder said at the meeting July 14. “The one time I became upset I felt insulted when two trustees carried on a private conversation instead of listening to what I had to say. When people come up to talk, we hope you listen.”

Ms. Worden, in her letter to Dr. Tuttle, went on to say, “While we have SROs (school resource officers) at our meetings, I am requesting that you work with law enforcement to ensure they are prepared to: 1. Immediately escort disruptive individuals from the premises when their behavior becomes aggressive or threatening; 2. Be briefed on the ongoing situation with Mr. Schroeder so they can respond appropriately if future incidents occur.”

Read that last part again. She singled him out by name in her email to Dr. Tuttle not once, but twice, thereby not only assailing his character but essen-

tially passing prior judgment on his behavior. Being in the profession specifically named in the First Amendment, it is enough to make the collective hair on the back of our neck stand up.

As an attorney, surely Ms. Worden understands concepts such as “chilling effect” and “prior restraint.”

Mr. Schroeder’s indiscretion at the June 23 meeting, while disruptive, actually was quite humorous as he shouted during Ms. Worden’s closing comments that everyone should “go to the Detroit coffee shop.”

It was in reference to the fact that Ms. Worden and trustees Valarie St. John, Laura Hull, Clint Derringer and Tim Klepp met at Decent Detroit Coffee, just outside of the Pointes, after last November’s election. Hull, Derringer and Klepp had not yet taken office, so the meeting did not violate the Open Meetings Act, but it did raise eyebrows.

Ms. Worden earlier that night said the new board majority was elected last year because the public wanted transparency and were “tired of Pancake House breakfast decisions.”

Just to refresh her memory, from our story of May 10, 2023, regarding the search for a new Parcels Middle School principal:

“Before the vote, Worden expanded on her claims of a “shadow board,” saying a constituent told her (Ahmed) Ismail, (Lisa) Papas and (Sean) Cotton were seen together at a local restaurant and overheard discussing the Parcels principal position.

“Did they tell you who else was there?”

Mr. Ismail interjected. “Jon Dean.”

Ms. Papas then said it was not uncommon under the previous board for the executive committee — president, vice president and treasurer — to meet with Dr. Dean and other administrators to discuss various issues. Much like the four advisory committees established this year, having three board members together for discussion does not represent a quorum of the board and thus does not violate the state’s Open Meetings Act.

Unfortunately that Ms. Worden would refresh a debunked claim.

One question remains. Will Ms. Worden ask for any trustees to be removed from any future meetings should their hostile approach force an administrator to leave the board table?

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EDITORIAL
 (313) 882-6900
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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

July 24 – 30



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94° 73°	90° 70°	87° 70°	89° 70°	92° 67°	88° 59°	82° 56°
Chance T-Storms	Showers T-Storms	Chance T-Storms	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Cloudy
10%	60%	50%	20%	10%	20%	20%
SUNRISE 6:17 am	SUNRISE 6:18 am	SUNRISE 6:19 am	SUNRISE 6:20 am	SUNRISE 6:21 am	SUNRISE 6:22 am	SUNRISE 6:23 am
SUNSET 8:59 pm	SUNSET 8:58 pm	SUNSET 8:57 pm	SUNSET 8:56 pm	SUNSET 8:55 pm	SUNSET 8:54 pm	SUNSET 8:53 pm

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

LETTERS

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Two thumbs up and a high five

Last week, while running (slowly) along Lakeshore, something great happened. Two

strangers gave me a thumbs up and another offered an air high five. That's it. Nothing more. But it absolutely made my day.

I don't know their names. I don't know where they were going. But in that tiny moment, I felt so happy.

Encouraged. Connected. It's wild how a small gesture from a stranger can light up your entire morning.

In a world that often feels busy, distracted or even divided, these little signs of shared humanity matter. We often look for big moments to

feel joy, but even a simple thumbs up can remind us that inspiration and encouragement can come from the smallest things.

Maybe that's the magic of living in a community like this one. People still look up, still make eye contact, still

smile at strangers.

So to the unknowingly uplifting neighbors who took a moment to inspire and pump me up, thank you. You reminded me why I love to live here.

Next time you're out, smile at a passerby. Nod. Wave. Hold a door.

Be a courteous driver. Compliment someone's dog or their shoes. You never know whose day you might make better. And who knows, maybe your simple gesture will turn someone's ordinary morning into a moment worth remembering.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

NEW PARK CHARTER MAY PAVE WAY FOR MEMORIAL SUPPORT: It has been learned that the Park Charter Commission is giving serious consideration to the proposal to incorporate in the charter a provision which will permit the new city to appropriate from its public revenues for the support of the War Memorial Center. A strong sentiment has been expressed in some quarters in the Commission that this institution is in a very real sense a community-wide project which could be properly supported, in part, at least, by public revenue.

HOME BUILDING RECORDS BROKEN: All previous records in the rate of home building in the Grosse Pointe School District were shattered during the first six months of this calendar year. This fact is shown in a report just issued by L. M. Bartlett, Director of Pupil Personnel for the

Grosse Pointe Public Schools. This report shows that a total of 718 dwelling permits were issued by the various municipalities comprising the Grosse Pointe School District during the period from January 1 through June 30.

NO HOARDING REPORTED BY LOCAL STORES: A check on grocery stores in the Pointe area shows that Pointers have not started to hoard because of the war in Korea. Managers of stores in this area have reported just normal purchases on staple foods. There hasn't been a run on coffee or sugar, the two commodities that first feel a surge of buying by people with the intent to hoard.

1975

50 years ago this week

NEW NET COURTS TO OPEN: The eight new tennis courts, which are a part of the almost \$2 million Woods Lake Front Park improvement project, are scheduled to open July 26, weather

permitting. With the completion of the courts, the first major phase of construction work is over. Now, most eyes are cast in the direction of the new swimming pool complex and bathhouse.

GARDEN CLUB GIVES \$1,500 TO PROJECT: The Grosse Pointe Garden Club Council has donated \$1,500 to supplement Board of Education funds for improvement of the South High School site. Mrs. H. James Gram, council president, indicated that the Garden Club will get the project started, while hoping to enlist support from the community as well as from students to increase the fund.

OFFICER KRAIZA AIDS PASSENGER: Even while on vacation, Farms Officer John Kraiza maintains his sense of public duty. While on a Nordair flight from Aruba July 5, Officer Kraiza gave assistance to an ill passenger for about one hour and 15 minutes. He performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and exterior heart massage while on the plane.

2000

25 years ago this week

PARK TABLES CITY HALL PLAN: Administrators in Grosse Pointe Park have had their fill of high-priced construction bids. Shocked by contractors who they suspect are riding the wave of an overpriced economy, officials have put on hold the final stage of a project to renovate city hall.

LITTLE CLUB RENOVATIONS OK'D: The Grosse Pointe Club, affectionately known as the Little Club to generations of Grosse Pointers, received from the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council the approvals needed to go ahead with proposed improvements. The club's plans call for changes in the activity island between Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and the main club building. There will be a new pool house with larger locker rooms and screened off porch. One of the paddle tennis courts will be moved

and a small activities or children's pool will be built by the old pool.

POINTE MAN GETS HONORARY DOCTORAL: Art Van Elslander received an honorary doctoral degree during spring commencement ceremonies at Central Michigan University, where he was also keynote speaker. Van Elslander, the CEO and founder of Art Van Furniture and resident of Grosse Pointe Shores, received the honor for his years of public service. In his keynote speech, he said the secret to success is supporting the community.

2015

10 years ago this week

WOODS PICKS SMITH: A plan to replace retiring City Administrator Chip Fincham has been set in motion and, while not formally approved by city council, tacit approval was given by council acting as a committee of the whole.

Under the plan, Woods Public Safety Director Bruce Smith will be named city administrator once he has completed a year of employment with the city.

LIBRARY OFFERS WOODS SHUTTLE: In an effort to bring senior citizens back to the Woods branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, a shuttle service will be offered to library patrons over 60 years of age on two Thursdays in August. Through a joint effort with the PAATS bus system, a shuttle bus will pick up seniors at 11 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe Woods community center, transport them to the Woods library and return to the community center at noon.

SOC OPENING ART GALLERY: Administrators at Services for Older Citizens are putting to good use all the blank walls in its Ridge Road home. The white space will serve as a canvas of sorts in showcasing the work of local artists, officially making SOC an art gallery.

Public safety aces quiz

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — State regulators tried to snooker the public safety department but scratched and had to yield the table.

Their pop quiz on personnel standards and record keeping revealed the department is doing fine.

"We met or exceeded standards they set forth in all categories," Chief Jim Bostock said.

"They" are the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, the regulatory arm of police departments in Michigan.

"They hand-picked four or five of our employee files and went through them with a fine-toothed comb," Bostock said.

Police departments in Michigan answer to MCOLES for licensing, training and more.

"They are the regulatory arm," Bostock said. "Every department in the

state is going through this assessment."

He said commission inspectors travel the state assessing departments' compliance with licensing standards.

"This year's focus was employee history records to make sure there are comprehensive background investigations done for new hires," Bostock said. "They're looking at our continuing education, the agency's response to domestic violence, in-custody interviews, our policy for video equipment. They finished up with our firearm training."

"The (Park) meets current standards in all areas reviewed," according to the MCOLES test results. "Discussions with agency personnel and a review of the records, training plans and policies reveal the agency is professionally managed and makes great efforts to employ officers who uphold the desired law enforcement

standards. The agency's records are very organized and complete."

"We passed with flying colors," said Councilman Marty McMillan, chairman of the public safety committee. "This is a huge validation of our law enforcement standards. Our crime rate has dropped 10 percent over the past year per our (public safety department) annual report."

"Congrats to our public safety team on getting another successful outcome of the MCOLES assessment," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"I'm glad to hear our public safety department is doing a great job updating its policies, reviewing procedures and training," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Bostock said holding departments to high employee standards is especially important due to the shortage of qualified applicants.

"With a shortage of offi-

cers, sometimes departments get desperate," Bostock said. "We are holding to our high standards."

"We also secured a \$40,000 grant from MCOLES that helps pay for our police academy recruits," McMillan said. "We have two new recruits in the academy and are hiring two dispatchers to replace retirees."

Passing MCOLES' test was a department-wide effort.

"I acknowledge my staff, whose attention to detail and commitment to our goals made this assessment go as well as it did," Bostock said.

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GPPSS facing \$1M lawsuit

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES

— The Grosse Pointe Public School System, Parcels Middle School and an administrator are being sued for more than \$1 million over alleged civil rights violations of a former black student at Parcels in 2022 and 2023.

The suit, filed March 3, 2025, in Wayne County Circuit Court by a Harper Woods resident on behalf of her minor son, alleges racial discrimination by a place of public accommodation, racial discrimination by an educational institution and gross negligence.

“We do not comment on pending litigation,” a district spokesperson said.

The administrator named in the case is Samantha Lamberti-McGrath, who was assistant principal at Parcels at the time of the alleged incidents and recently was named to the same position at Grosse Pointe North High School.

The complaint seeks a jury trial and asks for punitive, compensatory and exemplary damages, attorney’s fees and “such

other and further legal and/or equitable relief as appears just and proper to the court or the jury in their discretion ... in excess of \$1 million.”

The suit says the boy, now 16, was “constructively dismissed” from GPPSS. In the business world, that refers to an employee who quits due to a hostile work environment.

It goes on to say the defendants “refused to write a recommendation letter” to help the complainant “achieve enrollment in another school district.”

It also alleges:

◆ the complainant was subjected to bullying and hazing,

◆ the concerns of “African American parents and students” were not taken seriously,

◆ “African American parents would be directed by Defendant McGrath with their concerns to African American staff members (non-administrators)” and

◆ “On or about March 22, 2022, Defendant McGrath used inappropriate racial slurs toward children enrolled at Parcels Middle School.”

In June 2022, the Grosse Pointe News reported two unnamed staff members at Parcels had been placed on leave two months prior for using the N-word. The district at the time said no students overheard it and the staff members were in a private conversation repeating what a student had said.

One of the exhibits included in the lawsuit is the findings of an HR investigation the district conducted regarding Lamberti-McGrath based on allegations the complainant’s mother filed in 2023. It found the allegation Lamberti-McGrath “sends black parents who are upset or have complaints to black staff members (non-administrators),” and, “she refers black parents to black staff members without even knowing why the parents may be requesting administrator assistance,” to be true.

The district filed its answer to the complaint in circuit court May 2, 2025, requesting “a judgment of no cause for action” and an award of “attorney fees so wrongfully sustained in this litigation.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Sarah Joyce, Finnegan Johnson, Charlotte Mertz, Dylan Augspurger, Wyatt Roberts and Zachary Nyenhuis stand with Pierce art teacher Jane Plieth.

Mural makers

Jane Plieth, Pierce Middle School art teacher, decided to repurpose her worn-out art tables into a mural. She insisted that six students each get a “Pierce” letter in her proposal, approved by Principal Sara Dirkse the first week of May.

“Our school name is described in an acronym: perseverance, integrity, empathy, respect, courage and effort,” Plieth said. “Each one of these students anchor their daily life with all six pillars.”

On May 14, students started sanding the scrapped tables and removing debris, then coated them with two coats of primer. They discussed whether or not to coat the whole table top with burgundy and decided more paint would be the best option.

Students then taped off their designs and added

more primer before carefully applying gold paint. Students then outlined each design with black and finally applied two thick coats of exterior-grade gloss polyurethane.

The Pierce maintenance department built cemented posts, which the students painted gloss black. On June 10, three yards of hardwood mulch was put in by several eighth-grade students in an all-hands-on-deck effort. “We were secretly working in the auditorium lobby,” Plieth said. “The students were nervous that we wouldn’t finish, but I assured them that we would finish. We continued with the course — and a lot of adrenaline — and were able to finish on time.

“Even though our backs are sore and my lungs are irritated by the

polyurethane, it was an incredible feat that we accomplished,” she added. “I have wanted to do this my whole career. The bonus is that we were able to repurpose the tables. I can’t wait for the Pierce Green Team to establish a garden around the mural. Ultimately we hope to install a small fence around the garden.”

The following students worked on individual letters and noted their favorite project moments:

P = Sarah Joyce — moving the tables several times

I = Finnegan Johnson — the painting process

E = Charlotte Mertz — the time constraint, stress and adrenaline

R = Dylan Augspurger — the graphic design look

C = Wyatt Roberts — the mural’s progression and the story it tells of growing up at Pierce

E = Zachary Nyenhuis — working with friends

RANGE:

Continued from page 1A

Tuttle last month asked the board to make the band \$180,000 to \$200,000. The previous band for the role, also known as the assistant superintendent of finance and business operations, was \$133,777 to \$164,440.

The resolution passed 4-1, with Trustee Ginny Jeup dissenting. President Colleen Worden, Trustee Valarie St. John, Derringer and Klepp voted yes. Trustees Sean Cotton and Laura Hull were absent.

Derringer said he used information compiled by Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Moussa Hamka from the Michigan School Business Officials — which trains and certifies school business officials — and would put GPPSS in the 95th to 99th percentile statewide for CFO pay.

“I’ll be voting yes for this, but my only qualm is that it falls short of what our superintendent was asking for,” Klepp said ahead of the vote. “I do get concerned about treating the benchmark data as definitive because I

think that’s more directional than definitive.” Hamka said the MSBO data is from a 2024 survey.

“The \$180,000 is what the top people in other districts are making,” he said. “It’s important to note that to entice people to leave their current position, matching their salary isn’t sufficient. You need to beat it.”

The board then voted to extend the contract with its finance consultant until the end of September at a rate of \$200 an hour up to a maximum of \$6,000 a week. The district already has paid the

consultant around \$75,000 since the first of the year.

Jeup also introduced a resolution that the board voted 5-0 to add to the meeting’s agenda. It would have set the salary range at \$160,000 to \$180,000, with what she called “credential stipends,” a combination of which could not exceed \$20,000. They included:

- ◆ CPA, \$10,000,
- ◆ MBA or a master’s degree in public administration, \$5,000,
- ◆ MSBO certification, \$5,000 and
- ◆ more than 10 years of chief-level experience in a K-12 district,

\$10,000.

It also would have allowed Tuttle to offer a 10 percent retention bonus of the employee’s base salary starting in year two based on performance targets, including an unmodified audit and a fund equity above 12 percent.

“Under no circumstances shall base salary plus credential stipends exceed \$200,000 in the initial contract year, nor shall the combined amount of items 1-3 exceed \$210,000 in any subsequent year without additional board action,” the resolution went on to say.

“I think this is very creative and also will vote yes on it,” Klepp said. “It’s a nicely crafted resolution and gives us flexibility.”

It failed 3-2, with Jeup and Klepp the only yes votes.

Tuttle asked how long the board wanted to wait to address the issue again if the \$180,000 maximum still doesn’t attract candidates and agreed to send the board weekly updates about the number of applications received between now and the next meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at Brownell Middle School.

LOTS:

Continued from page 3A

property,” Sizeland said. “It’s zoned for planned development.”

Planned development

zoning is more flexible than mainline zoning. The purpose of planned developments is to create a cohesive, coordinated plan.

“Any buyer has to go through Detroit zoning,” Sizeland said. “It is not Grosse Pointe Park property. The Park is looking for the best partner that can bring investment, not only to Detroit, but also to stabilize the

area.”

They’ve been on the market for a couple of years.

Retaining a new agent is intended to broaden the net for buyers.

Properties for sale had been marketed by a commercial real estate specialist. Starting this month, a generalist, Mike DeFauw of Sine & Monaghan, takes over.

Council members on

July 14 authorized Sizeland to approve and execute a listing agreement with DeFauw through 2027.

“Pending legal review,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

“I like the move,” Councilman Marty McMillan said. “I think Mike is more vested in the area. He’s got good contacts.”

DeFauw reportedly is

a generalist, not focused on properties for business use.

“The other guy was more commercial,” Sizeland said. “DeFauw has a very knowledgeable Grosse Pointe base in the Detroit area. We’re changing tactics to see if there are other opportunities for connecting us with sale partners.”

DeFauw has been the Park’s point man for unloading Park-owned property in Detroit and the Park.

“I cannot think of someone that is more aggressive and hustles when it comes to selling properties,” Sizeland said.

Park officials bought the lots in 2016 for \$392,000 to control their development into something compatible with the residential neighborhood on Wayburn.

That goal still holds. “We’d like to see those properties turn into residential homes,” Sizeland said. “We want to help develop a vibrant Alter Road.”

The lots’ previous owner said in a 2023 Grosse Pointe News story that before he sold

them to the Park, he was approached by commercial interests that presented the possibility of setting up a car dealership, auto wash or outdoor beer and wine restaurant.

“Our concern was the well-being of residents whose houses back up to that location,” said former Park Manager Dale Krajniak in the same story. He was manager at the time of the purchase.

Anticipated sale of the lots in November 2024 for \$375,000 fell through.

“The sooner we get this done, the sooner we close and get these properties off our books and get that money in our budget,” Assistant City Attorney Morgan McAtamney said at the time.

In September 2024, Park officials approved the sale of two residential lots on Alter, a half-block inside Detroit from the Park.

The transaction left the Park owning only one set of properties in Detroit, the one for which DeFauw is charged with finding a buyer.

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2B OBITUARIES | 3B CHURCHES | 3B AREA ACTIVITIES

Staying put Kids on the Go fall camp registration opens July 28

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Kids on the Go Executive Director Kristy Schena was directed last fall to find a new home for the organization she founded nearly three decades ago. At the time, the Nonprofit Center at Pare, which has served as Kids on the Go headquarters since 2018, was in need of repairs.

Schena's despair turned to delight recently as she received word of a lease extension.

"The South Lake Schools district has extended our lease to September 2026," she reported. "They approved emergency repairs on the roof, which allowed them to extend the lease. Further evaluation is forthcoming to determine the use of the building. I still hope we can stay there long term."

The unknown didn't slow Kids on the Go from launching its summer session July 7, offering children with special needs, ages 3 to 17, a variety of physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies — including a few new programs among the 35 being offered.



The AAC & Me program has been well received in its inaugural year.

"New this year is AAC & Me," Schena said. "It's Augmentative and Alternative Communication and it's funded by the Sigma Gamma Foundation. It was created by two speech pathologists, Kaylee Gerow and Katie Lubera. Working in the local schools, they recognized that with the rise in autism, 30 percent of newly diagnosed cases are nonverbal. This class provides one-on-one

opportunities for speech therapists to work with parents."

Classes, she said, place two campers and two speech pathologists with parents and caregivers so everyone is learning to use AAC devices together.

"This allows parents and caregivers hands-on opportunities to learn how to modify, implement and model the use of the AAC device," Lubera added. "Often the

Pickleball at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club is led by Mike Andrews, the pickleball professional on staff at GPYC.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTY SCHENA

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Caden Wettstein is thrilled to be part of the Kids on the Go All-Star Flag Football Camp.

devices are used in the classroom, but parent training is very limited."

Schena said AAC & Me has received positive feedback, as has another new program to Kids on the Go: pickleball.

"We are doing pickleball at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, led by Mike Andrews, the pickleball professional on staff at the GPYC," Schena added.

As the summer session winds down and with its home secure another year, Kids on the Go will embark on its 27th year of programming this fall. Registration opens Monday, July 28, and applications are available

online at kidsonthego-camp.com.

"New this year, the week of Aug. 4, we're having Kids on the Go Spirit Week," Schena said, directing anyone interested to visit the website. "Local businesses are teaming up to support our mission and help celebrate our campers' successes. Contributors include Wally's Frozen Custard, TCBY of Grosse Pointe Woods, Gilbert's Lounge in St. Clair Shores and Pepperoni Grille in St. Clair Shores. It will culminate Aug. 8, with free admission to Greenfield Village for family, staff and volunteers."

Another new facet to Kids on the Go is an open house from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, and Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Pare.

"We wanted to give people an opportunity to see our programs in action and for donors to see where their donations are going," Schena said. "Donors, sponsors and those interested in learning more about Kids on the Go are invited to come."

The Nonprofit Center at Pare is located at 23500 Pare, Ste. 10, St. Clair Shores. For more information, call (313) 332-1026.

KA6: Bigger proves better

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

The two-performance stage strategy for Kercheval After 6 met its objective last month and is expected to do so again this weekend.

Last month's KA6 street party, the first of three this summer in the Kercheval business district, was expanded by one block. The addition of a bandstand — one located at each end of

the venue — doubled the number of performance stages from years past.

Increased musical offerings not only gave attendees more variety, but also induced people to stroll the length of the four-block fair, going from stage to stage and seeing carnival rides, restaurants, activities, food trucks, stores and vendors in between.

"Great music and fun

at both ends," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "And you explore everything in between. Nobody's left out of the mix."

The Park organizes the fairs, which depend on private sponsors for almost half the funding.

"By extending it a block, incorporating a few more businesses and adding a second band, I feel it was really well received," Craig said. "I'm interested to

see how the next one will go."

He'll find out at the next Kercheval After 6, 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 26, on Kercheval between Wayburn and Nottingham.

Attendance is free to everyone.

Craig said he heard talk last month about the event's expanded footprint.

"People are getting a lot of compliments about it being stretched

to give people more room to navigate," Craig said. "It didn't feel cramped. It was nice to have a little more space to spread out to eat or shop at vendors."

Pointe Hardware Group is not only title sponsor for all Kercheval After 6s this year, but also a reason for the expansion.

"For two years, I have been petitioning quietly to stretch After 6 to Wayburn," said Wafef Hawasli, owner of Pointe Hardware Group. "I started poking some of the organizers. They were so receptive. So,

here we are. It's expanded to Wayburn."

Musical lineup

Bands scheduled to perform Saturday are Not 2 Nite, on the Red Crown Stage near the Nottingham end; and The No Ways, on the Zealous Root Stage closer to Wayburn.

"They're local bands, which is a point of showcasing local talent," Craig said.

Each band has a different sound.

Not 2 Nite specializes in covering soft pop yacht

See KA6, page 4B



Alex Martinez
Financial Advisor
15 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Phone: 313.343.6809
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2B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Richard Alexander Tepper

Richard "Rich" Alexander Tepper, 89, passed away peacefully Friday, July 11, 2025, in his hometown of Detroit.

Born Nov. 5, 1935, Rich lived a long and full life rooted in family and faith. Rich was predeceased by his beloved wife, Nancy, with whom he shared more than 60 years of marriage marked by deep friendship, devotion and unwavering love. Together they raised two sons, Rick (Donna) and Steve (Annette), who carry forward their father's strength and steady guidance. He was a proud grandfather to Stevie and Caroline.

Rich also was predeceased by his brother, Tony; and his parents, Alexander and Antoinette "Mary," whose influence helped shape the thoughtful and faithful man he became.

Rich grew up in Detroit, where his strong work ethic and love for learning first took root. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from General Motors Institute (now Kettering University), setting the foundation for a distinguished career in the automotive industry. After 10 years with General Motors, Rich joined Ford Motor Co., where he worked for more than three decades in roles spanning engineering, manufacturing and plant leadership. He retired as a plant manager after having built a reputation for integrity, steady leadership and technical excellence.

Outside of work, Rich found joy in golf, travel and watching sports, especially NASCAR and cheering on his beloved Detroit Lions. He had a deep and enduring love for cars, both for their designs and as symbols of American ingenuity.

But nothing brought him more joy than being a grandfather. Stevie and Caroline were the light of his life and he cherished every moment with them.

A man of deep tradition, Rich believed in the power of family gatherings. Family dinners at his home were a cherished ritual, filled with warmth, conversation and home-cooked meals. His family continues this tradition — proof that Rich's legacy lives on not just in memory, but around the table.

Rich was active in his Catholic faith and a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus Third and Fourth Degree Council at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. His most recent role was as Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree. Rich was passionate about the restoration of the church's stained glass windows, a project that was close to his heart.

Visitation occurred at Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors in Clawson. A Mass was held at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit and he was buried at Mt. Olivet

Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the stained glass window restoration project at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, 4440 Russell, Detroit, MI, 48207, motherofdivine mercy.org/giving.

Robert A. Radnick

Robert A. Radnick, 83, died Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in Detroit.

Robert is survived by his loving wife, Patricia; and cherished children, David Radnick (Heidi) and Margaret Radnick (Anthony Bryan). He was the dearest grandfather of Edith and Henry, and is survived by his siblings, Lawrence Radnick and Shirley Lambke (the late Arthur).

Mass occurred at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park. Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Mary Katherine Hester

Mary Katherine (nee Viger) Hester, 78, of DeBordieu Colony, Georgetown, S.C., passed away peacefully at home and surrounded by her family Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer.

Kathy was born Dec. 30, 1946, in Detroit. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 56 years, James Scott Hester, who passed away Dec. 6, 2023.

Kathy is survived by her four children, Kathryn Kern Hester (Larry Kuzniar) of Georgetown, Mass., Holly Hughes Hester of Lake Wylie, S.C., Susan Scott Hester of Georgetown, S.C., and James Scott Hester Jr. of New Orleans, La. Kathy also leaves behind four grandchildren, Todd G. Kosel Jr., Lindsay Katherine Kosel, L. Holden Kuzniar and L. Grey Hester; sister, Susie (nee Viger) Lambrecht; and brothers, David N. Viger Jr. and Peter E. Viger. She was also predeceased by her parents, David Nathan Viger and Mary Louise (nee Kern) Viger of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Kathy grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms and graduated from Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett School). She graduated from Pine Manor College (now Messina College) and then from the University of Michigan, where she met the love of her life, Scott. Together they embarked on a journey across the country, living in Grosse Pointe Farms, Bethesda, Md., Cincinnati, Norwell, Mass. and Charlotte, N.C., ultimately settling in DeBordieu Colony, Georgetown, S.C., for their retirement years.

A lifelong lover of literature, Kathy also was a gifted writer with a beautiful soprano voice. She had a remarkable ability to produce pitch-

perfect harmonies and sang with several choirs over the years, as well as impromptu a capella kitchen sessions with her beloved sister, Susie, much to the delight of her children and anyone fortunate enough to be within earshot. Her kindness, sensitivity and dedication to her community led her to serve in various organizations, including the Sigma Gamma Association of Grosse Pointe Farms, The Colonial Dames of America and the Junior Leagues of Detroit, Washington, D.C., and Boston.

Kathy's creativity was woven through everything she did — from hand-smocking dresses for her daughters to needlepointing shorebird pillows to hand-painted Christmas ornaments — creating a warm and welcoming home filled with love. She had an eye for beauty and her signature style — hot pink lipstick and Lilly Pulitzer pants — was reflected in the vibrant gardens she lovingly tended. She truly was an artist at heart and her life was a masterpiece of elegance, grace and warmth.

A passionate music lover, Kathy's taste ranged from Vivaldi to Motown. She was known to join her children in spontaneous dance-offs to the tunes of the The Pointer Sisters or Chic. Her DeBordieu Book Club was a treasured group of friends who brought her comfort, especially after the loss of her husband, Scott. Known for her boundless energy, adventurous spirit and unwavering kindness, Kathy's life was defined by quick forgiveness, poise and an innate graciousness that touched everyone she met. In earlier years, Kathy loved to ice skate and, with a little help from fear, learned to waterski on her first try. Rumor has it this was after spotting a shark fin trailing her wake! She had a fierce loyalty for her family and friends and cherished life's simple pleasures: a sunny day, the discovery of a Pawley shell and evenings spent telling family stories on the front porch.

With her spunky sense of humor and love for puns, Kathy was a fierce Scrabble competitor. As a mother, mentor and friend, she instilled in her family the values of kindness, creativity and a deep appreciation for travel and discovery. Whether sitting at lunch with Barbara Bush in the vice-presidential topiary garden, marching for civil rights in Detroit or walking her tyrant pup, Kepley, Kathy's love for creating cherished memories, especially with her family, was the heart of her life.

A formal celebration of Kathy's life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.



Richard A. Tepper



Robert A. Radnick



Mary Katherine Hester



Marjorie Stapleton



Donald J. Rentz III



Patricia L. Printz

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations in memory of both Kathy and Scott Hester to the Avian Conservation Center and Center for Birds of Prey, P.O. Box 1247, Charleston, SC 29402, thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/donate.

Marjorie Snyder Peabody Stapleton

Marjorie Snyder Peabody Stapleton, 101, of Longboat Key, Fla., passed away Friday, July 11, 2025, in Stuart, Fla., after complications from a brief illness.

Marjorie was born Nov. 17, 1923, in Detroit, to Clifford and Helen (nee Kennedy) Snyder. She was predeceased by her first husband, Edwin N. Peabody, in 1978; second husband, David W. Stapleton, in 2005; son, Bradley Peabody (Lynn); and daughter, Marjorie Peabody Hamond. She was the devoted mother of Jane Peabody Fennessy (Tim), Clifford Peabody (Laure), Susan Peabody Clark and Betsy Peabody Rowe; and had many beloved grandchildren.

Marjorie attended Denison College, where she joined the Delta Gamma sorority. She remained very active in local chapters in Ann Arbor and Longboat Key, Fla. While raising her children in Grosse Pointe and supporting all of their school activities, she was a member of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. In the 1980s, she became a winter resident in Florida and eventually made her permanent home in Longboat Key.

Marjorie became a vital part of the church community at All Angels Episcopal Church and enjoyed singing in the choir and playing in the handbell choir until her health declined. She supported Southeastern Guide Dogs by walking newly appointed dogs and raising money via participation in 5K walks from age 90 to 92. She also enjoyed volunteering at a Sarasota elementary school by helping young children learn to read.

Marjorie's children and grandchildren were her pride and joy. She always said they changed her life for the better and they felt that in the love and support she provided. Her passing leaves a void her family cannot fill and they will never forget the love she brought to

all their lives.

A celebration of her life is tentatively planned for November 2025, around what would have been her 102nd birthday, in Longboat Key, Fla.

Memorial donations may be made to All Angels by the Sea Episcopal Church, 563 Bay Isles, Longboat Key, FL 34228, allangelslbk.org/2025-pledge.html.

Donald "D.J." J. Rentz III

Donald "D.J." J. Rentz III, 37, of Grosse Pointe, passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 4, 2025, in Los Angeles, where he was living.

Born March 15, 1988, D.J. was the beloved son of Tammy Rentz and the late Donald J. Rentz Jr. He grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from South High School, where he was known for his bright spirit and passion for ice hockey, leaving his mark on the ice as a member of a competitive travel team.

A lifelong learner and seeker of personal growth, D.J. pursued studies at both Michigan State University and the University of Seattle. His intellectual curiosity and open heart led him down many paths, personally and professionally. Most recently, he served as a business development director for SpotOn, a role he held with pride and purpose. He also was an active and proud member of the Dopey Nation podcast community, which gave him deep connection and camaraderie.

D.J. found joy in thoughtful conversation, music, yoga, beach volleyball and collecting books. Above all, he loved connecting with others on a meaningful level. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his kind soul, big heart and the deep impact he had on those lucky enough to know him.

D.J. is survived by his loving mother, Tammy Rentz; sister, Alexandra Rentz (Hope); and brother, Maxwell Rentz. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends who will cherish his memory always.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 38900 Harper, Clinton Township. Friends and family may begin gathering at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages people to honor D.J. by engaging in meaningful conversations, offering kindness freely and living life with curiosity and compassion, just as he did.

Patricia L. Printz

Patricia "Patti" L. Printz, 86, passed away Saturday, June 14, 2025.

Patti was born in Detroit. Her father, Leon J. Printz, was an executive at Chrysler who worked on the Manhattan Project, which helped develop the atomic bomb. Her mother, Lillian, predeceased her, as did her sister, Joan Tuffley. She is survived by her nieces, Jessica Tuffley of Rochester, N.Y., and Jennifer Paddock of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Patti attended Michigan State University and majored in retail sales. After graduation, her academic achievements led to a junior executive position at the Leo Burnett advertising agency where she assisted the vice president who handled the Chrysler account.

Patti's popularity led The United Foundation to elect her "Miss Torchy," an annual award given to young women for both their brains and beauty.

Patti then made the bold move to the Big Apple. After arriving in New York City, she was offered a job at Grey Advertising Agency as a fashion stylist. In that capacity, she was responsible for styling the agency's fashion accounts for television commercials and major print outlets.

Her stellar achievements in the television and print world landed her a major job with Lord & Taylor, where she was a fashion coordinator for the company's four Michigan locations. Upon the sale of Lord & Taylor's stores, Patti was hired by Johnstone & Johnstone Realtors, where she was a leading sales agent and specialized in the purchase and sale of upscale homes in the Grosse Pointe area. Patti frequently was the No. 1 salesperson of the month.

Twenty years later, Patti retired to concentrate on volunteer activities for the Michigan Humane Society, a foundation she greatly admired.

See OBITS, page 3B

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Daniel Joseph Griffin

Daniel "Danny" Joseph Griffin, 73, a beloved husband, father, brother and friend, passed away peacefully at home and surrounded by his family Friday, July 11, 2025, after a long battle with Wegener's disease.

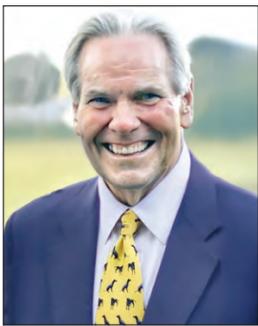
Born Aug. 27, 1951, in Detroit, he was the fifth of seven children to Gwendolyn (nee Fleming) and John Charles Griffin, both now deceased. He also was predeceased by his older brother, John Charles "Jack" Griffin. He stayed very close to his surviving brothers, Patrick James (Nancy), Richard Anthony (Karen), Peter Raymond (Sue) and William Robert (Christine), and sister, Mary Ann Griffin. He was a loving uncle to Tiffany, Darby, Brittany, Patrick, Stephanie, Geoffrey, Blake, Julie, Kiely, Tara and Wells, and their families.

Danny was married to the love of his life, Ann Christine "Tina" (nee Hughes) for 43 years. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with devotion, humor and golden retrievers. He was the proud and loving father of their three children, Kathleen Elizabeth Silfen (Dean), Gregory Hughes Griffin and John Charles Griffin III, all of whom carry forward his spirit, warmth and joy for life.

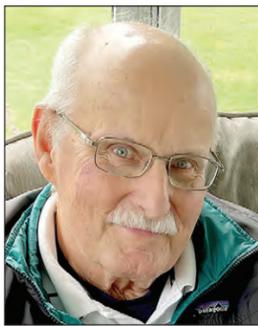
While Danny admitted to being less than a scholar, he attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, Phelps Academy, Grosse Pointe High School and Eastern Michigan University, majoring in business and political science.

He was successful in business as co-owner of G&B Group, LLC, a manufacturers representative firm, along with business partner and friend, Mark Brooks. Sales suited Danny's personable nature and love of people. He was respected and liked by many clients in the automotive world and beyond, many of whom continued friendships long after his retirement.

While Danny never sought recognition, he contributed to many groups in his community. In his early years, he was an active member of Ducks Unlimited and contributed to the Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation and Capuchin Soup Kitchen. He took the kids to the soup kitchen to deliver



Daniel Joseph Griffin



Richard Backoff

turkeys and other foods throughout the year. He was generous to the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department and first responders, often giving them tickets to sporting events. Following his retirement, he enjoyed delivering food for Meals on Wheels, as he had a lifelong affinity for the elderly community. He was a member of the Detroit Athletic Club, the Canada Club and his beloved Crystal Downs Country Club and served on the board at the Country Club of Detroit.

Golf wasn't just a pastime for Danny — it was a lifelong passion. All family travel was centered around seeking out the best courses to visit and play. Besides CCD, his favorite course was Crystal Downs Country Club in northern Michigan, where he spent summer vacations with his family, enjoying cottages on Crystal Lake and Lake Michigan. He also loved golf trips with friends, playing many of the best courses in the world.

Among his other passions were duck hunting and spending many fall weekends hunting on Walpole Island and out of the Canada Club. Danny thoroughly enjoyed all kinds of music. He loved to crank up the volume in his car and had fun dancing in the family room with friends. He was the life of a party, entertaining everyone with stories, crazy adventures, lots of laughter and urging others to join him. He leaves a legacy of his vibrant spirit and a great many stories.

If anyone is so inclined, the family would love to hear their Danny Griffin stories by email. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A celebration for Danny will be held in September.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Endowment for Spiritual Care at Corewell Health, corewellhealth.org/foundation/southeast/donate; the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, 1169 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108,

nkfm.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/; or the Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation, 2501 Patriot, Glenview, IL 60026, bit.ly/3UbnbZX.

Richard Backoff

Richard "Rick" Backoff, 84, passed away Saturday, July 12, 2025.

Rick was born June 1, 1941, to Edith and George Backoff, both now deceased. He is survived by his sons, Jim (Branda) and Tom (Kayla); granddaughter, Brynn Backoff; sister, Kathy Hens (Peter); and several loving cousins, nieces, nephews, sisters and brothers-in-law.

Rick served in the U.S. Army for six years until he was honorably discharged. He then spent most of his career in automotive sales. At a young age, he enjoyed sailing with his grandfather on his catboat. He was a member of Bayview Yacht Club and the Society of Mackinac Island Old Goats and Old Forts.

Rick also was a board member of the YMCA of Grosse Pointe Woods and the Lakeshore Family YMCA. He particularly enjoyed his years in Indian Guides through the YMCA and often took his sons on several campouts and other events throughout the years with their Indian Guides tribe. Rick volunteered for several years with the chain gang for the Grosse Pointe South High School football team. He also was an active member of the Gridiron Club.

Rick was a kind gentleman with a great sense of humor who enjoyed a good time with family and friends. He was partial to making one-line statements, such as saying that every day's a holiday and every meal's a banquet. When asked how he was, he often responded if he were any better, he would be twins, or that he was finer than frog hair. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Diaper drive

Right to Life of Michigan's Macomb Educational Resource Center hosts a diaper drive during July. The organization is collecting diapers and baby wipes to help local crisis pregnancy centers and baby pantries. All diaper sizes are needed, especially sizes 4 to 6. Donations may be dropped off at 27417 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Call (586) 774-6050 or email MacombRLM@rtl.org.

The War Memorial

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

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24.

◆ Awaken Your Senses: An Evening of Yin Yoga, Massage & Sound Bath, 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 27.

◆ SummerFest Concert: Devin Scillian & Arizona Son, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 30.

Library

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

◆ Tiny Art Workshop, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Drawing with Mari, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Takeover Night, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, July 28, all three branches.

◆ Create with Procreate Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, July 28, at Ewald, 15175 E.

Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ GPPL @ Lake Front Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 28, at 23000 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Summer STEM: Fizzy Science-Session 1, 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, July 28, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Summer STEM: Fizzy Science-Session 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 28, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ STEM Art, 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 30, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Birding 101, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 31, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 31, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Coding, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Drawing with Mari, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

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:

◆ Drums Alive for Seniors, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursdays in July. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ The movie "Nonnas" will be shown at noon Friday, July 25. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Lunch & Learn: Ask a Lawyer, 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, with presenter Lori-Ann Rickard of Rickard & Associates P.C. Cost is \$8 for members, \$10 for guests.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: "Maybe Something Beautiful," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in July.

◆ Gardens & Recreation Guided Tour, 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in July.

◆ Lake Fest, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 26. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$7 for ages 3 to 12.

◆ Design Through the Decades, 11 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 1. Admission varies.

◆ Dog Days of Summer, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, to Sunday, Aug. 10. Admission is free for members, \$10 for adult guests and \$5 for child guests.

◆ Storytime: "This is Taco!" 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, July 28, St. Mark Lutheran Church, 26830 West Park, Roseville.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Barb Davis, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Grosse Pointe Historical Society, will speak about the early days of Grosse Pointe. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

East English Village Garden Tour is July 27

Area residents are invited to explore nine unique gardens from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 27, during the East English Village Annual Garden Tour. This year's theme, Wild & Wonderful, highlights gardens designed to support birds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators by featuring native plants and wildlife-friendly habitats.

The tour features a variety of gardens, ranging from rain gardens and no-lawn landscapes to more tradi-



tional yards that thoughtfully incorporate native and pollinator plants. Maps and garden descriptions will be provided at the starting point: 5911 Bishop, the home of Neighborhood

Association President Greg Stolarski. A suggested donation of \$10 will support the East English Village Neighborhood Association's projects. Attendees can register in advance at eastenglishvillage.org or pay at the door. For more information, email eevgardenclub@gmail.com.

GP Jewish Council offers educational, cultural events

The Grosse Pointe Jewish Council is an organization that provides cultural, religious, social and educational activities, serving the Jewish community of the Grosse Pointes and other metropolitan Detroit Eastside communities since 1989.

Religious activities include Rabbi-led Shabbat and High Holiday services, family Shabbat services and an annual Passover Seder. It also offers Sunday school for children, kindergarten age and older. Additionally, Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation is

available to its Sunday school participants.

Educational and cultural offerings include lectures, tours, children and adult Hanukkah parties, an annual picnic and other programs.

For more information, call the GPJC at (313) 882-6700.

Worship Service

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

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

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

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church

240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpcong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Taking GP to the world

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

After living in the Pointes three different times growing up — and in three different Pointes — Laurie Parres is reflective of the impact that had on her career.

"The Pointes gave me a running start," the award-winning television writer and producer said during a phone interview from her home in Los Angeles. "Creative spaces, low-stakes failures and friends who still make me laugh like I'm 14 in acting class, putting a frozen fish in a blender."

The latter being a reference to the 1976 "Saturday Night Live" skit known as the "Bass-O-Matic."

"My mom, a legend, gave us a frozen fish and loaned us her blender," Parres recalled. "It was so disgusting and ridiculous, we laughed so hard. That was my first direct experience with comedy. I didn't know at the time, but that's the rush you get in sitcom writers' rooms."

Parres said her family moved to the Woods before kindergarten, then lived in the Farms until she was in second grade. They returned to the Park when she was in eighth grade and she graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1982. In between included stints in Iowa, Kentucky and Tennessee.

"We moved around a lot while my dad climbed the corporate ladder," she said. "But every time we came back it was like coming home."

Parres vividly remembers an outing in second grade while attending Richard Elementary School.

"We had an overnight trip into the woods and the teachers gave us a map and we had to find our way back," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Former Grosse Pointer Laurie Parres is making a name for herself in Hollywood.

"I'm sure the adults were behind every tree, but it was low-risk and thrilling. It was my first experience having to figure something out on my own. That ties directly with my experience of moving to Hollywood."

Parres moved to California not long after graduating with a degree in telecommunications from Michigan State University.

"I was at a party and someone introduced me to a guy who said he was from Grosse Pointe," she said. "I asked him where and he said the Farms. I asked him what street and he said McKinley."

"I asked him what address and he said 215," she continued, laughing the whole time. "I told him to prove it and he said there was a jukebox in the basement that was too heavy to move so they left it. My parents

bought that house. After that I knew I'd be fine."

Parres won a 2017 Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Writing of the "Mel vs. The Night Mare of Normal Street" episode of "Gortimer Gibbon's Life on Normal Street," for which she was co-executive producer all three seasons.

She's also written for and/or produced TV shows such as Nickelodeon's "School of Rock," "Wendell & Vinnie" and "About a Girl," as well as Michael J. Fox's "Spin City," PBS's "Odd Squad" and Warner Bros.' "Charmed."

"We had a saying in the writers' room at Nickelodeon," Parres recalled. "Fart plus heart equals art. I think being from Grosse Pointe, being from the Midwest, has helped me get a lot of

jobs because that's the bulk of the audience you write for."

She also owns Words Delivered, a freelance service that can write everything from CEO keynote speeches to the perfect wedding toast.

"I do most of that myself, depending on the topic," she said. "I did have a request from a woman for barmitzvah and batmitzvah speeches for her twin son and daughter that I hired out to someone who better understood the cultural references. TV writers' rooms showed me that the best moments come from riffing and happy accidents, things AI just can't do."

Parres gave a 2014 TED Talk titled "What I learned in the Sitcom Writers' Room" and earned a master's in professional writing from the University of Southern California.

She considers her first writers' room, however, to be the photography dark room at South.

"Jack Summers was one of many excellent teachers I had there," Parres said. "Everyone was welcome as long as you followed his one rule of photography, 'No babies, no beer cans.' He also taught at the College for Creative Studies, so we were getting college-level instruction."

Two other teachers Parres said had a big impact on her were Spanish teachers John Mason and Edward Franco.

"I learned more about English from them by taking Spanish," she said. "The teachers at South were incredible. I learned more from them than I did in grad school."

"I feel very privileged to have grown up in Grosse Pointe during my formative years," Parres continued. "I know I come from an abundant background."



COURTESY PHOTO

Guests to Ford House last summer enjoyed the inaugural Shakespeare Stroll, featuring actors from Grosse Pointe Theatre.

Ford House, GP Theatre's Shakespeare Stroll is Aug. 7

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and Grosse Pointe Theatre present a unique evening of live performance from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, with Shakespeare Stroll, a walking theater experience staged across the lakeside grounds of Ford House. Guests will move throughout the historic estate at their own pace, entertained by live scenes from some of Shakespeare's most iconic works.

The 2025 theme, "Love and Laughter," features a selection of romantic and comedic scenes performed by members of Grosse Pointe Theatre.

"Grosse Pointe Theatre is excited to once again partner with Ford House to bring Shakespeare to the community on the beautiful grounds of the Ford estate," said Linda Zublick, executive director of Grosse Pointe Theatre. "This year's theme is sure to entertain both Shakespeare enthusiasts and novices to his work."

Guests can choose from two ticket options: General admission is \$50 and includes one drink

ticket, light refreshments and access to cash bars throughout the event. VIP Admission is \$75 and includes two drink tickets, refreshments and entry to an afterglow reception in the Lake Shore Room overlooking Ford Cove, where guests can enjoy appetizers and connect with performers and partners.

"I'm excited to see Grosse Pointe Theatre bring Shakespeare's most iconic scenes to life throughout the Ford House grounds. It's such a fun and unique way to experience these timeless stories," said Andrea Ozanich, public events specialist at Ford House. "Working with Grosse Pointe Theatre on the Shakespeare Stroll has been such a rewarding partnership. Together, we're creating meaningful, accessible arts experiences that bring people together and celebrate the power of live performance in our community."

Shakespeare Stroll is open to adults age 21 and older.

Tickets and details are available at fordhouse.org/events.

The Family Center welcomes new board members

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, a nonprofit organization that provides free programs and resources to help build happier, healthier families, recently welcomed new board members Kelly Adams, Matt Mastay, Tim Rowlands, Janet Sarkos, Julie Schuetze and Harry Todd.

Adams, MSN, RN, NE-BC, serves as the director of nursing at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, where she leads

the medical-surgical units, orthopedic unit, inpatient wound care and the Nursing Education Department. Mastay is director of regional ambulatory operations at Henry Ford Health. Rowland is the director of finance for the city of Grosse Pointe Farms. Sarkos is the chief crisis operations officer at Common Ground, which operates the 988 suicide prevention hotline for the state of Michigan. Schuetze is the director of product and commercial for Lyft Business &



Healthcare. Todd is the chief visionary officer of H.C. Todd & Co., PLLC, and founder of Jive Turkeys Detroit, which provides Thanksgiving dinner to more than 3,000 people annually.

The new board members bring with them a

wealth of experience in their respective fields and volunteer roles, as well as their personal experiences being members of families of all shapes and sizes.

The gavel was passed to new President Christine Alcantara, who is joined

by Vice President Nancy Gandelot Spearman, Treasurer Tim Rowland, Secretary Beth Quinn, Member-At-Large Lynne Aldrich, Past President Roger Hull and board members Marquita Bedway, Gary Colett, Sierra Donaven, Ted

Everingham, Deb Davis-Lenane, Marianne Langlois, Chip Rohde, Lisa Vallee-Smith and LaShanda Thomas.

For more information, visit familycenterhelps.org/ or contact Jennifer Bingaman at jen@familycenterhelps.org.

KA6:

Continued from page 1B

rock.

"We're a community near the water," Craig said. "Bringing in a yacht rock band fits the schematics of the Grosse Pointes."

Not 2 Nite performed last month at Music on the Plaza in the City of Grosse Pointe and has played at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, The Roostertail, Cadieux Café in Detroit and the Blue Goose Inn in St. Clair Shores.

The No Ways is a punk

ska band with a horn section.

"We bring rude rhythms and big ska energy," according to the band's Facebook page. "Originals and covers designed to keep you skanking all night!"

"We've never had a ska band before," Craig said. "I thought it would be fun. That type of music is up-tempo with an energetic sound — horns and saxophone, a lot of '90s pop songs, a fun thing that's good for the whole family."

Attractions

Activities kick off early

with Hump Day Hot Dogs, 5 to 6 p.m. outside Pointe Hardware. The store's Little Builder's program is 5 to 7 p.m. Advanced registration is required at workshop@pointehardwaregroup.com.

The fair's main non-musical attraction is a ballistic carnival ride.

"It's tubs you sit in that spin in circles," Craig said. "All ages will be able to get on. A parent and child, a couple children from families will be able to get on together."

Also featured is a mechanical bull, a crowd magnet in the past.

"The mechanical bull will be for all ages, parents, younger adults, kids. Everybody can get on, see if they can last eight seconds and have a fun time recording each other and cheering them on."

The fundraiser dunk tank benefits the recreation department's Turn of the Tide Martial Arts classes.

"Our instructor's been teaching kids in the Park karate for over 34 years," Craig said. "Proceeds are for their scholarship fund. For kids that have a little trouble participating in the program, they have

a scholarship program. It might help them do two or three of the sessions so they don't fall off. It helps them afford it."

Sponsors

Sponsors for Kercheval After 6 are:

◆ Diamond: Pointe Hardware Group

◆ Gold: Brosnan Builders, Red Crown, Aquatic Source, The Bricks Pizzeria, Edmund t. AHEE Jewelers, Brine Oyster House, Pointe Alarm, Pet Supplies Plus, Village Dental Associates, Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe, Grosse Pointe News, Harvey

Animal Hospital, LeRouge Boulangerie, Atwater in the Park, Thermal Mechanical LLC and Carly Copus - Licensed Insurance Agent

◆ Silver: The Zealous Root, University Liggett School, Pointe Cabinets & Design, Marshall Landscape Inc. and DTE Energy

◆ Bronze: Hoof 'N Woolf, Rustic Cabins, H20 Cleaners, Grosse Pointe Spine Center, Gold & Braid, Duffey & Co. and Aesthetic Theory Detroit

One more Kercheval After 6 is scheduled this year, Aug. 23.

LIFE & LEISURE



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Former Pointer pens second book

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

John Fitzgerald always wanted to write the proverbial "Next Great American Novel," but there was one thing standing in the way.

"My wife wouldn't let me write," he laughed during a recent phone interview from his home in Hobe Sound, Fla. "I traveled so much for work that when I was home on weekends, it was family time. No golf, no writing."

Fitzgerald and his then-wife, Pamela — who passed away from breast cancer in 2011 — and their two children lived in Grosse Pointe Farms from 1982 to 1990. "I was working for Ford in New York City at the time and knew very little about Grosse Pointe, but I recalled meeting a girl from there



John Fitzgerald

at a high school forensics competition and it sounded idyllic," he said. "It was a great place for the kids to grow up. They still have friends there and so do I."

Fitzgerald eventually launched his own creative agency and production company back in New York, specializing in brand identity, film and video production and design.

"Two weeks before Pam died, we're in the hospital and she gives me a book titled 'How to Write a Damn Good Novel,'" he said. "She told me I had to read the whole thing, follow it to a T and not to try to write the Next Great American Novel. Sure enough, I tried to write the Next Great American Novel and got nowhere."

He met his current partner, Mary LaDuca, playing golf in 2013.

"She asked me what I liked to read and I said thrillers," he recalled. "I think she literally saved my life. She encouraged me to keep writing."

He also recalled meeting Harvey Mackay, author of several successful business books, on a flight.

"It was a red-eye from Los Angeles to New York and I'm on my laptop," Fitzgerald said. "He

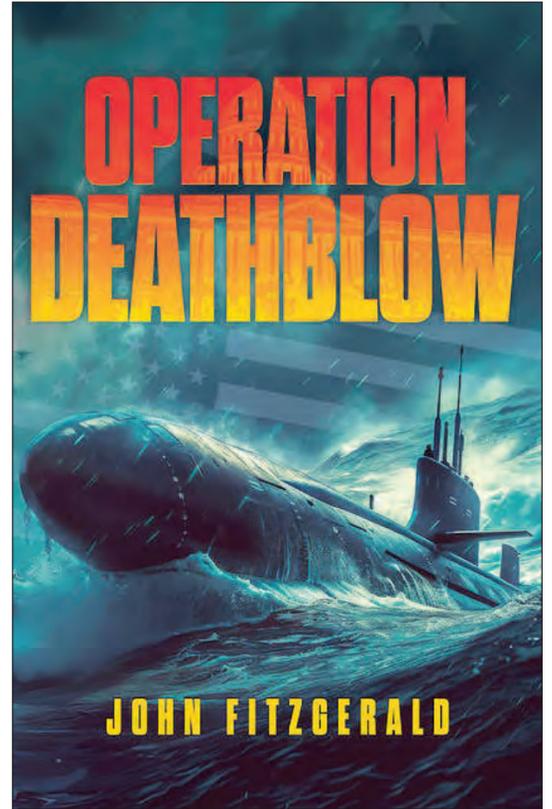
told me if I was working all day, just turn it off and read a book. And he said to always read fiction."

He bought "The Day of the Jackal," a historical fiction novel about the attempted assassination of French President Charles de Gaulle, for his next flight.

"Our office in New York was about 10 blocks from the World Trade Center," he said. "I was in California at the time and heard they didn't find any of the bodies. That got me thinking what if someone got away, swam across the river and started over? I had insurance executives tell me that can happen in major disasters."

"Operation Hawks Nest," which came out in 2021, focuses on an American spy known only as "The Hawk" and deals with 9/11 and the assassination of Osama bin Laden.

"One of the suggestions in the book Pam gave me was to write your first novel with no dialogue," Fitzgerald said. "I sent it to my literary agent and she told me it wouldn't go anywhere. She told me to open any book I had, turn to any page and there's dialogue. So I



rewrote it and learned what my voice was."

"Operation Deathblow," from 2024, follows the same character and deals with the pandemic and the strained relationship between the U.S. and China.

"I did a book tour and at every stop people asked me who would play 'The Hawk' in the

movie," Fitzgerald said. "That was my exact idea. I wrote it very visually paced and have had some talks about turning it into a movie script."

Fitzgerald said he is putting together ideas for his third book in the series and hopes to add Grosse Pointe as a tour stop to promote it. Both his books are available on amazon.com.

From left, gala committee members Patti Timmins, Sandy MacMechan, Valerie Dodenhoff and Thomas Jones II.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Great gala

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society hosted its 24th summer gala at the home of Jill and Dan Connell in Grosse Pointe Farms. Nearly 300 guests, as well as numerous sponsors, helped raise \$60,000 for the historical society.



Dan and Jill Connell opened their home for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's summer gala.



Left, Veronica and Eugene Kelly, owners of the Detroit Film Factory, are new arrivals in Grosse Pointe, having moved here a few months ago. Right, Rebecca and Eric Reiter were among attendees. Eric Reiter is the general manager and chief operating officer at Lochmoor Club.



Historical Society Past President Leslie Wagner enjoys the music of Scott Gwinell.

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

Lawn work etiquette when neighbor is enjoying outdoor meals with family

Dear Gabby: Why does my neighbor mow his lawn and blow off his driveway exactly when we are having dinner outside? It's like clockwork. Is there anything I can do? — Blown Away in the Parks

Dear Blown Away: Each city has different rules for such activities.

However, if it's just once a week, maybe consider going out that night or simply having dinner indoors. Perhaps your neighbor works all day and that's the only time they have — or it's their way of blowing off steam along with leaves and debris.

If it's every day or multiple times a week, bring-

ing it to his attention and asking for a compromise is not the worst idea, as long as you approach it in a respectful and problem-solving manner.

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



When support feels like sales

DEAR ANNIE: My sister, "Jenna," is 38 and recently started selling handmade candles online. I was excited for her at first; it's a big step to start your own business. But now, every conversation somehow turns into a pitch.

She'll bring candles to family dinners and "gift" them, only to follow up later asking for social media shoutouts or reviews. At our mom's birthday, she gave everyone "custom scents" and then passed around her business cards.

I want to support her, but it's getting awkward. I don't think she realizes

how pushy it's coming across. My husband joked that we can't invite her anywhere without a table for her products. I laughed, but it hit a nerve.

We're close, and I don't want to embarrass her or make her feel unsupported. But I also don't want every gathering to feel like a sales event.

Is there a kind way to bring this up without sounding like I'm criticizing her passion? — Burnt Out Sister

DEAR BURNT OUT: No one wants to feel like they are being sold to, especially by their own family. It's important to

be supportive, but you don't need to accept the fact that every family event is now turning into a sales pitch.

There's a time and a place for business talk, and it's OK to set boundaries. Frame it with care: "I love that you've found something you're passionate about, but I've noticed our family time has started to feel more like a sales event." Keep it short and stick to how it's affecting the family dynamic, not her intentions.

If she's receptive, great. If not, you can limit how much time you spend with Jenna until

she cools off about the candles.

DEAR ANNIE: I've been best friends with "Dani" since college. We're both 34 now, and our lives have gone in different directions — she's single and travels often, while I'm married with a toddler. We still talk regularly, but lately, I've noticed she's started copying little parts of my life. She's taken up my hobby (pottery), started using the same phrases I say and even bought the same purse I have.

At first, I brushed it off as flattery. But when she told me she's considering moving to my neighborhood "just to be closer," it felt ... strange. She's never mentioned wanting to leave her area before.

She hasn't done anything directly hurtful, but it's starting to feel like my identity is being mirrored. I don't want to sound paranoid or accuse her of something she may not even realize she's doing. But it's beginning to feel like I can't share parts of my life without them being absorbed.

Is this something I should address, or am I overthinking it? — Too Close for Comfort?

DEAR TOO CLOSE: They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but it's important that you feel like you can have your own identity. And when someone mirrors it too closely, it can be unsettling.

Start by giving her the benefit of the doubt. Some mimicry is natural in close friendships.

If she continues adopting aspects of your life, then it's fair to bring it up more directly. Focus on how it makes you feel, not what she's doing wrong. "Sometimes I feel like parts of my life aren't really mine anymore. I know that's probably not your intention, but I wanted to be honest."

There's no need to accuse her of copying; just share your experience.

DEAR ANNIE: My best friend and I have been close for over 20 years. We've seen each other through marriages, divorces, parenting challenges, health scares — you name it. She is the person I call when I'm heartbroken, when I'm celebrating or when I just



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

need someone to remind me who I am.

Lately, though, she has been going through a rough time financially. She recently lost her job, and even though she is doing everything she can to get back on her feet, I know she is struggling. She is behind on bills and has stopped going out with friends, and I suspect she is skipping meals just to make ends meet. It breaks my heart to see her this way.

I want to help her. Not just emotionally, but practically. I am fortunate to be in a stable financial place right now, and I would love to offer some kind of support. But I do not want to embarrass her or make her feel like a charity case. She is proud and independent, and I respect that.

Do you have any advice on how I can help her without damaging our friendship or her dignity? I am open to anything, whether it is direct financial support or more creative ways of being there for her. — Worried and Wanting to Help

DEAR WORRIED: You have a kind heart, and your friend is lucky to have you. The best way to help is with sensitivity and respect.

Instead of offering cash outright, consider covering a specific bill, giving a gift card for groceries, or inviting her to dinner and sending her home with leftovers. You might also help her job hunt or connect her with resources.

Let her know you're offering support because you care, not because you pity her. Pride and friendship can coexist when love leads the way.

DEAR ANNIE: I'm a 48-year-old man, married for 21 years to my beautiful wife. We live in Canada and have shared many good years together, but things began to unravel last year when we started facing serious financial stress. Since then, the arguments have become more frequent, and so has her withdrawal — emotionally and physically.

She began withholding intimacy for a month at a time, then two. On

Valentine's Day, after a particularly heated fight, she said she wanted to teach me a lesson. Since then, it has been over six months with no physical intimacy at all. She refuses to be touched, and every attempt I've made to reconnect has been met with coldness. What hurts more is that she seems comfortable being physically affectionate with her sister's husband — something I've voiced strong concerns about. When I brought it up, she dismissed my feelings entirely.

She has refused counseling, won't speak to mutual friends who offered to help mediate, and shows no signs of sadness or distress over the state of our marriage. Meanwhile, I'm the one feeling anxious and depressed from the emotional and physical distance.

At this point, I'm wondering — should I hand her divorce papers? It feels like she has already checked out of the relationship. Her happiness without me feels like a betrayal. Am I wrong to see this as emotional abandonment? — Feeling Shut Out in Canada

DEAR SHUT OUT IN CANADA: What you are experiencing is absolutely emotional abandonment. Withholding intimacy for months at a time, especially as punishment, is not healthy. You have tried to talk, suggested counseling and even asked for help from others. She has refused all efforts.

You cannot fix a marriage alone. Her comfort with physical affection toward others while rejecting you is hurtful, and you are right to feel confused and shut out.

Before filing for divorce, ask yourself this: If nothing changes, can you live like this? If the answer is no, and she still refuses to engage, it may be time to move on. A marriage without connection is not a marriage at all.

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

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Take-n-slide medication tracker keeps family on schedule

With a busy household, it's easy to lose track of whether I've taken my vitamins or if my child has had their antibiotic that day. Days blur together, so when I found this little Take-n-Slide medication tracker on Amazon, I have to say — it's been a total game changer.

It's incredibly simple to use. You just stick it to the lid of your pill bottle and each day, you slide the button from green



to red once the dose is taken. That's it. The button stays right where you

leave it, so if I need to check later, I can tell instantly whether it was taken or not. It's such a small tool, but it has saved me from second-guessing myself I can count. I don't have to transfer anything to a pill case or set reminders on my phone. It just works.

This product comes in a pack of two, which is perfect for anyone managing more than one daily medication

or keeping one at home and one on the go. It is inexpensive from Amazon and ships overnight. I've found it especially useful for kid medications, like short-term antibiotics or daily vitamins. It also would be amazing for older relatives, caregivers or anyone traveling who wants to keep their medication routine on track without the bulk of a pill organizer.

I love how the tracker is slim and doesn't add bulk, but it's durable and sticks well to standard

bottles. It's discreet, secure and lasts through multiple refills.

While pill cases can be great, I find when I'm only taking one or two pills per day, it's just easier to keep them in the original bottle and use this tracker instead. It makes things simple and foolproof. I've already reordered it and I'll continue to keep these stocked.

I give this five out of five alligators because it truly solves a real problem in a super easy, practical way. It gives me peace of

mind, saves me time and helps keep my whole family on track. What more can you ask for?

We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.

5 Out Of 5



Prime BBQ appetizers

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Each summer, I'm honored to be invited to a gathering with friends that we call "Meat Sweats Monday." No rules, no judgement and just copious amounts of meat. There is so much meat involved that you aren't allowed to bring anything to the party that doesn't contain some type of meat product.

There was brisket, pulled pork, sausages, brats, tomahawk steaks and smoked wings. We even had armadillo eggs, which are jalapeno poppers inside meatballs that are wrapped in bacon! Most of the side vegetables were wrapped in bacon and the salad had lots of salami. You get the idea.

My addition was a grilled prosciutto wrapped brie with hot honey. I've seen recipes like this in the past that looked absolutely delicious. I decided to give it a shot but use hot honey and grilled peaches as some extra bonuses. It was a show stopper that rivaled the tomahawk steak.

Grilling cheese can be done, especially with brie because the rind is left on to keep the inside intact. This recipe can be

smoked, grilled or baked. The recipe below is for a gas grill but I also included the smoking temperature. The flavor from the smoker gets into the peaches, meat and cheese and is absolutely divine.

If you want to use your oven, bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Hot honey can be found in most large grocery stores or specialty food stores. Most are infused with chilis and give a beautiful sweet heat. You may want to serve extra on the side because everyone wanted more honey.

This recipe is so simple to throw together and has just a few ingredients. It's perfect for your next summer barbecue.

Enjoy the perfect bite of crispy bread, sweet peaches, creamy brie and salty prosciutto all topped off with spicy honey.

Cheers, Mombeau

Prosciutto Wrapped Brie with Hot Honey and Grilled Peaches

8-10 prosciutto slices

1 8 oz wheel of brie

¼ hot honey

5 halved ripe peaches, pit removed

1 baguette, sliced

Olive oil for brushing

Begin by wrapping the brie. On a work surface, lay down the prosciutto slices, each slice overlapping the next. The ends should meet in the middle so you have an evenly covered circle.

Next, place the brie wheel in the center and carefully wrap the prosciutto over the top so the brie is fully covered. At this point, you can wrap it in plastic wrap and keep it in the fridge until you are ready to grill. Preheat your grill to medium-low heat, about 300 degrees. Brush the brie with olive oil and do the same with the peach halves. Place the wrapped brie on the grill along with the peaches, cut side down. Grill for about five minutes checking to make sure the prosciutto isn't burning. You may need to turn the heat down if it starts to blacken. Flip the brie and peaches and grill for another two to three minutes.

Note, if you are smok-



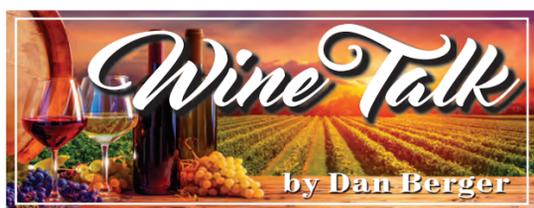
PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

ing, cook at 300 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes per side, watching for too much color.

To make the crostini, preheat your broiler. Lay the baguette sliced side

down on a baking sheet and drizzle each slice with olive oil. Sprinkle with course salt. Broil for about two minutes per side, making sure they don't get too brown.

To serve, cut the peach halves into slices. Arrange the peaches and crostini around the brie. Drizzle the peaches and brie with hot honey and enjoy!



Is it sweet?

With the advent of summer and hotter weather, people who like to sip wine on a patio, pool deck, picnic or simply paired with light snacks usually opt for sparkling wines, roses or maybe lighter whites.

One issue that can complicate buying these chillable wines is whether the wine is going to be dry or sweet.

Wines that are too dry may not appeal to those people who want a simple, approachable, slightly sweeter quaff.

People who consume wine regularly and prefer dry wines fear the opposite — that a wine will be too sweet. And the worst of it is that the domestic wine industry often doesn't usually tell potential

purchasers how sweet or dry a wine is.

Although most French sauvignon blancs from the Loire Valley are dry, those from New Zealand tend to be sweeter. Most regular wine consumers know this.

Complicating this is that we all taste sweetness levels differently. Long-time wine drinkers who are used to completely dry wines often say most sauvignon blancs are too sweet.

Although New Zealand sauvignon blancs are typically a bit sweet, they usually have excellent acidity. For people who like that style, the wines tend to taste in the aftertaste. French sauvignon blanc lovers say the same wines are too sweet.

This points up the criti-

cal factor that confuses the issue and makes it difficult to discuss. Some wines that are sweet can taste dry if the acid is high enough. And some wines that have no sugar might taste to some people as if they are slightly sweet because of low acidity!

So, whether you consider a wine to be dry or sweet depends on how you perceive sugar and acidity. Which makes writing about wine difficult because I can't know what each reader perceives.

However, one thing is certain: the colder a white or pink wine is served, the more it will taste dry and crisp. And the warmer a white wine is served, the softer it will taste.

Another important factor in determining the kind of wine that you will find on a retail shelf is the alcohol level. Alcohol provides an impression of sweetness. The lower the alcohol, the less the sweetness is apparent.

If you find a wine with 12 percent alcohol, you may be sure that it will be drier than a comparable wine with 14.5 percent alcohol.

In addition to paying attention to the alcohol, it's also a good idea to look at the vintage. With wine sales as weak as they have been in decades, many older wines from previous vintages are now being discounted.

The 2024 white and pink wines hitting the shelves today are bright and fresh and can be delightful. But I have seen several stores still carrying wines as old as 2020 and 2021. Some may still be fine, but many have lost that youthful

magic, freshness and fruit.

One more trick to finding a fresh bottle of wine. If you shop at a supermarket, check the bottles. If you see a layer of dust, it indicates that the wines have been sitting on the shelf under fluorescent lights a little too long and might not be as fresh as you prefer.

Wine of the Week:

2024 Triennes Rose, Mediterranean Indication Geographique Protegee (\$18) — The aroma of

this fresh and lively floral/citrus-y pink wine is delightful. Although it differs from previous vintages, which were slightly crisper, this version is a little sweeter and best served very cold to enhance its refreshing qualities.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SANTA RITA FILM CO.

Left, Luke Wilson as Bobby Ratliff and Greg Kinnear as Coach Jon Kelly in the 2024 movie "You Gotta Believe," written by Lane Garrison and directed by Ty Roberts.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "You Gotta Believe"
 2024 - Rated PG
 1 hr 44 min
 ★★☆☆☆

Now that it's mid-summer and the Detroit Tigers are once again in the midst of a pennant race, I thought it would be the perfect time to review a baseball movie. There have been so many great ones over the years including classics like "Field of Dreams," "The Natural," "Bull Durham," and...well, the list goes on and on. I don't think any sport has had quite as many films made about it as baseball has. Then, just when you thought you've seen everything, a little film like "You Gotta Believe" comes along. While it's a fun and inspiring family movie, it's not quite in the same class as the previously mentioned titles. But it's well worth watching nonetheless.

The film is full of the usual clichés you seen a million times before. Underdog team. Bunch of misfits. Minor love interest. Huge turning point. But there are a couple things that set this one apart. For one, it's based on a true story, which is always refreshing. And secondly, the acting is great — everyone turns in wonderful performances. It also includes some unique camerawork, which make the action scenes especially fun to watch.

"You Gotta Believe" is directed by Ty Roberts ("12 Mighty Orphans," "The Iron Orchard") and written by Lane Garrison. A hats off to cinematographer Stuart James Cameron. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the soundtrack and the music supervisor Joe Rangel — while it was usually in the background, there were a couple times when it reminded me a little of "Chariots of Fire" and "The Natural" stirring up the Rah Rah feeling. But what really made the film for me was the remarkable acting of Luke Wilson and Greg Kinnear. These two veteran actors help make "based on a true story" truly believable. The performances from the kids weren't too shabby either.

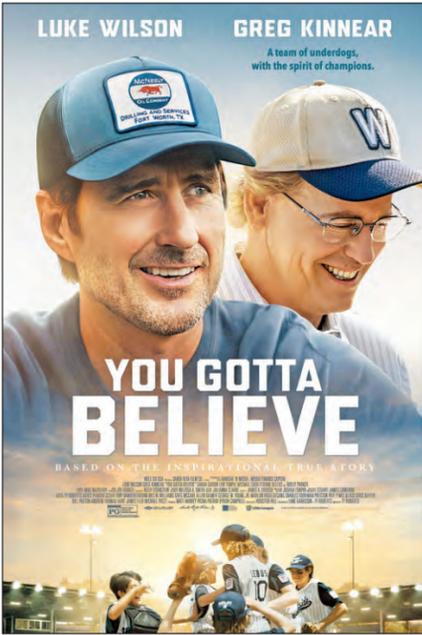
The Westside Little League team from Fort Worth, Texas, has had a less than stellar season, to put it nicely. In fact, it was disastrous — they somehow managed to lose every one of their games in 2002. If that wasn't bad enough, their assistant coach Bobby Ratliff (Wilson) has been diagnosed with a life-threatening brain tumor. Of

course, it's not something that Bobby is going to give into, and he and his family are most assuredly going to give it the good fight.

As luck would have it, the team's season may not be over after all. They're invited to play a powerhouse team with the chance of advancing to the playoffs and eventually to the Little League World Series.

The reason they were offered the chance is because no other team was willing to face them, knowing it was a sure defeat. It's essentially just a practice game for the highly favored team.

One reason their opponent was so good was due to their ace pitcher



Movie poster.



Patti (Sarah Gadon) and Kathy (Molly Parker) cheering on the team.



A pensive moment for Coach Jon (Kinnear).

The jubilant team.

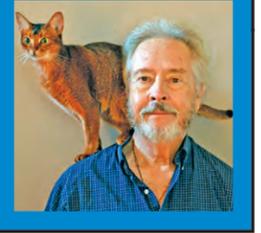


Coach Jon and team in the dugout watching the field.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



Hunter Dixon.

At first the Westsiders are reluctant to play the game. But when they find out that their star Hunter Dixon won't be starting, Bobby does a comical war cry in jubilation and the team catches his driving spirit. Head coach Jon Kelly (Kinnear) has been focusing more on his work as an attorney lately than actually guiding the team. But when his team is invited to participate in the playoff game, he focuses on what's important to his son Walker (Etienne Kellici) and the rest of the gang.

Naturally, the kids come together during a series of practices. The team enlists the help of Coach Mitch Belew played by Lew Temple, ("The Walking Dead," "Unstoppable"), to help whip the youngsters into shape. He adds a bit of comic relief to the movie. I read he was a former minor leaguer in the Houston Astro farm system — which adds quite a bit of authenticity to his performance.

It's enjoyable to watch the kids as they practice and then play in the big game. It's here that I'll quit telling you what happens. I won't tell you any more about the plight of Coach Bobby. Nor will I reveal how the team fares. Let's just say, you'll have to watch this heartfelt little film and find out for yourself. There have been a couple of shows that tug at the heartstrings lately including

"Ted Lasso" and "Welcome to Wrexham." I think this movie fits right in with the spirit of those engaging shows. If you haven't seen them, I can't recommend them highly enough.

I think "You Gotta Believe" is an exciting film the whole family will appreciate. It's inspiring seeing a movie about teamwork, perseverance and family without getting too preachy and I liked that it didn't get overly sentimental. That said, I'd still advise you to have some tissues handy when you watch it.

If you've got pennant fever and are looking for a few more baseball themed movies to liven up your evenings, here are some of my faves, in no particular order:

- "The Natural"
- "A League of Their Own"
- "Sugar"
- "Bull Durham"
- "Field of Dreams"
- "Eight Men Out"
- "Bang the Drum Slowly"
- "42"
- "Cobb"
- "The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings"

"You Gotta Believe" is currently streaming on Netflix. And to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Amazon, Fandango, and

other streaming services.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



The team at the baseball card shop.



Peanut (Joaquin Roberts) chats with dad (Luke Wilson).



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

7/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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7/17 Solution

Contract Bridge

HOT POTATO

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♣
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♣
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — king of hearts.

There's a lot more to some deals than at first meets the eye. Take this case from a major national pairs championship.

At one table, three notrump was reached on the bidding shown. West made the normal lead of the heart king, and East made the equally normal play of overtaking the king with the ace and returning a heart to unblock the suit. West took South's jack with the queen, cashed the ten and continued with a fourth heart, establishing his remaining heart.

Declarer won the heart with dummy's nine, cashed the ace of spades, discarding a diamond, and then led a club toward his hand. After East followed low, South put up the ace and played another club, losing to East's king. West's good heart thus withered on the vine, and declarer took the rest of the tricks.

In the post-mortem, East chided himself for failing to put up his king when the first club was led from dummy. He pointed out that after South took the king with the ace, West would next gain the lead with the queen and cash his heart to defeat the contract.

South replied that if East had made this play, he would have allowed the king to hold and then played the ace on the next round. Whether South would actually have done so will never be known.

East and South both missed another possibility, however. East had the right idea about sacrificing his king of clubs — but the right time to get rid of it was on the third or fourth round of hearts! Once East jettisoned the club king on a heart, declarer would have been helpless.

The winning play is really not that hard to find. East should reason that if South has the A-Q, his king is dead anyway. It should therefore be disposed of as quickly as possible in the hope that partner has the queen.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The New Moon in LEO is exact at 3:11 p.m. EDT (12:11 p.m. PDT).

Happy Birthday for Thursday, July 24, 2025:

You are energetic, empathetic and sensitive. You're an enthusiastic extrovert who is protective of others. This year is about creating solid foundations in your life. Simplicity will be the key. Take charge of your health. Physical exercise will be important. Explore martial arts or yoga.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You are the artisan of the zodiac. You love hobbies and learning how to do new things, especially with your hands. (You'll tackle anything without training.) Today's New Moon urges you to value and respect your natural talents. It's a good day to socialize. Tonight: Socialize!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Every month, the New Moon is an opportunity to make resolutions. Today's New Moon is your chance to think about how to improve where you live, as well as how to improve your relations with family members. Ideas? Tonight: Relax.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today's New Moon is an opportunity for you to observe your style of communicating. You are the wordsmith of the zodiac. However, in conversation with others, do you listen to what they're saying, or are you just waiting for your turn to speak? Think about this. Tonight: Discussions.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

You are a careful money manager and a saver. Today's New Moon is the only New Moon all year taking place in your Money House, which means it's your chance to think about how your wealth and your personal assets benefit you — or not. Tonight: Check your belongings.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is happening. That means this is the perfect opportunity to take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you think about the impression you create on your world. What can you do to improve your image? Tonight: You win!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today's New Moon makes this an ideal day to think about the things you might repress or refuse to deal with. You might ask yourself, "In which areas of my life am I most self-defeating?" "How do I undermine the very things that I most want to accomplish?" Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is your chance to think about the friends that you want to have in your life. Do you reach out to people, or do you expect them to come to you? Are the people you spend time with the people you really want in your life? Tonight: Be friendly.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today the only New Moon at the top of your chart all year is happening. This is the best time to take inventory and ask yourself about your attitude to authority figures — parents, bosses, the police, courts or the government. Tonight: You're noticed.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Each New Moon is a chance to make resolutions. Today is the perfect day to take stock of your education and knowledge. Do you have attitudes about yourself and education that get in the way of your success? Does your belief system help or hinder you? Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is the best day all year to take stock of your financial status and debt. For example, is there a good balance in your life between your reliance on your own resources and those of the people who care for you? Are you abusing your debt? Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The New Moon today is the perfect day to think about your long-term relationships. What are your beliefs about love? How do you finish the sentence, "What people want out of me is ..." Or, "Whenever I get involved in a relationship ..." Tonight: Cooperate.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Use today's New Moon to set goals about work habits, attitudes and performance. At your job, do you get by with doing as little as you can? Under what conditions do you work best? How you work affects your sense of personal self-respect. Tonight: Get organized.

BORN TODAY

Actress, singer Jennifer Lopez (1969), actress Elizabeth Moss (1982), actress Rose Byrne (1979).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg July 24, 2025

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| ACROSS | 45 Houston MLB player | 10 A gentleman and a _____ | 40 Some professional pitchers? |
| 1 Welcomed at the door | 47 Invent, as a phrase | 11 Giant concert venue | 43 Reapers' implements |
| 6 Kill it, in drag lingo | 49 "Freaky Friday" actress Lindsay | 12 Used a peeler on Camper's treat | 46 Luke, to Darth Vader |
| 10 Drains of energy | 50 "Woman of the New Testament (... letters 1-5)" | 13 Actress Poehler | 48 Meditation syllables |
| 14 "Fear of Flying" author Jong | 56 Leaves out | 22 Paving goo | 50 March, say |
| 15 Great book? | 57 How some used cars are sold | 24 _____Lingus | 51 Love, in Liguria |
| 16 Study all night, say | 58 June honoree | 25 Like CC, but not BC | 52 Choir platform section |
| 17 "Big brand of cognac (In this clue's answer, note letters 3-7)" | 61 Have a snack | 26 "Got it," informally | 54 Beasts of burden |
| 19 Knight in shining armor, say | 62 Ironic way of saying "You don't have to tell me twice!" | 27 Armada vessel | 55 Exciting, slangily |
| 20 "Terrific!" | 65 Family _____ (ancestral chart) | 28 Use a keyboard | 59 Grammy winner India _____ |
| 21 Birds that lay bluish-green eggs | 66 Achy | 31 Not telling the truth | 60 Contacted privately on Insta |
| 22 Printer cartridge contents | 67 Spine-tingling | 32 Altar declaration | 62 "Shame on you!" |
| 23 "2001 hit featured in the film 'Moulin Rouge!' (... letters 4-8)" | 68 That woman's | 34 Unaware | 63 Trouble |
| 27 Cowpoke's charge | 69 Features of some coral reefs | 35 Nickelodeon explorer | 64 Favorable vote |
| 29 Gumbo pod | 70 In one's birthday suit | 36 British boarding school | |
| 30 Prefix with "power" or "dynamic" | | 39 Et _____ (and others) | |
| 31 Kind of bean in succotash | DOWN | | |
| 33 Roller coaster, e.g. | 1 Feudal worker | | |
| 37 Wall St. launch | 2 _____ 51 | | |
| 38 Employees look forward to them | 3 World's oldest tennis tournament | | |
| 41 "... psych!" | 4 Like an unfriendly look | | |
| 42 Authors | 5 Casually mention a famous friend | | |
| 44 Mufasa or Simba | 6 Play a banjo | | |
| | 7 Tons of, casually | | |
| | 8 Buddy in Bordeaux | | |
| | 9 Longing | | |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	H	A	D	E	S	R	O	O	T	S	R	S	
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7/17 Solution
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www.upuzzles.com

I Couldn't Possibly! by Joe Rodini

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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70									70			

THURSDAY COMICS

Grosse Pointe News

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp



Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy



B.C.



Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey



Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



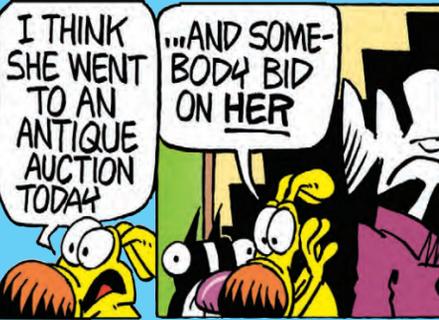
The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Mother Goose and Grim



Mike Peters



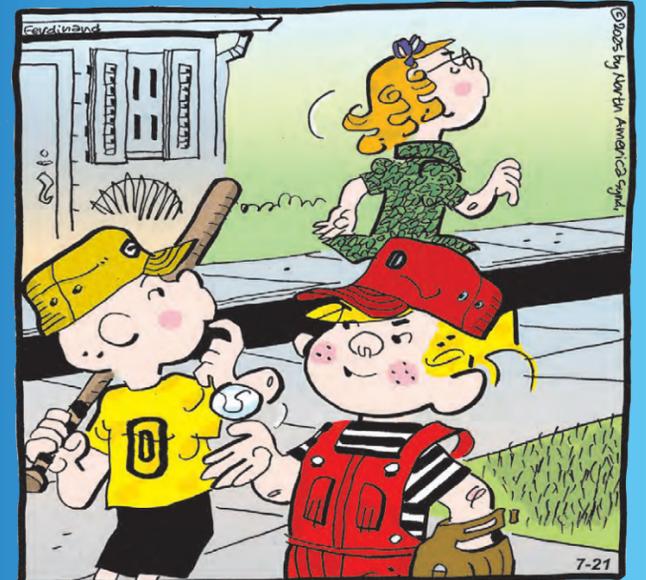
Crankshaft



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

Kid Scoop

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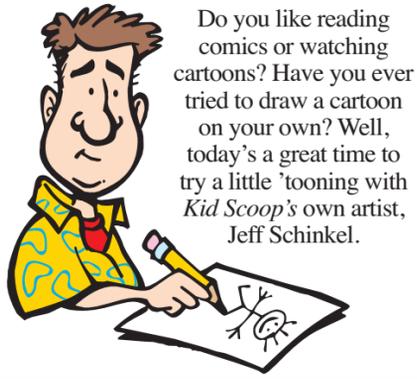
Kid Scoop Together: Comic Character

Comic characters have different character traits. Some are kind, but some are not. Some are courageous, while others are not. What other traits do comic strip characters exhibit?

Select three characters you like from the newspaper comics. Complete the boxes below.

Comic Strip:
Character's Name:
Character Trait:
Action that shows the trait:
Comic Strip:
Character's Name:
Character Trait:
Action that shows the trait:
Comic Strip:
Character's Name:
Character Trait:
Action that shows the trait:

Toon Time



Do you like reading comics or watching cartoons? Have you ever tried to draw a cartoon on your own? Well, today's a great time to try a little 'tooning with Kid Scoop's own artist, Jeff Schinkel.

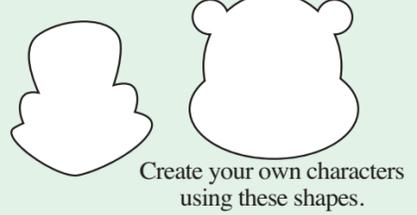
TOON TIP #1

Draw lightly in pencil first. Initially, keep your drawing loose, concentrating on the overall **gesture** or **pose** of your character.



TOON TIP #2

Drawing your favorite characters is good practice, but don't be afraid to make up some of your **own**, too!



Create your own characters using these shapes.

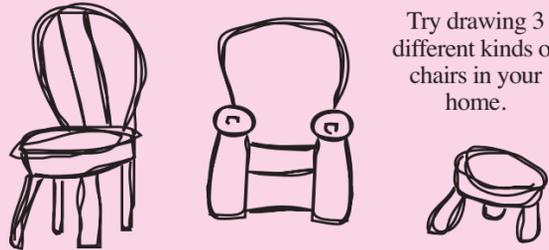
Draw five critters in five easy steps:



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Students understand and apply a variety of media, techniques and processes.

TOON TIP #3

Practice drawing things that can provide a good setting for your cartoons—trees, lakes, rocket ships, desert islands and more!



Try drawing 3 different kinds of chairs in your home.

Toon Talk

Comic strip cartoonists draw **and** write. See if you can come up with something funny for these characters to be saying. Show it to a friend and see if they get a chuckle out of it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of genres; use stylistic aspects of writing.

Comic Talk

Select newspaper photos of people or animals. Make up humorous things for each character to say to create a newspaper comic strip.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a variety of sentences.

What's a character trait?

- Read the list and then see if you can think of any other traits.
- responsible
 - persevering
 - honest
 - compassionate
 - generous
 - kind
 - respectful
 - capable
 - hopeful
 - disciplined
 - community minded

Standards Link: Character Education: Identify positive character traits.

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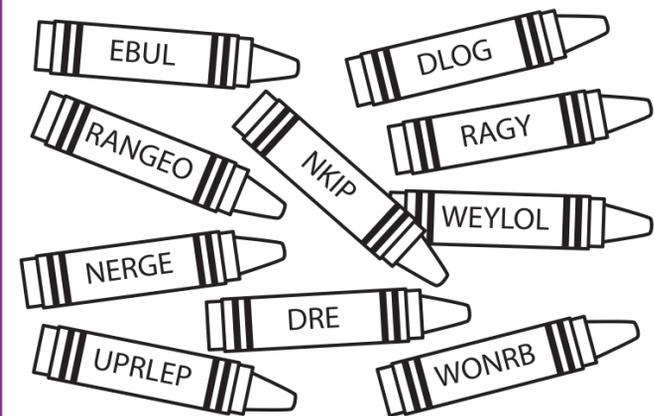
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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Crayon Confusion

Whoops! Unscramble the word on each crayon to figure out what color each crayon should be.



Double Double Word Search

- CARTOONS
- CHARACTER
- TALK
- SCHINKEL
- CHUCKLE
- PRACTICE
- DRAW
- LOOSE
- GESTURE
- STORY
- COMIC
- SETTING
- EVER
- POSE
- OWN

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



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

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **GRAPHIC**

One meaning of the noun **graphic** refers to illustrations, pictures or images that accompany written text.

The news **graphic** was a chart comparing gas prices in 2015 through 2025.

Try to use the word **graphic** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Comic Contractions

Comics have to tell a story in very few words. When possible, cartoonists make two words into one word by making a **contraction**. Circle any contractions you can find in today's newspaper articles, ads or comics.

Standards Link: Word Analysis/Vocabulary: Identify and spell contractions.

What kind of music do cars like to hear?



ANSWER: Car tunes.

Write On!

Toon Opinion

What is your favorite cartoon or animation? Give three reasons why it is your favorite.

Your Neighborhood

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SINE & MONAGHAN REALTY

2D-3D ATHLETES OF THE YEAR | 4D-5D CLASSIFIEDS | 6D LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE GENTILE AND STEPHEN MALBOEUF

Pointes rowers earn national gold

Grosse Pointe natives Olivia Bachert and Elizabeth Peberdy captured two gold medals while racing for Detroit Boat Club Crew at the 2025 USRowing RowFest National Championships in Ann Arbor earlier this month. The duo finished first in the Women's U23 Pair final on July 12, and were part of the Women's U23 Four championship boat on July 13. Both Bachert and Peberdy currently compete with NCAA Division I rowing teams, with Bachert at Syracuse University and Peberdy at the University of Tennessee.

Above left: Bachert, left, and Peberdy show off their gold medals after winning the Women's U23 Pair final at the USRowing Rowfest National Championships. Above right: From left, Bachert, Grace Armstrong, Peberdy and Evelyn Rector took first place in the Women's U23 Four championship.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Agosta's legacy of leadership leaves lasting imprint with South softball

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Being a steady, reliable starter at any position in any sport is about the best thing a team could ask for. That is what Grosse Pointe South varsity softball had with catcher Luna Agosta over the past few seasons.

Agosta was a captain for the Blue Devils during her junior and senior seasons and was a stalwart leader in every game. To cap off her career as one of the most feared catchers in the MAC, Agosta was named the Readers' Choice winner for female Athlete of the Year in the annual Grosse Pointe News contest.

"As a catcher, I'd really like to thank all of my pitchers because I can't try my best unless they're trying their best. ... We work together and I can only succeed as much as they're succeeding," she said. "... I want to thank all of them and especially one of my really good friends,



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Luna Agosta guards home plate awaiting the ball in Grosse Pointe South's state quarterfinal softball game against Henry Ford II in June.

Murphy Russell. We were the only two freshmen on varsity during our freshman year and have just gone through it all together and I think that's what made our bond as pitcher and catcher so close."

Agosta's chemistry with her teammates,

especially the pitchers she caught for, made her an instant leader on the Blue Devils. That chemistry did not go unnoticed by her own coaches or those on coaching teams. Calling her one of the most feared catchers in the MAC is not an under-

statement.

"An opposing coach this season approached me before a game and asked if Agosta was still catching, I told him yes and he responded, 'I wish she would hurry up and graduate,'" South softball head coach Bill Fleming said.

"(They) still tried to steal during the game and Luna threw both runners out. She had an incredible softball IQ and did an excellent job talking to pitchers in tense situations and getting them to relax. Luna was like having another coach on the

field — one of the rare players to be a two-year captain, both her junior and senior years."

While she was a fixture in the lineup and a key piece on defense for South, Agosta always put the team first. It is what earned her the role of captain her two final seasons. Her model of accountability and leadership is something she learned early on and will carry with her into the next stage of life.

"Growing up, my dad was my coach and he told me that if I want to play the sport, I have to do everything and put in all of this work outside of the actual games in order to do my best," she said. "I think that's something you can take with you no matter what, if it's in class or any other activity that I'm doing, in college or in life in general. I feel like I'm always going to put that extra effort in no matter what."

As she heads to college at Miami University in Ohio, Agosta will

See AGOSTA, page 3D

2D | SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Beland's strong season in the water sets high bar for senior campaign

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When Brendan Beland first began swimming for University Liggett School, he did not care if he was one of the only swimmers for the Knights. All that mattered was what he was able to achieve in the pool. The 2024-25 season was his best yet when it came to representing his school.

It was the season in which Beland was able to help put Liggett swimming on the map by reaching the Division 3 state finals. While he was there, he posted two top-five finishes to earn All-State status, cementing himself as one of the elite swimmers in the Pointes. His efforts did not go unnoticed, as he received the most votes for the 2025 Readers' Choice male Athlete of the Year.

"I'd love to thank my parents for giving me all the opportunities in the world to get better at my sport and reach the level that I have," Beland said. "And all of my coaches, like coach (John) Fodell, and all of the guidance that he provided me this year,

because it was a big year of growth for me."

His mom, Colleen, serves as the coach for Liggett's team, which this year included just Beland and teammate Jacob Rabbani. He also works year-round with Fodell as a member of the Grosse Pointe Gators club team.

While having one teammate this year, Beland was the only swimmer on Liggett's team his sophomore year. He may not know what his team for next season will look like, but he wants to take the role of senior leader to heart no matter what.

"It's important for me as the senior now on the team to make sure that I'm keeping things fun and being a leader, whether it's one or 20 people on a team," Beland said. "I need to make sure that I'm leading the charge and leading by example."

Since his season with Liggett ended in March, Beland has continued his work in the pool both competing and training as he looks ahead to his senior year. He spent this past week-end in Columbus, Ohio, competing at the USA

Swimming Central Zone Speedo Sectionals while putting some of his biggest off-season improvements to the test.

"We've been trying to focus on getting me a bit more out-speed," Beland said. "I come home usually pretty fast in a race, like the back half of my race is pretty good, but I've been working on getting quick off the block and fast right out of the gate instead of having to build up that momentum. ... I've also been working on the underwater work and bouncing off the walls a bit quicker and being able to carry myself underwater more."

With one more high school season to go this winter, Beland has set the standard for himself after what he did as a junior. He finished fourth in the 100-meter butterfly at the state finals this year and fifth in the 200-meter freestyle. The pair of top-five finishes in the state were a new career high for Beland, but he sees the only way to go now is up and onto the podium.

"It sets the bar high already for next year and keeps me motivated



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett School rising senior Brendan Beland earned All-State honors in two events as a junior at this year's Division 3 swim and dive state finals, and hopes to compete for state championships again as a senior in 2026.

to keep working hard this year," he said. ing home a state cham- and topping what I did "Hopefully, I'll be com- pion."

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Cueter's achievements on and off ice brought North girls hockey to new heights

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When she was a sophomore in high school, Josie Cueter made a choice. The decision was to leave the world of Triple-A travel hockey and instead join the varsity girls hockey team at Grosse Pointe North. Three seasons later, after achieving heights no other Norsemen had before her, Cueter knows her decision was the right one.

Cueter achieved All-State status in each of her three seasons with North and helped the team reach the state championship game as a sophomore. Her senior season this winter was a fitting end to a fruitful career, with Cueter leading the state in scoring and being named 2025 Miss Hockey by the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League. To put the icing on the cake, she also has been named 2025 Female Athlete of the Year as chosen by the Grosse Pointe News staff, another achievement she knows would not have been possible without

those closest to her on and off the ice.

"My family has been so supportive my whole life through every sport that I've played," she said. "... My dad has always shown so much support in everything that I do. I made a big transition in hockey and my dad was always there for me being happy with whatever I do. My mom shows up to every single game and she never misses anything. ... My coach, Taylor (Shaheen), has been the greatest coach I've ever had in both hockey and lacrosse. She's always been there for me and been my biggest supporter through it all."

Even after being named Miss Hockey and scoring 98 points in just 28 games, Cueter continued to add to her list of accolades in the spring. She was a captain of the Norsemen's varsity girls lacrosse team and was named an All-State honorable mention in Division 1 as her final achievement for North athletics after years as a three-sport athlete in field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse.



PHOTO BY ELLIOT JARVI

This winter, Josie Cueter became the first Grosse Pointe North player to be named Miss Hockey by the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League.

"It kind of felt that since it was the end of my senior year, it was like the last sport and last season I would ever play, so it was sentimental," she said. "... I loved being a captain and helping the younger girls, because it's such a big journey

and they have no idea what they're in for yet. As much as hockey is my main sport, I liked lacrosse being my last sport because the people there are so great."

Cueter embraced the role of a leader, serving as a captain both on the ice and on the field this year. Being the state's leading scorer in hockey was a big accomplishment, but what might be an even bigger achievement was the amount of guidance Cueter was able to provide the next generation of North hockey players.

"She is the definition of a student-athlete — a calm, collected, and trustworthy leader who

brings positivity, drive and heart to everything she does," Shaheen said. "... We'll miss her and hope she'll return to help coach someday, especially when her little sister Eleanor hits the ice."

North girls hockey brought in a group of players this season who were new to the sport. They got to learn from the best by playing and training alongside Cueter. Having players who want to join the program and grow their love for the sport is a testament to what Cueter, her coaches and teammates built, raising the profile of the program high enough to leave it in a better position than it

was just a few years ago. "The year I joined, because of the people and the coaches that we had that year, I feel like the program shot up," Cueter said. "People talked about it and knew about it and we made it to the state championship. Since then, I feel like it's been going up and up. ... Hockey would never be a sport that some high school girls might think to just try it out. We had so many last year and we have even more this coming year who want to try hockey for the first time." Cueter's next steps will come off the ice, as she plans to focus on her studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio.



ORDINANCE NO. 404

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE VIRTUAL CURRENCY MACHINES AND RELATED DEVICES OPERATED IN THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS.

A true copy of this ordinance, which is effective twenty days after enactment, may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk at Grosse Pointe Farms City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, except weekends and holidays.

Made and passed by the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, State of Michigan, this 14th day of July 2025.

Louis Theros, Mayor
Derrick Kozicki, City Clerk

Published: GPN: 07/24/2025

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Hepner's historic wrestling career to be remembered in South's record books

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Throughout Grosse Pointe, there are plenty of athletes whose legacies with their respective schools and teams will be remembered a long time. However, few helped truly reshape the image and tradition of a program like Wyatt Hepner did in his career with Grosse Pointe South wrestling.

In his four years as a Blue Devil, Hepner achieved multiple All-State honors and tallied more than 150 career victories. His sophomore year, he became the first South wrestler ever to make it to a state championship match and became the school's first wrestling state champion his junior season. To cap off an outstanding career on the mat, Hepner was named 2025 male Athlete of the Year as chosen by the Grosse Pointe News staff, adding to his legacy even more by becoming the second member of his family to achieve the honor.

"It's a good reinforcement of what I've accomplished," Hepner said. "Also, my brother (Logan) got it, so it was like I have to get it now. It's a great way to feel loved for my accomplishments."

Hepner's older brother, Logan, was named Grosse Pointe



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Wyatt Hepner establishes a hold on Mohammed Elhawli from Dearborn Heights Crestwood at this year's wrestling state finals. Hepner would go on to finish in third place in Division 1 at 150 pounds, completing his high school wrestling career with All-State honors in all four seasons.

News Athlete of the Year in 2023, before going on to become a Division I diver with the men's swim and dive team at the University of Michigan. Like his brother, Hepner now is moving on to become a Division I college athlete himself by joining the wrestling team at Harvard University.

Since graduating from South a couple of months ago, Hepner already has

begun training with the team at Harvard to prepare for the upcoming season. Getting to know his new teammates and coaches has gone well. Hepner knows the overall process does not change much from high school wrestling to college and he has to continue working even harder in that process to be ready to face the competition at the next level. "Having practices and

lifts that are going really well," he said. "It's a tough room, so it's a great way to get better and we're having a great preseason right now. ... You've got to trust the process and keep showing up and keep putting in the work. It doesn't really change much from high school to college, just the level of competition. You have to up your effort and trust the process of the coaches."

With his illustrious high school wrestling career behind him, Hepner knows the impact his achievements will have on the South wrestling program for years to come. Even more, he knows he could not have done it all by himself.

Under the guidance of coaches like Patrick and Dave Salazar and with several teammates who were not only good

friends but outstanding wrestlers in their own right, Hepner sees it as a legacy built together.

"(This is) putting our school's wrestling program kind of on the map," he said, "bringing up the program with some of my friends like Josh (Lemanski) and Lex (Willson) and Paul (Wilson), bringing those guys up with me and us bringing up the program as a whole."

AGOSTA:

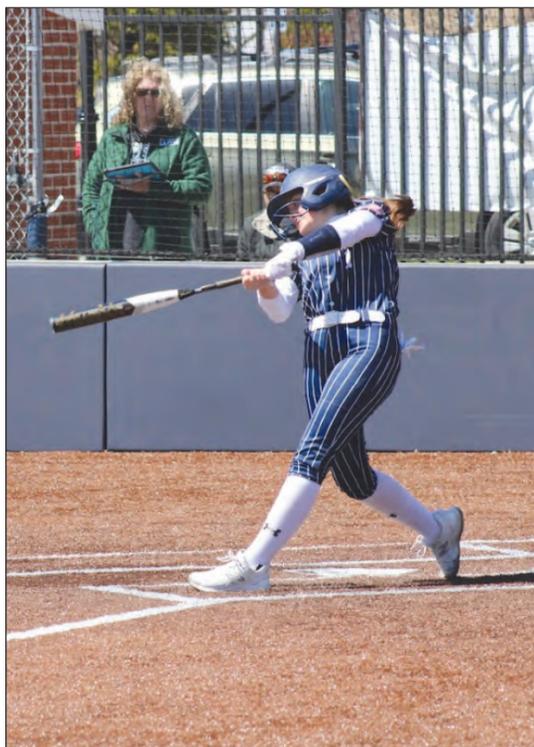
Continued from page 1D

shift her focus fully to the classroom. While she will not be strapping on the catchers' pads, everything she experienced in her years behind the plate for South is going to help in some way.

Agosta hopes the leadership she showed is reflected in her legacy with the Blue Devils. As a captain these past two seasons, she has gotten to help mentor the next generation of South softball players who are going to try to maintain the standard set by Agosta and the rest of her class.

Agosta knows if they continue to work hard like she did, the future will be bright for the Blue Devils.

"I hope they continue putting their best foot forward and are giving 100-percent effort on the field," she said. "We made it to the state quarterfinals and the team hadn't been there in so long. ... We had this group of girls and everyone was putting their best foot forward every time they stepped on the field. ... It doesn't matter if you think a team is better than you. If you try your best on the field, you can accomplish anything as long as you put that 100 percent in."



COURTESY PHOTO

Agosta finished her career with South softball batting over .300 with 98 RBIs.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 14, 2025

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL:All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held June 9, 2025.
- 2) To adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Board of Review to schedule an alternate meeting date during the week of the third Monday in July and during the week of the second Monday in December.
- 3) To acknowledge receipt of and approve the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) Annual Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2025.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) . approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 132735 through 132998 in the amount of \$1,221,270.95 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$12,813.11 for IT support services during the month of June for all departments and for the purchase of miscellaneous materials for the new desktop computer roll-outs that were performed during the month. (3) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$28,398.85 for professional services during the month of June 2025 for the following projects: Water/Sewer Emerg Rep. #180-354; 2025 San. Sewer Cleaning, #180-365; Distribution System Materials, #180-357; 2025 Storm Sewer Rep. #180-331; DWRF Lead Water Svc. Repl. #180-331; DWSD Sewage Dischg Dist. #180-347; Harper VanAntwerp Dev. #180-313; 2025 Misc. Concrete Rep. #180-363; 2025 Joint Crack/Seal, #180-366; Temp Water Operator, #180-303; Miss Dig, #180-255; Comcast Rev Beaconsfield #180-375; DTE Rev Vernier #180-376. (4) approve payment to McKenna Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$7,693.14 for the professional services provided with the update to the Zoning Ordinance and for site plan reviews for May and June 2025. (5) approve payment in the amount of \$12,621.30 to Drive Creative Services, LLC for the production and delivery of the Summer Newsletter. (6) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,703.33 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of July. (7) approve payment to SAFEBuilt, LLC in the amount of \$31,812.79 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of June 2025. (8) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$8,444.50 for the processing and mailing of the summer tax bills, the June water bills and envelope supplies. (9) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$22,841.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks and also for lawn cuttings at various residential homes. (10) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$15,800.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs. (11) approve payment in the amount of \$17,700.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and replacement of stop boxes at various residential locations. (12) approve payment to Oakland Community College in the amount of \$10,100.00 for the enrollment of two cadets to the police academy.
- 2) to approve the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Hannah Architects for the proposed Harper Woods Community Center, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- 3) to appoint John Szymanski as City Manager for the City of Harper Woods, and further, to amend the employment agreements of the City Manager and City Clerk to include twelve (12) months of retirement eligible severance pay if the City terminates their respective agreements while the employees are able and willing to fulfill their duties, with the approximate cost of \$123,622 if the City Manager's agreement is terminated and \$89,525 if the City Clerk's agreement is terminated. 4) to approve the Contract Modification in an amount not to exceed \$111,575.10 with Insituform Technologies USA, LLC for the 2025 Critical Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by FCIPP, #180-379.
- 5) to accept the lowest responsible bid submitted by DVM Utilities, Inc. of Sterling Heights in the amount of \$101,596.00 for the 2025 Sewer Rehabilitation by FCIPP Lining, Project #180-364 with the proceeds from the State of Michigan Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships grant (FDCVT) and further that no local match is required.
- 6) to approve payment to L. Anthony Construction Inc. in the amount of \$161,434.53 for Progress Payment No. 2 and \$13,051.90, for a total of \$174,486.43 on the Concrete Pavement Repair Project, #180-363.
- 7) to approve the inter-local agreement between the City of Harper Woods and SMART, and further to provide 100% of the Community Credits available to the Community pursuant to SMART's Community Credit Program.
- 8) to adopt the attached resolution for the Long-term Maintenance of Storm Water Management System for New Gas Station at 17700 Vernier Road and further to direct the City Clerk to forward the Resolution to the Wayne County Department of Public Services.
- 9) to authorize those Council members interested to attend the Michigan Municipal League's Annual Convention September 17-19, 2025 with the City paying all necessary and related expenses, and further to designate Mayor Kindle as the City's official delegate, and Mayor Pro tem Williams as the alternate delegate during the MML Annual Meeting to be held during the convention.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, July 24, 2025

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Depending on the dates this is a live-in position, ideal for someone who enjoys a peaceful setting, canine companionship, and maintaining a tidy, welcoming space.</p> <p>Dates Needed: Approximately August 14-24 Location: Grosse Pointe, MI</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily care and companionship for two large dogs General house-keeping (dishes, laundry, taking out trash, etc.) Watering indoor and outdoor plants Keeping the home neat and secure <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior house and pet sitting experience preferred with references Comfortable with large dogs Responsible, organized, and respectful of our home <p>*must be comfortable in home with video surveillance*</p> <p>If interested, please contact 802-272-5800 for more information.</p>	<p>312 SITUATION WANTED ORGANIZING</p> <p>DUCKS IN A ROW De-cluttering and organizing your home! Closets, basements, whole house. Organize your paper clutter. Home information, notebooks, Medical journals, memory albums. Becky Schlaff (313)580-2528 Susan Mason (313)910-9705 schlaffb@comcast.net rwmason@comcast.net</p> <p>Merchandise</p> <p>406 ESTATE SALES</p> <p>880 Pemberton Grosse Pointe Park Thursday, July 24 through Saturday, July 26 10am- 4pm. Full household, antique display cases, books sets, jewelry, kitchen-ware and more. Lolly & Pops Estate Sale (313)264-7693</p> <p>MJ's Estate Sales</p> <p>PRESENTS Grosse Pointe City Estate sale featuring vintage farmhouse loaded with antiques including comic books, vintage toys, artwork, sports cards, definitely a sale you don't want to miss. July 31, August 1, 2 Thursday, Friday 10- 4. Saturday, 10- 2. MAUMEE (313)214-7936</p>	<p>409 GARAGE / YARD / RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p>GARAGE Sale 480 Saint Clair St. Grosse Pointe Saturday, July 26 8am-2pm Please stop by and check out our American rustic antiques, really nice boat stuff, cool art, culinary equipment, food & wine/home/travel books, tools and more... plus great deals on everything!</p> <p>GREAT GARAGE SALE at 320 Belanger Grosse Pointe Farms Friday, July 25 Saturday, July 26 9am- 1pm NO EARLY BIRDS Antiques, Oriental rugs, prints, sleds, leaded glass windows, books, iron yard chairs and much, much more, CASH ONLY ** Rain or Shine **</p> <p>GARAGE/ YARD SALE 490 Bournemouth Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms Saturday, July 26 10am-4pm Weather permitting Household goods, pots and pans, yard tools, rakes, shovels, dresser, chest, kitchen set, table and chairs, etc. Cash only. No early birds</p>	<p>415 WANTED TO BUY</p> <p>SELL ME YOUR VINYL RECORDS We buy LP's, 45's No collection too large. We come to you! 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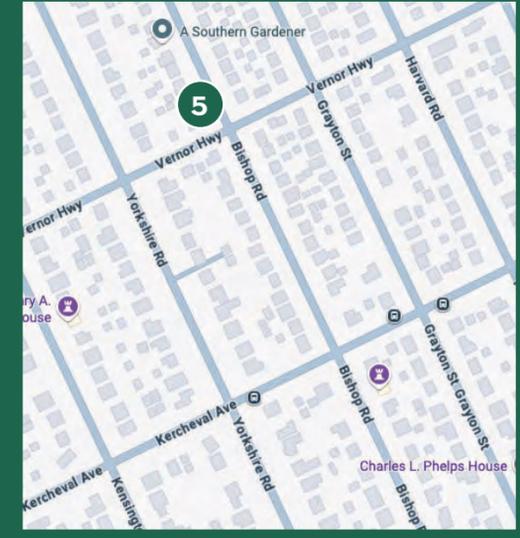
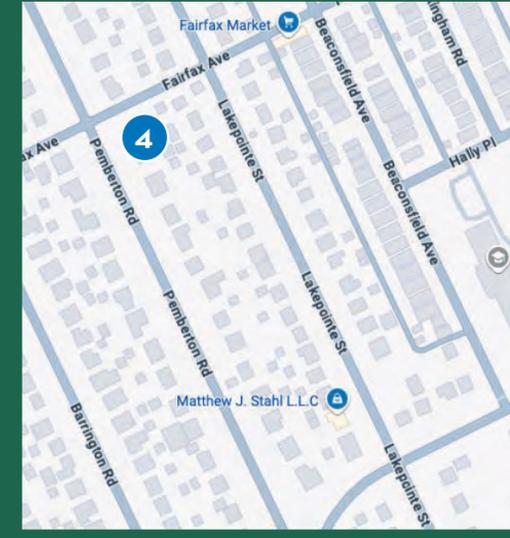
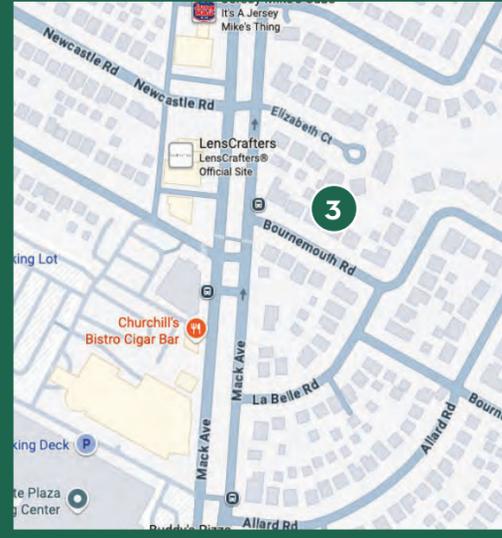
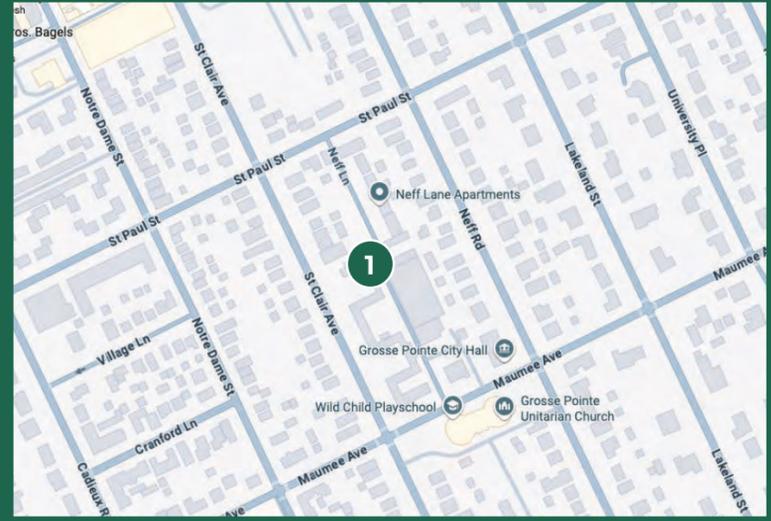
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Everything From A To Z Can Be Found In The Classifieds.
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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

- 1. 480 Saint Clair Ave., GPC
- 2. 320 Belanger, GPF

- 3. 490 Bournemouth Rd., GPF
- 4. 880 Pemberton, GPP
- 5. 1301 Bishop Rd, GPP

○ = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE
 See Classifieds for more details



Michigan Select 99 lacrosse showcase returns to Liggett

By GPN Staff

One of the biggest premier collegiate lacrosse recruiting showcases in the state is returning to Grosse Pointe. The Michigan Select 99 showcase will be held at University Liggett School Sunday, Aug. 3, giving lacrosse players from the Pointes and around Michigan the chance to showcase their skills in front of dozens of col-

legiate scouts.

Now in its 12th year, the Michigan Select 99 showcase brings together high school lacrosse players for elite-level positional workouts led by college coaches. There also will be competitive team games filmed by Grosse Pointe's own 313 Lacrosse to help increase exposure.

This year's showcase is open to high school athletes from the Class

of 2025 through the Class of 2027, and will feature representatives from NCAA Division I, II and III lacrosse programs, along with the NAIA and MCLA levels. The showcase also includes meet-and-greet sessions where players and parents can connect one-on-one with different college coaches.

For registration and more information, visit Michiganselect99.com.

Grosse Pointe 12U Softball finishes as state runner-up

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

Powered by relentless team spirit, the Grosse Pointe Little League Majors Softball 12U Tournament Team finished an honorable post-season with a second-place finish at the Michigan State Finals.

Leading the offensive charge was Lilou Hull, who swung a hard bat throughout the tournament, finishing with a .615 batting average. Hull's consistent production, from perfectly placed bunts to extra-base hits, anchored the team.

In the circle, Emily Lorelli delivered master pitching. Lorelli commanded 44 strikeouts and carried an astonishing 0.800 ERA over multiple games, helping Grosse Pointe into the state bracket.

Grosse Pointe set the tone early with a domi-

nant 10-0 victory over Jackson Southwest, as Lorelli spun a one-hit shutout and fanned seven. Violet Hakim and Lorelli each tallied two RBIs, while Gracie Cursi and Hull provided critical hits.

The team followed up with an 18-0 win over Tecumseh, featuring a perfect three-for-three day at the plate from Katy Denbow and an impressive 17 stolen bases. Lorelli once again held firm, giving up just one hit and striking out seven across four innings.

The offensive fireworks continued in a 12-2 win over Taylor North, fueled by a home run from Evie Hartung and a three-RBI double from Lorelli. In the next matchup, a 12-0 victory over Rogers City, Via Watson launched a home run of her own and Hakim went a flawless three for three.

In the semifinal thriller

against Kimball Township, trailing 5-2 in extra innings, Grosse Pointe rallied for a 6-5 walk-off win. A triple by Hull, an RBI single from Hakim and a game-winning two-run hit by Cursi sealed the comeback. Lorelli had a strong game as well, striking out 13.

"That game showed the heart of this team," head coach Adam Hull said. "They were never out of it and every girl contributed."

In the championship game, Grosse Pointe fell 5-2 to Hudsonville. Though they came up short of the state title, the team left everything on the field and earned a well-deserved runners-up finish.

"We knew we had something special," Hull said. "This group played for each other and they represented Grosse Pointe with pride, passion and relentless effort."

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COURTESY PHOTOS

The Grosse Pointe Little League Softball 12U team finished as runner-up at this year's state tournament after winning the district championship. Front row, from left: Evie Hartung, Katy Denbow, Emily Lorelli, Gracie Cursi. Back row, from left: Eloise Purcel, Hazel Stanley, Lilou Hull, Evelyn Jensen, Violet Hakim, Eleanor Simaika, Ireland Hewitt, Via Watson, Ivy Surma.



Grosse Pointe Little League Softball 12U celebrates with the district championship banner after securing the title earlier this month. The victory earned the team a spot in the state tournament, where it went on to finish second.