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Officers save woman after car enters Lake St. Clair

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — It took Farms officers just two minutes and 14 seconds to reach a vehicle half submerged in Lake St. Clair at a 45-degree angle, after a woman on her way to work witnessed the crash happen in front of her at Lakeshore and Newberry at 8:20 a.m. Monday morning.

The driver of the small Kia — a 70-year-old Detroit woman — was spotted floating face-down approximately 50 yards west of the crash site and about 30 feet

from the shoreline due to the current.

“There was no hesitation,” Deputy Director Andy Rogers said, of officers Jon Ross and Will Madsen and Lt. Wes Kipke, who raced into the water and brought to shore the woman who was not breathing and had no pulse.

Detective Lt. Antonino Trupiano performed about one minute of CPR, continuously rolling the woman on her side to expel water from her system.

“Then she just takes this gasp and you’re like, ‘What the hell?’” Rogers said. “She came around.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Kia crashed near Lakeshore and Newberry at 8:20 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, ending up with its front end submerged in Lake St. Clair and its rear resting on the retaining wall at a 45-degree angle.

It was one of the crazier things. No one’s expecting her to bounce back like that.”

A short time later, after MedStar paramedics assumed care, the

woman was able to tell officers she intentionally drove into the lake.

Witnesses and home security footage across the street corroborated her statement.

“She was going west-bound, headed toward Detroit and she went to one of the turnarounds right before Newberry,” Rogers said. “She never slowed, she just punched

it, according to witnesses and the video, and launched into that curb, which is about 12 inches high. And then the car

See **SAVE**, page 2A

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GPPSS looking for parapros

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is trying a new approach to fill vacant paraprofessional roles.

The district is hosting a job fair 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 8, in the Parcels Middle School library. Attendees should bring a resume and references.

“I would tell anyone who is thinking about it to definitely go,” said Pat Mocerri, who has held several different paraprofessional roles and is heading into her 13th year. “The teachers are great to work with and you can have an immediate impact on the students.”

Applicants must have an associate’s degree or higher or pass an aptitude test at parapro.ets.org. There is additional pay for credits beyond an



Pat Mocerri

associate’s degree.

“Most of the paraprofessionals have bachelor’s degrees,” Mocerri said. “Some are former teachers who left to have kids and want to get back into the classroom. You get to do the fun stuff and not deal with paperwork.”

See **PARAPRO**, page 8A

Lining up Schaap parking

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Parking schematics for the area’s newest performing arts and exhibition center can be rated with the region’s most storied sports and entertainment venues.

Rather than being centered in a single, sprawling parking lot, like the

former Silverdome sports and concert stadium in Pontiac, the 435-seat A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery is scheduled to open this fall at the corner of Jefferson and Maryland across from Park city hall, with accommodations for most patron parking

spread off-site among small lots sprinkled sporadically nearby.

The setup is comparable to old Tiger Stadium and current Comerica Park and Ford Field in downtown Detroit.

Main contrasts are matters of scale.

Instead of parking behind Brooks Lumber

See **SCHAAP**, page 2A

City’s 1st junior mayor settles into role

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — John “Tripp” Studstill III, one month shy of his 12th birthday, is having a pretty good summer.

In July, he was honored with the Norbs swim team Danny Fogue Trophy for team spirit, just hours after introducing the band at this summer’s final Music on the Plaza as part of his role as the City’s first-ever junior mayor.

“Really, it was just something that looked cool,” Studstill said of his interest in applying to be a junior mayor earlier this summer.

See **MAYOR**, page 8A



John Studstill III is honored with the Norbs swim team Danny Fogue Trophy for team spirit in July.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Community events in **FEATURES**

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Pointer of INTEREST



See story, page 4A

Caleb Licata
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Young rapper aiming to entertain, spread positivity



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2A | NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

Patrol car dashcam footage captured the moment Officer Will Madsen spotted the woman floating in Lake St. Clair and jumped in to retrieve her, quickly followed by Officer Jon Ross and Lt. Wes Kipke.

SAVE:

Continued from page 1A

just got launched into the water.”

As of press time, officers were not yet clear on how the woman got from the car into the water. There were no obvious signs of ejection.

Grosse Pointe Shores and City officers also responded to the scene.

“Hats off to the witnesses who called right away,” Rogers said. “From the time we got the call to the time we actually got in the water and pulled her out was probably four minutes. Everything worked out perfectly for such a tragic situation.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Officer Will Madsen and Lt. Wes Kipke aid dive team member Jon Ross as he exits the lake after searching the area where the vehicle crashed for anything or anyone else who may have been in the car. The three officers jumped into the lake “with zero hesitation,” Deputy Director Andy Rogers said, when the woman’s body was spotted floating 30 feet out.

Undoing civic campus plans

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Renderings of proposed renovations to the city hall campus likely are to remain a gleam in the designer’s eye.

Although members of the Downtown Development Authority board intend to fund improvements to the grounds of municipal headquarters—the DDA encompasses the site—ambitions are being cut back or redirected given unexpected realities of land ownership and changing logistical needs.

Influencing whatever happens is construction one block away of the 435-seat A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

One component of the campus redo on lower Jefferson between Maryland and Lakepointe involved building a second parking lot in front of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald

Branch.

Construction of the lot would comply with a December 2021 memo of understanding between the DDA and the Urban Renewal Foundation, backers of the arts center, to provide additional patron parking.

“The DDA will complete construction of, at the DDA’s expense and pursuant to the DDA’s design, a surface parking lot for approximately 50 parking spaces between the Ewald Branch and Jefferson Avenue,” according to the memo of understanding.

Yet, city representatives nixed that part of the project a few months ago when due diligence by foundation officials, not the DDA nor city, revealed the DDA didn’t own the land on which the lot was supposed to be built.

It turned out the city owns the property. Members of the city council in May refused to yield the title or control.

During a recent DDA meeting, board members asked what will come of

not fulfilling the memo of understanding.

“Later down the road as the city and we (the DDA) start talking about future plans and seeing what ends up happening with that property, we’re going to redesign the plan,” said Nick Sizeland, DDA director and city manager. “That will be down the road.”

Proposed campus renovations are known colloquially as the Jima plan, the name of the studio which DDA board members retained in December 2022, at a cost of \$15,000, to produce the design.

As prospects for the redesign began falling apart, DDA board members realized a second component, a proposed patio or gathering place in front of city hall, would be too costly to construct.

“There are potential opportunities offered by the city hall lawn and plaza directly fronting Jefferson as detailed in the Jima plan,” Sizeland wrote in a July 22 memo

See PLANS, page 3A

SCHAAP:

Continued from page 1A

on Trumbull across from Tiger Stadium, patrons of the Schaap Center attending the Grosse Pointe Theatre in November can park across the street from the venue in an unused lot at the corner of Alter and Jefferson in Detroit.

Instead of concertgoers at Comerica Park finding pocket lots in which to secure their cars three blocks away on Woodward Avenue or even farther afield on church property around Greektown, Schaap attendees of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra concerts or exhibitions of art lent by the Detroit Institute of Arts have the option of parking a few blocks up Jefferson at various lots

either owned by the city or facilitated by agreements with art center operators.

Jaime Rae Turnbull, executive director of the Schaap Center, counted four individual off-street parking sites available to patrons in addition to the campus lot and valet service lined up to handle big crowds during opening galas.

She said a lot the center owns on Alter in Detroit has 44 spaces. Another east of the center has 44 spaces. The lot at city hall has 80 spots.

“We have Full Circle (Foundation, located four blocks up Jefferson at Somerset) for this year,” Turnbull said. “They’ve been very kind in their collaboration with parking spots. I am working individually with each business owner to come up with agreements for

all businesses along Jefferson so we have collaborative participation with businesses that are able to work with us on parking.”

“Right along the condos, here on Jefferson (one block east of city hall), parking is allowed as well,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “That’s another 30 spaces.”

A parking option being lined up for early in the center’s operation relieves motorists of searching for spaces.

“We’re going to have valet parking for our opening, as well as our first season with Grosse Pointe Theatre,” Turnbull said.

Access to one of the closest potential off-site lots, the former Bank of America property on Jefferson across from the center, is unresolved.

“The Bank of America is under a new owner,” Sizeland said. “I don’t have any details. We met somebody a while ago who was thinking about a coffee shop.”

Parking opportunities on Alter in Detroit consist of open space behind Joe’s Garage auto repair on Ashland.

“We own those grass lots,” Turnbull said. “We also want to make it crystal clear on our website and websites of program partners where patrons are not welcome to park. The last thing the Schaap Center wants to do is take parking from residents that are already challenged from lack of parking.”

Resident parking

Sizeland said he’ll team up with public safety officials to compile empirical traffic data from which to develop a parking plan for the residential area.

“We’re going to be looking at the opportunity for (resident) permit parking,” Sizeland said.

Parking in the neighborhood of multiple-unit

dwelling is cramped by design.

Many houses in the area were built 100 years ago. Residents in those days commuted by bus and streetcar—construction of the Schaap Center unearthed tracks of a former trolley turnaround. Community grocery stores and related retail shops were integral to the area and within easy walking distance.

Accommodating privately owned motor vehicles was little more than incidental.

“We’ll have a good opportunity to get a really good sense (of traffic and parking patterns) on our opening weekend because we’ll be at full capacity,” Turnbull said. “We’ll have the most amount of performers, staff and full houses both times. I don’t know if we’ll see that again except for a really big show.”

“Our goal is to grow the tax base,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “If we don’t have walkable communities, parking (and) happy residents, we don’t have a

growing tax base because we’re not competitive.”

A busy opening

Turnbull said a private, pre-grand opening preview for major donors is scheduled Thursday, Oct. 16.

Community events begin Sunday, Nov. 30, with a \$50 matinee holiday collaboration among Schaap program partners produced by Grosse Pointe Theatre. A repeat performance is the evening of Saturday, Dec. 6, at \$250 per ticket.

“It’s the same performance, but we wanted to make sure it was successful so we can accommodate 435 seats,” Turnbull said. “We have a waiting list of people that want to buy tickets.”

Grosse Pointe Theatre performs “White Christmas” at the center off and on Dec. 5 through 21.

“We expect over 4,000 people through ‘White Christmas,’” Turnbull said. “That’s going to be a really good test on how our parking plan is and how our community is going to react to the additional amount of traffic.”

Turnbull presented an update on the center’s progress to the Downtown Development Authority at the invitation of city officials.

Hodges said she wanted Turnbull to address the parking issue so members of the public know parking “is a false concern.”

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Alger House library restoration complete

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — New to the Alger House library is a 1891 Lewis Ives painting depicting the youngest-known portrait of Annette Alger — the wife of Russell Alger Sr. and mother of Russell Alger Jr., who was the original owner of the Alger House.

It hangs on a freshly painted blue wall after recently making the journey from its long-time home at the private historic homestead of Annette's great-great-granddaughter in Philadelphia.

"I think they were nervous about transporting, taking it to shipping, to have it boxed up, so I drove out there to get it," said Mata Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces LLC, who along with her husband, Tony, is leading ongoing concentrated efforts to preserve the Alger House while restoring it to its original 1910 state.

Efforts in the library, which spanned the trifecta of preservation, conservation and restoration, wrapped up in late May, after kicking off in earnest at the start of the year.

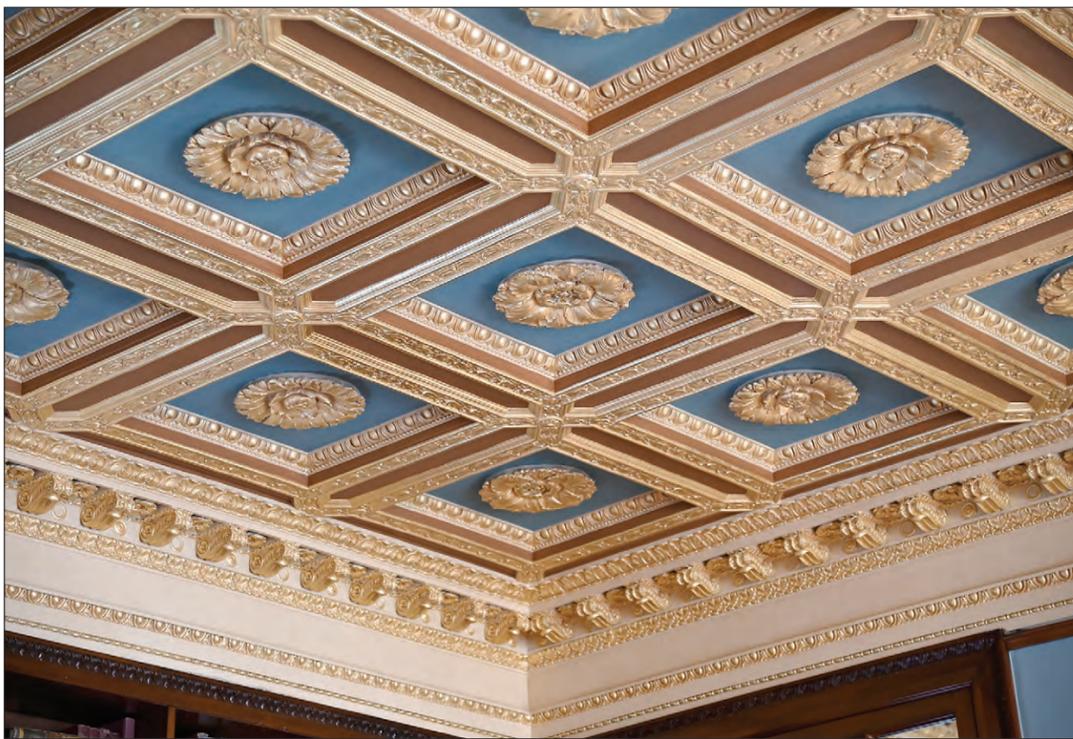
"It's a preservation of the original intent of the architect, Charles Platt," Kartsonas said of the end result.

The decorative ornate ceiling, arguably the focal point of the project, now is exactly as it was in 1910.

"Tony, my husband, took the samples and through microscopy was able to get all the colors and finishes," Kartsonas said. "This is exactly the colors and finish that were originally here. It wasn't guessed."

The process involved nine steps handled by experts over a period of four months.

"There's the priming, then all of the gold," Kartsonas described. "We had to do what's called sizing (an adhesive used to prepare a surface for gilding). So you apply by hand an adhesive that will receive the gold. It's a 24-hour size, so whatever section we worked in, we apply by hand



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The nine-step process to restore the library's ceiling to its original state took four months. "This project was focused on the damage to the plaster and time needed to recreate original decorative elements and apply all the intricate layers to the ceiling to bring it back to the original intent of impact and vision," said Mata Kartsonas with Historic Surfaces LLC.

with a brush the size of everywhere you want to put the gold leaf. And then the next day you apply the gold leaf, then a couple days later you burnish it, then you varnish it, then you glaze it. And after that was done, we put in the color of the blue and the dark red."

The library previously was cited as the room in need of the most extensive work, due to significant water damage to the plaster.

As such, the team brought in third-generation decorative plasterer Terry Wullen Webber, whose portfolio also includes the Belle Isle Aquarium — the oldest continuously operating aquarium in the country — and both Ford houses, to recast large portions of the walls, moldings and cornices.

Because the walls have quite thin plaster, the team then rolled out a very thin fiberglass sheet that not only locks in the historic plaster, but also creates a protective barrier to paint atop.

"Hairline cracks are inevitable, whereby the building is old and the plaster is thin, but it's not indicative of true damage in the building," Kartsonas explained.

"They're using this room for events, so if there's a hairline, it's not going to come through to the wall and if somebody taps the wall a little too hard, we're also not damaging

the historic plaster. "It's a modern invention that has helped so many different historic spaces."

Because the walls originally were covered in fabric — a design

choice that today is unsustainable due to its expense and short life — the original color of the walls is unknown, lend-

ing itself to become the most significant creative decision throughout the library's restoration.

A blue hue was selected based on what colors already exist in the room and which would be a suitable color to enhance the futuristic fabric.

"It's definitely a bold choice, but what I think we all agreed on is that if we went with a very neutral color, like a cream that was here before, I think you would do a disservice to the space," Kartsonas said. "... Just from our own experience with microscopy, there's not a lot of tan walls in a space that has so much intended grandiose design."

The work also encompassed replacement of cracked marble baseboards, the cleaning and varnishing of all woodwork in the room and the removal of decades of dirt and wear from the limestone fireplace by Chicago-based expert stone mason Simon Leverret.

See LIBRARY, page 5A



Historic restoration expert Mata Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces LLC, left, and War Memorial President and CEO Maria Miller stand with the 1891 portrait of Annette Alger, which recently was donated to The War Memorial by Annette's great-great-granddaughter.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, AUG. 11

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Mid-Year Review, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 15

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Movie in the Park, 7 p.m. at Ghesquiere Park.

SATURDAY, AUG. 16

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.

PLANS:

Continued from page 2A

to the board. "Suggest reworking, post Schaap Center construction, into a hardscape with a plaza for outdoor events a la a European piazza/town square. Recommend raising street level so that it is 'curbless' at Maryland to front Schaap Center. Ability to add retractable bollards if needing to maintain use as a street, and block it off for plaza functions."

Art center backers also are having their say.

"My recommendation that I shared with Nick and we've talked about on multiple occasions is it would be our goal to see the DDA embrace the walkability of the DDA (district) for those that want to participate in things happening in our area, not just Grosse Pointe, but in Detroit," said Jaime Rae Turnbull, executive director of the

Schaap Center.

She proposed safer crosswalks, better way-finding signage and a more approachable city hall campus featuring a bus shelter and benches, "so when people visit the Schaap Center, there's a more welcoming environment in its surroundings."

The lone component of the Jima plan not already excised is reconfiguration of the existing public parking lot to accommodate city headquarters, public safety headquarters and the library. The lot has since been resurfaced.

"Given the increased amount of traffic expected with the Schaap (Center), a deck may be worth exploring again to discourage street parking and backups on Jefferson," Sizeland wrote. "A deck at Jefferson and Nottingham is no longer possible given development on that property."

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Rhyming for a reason

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

At just 15 years old, Grosse Pointe South High School rising junior Caleb Licata, known onstage as Clint Kelly, already is catching attention in the Detroit music scene. With a growing catalog of original songs, open-mic performances and a mantra of spreading positivity, the young rapper isn't simply chasing a dream; he's living it.

Licata's passion for music sparked unexpectedly during a Super Bowl halftime show that featured hip-hop legends Eminem and Dr. Dre.

"I thought that was the coolest thing ever, to be performing in front of such a big audience," Licata said. "Then I just started writing. I was



writing one or two songs every day."

That dedication quickly turned into a calling. He began writing everything by hand and rapping throughout the house and even the hallways at

school. Licata believes putting pen to paper makes his music feel more personal.

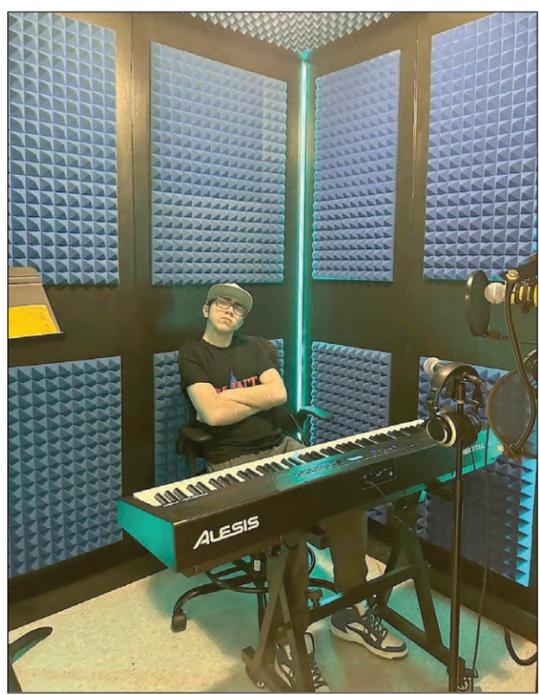
"It makes it feel like it comes straight from me and I don't get lost in thought," Licata said. "If I type, I'll forget where I'm going with something."

His creative process reflects his old-school spirit — no digital apps or shortcuts. Every verse begins on paper as each line is crafted with intention. He finds clarity in handwriting, saying the physical act of writing helps his thoughts stay sharp and flow naturally.

He's become a recognizable voice around Grosse Pointe South and can be seen rhyming and rapping as he walks through the crowded hallways.

"If you see me walking around, I'm always rapping," Licata said.

Caleb Licata inside a recording studio at the Motown Lyric Project.



His stage name, Clint Kelly, is a blend of family names that pays homage to his grandfather and biological mother while creating a personal, memorable name his fans associate with his uplifting lyrics and catchy choruses.

"My message is about spreading positivity," Licata said. "There's so much negativity nowadays and I feel like there should be some sort of light."

That message isn't just a lyrical theme; it is a lifestyle that is part of his daily rhythm. He even has custom-designed hats with the phrase "Spread positivity" embroidered on the front — a constant reminder of the image he aims to share with the world.

That light shines in more than his music. It also shows in his presence. Whether he's rapping in front of a mirror, practicing freestyles while walking around town or turning everyday conversations with his family into rhymes, Licata carries music with him at all times.

The light he aims to convey shines through on his biggest track to date, "Crazy," which was a crowd favorite when he performed at a banquet at Blossom Heath.

"The energy that night was insane," Licata said. "It was impromptu, but the crowd was so into it."

The song's simple repeated chorus, "I'm going crazy, crazy," is the kind of hook that sticks and it has helped him grow his streaming numbers to nearly 1,000 plays.

The performance marked a turning point for Licata as one of his first public opportunities to showcase his work outside of school. The



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Caleb Licata posing with a poster at the Motown Lyric Project, with rappers who have also gone through the program. Above, Licata is a rising junior at Grosse Pointe South High School.

energy in the room gave him momentum to keep pushing forward. Since then he's continued performing whenever possible, embracing each new stage as a step toward his longterm goals.

His passion has not gone unnoticed by industry professionals. For two years in a row, Licata has been selected for the Motown Lyric Project, through which he has been able to work with producers who are tied closely to stars like Eminem, Lil Wayne and

muscles," Licata said. "You have to look like you want to be on stage while you perform."

Most of Licata's classmates are wildly supportive of his rapping. His first real taste of fan energy came during a seventh-grade talent show when he performed his self-written song, "Tell Me Different," which had the entire auditorium singing along with him.

Now, with an album in the works and college music programs at



Licata performs as Clint Kelly and already is catching attention in the Detroit music scene.

Drake. He even received feedback from Mickey Stevenson, Motown's original head of A&R.

"He told me to perform like my song is No. 1 on the Billboard charts," Licata said. "That really has stuck with me."

Through the Motown Project, Licata said he has learned a lot about patience and growth.

"I used to write songs in one take and be done," he said. "But with the lyric project, I re-wrote the same song 11 different times. I would scrap it, come back to it and try again. It has taught me to keep things concise and that creating something meaningful takes time."

He also listens to older hip-hop CDs from his dad's collection to draw inspiration and break through writer's block when he runs into that barrier.

"I had it for a couple months," Licata said. "Going back to those '90s records really helped me get out of it."

His stage presence also has improved because of the Motown Lyric Project.

"I always perform in front of the mirror before a show and drink warm water to loosen up those

Wayne State and Central Michigan universities on his mind, Licata has his eyes on the future. He's already begun visiting music programs looking forward to his future in music.

"I actually already recorded my song 'Crazy' with someone who's in Wayne State's music engineering program," Licata said.

He dreams of performing at Wembley Stadium to a sold-out crowd.

"I want to have people sing my lyrics back to me, feeling what the song wants them to feel," Licata said.

Licata is a firm believer in following one's creative ambitions and, no matter what, "Be yourself," he said. "Don't let anyone's judgment keep you from expressing who you are."

Fans can check out his music, merchandise and story at krislicata.com/clint-kelly-shop, where his message of spreading positivity continues beyond the mic.

"I want people to remember that I brought a good vibe and a smile to people's faces and the good energy I bring into every room," Licata said.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Open intoxicants

When a 31-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at Mack and Moross for a non-functioning brake light and no vehicle insurance at 9:06 p.m. Saturday, July 26, an open bottle of liquor was spotted on the floor near the backseat.

The passenger, a 29-year-old Detroit woman, claimed the liquor and was cited for open intoxicants in a vehicle. The man was arrested for multiple traffic warrants.

Tables turned

Officers came to assist a 29-year-old Pontiac woman after her car died while sitting at the light at Mack and Calvin at 11:54 a.m. Tuesday, July 29, but ultimately arrested her for a retail fraud warrant out of Warren.

Unlocked

TCBY, Starbucks, Treat Dreams, Whistle Stop and Kroger gift cards were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in a driveway in the 400 block of Lakeshore overnight Wednesday, July 30.

The vehicle's registration and insurance also were stolen from the center console.

Pocket change

Change was stolen from a vehicle's cupholder while it was parked on Meadow Lane between 10 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, and 2 p.m. the next day.

Honesty

When officers asked a 31-year-old Detroit woman whether she had any crack on her, she replied, "If I did, I would have smoked it already."

The woman was reported for panhandling inside a business in the 19000 block of Mack at

10:57 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, and cited for possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Intoxicated

After being pulled over at Mack and Moross for an expired license plate at 3:09 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, a 53-year-old Clarksville man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.206 percent.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Unemployment fraud

An unknown person filed for unemployment benefits in a Grosse Pointer's name Thursday, July 24.

Clothing theft

Three women carried \$3,582 worth of clothing out of a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval without paying at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26.

They fled in a light blue Chevrolet Blazer and an investigation is ongoing.

Drunk x 3

A 67-year-old Chesterfield Township woman earned her third alcohol-related driving offense after speeding near Kercheval and Neff at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26.

She was arrested for driving while intoxicated and her vehicle was

impounded.

Suspended

A 24-year-old Detroit woman was cited near Mack and Lincoln for driving with a suspended license at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, July 27.

Thief caught

A 45-year-old Detroit man was arrested at his home Monday, July 28, for stealing another person's wallet and credit cards while the victim was at an area hospital the week prior.

Suspended speeding

After speeding 56 mph at Mack and University at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, a 26-year-old Oak Park man was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Suspended license

A 24-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving with a suspended license at 9:50 p.m. Thursday, July 31, after he was pulled over at Mack and Cadieux for an expired license plate.

Golf clubs

Two sets of TaylorMade golf clubs were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Lakeside Court overnight Friday, Aug. 1.

Test drive

A man looking to sell his 2006 Honda TRX set up a meeting through Facebook Marketplace at 2:20 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, during which the potential buyer took it for a test drive, headed into

Detroit and never returned.

The suspect is described as a heavysset 5-foot, 10-inch black man in his 20s with dreadlocks and facial hair.

Disturbing drunk

A 49-year-old Park woman was reported for drinking alcohol in public and asking kids if they wanted a ride in her wagon outside an area elementary school at 5:50 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3.

The woman was uncooperative with officers, unruly and appeared to be intoxicated.

She was arrested for open intoxicants, as well as resisting and obstructing.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Tampering with cars

A stranger with a practice of messing with other people's property was reported twice in a single night last week tampering with parked autos.

He reportedly appeared on residential Ring camera systems between 3 and 6 a.m. Monday, July 28, casing or entering cars parked in the 1050 block of Audubon and three blocks away in the 1150 block of Bedford.

Police described the suspect as male, possibly old. Either way, he had a backpack.

During the same period, \$12 in coins were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked behind a house in the 1000 block

of Bedford, according to police.

Mack patrol

Traffic enforcement on Mack Avenue last week swept up a couple of illegal drivers.

At 8:45 a.m. Monday, July 28, a 39-year-old woman from St. Clair Shores being investigated for speeding was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Detroit.

At 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, a 31-year-old City of Grosse Pointe woman, also accused of speeding, was arrested for violating a suspended operator's license, according to police.

Lit driver

An alleged red-light running, 59-year-old male motorist from Detroit was arrested on Jefferson at Berkshire at 9:55 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, for drunken driving.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— *Ted O'Neil Report information about this and other*

crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Chainsaws stolen

Two chainsaws worth \$3,000 were stolen from a tree company's truck in the 2200 block of Stanhope around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 29.

Wire fraud

A resident in the 600 block of Moorland reported \$10,000 missing from their bank account around 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 29.

They told officers someone had previously called claiming to be from their bank and needed account information to verify a \$600 charge.

Larceny

A \$100 gift card and \$30 worth of stamps were taken from a parked vehicle in the 200 block of Lochmoor sometime overnight into Friday, Aug. 1. The report did not indicate if the vehicle was locked.

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

LIBRARY:

Continued from page 3A

The hardwood floors were one of the only portions of the space to remain untouched throughout the project as they've been well maintained throughout the years.

"We don't have to intervene with everything," Kartsonas noted. "And that also takes a lot of integrity to do that, I think, to stop and not just want to go for it."

Up next is the Alger House dining room, which will be a shorter project and is planned for the first quarter of 2026.

War Memorial President and CEO Maria Miller also noted intent to at some point tackle restoration of the palm room and the foyer.

"Then at least this first floor would have been completely restored," she said.

The multi-phase restoration project kicked off in May 2024.



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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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OUR VIEW

Satisfaction or apathy?

There are 35 city council seats, including mayors, across the five Grosse Pointes. For those who do not pay close attention to municipal government, that is seven positions in each of the five Pointes.

Unlike state and federal elections that are held in even-numbered years, local elections occur in odd-numbered years. Those elections also are staggered, just like the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, meaning four seats are up in one election cycle and the other three in the next.

That is to prevent a council — and possibly the entire city — from descending into utter chaos. Having an entire elected body up for re-election at the same time also leads to continual campaigning (see: U.S. House of Representatives.)

As detailed in last week's Grosse Pointe News, 19 of those 35 seats are up for grabs this year. Surprisingly, fewer than half of those seats — eight — are contested.

To recap, two sitting council members in the Farms, John Gillooly and Joe Ricci, are running to replace Mayor Louis Theros, who is stepping down.

Gillooly's council seat is among those up for election, along with the seats of councilwomen Sierra Donaven and Beth Konrad-Wilberding. Both are seeking re-election unopposed. Dan Jensen, who retired as Farms public safety director in 2021 after 44 years with the department, is running for the third seat.

Farms/Shores Municipal Judge Charles Berschback also heads into his second term unopposed.

We thank Mr. Theros for his 24 years of service on the council, including the last eight as mayor, and for holding true to his statement that mayors should not serve for life.

City Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak will run for re-election against former mayor Chris Boettcher, whom she defeated for the seat in the 2019 election. On council, incumbents Dave Fries, Maureen Juip and Chris Walsh are running to keep their seats, while newcomer David Calcaterra also has thrown his hat in the ring.

Park incumbents Max Wiener and Tom Caulfield, along with challengers Patrick Gleason and Olga Merametdjan, are running for three open council seats. Mayor Michele Hodges has no competition for another two-year term, nor does first-time candidate John Parnell Jr., who is running for municipal judge.

There are three people running for three open seats in the Shores, including incumbents Sandra Cavataio and John Dakmak. Newcomer Scott Houghton is running for the seat Robert Barrette has held since 2011.

We also thank Mr. Barrette for his years of service.

There are no contested races in the Woods on the November ballot as Mayor Art Bryant and councilmembers Vicki Granger, Todd McConaghy and Jim Motschall were the only candidates to file paperwork.

We are a little bit surprised that so few people chose to run this year. At most, five of the eight seats could possibly be held by political newcomers after Election Day. And barring any sort of successful write-in campaign, first-time candidates Mr. Jensen and Mr. Houghton are virtually assured victory.

Both should make good additions to their respective councils. Mr. Jensen, with his experience in the public safety department, obviously knows how municipal budgets work. Mr. Houghton told us he is not running to change anything and thinks the current council works perfectly well.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Michael J. Reitz

Schools need accountability, not a blank check

(Editor's note: Invest in MI Kids soon will start collecting petition signatures to get this initiative on the ballot.)

A new coalition wants a massive tax hike for public schools. Invest in MI Kids proposes a constitutional amendment that would raise \$1.7 billion from high-income individuals and couples. This coalition is part of a growing chorus of calls for more school funding, even though school spending in Michigan has never been higher.

Costly education ideas are in vogue among the political class. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wants a \$762 million expansion of PreK for All. Detroit Mayor and gubernatorial candidate Mike Duggan is pushing a \$4.5 billion education plan. A recent study said Michigan schools need \$23 billion for building repairs.

Still, the Invest in MI Kids campaign insists that Michigan's public schools are underfunded and that the rich must pay more.

Molly Sweeney is organizing director of 482Forward, a member of the ballot proposal coalition.

"We're just doing more with less," Sweeney told the Detroit Free Press, "and in an ever-changing world, we need to give Michigan students their best shot to be successful and that takes investing in that."

But Sweeney has it backward. Michigan schools are doing less with more. Education spending in Michigan is up, up, up. Michigan taxpayers spend a record-high \$15,000 per student. When Whitmer signed the current education budget, she bragged that her edu-

cation budgets had set new records six years running.

We spend more money on fewer students. Public school enrollment has dropped for decades, from 2.1 million kids in 1970 to just 1.4 million today.

But more money hasn't produced better outcomes. Academic performance is abysmal. The state's math and reading scores have yet to improve to pre-lockdown levels. Michigan's fourth-grade reading scores were 44th in the nation, even falling below Mississippi.

At least Whitmer, champion of record spending, admits Michigan's poor education record. "We spend more and get less. It's not acceptable," she said in her last State of the State address.

The Invest in MI Kids coalition has yet to address several questions. Given Michigan's record spending, why are students performing so poorly? What would another billion in education spending produce? How much

will it boost student performance? How will it affect graduation rates? What are other states (Mississippi, perhaps) doing that we should mimic?

If Michigan lawmakers wish to spend another billion dollars on education, they could do so without a dime in new taxes. The Mackinac Center Legal Foundation recently filed a lawsuit against the process the Legislature uses to dole out billions of dollars in pork-barrel spending.

This money goes to local and private entities in the form of "community enhancement

See GUEST, page 7A



It makes sense there would be little or no opposition in the Shores. It is the only one of the Pointes without a commercial district, meaning there are no zoning issues, business permits or parking problems to deal with. There usually are fewer observers at their monthly meetings than there are council members and staff.

The opposite is true in the Woods. Dozens of residents have spent many an hour at meetings the past two months voicing their strong objections to a zoning issue on Mack between Renaud and Oxford. Organizers say more than 500 people in the surrounding area have signed a petition opposing a change, yet none of them chose to run for office.

In the Park, for example, in 2023 there were seven candidates in the primary for city

council. The top six vote getters moved on to the general election for three open seats and the mayoral race was contested.

With the issue of short-term rentals taking up so much oxygen in the Park through 2024, and concerns over parking lot construction, we would have thought more people would have filed to run.

Or perhaps is it a matter of apathy? People are busy, we get it. Enjoying the boat in the summer, extracurricular activities for the kids, work.

The good news is that each city has its fair share of residents who contribute in other ways. People with a particular interest who volunteer for commissions that deal with everything from beautification to planning. Kudos to them and to those willing to run for office.

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
85° 66°	87° 68°	89° 69°	89° 69°	89° 68°	85° 59°	82° 55°
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Clear	Windy	Partly Cloudy
0%	10%	10%	10%	10%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 6:30 am SUNSET 8:45 pm	SUNRISE 6:31 am SUNSET 8:43 pm	SUNRISE 6:32 am SUNSET 8:42 pm	SUNRISE 6:34 am SUNSET 8:41 pm	SUNRISE 6:35 am SUNSET 8:39 pm	SUNRISE 6:36 am SUNSET 8:38 pm	SUNRISE 6:37 am SUNSET 8:37 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 Ted O'Neil



Did you hear the one about ...

I'm a big fan of jokes. Both the clean and ribald type, although this is a family newspaper so we'll focus on the former.

My preferences are what are commonly referred to as "dad jokes." They elicit everything from belly laughs to groans and eye rolls, but I like them just the same. And since I'm a

dad, that means I have a license to tell them, much to the chagrin of family, friends and co-workers.

Here are a few of my favorites.

◆ A husband and wife are at their neighborhood pub enjoying a burger and a beer.

Wife: "Look at that drunk guy over there."

Husband: "Do you know him?"

Wife: "He asked me to marry him 15 years ago and I turned him down."

Husband: "Looks like he's still celebrating."

◆ A husband finally agrees to marriage counseling after 35 years of marriage. The wife starts telling the counselor how unaffectionate the husband is and that he never listens to her. The counselor gets up and walks over to the wife, giving her a long hug and a deep kiss.

Counselor: "Sir, that's what your wife needs three times a week."

Husband: "Well, I can bring her on Mondays and Wednesdays, but I golf on Fridays."

◆ A customer walks

into a bagel shop and asks if he can buy a bagel with cream cheese. "Sorry," the clerk says, "we only take money."

◆ What are two reasons men go fishing? Either they don't have a wife, or they have a wife.

◆ A horse walks into a bar and the bartender asks, "why the long face?"

◆ A bear walks into a bar and says, "I'll ... have ... a ... beer."

Bartender asks, "why the long pause?"

◆ What's the fastest way for a husband to get

his wife to pay attention to him? Lay down on the couch and turn on the TV.

◆ Did you hear the one about the butter? I probably shouldn't spread it.

◆ I have a pen that can write under water. It can write every other word, too.

◆ How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.

◆ What has four wheels and flies? A garbage truck.

◆ Don't use GPS if you're going to a cemetery. You don't want to

hear, "You've reached your destination."

◆ Speaking of cemeteries, have you ever ridden in the last vehicle in a funeral procession? It's much better than riding in the first.

◆ Back when my daughter was in school, she was doing a science project and asked me if I knew anything about Galileo. I told her he was a poor boy from a poor family.

◆ And my all-time favorite. What does red paint taste like? Blue paint.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

EDUCATORS JITTERY AWAITING BIDS ON COOK ROAD SCHOOL:

Bids for the Cook Road Elementary School will be opened at a regular meeting of the Board of Education Aug. 9, and the board members are keeping their fingers crossed in unhappy anticipation of what the bids may mean to the whole building program of the Pointe public school system. When bids were taken for the completion of the Parcels School early in June, the board was delighted to find it could be built for \$290,000 less than the architects' estimates. It may be a far different story next week.

ROBS CHURCH OF SUNDAY COLLECTION:

The Farms police were called to Christ Church on July 31 to investigate a burglary. A thief gained entry to the church sometime after 12:30 p.m. on July 30 and smashed a padlock on a cabinet taking between \$800 and \$900 in cash. The money was part of the church's proceeds from parishioners' Sunday offering. Checks were found strewn about a toilet floor.

FORMAL NOTE INJECTED INTO FARMS BEAUTY CONTEST:

Twenty-eight ladies who had entered the Grosse Pointe Farms Bathing Beauty Contest scheduled for Aug. 7 are putting their swimming costumes in moth balls and pressing their formal gowns. The event was suddenly switched this week to a Talent Show

Popularity Contest and more dignified attire was prescribed.

1975

50 years ago this week

FARMS STUDIES PROPOSALS ON REHIRING GUARDS:

The problem of noise and disorderly crowds around a Mack Avenue block in the Farms which contains three bars appears to have diminished considerably due to the hiring of security guards, plus the seasonal decline in business as the summer months wind down. The conflict between the three businesses (Piper's Alley, Devin Kelley's Pub and Diamond Lil's) began last summer when residents of Belanger Avenue brought their complaints of noise, rowdy youths and litter before the council.

CITE CONCERN ON REMOVAL OF ELM TREES:

Some Park residents are not satisfied that all the elm trees slated for destruction by Park officials really are infected with Dutch Elm disease. At a meeting of the Upper Three Mile Association, the group decided to take matters into their own hands by sending samples from 10 condemned trees to the State Department of Agriculture for testing.

IT'S ONE WAY FOR BEAUPRE:

The Farms Police Department announced the conversion of Beaupre Lane into a one-way street, west bound, effective Aug. 1. To ease the initial inconvenience caused by the change, the police plan to only issue warnings to viola-

tors during the first two weeks following the conversion.

2000

25 years ago this week

LIBRARIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH NEW PUBLIC ACT:

Gov. John Engler recently signed an act requiring public libraries to provide at least one computer with Internet access that restricts access from receiving obscene or sexually explicit materials by Oct. 1. The Grosse Pointe Public Libraries are already ahead of the state's mandate. Currently, all four computers with Internet access in the youth section at the Central Library and all three computers with Internet access in the youth sections of the Park and Woods branches have filters which block offensive materials.

WOODS-SHORES 13-YEAR-OLDS WIN STATE TOURNAMENT:

It's tough coming out of the losers' bracket to win a baseball tournament. And it's an even tougher task when a team is in the losers' bracket after playing its first game. But the Shores-Woods 13-year-old all-star team overcame those odds to win the state Babe Ruth League championship for that age group.

LIBERTY SHIP CRUISES LAKE ST. CLAIR:

The S.S. John W. Brown steamed down the channel in Lake St. Clair toward Windmill Pointe Park in Grosse Pointe Park. Following its visit to the Detroit area, the Brown headed to Cleveland. The Brown,

one of only two Liberty ships in North America out of a wartime fleet of more than 2,700, is based in Baltimore.

2015

10 years ago this week

CROSSING GUARD RECEIVES HONOR:

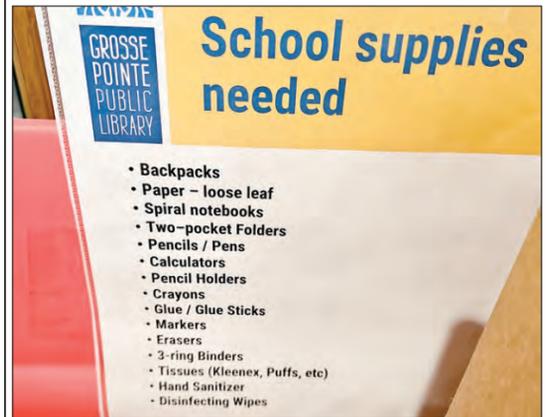
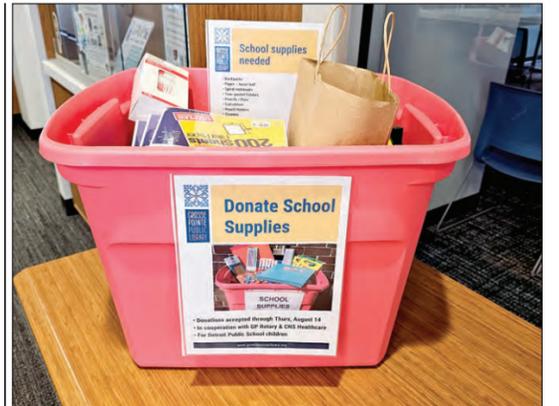
A 13-year-old school crossing guard earned a mayoral proclamation and job overtime from the public safety director for saving classmates in January from stepping in the paths of two crashing cars. "I stopped them and made sure they didn't get hit," said Christopher Cleland, a AAA school safety patroler. "That's when the crash happened."

GROSSE POINTE BAKER TO APPEAR ON 'CAKE WARS':

Lisa Corbin's secret is safe, for now. But Monday, Aug. 17, an episode of Food Network's "Cake Wars" will air and the world will know whether Corbin and Laura Amodeo earned the \$10,000 for which they competed.

HOWELL TAKES ON NEW ROLE:

Keith Howell settled in his new office in the central administration building on St. Clair in early July and immediately got to work in his new role as the Grosse Pointe Public School System director of pre-K and elementary instruction. Howell started his tenure with GPPSS at Monteith Elementary School, where he served as principal for eight years.



Help wanted

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch is collecting school supplies for children in need in the Detroit Public School System. Backpacks, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, pens, pencils, crayons, loose-leaf paper, two-pocket folders, markers and other items are needed. Donations are accepted through Thursday, Aug. 14. The collection basket is next to the circulation desk at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

grants."

Baseball stadiums, a cricket field, a curling facility and a distillery — these are just a few of the projects Michigan taxpayers are funding through unconstitutional spending.

Before Michigan voters agree to higher taxes, they deserve real answers about where the money is going and why the billions we spend today produce so little.

Michael J. Reitz is executive vice president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy based in Midland.

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8A | SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

John "Tripp" Studstill III introduces Mainstream Drive at the summer's final Music on the Plaza Thursday, July 24.

MAYOR:

Continued from page 1A

"Being junior mayor seems like a very big opportunity and I love this community."

The junior mayor initiative, implemented in several of the Grosse Pointes this year, was spearheaded by Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, who previously established junior mayors and encouraged the neighboring cities to take part.

"This is the first year junior mayors were introduced to the Grosse Pointes with the intent to introduce civic involvement to students," City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine

said via email. "The students serve about one year and have the opportunity to engage with their local communities and learn the importance of public service."

Studstill — who goes by Tripp, short for triple, because he's a 3rd — was selected among other talented applicants ages 10 to 13, based on his responses to five prompts.

They revealed that his family and friends would describe him as "funny and maybe a little goofy," and that three qualities he believes a good leader should possess are a good heart, making good choices and helping when help is needed.

The fifth question

asked about a memory he loves in Grosse Pointe.

"My answer was I have a lot of good memories in Grosse Pointe, but my favorite is our family tradition of walking around in The Village after dinner every Thanksgiving," Studstill said. "We take pictures near the tree and enjoy the beautiful lights together."

In addition to introducing Mainstream Drive at Music on the Plaza Thursday, July 24, Studstill's junior mayor duties also have included representing the City by making a speech during the annual Juneteenth celebration in Harper Woods.

In mid-August he will attend a city council meeting — "I'm excited to do that," Studstill said. "That just seems very cool." — and also is invited alongside the other junior mayors to take part in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade later this year.

When not participating in local government, Studstill also is on the Grosse Pointe City Norbs swim team and is a member of Jack and Jill of America, the Detroit Community Sailing Center, youth performing arts Dream Arts Company and the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program, through which he recently won first place for directing a video advertisement.

The 11-year-old has been homeschooled since the pandemic.

"I really love homeschool," he said. "I wake up, I get dressed and I do school with my mom. It's just really easy and fun. I have a great time."



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, standing, are JT Mestdagh and Jim Mestdagh, both of Grosse Pointe. Seated from left are Keith McCaughrin, Grosse Pointe; honoree Bill Mestdagh Sr.; Lynn Amos, now of San Antonio; Tom Gage, Grosse Pointe; and Kent Keogh, now of Grand Marais.

One big birthday

A group of nine former Maire Elementary School students circa 1960 — four in person, five on a Zoom call — celebrated the 90th birthday of their former teacher, William Mestdagh Sr., by calling into or attending a reunion luncheon at the Grosse Pointe Farms home of James Mestdagh Friday, July 25. Many of those in attendance or calling hadn't seen each other in more than 60 years.

"Even as young as we were at the time, Mr. Mestdagh was a hugely influential person in our lives," said Tom Gage,

the longtime Detroit News baseball writer whose career was honored by baseball's Hall of Fame in 2015.

"His assignments involving vocabulary lists were my introduction to creative writing," Gage added. "He was special to us then; he's still special to us now."

All nine of the students taking part grew up in Grosse Pointe and attended either Pierce Middle School or Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett) after Maire. Two called in from Colorado, one from California, one from North Carolina and

one from Wisconsin. Of the four able to attend, two still live in Grosse Pointe, one resides in San Antonio and the other in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Bill Mestdagh was the longtime principal at Mason Elementary School following his years at Maire and the new playground there is named for him.

His three sons — William Jr., David and James — their wives, as well as grandson JT Mestdagh, also attended the festivities. Three spouses of the classmates were in attendance as well.

PARAPRO:

Continued from page 1A

Lillie Loder, the district's executive director of student services, said GPPSS has 130 paraprofessionals currently and is looking for 30 more in both general and special education.

"They are so awesome," she said. "They really understand what it takes to be a great parapro, which requires a lot of patience."

Moceri said becoming a paraprofessional was a natural transition for her. "I volunteered a lot when my three kids were in school," she said. "I was there almost every day, so I figured I might as well get paid for it."

She also spent eight years as a substitute teacher.

"I was thinking about going back to school to get my teaching certifica-

tion," Moceri said. "My kids were at Monteith when a position opened up."

Moceri has worked in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Moderately Cognitively Impaired classrooms. She currently is in transition services, working with special needs students in high school through age 26.

"We do things like help them find a job, how to read a bus schedule," she said. "It's all about the relationships with students, especially working one-on-one with special needs students. You really get to know them and make a difference in their education. Even the little advancements are very rewarding."

Moceri said being a paraprofessional is a great fit for a stay-at-home parent.

"You're on the same schedule as the kids," she said. "It makes it very easy when it comes to school breaks and summer vacation."

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2B OBITUARIES | 3-5B SENIOR LIVING | 5-6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 6B CHURCHES

A next-level LAUNCH

Corewell GP celebrates program success as volunteer prepares for higher education

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The July 23 leaders meeting at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital was a bit more well-attended than usual.

Two dozen additional hospital staff milled about the back of Connelly Auditorium, waiting to celebrate a very special volunteer.

Griffin Wright, who has volunteered with the hospital's LAUNCH program since summer 2023, was given a heartfelt sendoff as he'll be leaving later this month to attend Calvin University.

"Griffin is the reason LAUNCH began," Director of Volunteers Betsy Schulte said.

LAUNCH, which stands for Learning, Advocate, Understanding, Nurture, Coaching and Hope, enables young adults with special needs to receive training and career exploration while volunteering in various areas of the hospital.

Participants are allowed to choose the area in which they'd like to work. Wright gravitated toward central processing, surgery and patient transport. He has built special bonds with staff during his time at Corewell, including with Paul Gryzenia, M.D., chief of the radiology

department.

"Griffin is the best," Gryzenia said. "His kind demeanor and genuine enthusiasm make him a true joy to have around. He brightened the days of staff and patients alike and was an absolute pleasure to work with. He will be greatly missed as he pursues his college education."

During Wright's sendoff, Schulte presented details about the LAUNCH program. Since its inception, 24 young adults have participated in LAUNCH, which currently has 17 active volunteers. Two have become employees of Corewell Health and four others are in the process of interviewing for employment opportunities.

"LAUNCH builds confidence and shows them career possibilities," Schulte said. "They learn something new ... and use LAUNCH as a launching pad for whatever's next."

Not only is LAUNCH a treasured part of the Grosse Pointe hospital, but it has received recognition and support in the community, including a \$142,000 grant from the Children's Miracle Network in January and a \$50,000 donation from an individual supporter.

In May, Volunteer Coordinator Clay Vandebussche received



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Griffin Wright, left, stands with his parents, Rob and Regan, as he receives a round of applause from staff at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, where he has volunteered since 2023, as part of its LAUNCH program.

a Helping Hands Nursing Excellence Award for his role as LAUNCH coordinator and mentor.

"We collaborate with more than 10 departments in the hospital," Schulte said. "The only reason the program works well is the partnerships. ... People are willing to give this a shot and we don't take that lightly. We can't do this without you all."

Wright's parents, Regan and Rob, attended the sendoff. His mother also addressed attendees.

"Two years ago I dropped Griffin off at the door," Regan Wright said. "... Two years later, there's a room full of people celebrating him. This was never on my vision board."

Though Wright began volunteering as a patient escort while he attended Grosse Pointe South High School, staying at the hospital wasn't in the cards. He had been

accepted to Kent State University — which has the oldest non-college degree program for different learners — but then the program was put on hold.

Schulte invited him back to Corewell and from there, LAUNCH was formed and quickly took off. Since then, he applied and was accepted to Calvin College.

"In January, Griffin was invited to Calvin as part of his application process," his mother relayed. "What I saw was far different from what I had seen at Kent State. Griffin was so engaged. There was dialoguing. There was so much excitement. I attribute that to the social hour Clay does."

She commended Corewell for instilling independence in her son, as well as giving him opportunities to rise to different challenges.

"Betsy has this passion in her," she added. "She keeps making this program better and better. All of you are part of this story. Without you, none of this would have happened."

To thank Corewell staff who have participated in LAUNCH, attendees were treated to some of Wright's favorite snacks — Rice Krispie Treats and peppermint patties. They also were asked to sign a keepsake book with words of encouragement to Wright before he heads off to college.

Wright's mentors reflected on the impact he's had during his time with them.

"Meeting Griffin really changed my life in so many ways," Vandebussche said, "and made me a kinder person, more open to helping anybody in need."



Regan Wright shares about her son's journey and the impact of the LAUNCH program with those in attendance of the leaders meeting at Corewell Grosse Pointe.

"I don't think I realized the need until Griffin started," Schulte said. "Regan opened this world for us. A whole group of people after high school falls through the cracks. Regan made us realize the need and we can help with that. There's not a single place around here to get career exploration like this. This is opportunity that opens doors."

"... We've learned from Regan; she helped us along the way," she continued. "And the staff has loved this. This program changes their departments. It brings joy, pur-

pose, meaning, camaraderie."

Wright, who has logged more than 1,000 volunteer hours, said he's most enjoyed "spreading joy and meeting new people," during his time with LAUNCH. When asked what he'll miss the most, he said, "My peeps."

He plans study MRI technology.

Schulte said there's a waiting list for LAUNCH, which she hopes to continue and grow.

For more information about the program, email Schulte at betsy.schulte@corewellhealth.org.



The Wright family gets a selfie with Director of Volunteers Betsy Schulte, left, and Volunteer Coordinator and LAUNCH mentor Clay Vandebussche, right.



LAUNCH mentor Clay Vandebussche presents Griffin Wright with a parting gift — lights for his dorm room at Calvin University.

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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.

Edward Carl Hanpeter

Edward Carl Hanpeter, 94, passed away peacefully Friday, July 25, 2025, in Novi, Mich.

Ed was born Sept. 12, 1930, in St. Louis, Mo. He lived a life defined by devotion to family, intellectual rigor and generous service to others. He was a graduate of Cornell University and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

Ed is survived by his wife, Joan; their four children; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and one brother. He was predeceased by two brothers and two sisters.

See more information at obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

Frank J. Martilotti

Frank J. Martilotti, 87, passed away peacefully Monday, July 28, 2025. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend to many.

Frank was born Nov. 21, 1937, aboard the *Vulcania*, the ship his parents, Emilio and Theresa, and sister, Rose, boarded as they fled Europe prior to World War II. The *Vulcania* departed from Trieste, Italy, then stopped in Naples before continuing its voyage to Ellis Island. During this voyage from Italy to the U.S., Frank was born. Frank was proud that he was not just "off the boat," but "born on the boat." Frank's life was remarkable from the beginning. He embodied a spirit of determination and dedication throughout his years, building a meaningful life for his family.

A lifelong eastsider, Frank was a proud alumnus of Cass Technical High School in Detroit. He was a stalwart member of the marching band, played the saxophone in several Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parades and was voted "Best Dressed" his senior year.

After earning his

degree in electrical engineering from Lawrence Technological University, Frank worked mainly as an electric contractor estimator. In this role, he garnered respect from his colleagues for his sharp mind and strong work ethic.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, he was an avid sports fan, always ready to cheer on his favorite teams. He also was a supporter and season ticket holder of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Pops Series. He was proud of his four seats in row E, where he always occupied the aisle seat and enjoyed the company of his family and friends, including his wife, Yvonne, for the last nearly 40 years.

Frank loved playing handball with a collection of players for a greater part of his adult life. He begrudgingly retired from it at the youthful age of 86. During the last 22 years, he added bowling to his repertoire of interests and enjoyed Tuesday afternoons at the Detroit Athletic Club as a "super sub" for one of the men's leagues. He absolutely enjoyed the camaraderie his handball and bowling adventures brought to his life.

Frank was profoundly devoted to his family. His preference for a home-cooked, sit-down dinner almost nightly was his way of having quality time with his family as soon as he arrived home from work. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Yvonne; children, Frank (Colette), Lisa Centner (Geoff) and Domenic (Nicole); grandchildren, Andrew Centner, Adele Centner (Billy Buck) and Joseph Martilotti; siblings, Rose Perrone, Mary Marchin and Tom Martilotti; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends who will miss his warmth, energy, smile, sense of style and perspective.

Frank willingly and generously supported his family through the very last days of his life. He will be remembered by all who knew him for

his unwavering love for his family, quiet strength and the deep kindness he showed to everyone he met.

Services were held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Janet Madelyn Keppler

Janet Madelyn Keppler, 97, died peacefully Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at her residence at Woodbridge Terrace in Irvine, Calif.

Janet was born and raised in Detroit as the only child of Alfred and Lyla Perlick. She attended Salem Lutheran Elementary School and graduated from Southeastern High School in 1946. In 1951, Janet married the Rev. Paul F. Keppler, who was a minister at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Detroit. Their deep and enduring love lasted more than 69 years, until Paul's death in 2020, and remains an example to all who knew them.

Janet also was the devoted mother of their two sons, Paul and Robert, and daughter, Gretchen. Janet provided unwavering and unselfish support and commitment to Paul and their family throughout her husband's long and fruitful ministry at First English.

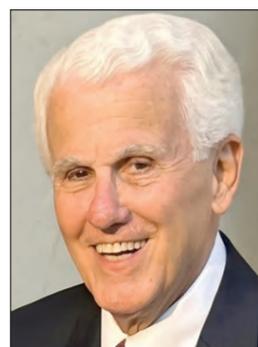
Janet became a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods when First English moved to its current location on Vernier in 1957, and continued as such until 2000. She always was proud to be a member of the Grosse Pointe Woods community.

In 2000, she and Paul moved to Irvine, Calif., to be closer to her daughter's family, who provided her with extraordinary love, care and compassion as she advanced in age. Even after moving to Irvine, Janet maintained her subscription to the Grosse Pointe News.

Janet is survived by her children, Paul Keppler (Deborah, nee



Edward Carl Hanpeter



Frank J. Martilotti



Janet Madelyn Keppler

Meineke), Robert Keppler (Mary, nee Kundtz) and Gretchen Hudson (Jack); grandchildren, Andrew, Elizabeth, Lauren, Megan, Kathryn, Carl and Carolyn; and great-grandchildren, Eliana, Avia, Grace and Brooklyn. Janet's elegant fashion sense and love of dogs lives on in her family.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Irvine.

Michael Anthony Trudel

Michael Anthony Trudel, 71, passed away peacefully Monday, July 28, 2025. Born Aug. 30, 1953, in England, Michael traveled to the U.S. as an infant with his mother, beginning a remarkable life marked by service, creativity and an unwavering devotion to his family and faith.

Michael proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as a petty officer third class and radioman. A master of Morse code and a dedicated veteran, his time in the military deeply shaped his values. He followed in the footsteps of his father, who also served in the Armed Forces, continuing a proud family tradition of military service.

A graduate of Wayne State University, Michael earned a bachelor's degree and built a successful career as a writer in advertising, marketing and technology. Known as a gifted wordsmith, he brought clarity, creativity and insight to everything he touched.

Michael's love of sports was lifelong. A passionate hockey fan, he skated regularly, often with his son, David, and daughter-in-law, Jaci, well into his 60s. He was an avid golfer, a devoted spectator at his children's athletic events and a longtime coach, always



Michael Anthony Trudel



Paul Theodore Pearse

cheering from the sidelines with pride.

His creative spirit extended to the stage, where he found a second home at Grosse Pointe Theatre. Inspired by his mother's love of the arts, Michael acted, directed, produced and even served as president of the organization. Theater was a joyful outlet that allowed his talents and leadership to shine.

Above all, Michael was a dedicated and loving father. He never missed a moment and attended every one of Elizabeth's track meets and David's lacrosse games. His presence, encouragement and support were constant.

His faith was the foundation of his life. A devoted Christian, Michael was an active member of both St. Ambrose Parish and Grace Community Church. He attended both services every Sunday and lived out his beliefs with quiet strength and sincerity.

Michael is survived by his children, David Trudel (Jaccelynn) and Elizabeth Trudel (Harsha Devaraj); stepmother, Carole Trudel; siblings, Tony (Danielle), Noelle Johnston (Che) and John (Dana); the mother of his children, Leslie Trudel; and dear friend, Ingrid Manns.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, with Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Ambrose Parish, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his heart,

humor, fierce love for his family and the legacy of kindness, creativity and service he leaves behind.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Detroit Red Wings Foundation, nhl.com/redwings/community/foundation/donations; or the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter, bit.ly/4obYUAt.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Paul Theodore "Ted" Pearse

Paul Theodore "Ted" Pearse died Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Ted was the beloved husband of Teresa Voss; loving father of Jennifer Pearse Huey (David) and Jessica Pearse; cherished grandfather of Pearse, Josephine and Amelia; dear brother of Chris Pearse (Judy); and uncle of Meredith and Will. He is fondly remembered by extended family, friends and colleagues.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks, Clawson. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham.

Memorial donations may be made to Mercy Ships, P.O. Box 1930, Garden Valley, TX 75771, mercyships.org/?form=donate. See more information at lynchfuneraldirectors.com.

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Dearborn Symphony announces auditions for professional musicians

The Dearborn Symphony has announced auditions for several professional musician positions for the upcoming season.

A six-time recipient of the Detroit Music Awards' Outstanding Community Orchestra honor, the Dearborn Symphony is a professional ensemble where artistry, collaboration and community connection thrive. Paid positions are available and many current members are affiliated with local unions, underscoring the high performance standards of the organization.

Auditions will be held at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, 24110 Cherry Hill, Dearborn, on the following dates:

- ◆ Wednesday, Sept. 10, for principal clarinet and principal trombone
- ◆ Thursday, Sept. 11, for associate concertmaster, principal second vio-

lin, two section first violin positions and section cello

Preliminary rounds will take place behind a screen to ensure impartiality, with subsequent rounds potentially unscreened.

Applicants must be eligible to work in the United States and must submit a résumé in advance. Full audition details and repertoire requirements are available at dearbornsymphony.org.

"Our musicians are the heart of what makes the Dearborn Symphony extraordinary," said James Clements, executive director. "We welcome passionate performers who share our belief that music has the power to uplift, unite and inspire."

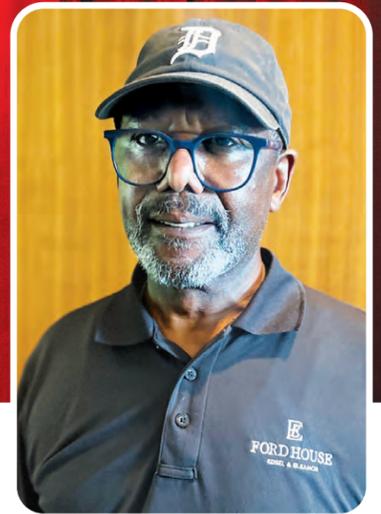
For more information and to submit a résumé, contact John Hartwick, personnel manager, at jhartwick@dearbornsymphony.org.

ACT III

Post-retirement gigs focus on creativity and passion



PHOTO BY STEWART PHOTOGRAPHY



COURTESY PHOTOS

Cynthia Ohrt, left, director of the St. Clair Shores Community Chorus. Above left, Maggie Greene, watercolor artist. Above right, Tyrone Gusby, of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

For Cynthia Ohrt, music has been more than a career. So after wrapping up 38 years teaching music at Lake Shore Public Schools in St. Clair Shores, 25 of those years as director of choirs at Lake Shore High School, she decided that the music had to go on — past her retirement. A testament to her sunny personality and positive outlook, her favorite quote is, ‘Life is a song and love is the music.’ One more reason it’s a good thing that she has chosen to keep giving back to her community.

Ohrt is part of a growing phenomenon known as “unretirement,” occurring when people who have retired return to work, sometimes extending or embellishing upon their original careers, but sometimes going in a whole new direction.

According to a recent retirement study from T. Rowe Price, around 20 percent of retirees are working either full- or part-time, while 7 percent of study respondents are looking for employment.

Others seek volunteer opportunities that take on responsibilities akin to any formal job role. While some return to work for financial reasons, others are motivated to work or volunteer for the social, emotional and creative benefits employment can bring.

But individuals mulling a return to work — or those currently working but trying to plan for a second act — should not feel beholden to previous career paths. A second trip around the employment block can involve an entirely different line of work. For those who chose initial career paths that required them to postpone a dream, this can be the chapter of life they revisit that previous interest or expand on what was relegated to a hobby during their full-time careers.

For Ohrt, it has meant she can continue her life’s work inspiring people to find the music within themselves — and now she is doing just that for an entire community. For the last several years she has devoted her time and talents as the music director of the St. Clair Shores Community Chorus, honing and showcasing the skills of its 69 members, some of whom are her grown-up former students.

The chorus performs multiple shows each year to filled auditoriums, including a spring show and a Christmas concert. They also perform for civic events such as the city’s Tree Lighting Ceremony and Memorial Day Tribute to Fallen Veterans for Bruce Post VFW #1146.

The group is thriving under her care as she applies her creative leadership to not only the music direction of their shows, but also stage design, backdrops, costumes and props for the choreographed acts by the show choir and men’s and women’s ensembles. Think of the TV show, “Glee” for an idea of the fun and artistry involved.

“One of my favorite benefits about directing the SCSCC is the opportunity to bring multiple generations together to produce musical productions,” she said.

She leads choir members of all ages and varied levels of talent to maximize their potential, bringing it all together in what she calls ‘a gift of song for the community.’

“I am blessed to be able to create, produce and keep vocal music alive in the Shores and beyond,” Ohrt said.

And it’s safe to say — her gift is gratefully-received by the community.

For Maggie Greene, watercolor art was just something she dabbled in during her free time over her 42 years as a construction project contracting attorney — a role she said she truly enjoyed. She negotiated and drafted agreements for various projects all over the country — from retail developments, museums, healthcare and manufacturing facilities to bridges, power plants and the like.

“My job was to be a problem-solver, deal-maker attorney, not an attack-dog attorney,” she said. “And I knew what I needed to do to do a good job for the client. I never met an attorney who liked his or her legal practice more than I liked mine.”

Because of her dedication, her profession tended to take over her life — so her paint brushes often remained dry. Turning the page to retirement mode at 73 opened up the time she needed to further explore her artistic talents. Now she shares a new side of herself with the world.

“Painting in watercolor was a really fun once-in-a-while hobby,” Greene said. “But I soon discovered that painting once in a while was not enough. I needed a new challenge, new problems to solve.”

She began painting at least three hours most days, signing up for challenging classes — then began to get more serious about color theory and design. She tried portraiture too before taking the next big step to enter a few exhibitions — to great success. Now her beautiful work has been included in shows at the Grosse Pointe Artist Association galleries, the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and

the Lawrence Street Gallery.

Though like most creative people Greene is always learning new things about her craft, today she defines herself as an artist — quite a metamorphosis from life as a attorney. She is still a part of making the world more beautiful, but in a new and original way.

The Ford House’s Tyrone Gusby didn’t have to look far for his post-retirement gig.

He enjoyed his longtime role in facilities maintenance at the breathtaking historic gem so much that he returned part time to ensure that the buildings he loved tending to for over 20 years continued to be looked after properly.

“The beauty of this is that it allows me to stay connected to a place I care about while giving me the time and space to enjoy retirement,” he said. “I can contribute in a meaningful way without the demands of a full-time schedule, which makes it a perfect fit for this new chapter of life,” Gusby said.

Asked what he does with all his extra time, he quickly offered that he now has the flexibility to visit loved ones and spend quality time with family. Gusby also has more free time to take on home projects, explore new hobbies and truly enjoy the fruits of his labor. “I’m grateful...I made it!” he said.

As the soon-to-be-retired wind down long careers and consider their own next steps after retirement, there is much to learn from those already maxing out this golden phase of life. It’s important to think about what really matters, and build around that. Here are some points to consider:

Right: Program from the SCS Community Chorus’ recent show.

Below: A self-portrait by watercolor artist Maggie Greene.

- Flexibility: Choose a situation that enables you to set your own schedule or work part-time for the freedom to travel, relax or spend time with loved ones.

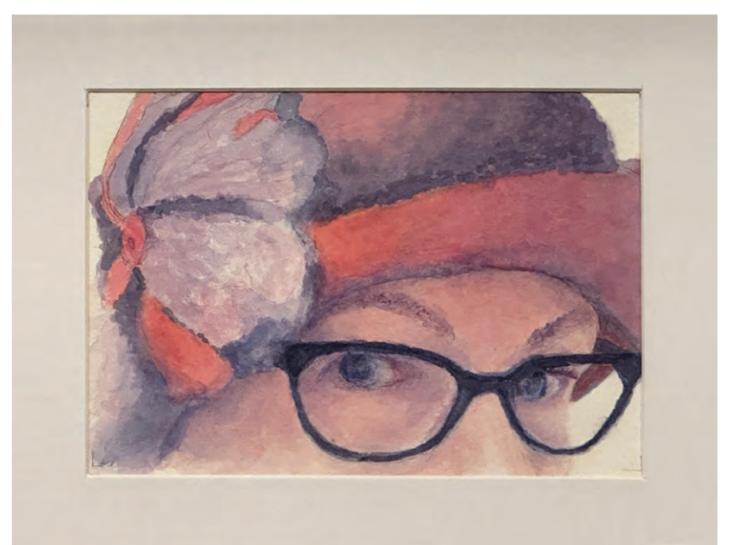
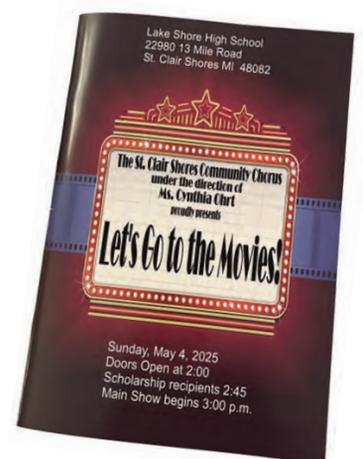
- Social interaction: Consider a second career that lets you interact with a number of people and continue to build relationships and a good network.

- Personal passions: Find a job that and meshes with your interests. A former graphic artist, for example, may decide to teach design to the next generation.

- Nonprofit opportunities: Many retirees spent years in high-stress corporate environments where bottom lines may be more important than the bigger picture. Shifting to a career in the nonprofit sector can be a personally fulfilling job that utilizes skills learned in the corporate world.

- Consulting or contract work: If you loved your job, go for a second career as a consultant or contractor in the same field.

Whatever you choose to do, may it be a wonderful exclamation point to a career life well-lived.



4B | SENIOR LIVING

Book sheds light on automotive design process

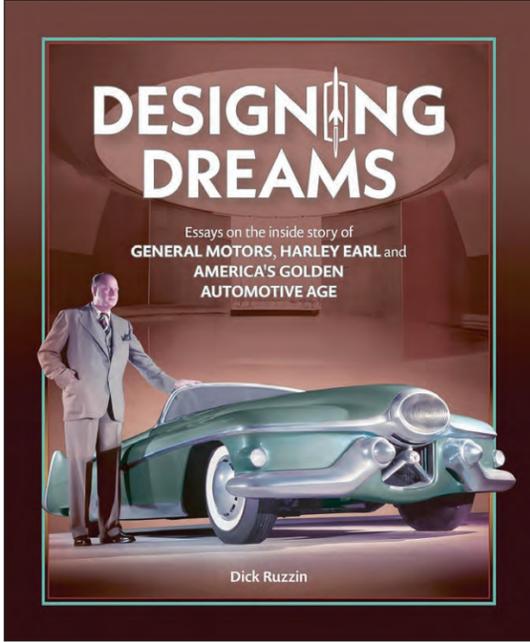
By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After more than 40 years in the automotive design industry, Dick Ruzzin knows a thing or two about cars.

As chief designer for Cadillac, he helped create a new Eldorado and new Seville that saved Cadillac from nearly going out of business. He also spent five years as director of design for GM Europe and later as director of design for Chevrolet, a post from which he retired in 2000.

Ruzzin shares his design expertise in his latest book, "Designing Dreams: Essays on the inside story of General Motors, Harley Earl and America's Golden Automotive Age," available for pre-order on 50 websites and in five languages.

"This book has history to it," the Grosse Pointe Park resident said. "It's about things that happened that are mysterious to most people. There's a mystery to how it all (the design process) happens; it's all in the

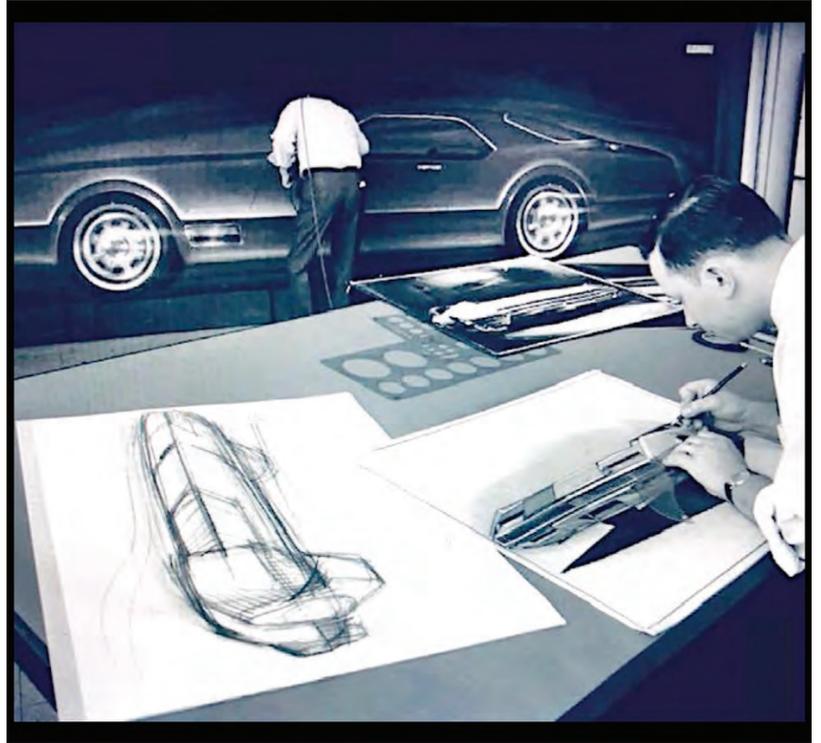


Ruzzin's book was released July 26.

book."

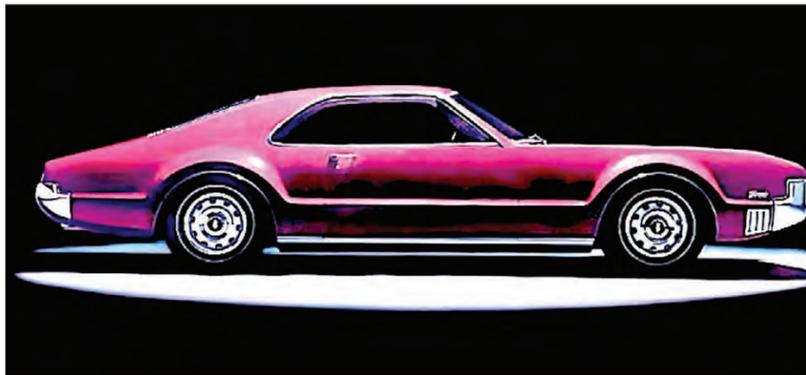
"Designing Dreams" isn't about what was done, he said, but rather how it was done. Its chapters take a look at several of GM's iconic designs and the designers who created them, including former Grosse Pointe resident Harley Earl.

"He had a particular task no other designer in the industry had," Ruzzin said. "He was the first automotive designer who worked for GM. GM was the first company that had major brands. He had to develop a process, which is how GM got so far ahead of its competitors in the industry."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DICK RUZZIN

Automotive designer Dick Ruzzin, hard at work sketching a Toronado.



A sideview of the 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado.

"... This is a particularly unusual situation I'm writing about because I entered the profession at General Motors when there were still people around involved in that," he continued. "They told me stories. Back then they'd be at GM from Monday morning until Saturday afternoon. They'd sleep on cots in the hallways and had food brought in. They'd go home Saturday afternoon and come back Monday morning to do it all over again."

A springboard for Ruzzin's latest book was the 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado, which he had a hand in designing.

"Every designer around the world changed what they were doing when that car came out," he said. "... That car historically represents the Golden Age of Automobiles in that

point in time. ... Harley Earl created almost 100 Motorama cars. Not a single one of them looked like that car. I was one of the designers."

With hundreds of images at his disposal for "Designing Dreams," Ruzzin set about to tell the story of the Toronado, then decided to broaden his scope.

"The Toronado story is not big enough for a book," he said. "I started looking for other things I've written through the years, going way back in time, that could be combined in the Toronado story."

After two months of planning, he connected stories with additional writing and completed a well-rounded book on automotive design. Veloce Publishing in England issued Ruzzin a contract for his work.

"It's not a story about the single design of a car," he said. "It's a story of how Harley Earl created the profession of automotive design that, even today, is the source and route of how products are developed all over the world."

"... How America developed the Arsenal of Democracy and how Harley Earl participated in that, that became the new thrust of the book, to appeal to people interested in overall design development in the world and the challenges he had as a young designer when he was hired by GM."

Ruzzin shares his own experiences in the book, from his high school graduation in 1955, to his seasoned career as a designer.

"Everything is told as

See DESIGN, page 5B

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Kyle Hecht, MSF

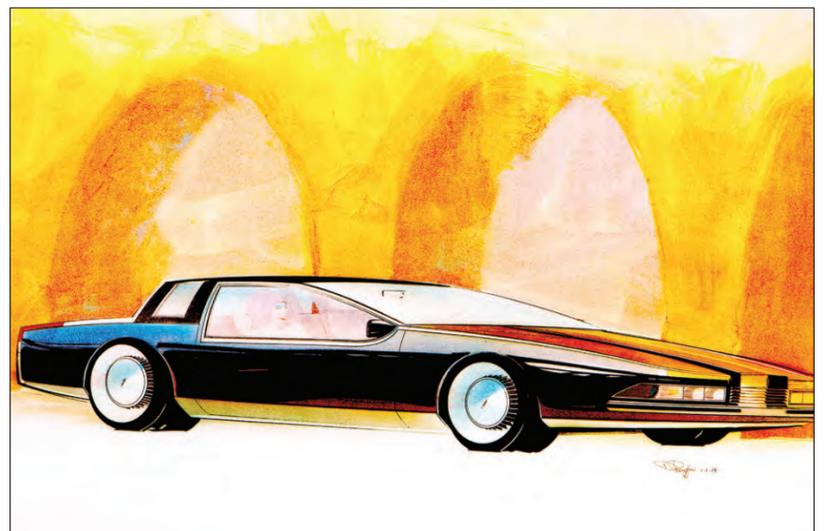
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Harley Earl in a Buick LeSabre. Earl's career is a highlight of the book.



Above and right, a couple of Ruzzin's sketches from his design days at General Motors.





Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

Food for thought

Everybody has to eat. Daily activities are organized around the times we devote to the consumption of food — breakfast, lunch and dinner. Some people eat to live and will enjoy a served meal consisting of anything that doesn't move or isn't blue. Others live to eat and get nit-picky about any meal placed before them. They complain not only about taste, but also about its appearance, amount and temperature.

I see eight categories

for food.

Fast food is chockfull of fat and salt and sugar and is consumed either in your car or seated at a grease-and-crumbs-encrusted table in a brightly lit building close to a major expressway. To get your fast food, you're required to lean out of your car window, shout into a microphone, pay through a window, collect the food from yet another window, then eat it with your right hand while driving with your left.

Fast food is good for

busy mothers who are transporting carloads of kids to various athletic practices and events that are — for some reason — always scheduled during the dinner hour.

Slow food. Slow cookers get star billing here. Slow cooker meals consist of vegetables — which are good for us — plus a haunch of tough meat that promises to become tender and juicy if it's cooked for the same amount of time it takes to fly from San Francisco to Rome. Sometimes this works.

Slow cooker meals usually are nutritionally sound. My grandmother had an old-fashioned slow cooker; she called it a stew pot. I confess I have actually defrosted a block of frozen meat in my microwave so I could cook it in my slow cooker. This seems odd.

Annoying food. This is food that makes you look loutish while you're eating it. Hard tacos, for example. There's no well-mannered, refined way to eat a hard taco. Salads containing lettuce pieces that are too big to put in your mouth cause problems. So does Jell-O, spaghetti, cotton candy and triple-scoop ice cream cones.

Funny food. Prunes. Carrot juice. Tofu. Limburger cheese. Fish served with one big unblinking eyeball still right there staring woefully up at you.

Comfort food. Oreo cookies dipped in milk. Hot chocolate on a cold,

snowy day. Animal crackers. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Day-after-Thanksgiving leftovers. Chicken noodle soup. Grilled cheese sandwiches paired with Campbell's tomato soup. Hot coffee in a large mug first thing in the morning. Tea, if you're British. Every novel written by a British author includes at least three scenes in which the protagonist faces an unexpected crisis and pauses to consider her predicament while her best friend says, "I'll put the kettle on."

Gourmet food. Anything expensive that has a foreign name and

is described with an unpronounceable foreign phrase. Portions are exceedingly small and the ingredients are arranged artistically on a white plate so you can fully appreciate the display before picking it apart.

Food that's supposed to be good for you ... but — wait a minute — who's fooling who here? Yogurt has less fat but more sugar. Frozen yogurt — same. Diet ice cream tastes like cement that hasn't quite hardened. Decaf coffee smells like sewer gas and tastes like mud.

Food with no redeeming nutritional value, but is wonderfully satisfying anyway. Sugared doughnuts, Pepsi, Coke, paczki, piecrust, gum, candy corn, potato chips, chocolate and almost any kind of candy you can name.

Pay no attention to guilt. It eventually dissipates. What's on your plate?

AREA ACTIVITIES

Sunrise on Vernier

Sunrise on Vernier, 1850 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a support group at 4:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (313) 642-2000.

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:

◆ Courtyard Cookout, 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for guests.

◆ The movie "Leanne Morgan I'm Every Woman" is shown at noon Friday, August 8. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Napkin Basket Making, noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, with instructor Deb VanderLinde. Cost is \$60

See EVENTS, page 6B

The Helm offers free workshop to explain ins and outs of Medicare

Some things can't be avoided. Turning 65 and signing up for Medicare is one such life milestone.

The Helm's free New to Medicare program explains required steps, as well as various drug and supplemental plan options to make a smooth transition to Medicare.

Medicare counselors will be at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, to provide a comprehensive

overview of Medicare, including coverage, costs, pros and cons of different optional plans and how to sign up.

The ideal time to take the class is three to six months before turning 65.

The class is free, but space is limited, so call The Helm at (313) 649-2110 or email taltovilla@helmlife.org to make a reservation.

Typical post-presentation survey comments

included, "This was extremely helpful" and "Everyone was very thorough. If I need further assistance, I would definitely call The Helm."

The Helm offers the New to Medicare class three times each year. Preference is given to residents of Harper Woods and the five Grosse Pointes. Because counselors will be busy with Medicare Open Enrollment from October through December, the

next New to Medicare won't be until 2026.

The Helm also offers free, individual appointments throughout the year with Medicare counselors to help people understand their options, choose the best plans and answer specific questions.

Contact Tony Altovilla at taltovilla@helmlife.org or (313) 649-2110 to schedule a one-on-one appointment with a Medicare counselor.

DESIGN:

Continued from page 4B

an expert, with authenticity, based on information and stories I was told and on my experiences I had in 40 years in the industry," he said. "Everyone I've shown it to has been excited about it."

The first North American order for the book was made by the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"I'm delighted it's so popular, not because I want to sell books, but because it's a subject people are interested in and have questions about," Ruzzin said. "It's an art book ... done by someone who's not a

writer, but who was there and experienced it. That's the real value.

"I wanted to make it have as broad appeal as possible," he added. "There's a lot in there for a lot of different people to have fun with."

"Designing Dreams" officially was released July 29. Cost is \$29.95.

UNOFFICIAL SUMMER MISSION: MAXIMIZE LAKE DAYS



Grosse Pointe Farms pier, Aug. 7, 1941. Photo courtesy of the Grosse Pointe News.

Is there anything more delightful than a sunny day spent by the lake? The gentle lapping of the waves, the warmth of the sun and joy of good company makes for an unforgettable experience. Let's soak up every moment of this beautiful season before it slips away!



For more information on summer time activities in the Pointes, scan the code or visit www.gphistorical.org.

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Grosse Pointe Historical Society

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(313) 884-7010
www.gphistorical.org
development@gphistorical.org

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site to find out more.



Do you like history? Would you like to volunteer? Scan to learn more!

6B | FEATURES

Grosse Pointe Theatre to hold auditions for Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'

Grosse Pointe Theatre will hold open auditions for its production of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, and 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, with callbacks 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12. This heartwarming classic production not only will kick off Grosse Pointe Theatre's 78th season, but also will be the group's debut performance at the new, state-of-the-art Schaap Center.

The cast will include 20 or more actors, singers and dancers who will fill the roles of 10 main characters and a strong

ensemble. Dancers and singers are encouraged to audition. Rehearsals will take place three to four times per week, with tech rehearsals running Sunday, Nov. 23, through Wednesday, Dec. 3. There will be 11 performances between Dec. 5 and 21.

Open auditions take place at Grosse Pointe Theatre's rehearsal studio, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe.

Visit gpt.org/auditions for more information, including character descriptions and song cuts, as well as to register for auditions.



Building relationships

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Mark Heppner, left, stands with Pastor Doug Kempton, founder of SOAR Detroit, at Sunrise Rotary's breakfast meeting at Ford House July 29. Kempton said SOAR Detroit/Eagle Sports, founded in 1997, launched its first soccer league at Baldock Park with just more than 60 kids and a heart to build life-changing relationships in communities. Since then, more than 5,000 kids have been successfully tutored in literacy and 30,000 kids served through sports. Kempton stressed that volunteers play a crucial role in helping SOAR meet its mission and encouraged residents to contact SOAR to help local Detroit youth.

The Grosse Pointe Run, sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club, is the club's main fundraising event for high school students' college scholarships. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary reminds the community to support students Sept. 20, at the annual 5k/10k/walk. Register at grossepointerun.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

EVENTS:

Continued from page 5B

for members, \$65 for guests.

◆ The film "Join or Die" will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14.

◆ Field Trip & Lunch, Detroit Institute of Arts, noon to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for guests.

◆ Calligraphy for Beginners, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, with instructor Beth Johnson. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for guests.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, to Red Olive in St. Clair Shores. Cost for the bus ride is \$6 for members, \$8 for guests. All participants are responsible for the cost of their own lunches.

◆ New to Medicare, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.

◆ The movie "The Book Thief" is shown at noon Friday, Aug. 22. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

◆ Sing Your Way to Health and Happiness, 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 25 to Dec. 8, with instructor Anita Green.

◆ Premier World Discovery presents "Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta and Santa Fe" and "Christmas Season in Victoria and Vancouver," noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26.

◆ Tai Chi for Beginners, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 26 to Dec. 9, with instructor Elaine Frost.

Library

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

◆ Big Bubble Dance Party, 1 to 2 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Meet Up & Make, 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Journey the World Through Food, 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Beginning CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Sensory Friendly Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Im-Prompt-Tu Reads, 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Anime & Manga Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Ford House

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

◆ Shakespeare Stroll with Grosse Pointe Theatre, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. General admission is \$50; VIP tickets are \$75.

◆ Outdoor Summer Concert: Michigan Philharmonic "On Broadway," 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 15. Seats are \$40 for Friends of Ford House, \$50 for the public; lawn tickets are \$20.

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

◆ Storytime: "Iggy Peck, Architect," 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Pressed Flower Workshop: Framed Floral Art, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. Cost is \$85.

◆ Jewelry Workshop: Polymer Clay Essentials, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10. Cost is \$75.

◆ Two-day Ceramics Workshop: Making Goos with Melissa Dettloff, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 10 and 17. Cost is \$100.

◆ Jewelry Workshop: Terrazzo Effects in Clay, 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10. Cost is \$75.

◆ Mending Workshop: Pockets, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10. Cost is \$65.

◆ Collage Workshop: Colorful Creations on Paper, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13. Cost is \$50.

◆ Art Therapy Workshop: Automatic Art Making, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16. Cost is \$60.

◆ Sewing Machine Essentials Workshop: Drawstring Bags, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17. Cost is \$75.

◆ Succulent Planter Workshop: Cast Concrete Fairy Gardens, 2:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23. Cost is \$65.

◆ Two-day Sewing Workshop: Intro to Garments-Box Tops, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 23, and Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$175.

◆ Two-day Upholstery Workshop: Dining Chair Seat Cushions, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 23 and 30. Cost is \$100.

◆ Fibers Workshop: Pom Pom Garland, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$60.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Hanging Bird Bath, 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$125.

◆ Drop-in Workshop: Resin Jewelry, anytime between 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. Cost is \$25 per piece.

◆ POST Script PS: Open Mic, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27.

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

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12.

◆ SummerFest Concert: Persuasion Band, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13.

◆ Shakespeare on the Rocks: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14. General admission is \$15; VIP tickets are \$45.

◆ SummerFest Movie: Wicked Sing-A-Long, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.

◆ Candlelight Open Air Concert: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. Tickets range from \$30 to \$63.

◆ Candlelight Open Air Concert: Tribute to Adele, 9:15 to 10:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. Tickets range from \$30 to \$63.

◆ History Stroll Through the Pointes, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27. Transportation between locations is not provided.

◆ SummerFest Concert: Motown Museum presents Drey Skonie & the Klouds, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following

blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

The Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Community Yoga Pop-Up, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19. Get back into a routine slowly with this pop-up class designed by Amy Koenig. Everyone is welcome whether looking for a way to stretch or destress, want to try a new form of exercise, are an experienced yogi or anything in between. Bring your own mat. To register, email MaryJo@FamilyCenterHelps.org.

◆ Community Yoga Pop-Up, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16. For those who are constantly staring at a screen — computer, phone, TV or windshield — with tension in the head, neck and shoulders. This pop-up class designed by Amy Koenig is for anyone looking for a way to stretch or destress, who wants to try a new form of exercise, experienced or not. Bring your own mat. To register, email MaryJo@FamilyCenterHelps.org.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will screen for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions dur-

ing a community event Thursday, Aug. 21, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Package pricing begins at \$159, but consultants are available to create customize packages for individuals. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com to register.

GPAA

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

◆ Behind the Brushstrokes: The stories and techniques of Henri Gervex, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 4 to 18.

◆ Explorations in Abstraction with Valerie Allen, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21.

◆ Behind the Brushstrokes: The stories and techniques of Vincent van Gogh, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 25 to Oct. 9.

◆ Encaustic and Collage Workshop with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27.

◆ Some Assembly Required: An assemblage workshop with Marat Paransky, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

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

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10 a.m. - Bible Study
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Sunny delight



Grosse Pointe Farms resident Rosi Triano, an art teacher before she retired, stands in her booth, Rosi's Pottery, with her wheel-thrown pottery and clay jewelry.



Above, Sarah Schrode spins Hudson Parke while Avery Schrode twirls to the music of the Student Steel Band of Oakland University. Other entertainment included Bobby and Naomi McManus and Hannah Francis. Right, Laura McCourt and Kate Fredericks chat with Tommy Karr, director of communications and engagement with Ford House.

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Grosse Pointe Art Festival Saturday, Aug. 2, along Kercheval on The Hill. A steady flow of people turned up to browse the event's numerous vendors and listen to live music. The event also included face painting, princess visits, glitter tattoos, food and refreshments, as well as raffles and prizes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN DOMBROWSKI/MICHIGAN SENATE DEMOCRATS

Sen. Kevin Hertel, right center, joins Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, left center, and other local leaders to celebrate the groundbreaking of Roscommon Pocket Park.

Harper Woods breaks ground on Roscommon Pocket Park

Under sunny skies, the city of Harper Woods officially broke ground on the anticipated Roscommon Pocket Park, a new green space designed with local residents in mind.

The event, held at the future site of the park on Roscommon Street, drew a crowd of residents, families and children who joined guests, including State Sen. Kevin Hertel, State Rep. Veronica Paiz and Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen in celebrating the milestone.

"This is more than just a park," said Valerie Kindle, mayor of Harper Woods. "It's a testament to what happens when the voices of our residents are heard and resources are invested equitably in our neighborhoods."

The \$250,000 project is fully funded through a combination of a Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant and Public Act 51 funds, underscoring a commitment from both state and local partners to improve the quality of life in Harper Woods.

"During a time when too many people are feeling isolated and alone, local neighborhood parks play a vital role in fostering connection and belonging," Hertel said. "That's why during our state budget process, I fought for the resources Harper Woods needed to revitalize an underused space and bring the Roscommon Pocket Park project into fruition. Once complete, kids, seniors and everyone in between will have a welcoming place within walking distance to gather, play and build a stronger sense of community."

Construction is set to begin in the coming weeks, with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for spring 2026. Once complete, Roscommon Pocket Park will offer an inviting and inclusive space where residents of all ages can gather, play and connect.

The project builds on a series of investments Hertel secured for communities across District 12, including \$1 million for Harper Woods Public Schools to expand its Career and Technical Education program.

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Mindful engagement when posting online

Dear Gabby: My son recently was called out on social media along with a few others for doing something mischievous and I am really embarrassed. But also I am angry because what was written online is not what really happened. Yes, he was wrong, but no, it wasn't as awful as was portrayed.

Should I take to Facebook to post my side of the story? Or respond to the original post? Or just leave it alone?

— Concerned in the City

Dear Concerned: I can understand how tough this situation must be. It's natural to feel both embarrassed and angry when your child is misrepresented online.

While defending your son is understandable, I'd suggest taking a step back before responding publicly, as much as it's tempting to fire off a zinger of a response.

Social media can amplify things quickly and your response might escalate the situation rather than resolve it.

Instead of posting, consider addressing the person who shared the post directly in a calm, private manner. This can clear up misunderstandings without making the issue larger than it needs to be. And as most of us have learned, a personal conversation often can be more civil than those in the metaverse.

Also, this is a chance

to guide your son through the process of owning up to his actions and learning from them. Help him understand why this matters, not just for the situation, but for his growth.

Finally, think about whether responding will actually help or just cause more drama. Sometimes, no reaction is the best option. Your support and guidance and relationship with your child are what will matter most in the long run.

Take care, Gabby

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



Parenting comes full circle

DEAR ANNIE: When my daughter was little, I met with a potential employer who asked about my family. I told him I had a 2-year-old and he said something I've never forgotten: His daughters were grown and his greatest joy was talking with them as adults and realizing he had raised two amazing women. Now, at 75, I understand exactly what he meant.

It was difficult when our daughter went off to college four hours away,

and even harder when she left for graduate school eight hours from home. As someone with a Ph.D., I knew how time-consuming her studies would be and we only saw her a couple of weekends a year. But it was worth it. Today, she has a thriving career and lives just 25 miles away. She has two young daughters of her own who come for sleepovers every few weekends — exhausting and exhilarating all at once.

Now that my wife and

I are retired, we've grown even closer and have had the chance to travel and enjoy this stage of life together. I wouldn't trade the four amazing women in my life — my wife, my daughter and my two granddaughters — or the memories we've made for anything.

Raising children to be independent, finding joy in who they become and building a life of your own — these might just be the greatest accomplishments of all. Don't you think?

— Grateful Grandpa

DEAR GRATEFUL:

Thank you so much for sharing your letter. Gratitude is a beautiful quality and one that carries us through every stage of life. It shifts our focus from what we lack to what we cherish — and your words are a perfect example of that.

You clearly recognize the blessings around you: the love of your wife, the success of your daughter and the joy of your granddaughters.

That kind of perspec-



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

tive is not only heart-warming; it is inspiring. Gratitude deepens our relationships, softens our disappointments and allows us to find meaning in both the struggles and the triumphs.

Your story is a reminder that even when life brings change or distance, the rewards

of love, family and reflection are lasting. Thank you for reminding all of us to appreciate the moments and the people that make life truly rich.

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

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After 6 on Kercheval

Photo story by Renee Landuyt



Grosse Pointe Park hosted its second of three After 6 on Kercheval events Saturday, July 26. The night included two bands, two carnival rides, vendors and food trucks. A decently sized crowd turned out on what was a very hot night on the town.



Francis Tapert and his brother, Patrick Tapert, check out the faerie gardens at Garden Gate Design.



Benjamin Nelson and his mom, Marie Nelson, have fun riding the Ballistic Swing.



Arlie Ehrlich goes for a wild ride.

We Tried It!

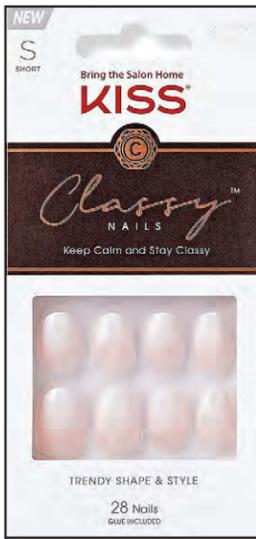
by Anna Lizer



I used to be the girl who ALWAYS had her nails done. It keeps me feeling put together.

However, with my extensively busy work schedule this summer and school schedule in the fall, keeping up with salon nails is expensive, time-consuming and honestly becomes more of a chore.

As someone who loves having cute nails but doesn't always have the time, budget or patience for regular appointments, KISS press-ons have seriously changed the game for me. I used to be a bit against press-ons, thinking



they'd fall right off or not fit my nails correctly (my nail beds are super small), but I've been on the hunt for a good at-home nail option that doesn't scream "DIY" and doesn't involve painting my own nails. These honestly blew me away.

I grabbed a pair on a whim at CVS after I popped off my set of grown-out acrylics and they ended up being my new obsession. The designs are salon level. Think soft French tips, almond and coffin shapes and the glue holds like crazy. The application? So easy. Like five

minutes and you're done. There's no dry time, no smudging and none of that awkward hand-hovering while you wait for polish to set. They feel lightweight but secure and I've had sets last over two weeks without popping off even after workout classes, nannying and typing all day.

Some tips I've learned along the way are how to shape them after application to be perfect for my liking and sometimes I file them to fit my nail bed a little better before application. What I really love is the versatility. Whether you're going out, heading

to a wedding or just want to feel put together while grocery shopping, there's a set for every mood. I'm especially obsessed with the sheer/nude ones. They look super natural but still elevated. And at less than \$10 a box? You cannot beat it.

My only warning is sizing. Some of the sets run a little large for smaller nail beds, but it's nothing a quick file can't fix. I've also learned to carry the glue in my bag just in case, though I rarely need it.

Rating? 4.8. It's giving "I just got these done at a salon" without the actual

hassle.

Whether you're a press-on newbie or looking to add to your rotation, trust me, your nail drawer needs a few KISS sets ASAP.

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

4.8 Out Of 5



Zesty skillet chicken tacos

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This is a quick and healthy one-skillet meal that uses peak summer produce with chicken. I've been cooking with a lot of tomatoes and peaches in the last month, as I'm sure you have noticed. But they're at their best, so how could I resist?

In the back of my mind I've felt a bit of guilt from ignoring the bountiful zucchini and corn that's flooding the markets. The mind of a home cook, who feels pressure to satisfy the palettes of their family on a daily basis, is a very strange place, I know. So this week, I went all in for a one-pan meal featuring crisp sweet corn and blistered zucchini.

Heavily spiced chicken breast is browned in a hot pan to maximize flavors. Zucchini is thinly sliced to make sure they are able to char a bit in the pan so as not to get soggy. Fresh corn is added in the last few minutes of cooking so the kernels remain crisp. The dish is finished with lots of lime juice and fresh chopped cilantro to brighten up

the smoky flavors of the spices.

You could eat this straight out of a bowl with a fork, but I lightly blackened some small flour tortillas on the stove to use as our utensil. This is certainly a midweek dinner win which gives some needed attention to zucchini and corn.

Cheers, Mombeau

Chicken, Zucchini and Corn Tacos

1-1.5 lbs chicken breast, cut into bite size pieces

2 tsp chili powder

1 tsp cumin

1 tsp salt

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp smoked paprika

2 tbsp vegetable oil

1 large zucchini

1 medium onion

1 garlic clove

2 ears of corn

3 tbsp fresh chopped cilantro

Juice from a lime

Tortillas and avocado for serving

Start by prepping the vegetables. Roughly chop your onion and finely mince the garlic. Cut the ends off the zucchini and slice down the center, horizontally. Then, cut into thin, half moons. Carefully cut the corn kernels off the cob. Set aside until they are ready to be cooked.

In a bowl, add the chicken. Sprinkle the chili powder, cumin, salt, garlic powder and smoked paprika. Mix the chicken until all pieces are coated. Preheat a skillet to medium-high heat with one tablespoon of oil. Drop in the chicken. Let the pieces brown on one side then flip after five minutes. Cook on the other side for another three to five minutes or until cooked through. You may need



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

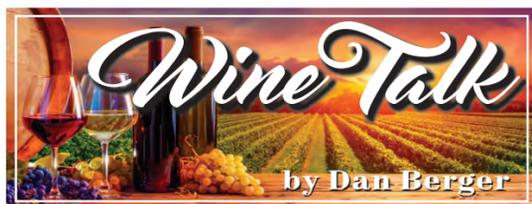
to cook the chicken in two batches so the pan isn't overcrowded. You want the chicken to brown, Remove to a plate and set aside.

Pour in another tablespoon of oil to the hot pan and add the zucchini

in an even layer. Brown the zucchini for a couple of minutes, then add in the rest of the vegetables. Continue to cook over medium-high heat for about five minutes to get some color on them. Season with a pinch of

salt and pepper. Add the chicken back in the skillet and combine with the vegetables. Finish the dish with lime juice and the fresh cilantro.

Serve with warmed tortillas and fresh sliced avocado.



Wine Discounts

Buying wine in a retail store these days should be a pleasure for daily consumers of widely available, reasonably priced table wines.

In the last year, various forces have impacted wine sales around the world. With sales of almost all wines declining, so are prices. Standard table wines that normally sell for

between \$10 and \$30 today are being discounted so heavily that many people can now afford to buy more quality products at fair prices.

An example should suffice.

One of the most reliable sauvignon blancs every year is a gorgeous wine from Villa Maria, an exceptional producer based in Marlborough,

New Zealand. It's 2023 sauvignon blanc normally sells for about \$15.

But if you lived in Chicago, it would cost you \$9. Considering the quality of this wine, I believe it ought to sell for \$20.

Yet if you lived in Virginia Beach, Va., the same wine would cost you \$25. Since the wholesale price in Chicago is roughly the same as it is in Virginia, I can't believe the huge discrepancy.

Readers may not think I know something that average consumers could never know. Although that may be, the secret to this is no secret at all. The internet provides a solution. Anyone not using research capabilities is simply paying too much for wine.

The non-secret is wine-searcher.com.

This website, which I have written about before, is a New Zealand-owned company that for decades has provided an amazing service. It has a huge wine database. You put into a search box the name of a wine, and within seconds, it tells you where it can be found, something about it and how much it should cost.

It also lists every outlet

in the world where the wine is available! And one more exclamation point: it's free.

Since it works for almost any wine, let's see what it can do:

If you wanted 2021 Villa Antinori Chianti, a widely seen excellent Italian red wine, the national average price is \$20, Wine Searcher shows. It also says that one store has it for \$14, and another for \$32.

Clearly, if the lowest price for a wine you want is at a store nowhere near where you live, the only practical way to take advantage of the lower price is to buy a case of it and pay for shipping.

I have done this often when the wine and shipping still save me money.

But the real reason to go to the Wine Searcher site is that it gives a frame of reference as to what your local supermarket is charging for widely distributed table wines. Very few supermarkets discount wines the way fine wine shops do.

The ultimate message here is simple: Doing a little homework in advance by using this excellent tool will save you a lot of money and make you a savvy wine consumer.

Wine of the Week:
2023 Bonny Doon

Picpoul, Central Coast (\$16) — Picpoul is an interesting old grape variety that has made lovely dry white wines in the south of France for decades. This great version has aromas of slate, kiwi, green apple and lime. Though it is crisp, it is also so well made that it works beautifully with Thai food. Wine Searcher shows that Bottle Barn in Santa Rosa, Calif., has it for \$11.99.

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

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While overall wine consumption may be down in some areas, premium wines are thriving, and there are many great options available for under \$50, even \$30. A U.S.-EU trade deal in late July 2025 reduced tariffs on EU wines, making them more affordable.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG BEACH AND LOW SPARK FILMS.

Left, Gabriel Basso as Patrick, Moises Arias as Biaggio and Nick Robinson as Joe in the 2013 movie "The Kings of Summer," written by Chris Galletta and directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "The Kings of Summer"
 2013 - R
 1 hr 35 min
 ★★★★★

Imagine being a teenager and running away from home and spending the summer with your two best buddies out in the woods. You team up and build a makeshift fort and live off the land, with nary a care in the world. How cool would that be? That's the premise of "The Kings of Summer," the first feature film for Detroit-born director Jordan Vogt-Roberts and the first project for writer Chris Galletta.

It's a wonderful coming-of-age movie that will hook you in the first minute and thoroughly delight you for the next hour and a half. It doesn't hurt that it features one of my favorite actors, Nick Offerman, of "Parks & Recreation" fame. I've loved everything I've ever seen him in. I have to say, I was knocked out by the episode he played in the post-apocalyptic TV series "The Last of Us." But the stars that really do the heavy lifting in this memorable film are the three teen actors — Nick Robinson, Gabriel Basso and Moises Arias.

Young teen Joe Toy (Robinson) is having trouble dealing with his difficult father, Frank (Offerman), who is grappling with the loss of his wife, Joe's mother. He's a stern and grumpy dad who thinks being tough on his son will help him maintain control of his ever-evolving world. The two frequently clash and you can sense Joe's angst just being around his dad. However, Frank is quite a



Biaggio (Moises Arias).

character and practically every snide remark or witicism is guaranteed to make you chuckle, if not laugh out loud. I get the sense that this character is close to what Offerman is really like.

Joe's childhood friend, Patrick (Basso), on the other hand, has a totally different relationship with his parents, played by Megan Mullally and Marc Evan Jackson. They just can't seem to come to grips with the fact their son is a teenager, on the cusp of becoming an adult. They're overbearing and treat him like he's a little boy. It's so hard on Patrick, their relationship actually is causing him to have hives. It's painful to watch at times.

One night, while a bunch of teens are having an end-of-the-school-year kegger in the woods, the police raid the party. Joe races off with fellow student Biaggio (Arias) and finds himself in a quiet, almost magical patch of forrest. It's there the big idea hits him. What if he and his pal Patrick and, yes, Biaggio, were to run away from home? They

can forage building materials from construction sites and local dumpsters and build a fortress in the woods. There they can live freely and be the masters of their own destinies. Since Patrick is at wits end with his parents, it's a pretty easy sell. He's more than happy to be part of the great escape.

Joe draws up a blueprint for their new home and the three soon are gathering materials and cobbling together their forrest retreat. At first their parents think the

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

kids have been abducted, but after meeting with the local police, they're convinced the kids just ran away.

The three young actors work so well together, they could almost be friends in real life. They're a natural fit and, for the most part, get along famously. There are occasional fights, but these quickly get resolved. While Joe and Patrick have been buds since they were little kids, Biaggio is new to the group. He not only seems to come out of nowhere, we learn almost nothing about his background. About the only thing we know is he's a total nut. And I mean that

dressed in full camo and face paint, hugging a tree. He's whip smart and adds quite a bit of levity to the film.

The film is aided by the stellar camerawork of cinematographer Ross Rieger. While the movie was filmed in Ohio, it easily could have been set just about anywhere in the country. Rieger does a great job of making you part of the adventure. He not only captures what the boys are experiencing and feeling with close-ups of them, there are countless vignettes of the flora and fauna of the area. He paints a beautiful picture of the natural surroundings with his camera.

One of my only beefs with the movie is that it's rated "R." Actually, it's not the filmmakers' problem; it's the fault of the MPAA. The rating is due to a couple swear words and underage drinking. Come on folks, it's 2025, not 1955! I think the film should have been given a "PG-13" rating. It's fine for family viewing as long as you know this beforehand. Another thing I thought detracted from the movie was the obligatory romantic element. I don't think it added much to the story and was an unnecessary and clunky diversion.

Overall, this is one of the sweetest, most realistic coming-of-age films I've seen. It ranks right up



there with "Stand By Me" and is not to be missed. It's unfortunate it didn't get wider distribution when it came out. Thank heavens for streaming services. It's definitely an underrated film that deserves more attention. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy with your library card and Paramount+. Also to rent on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, YouTube, and Fandango.

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.



Frank, played by Nick Offerman.



in a good way. He's one of the oddest, goofiest characters I've seen in the movies in quite some time. One minute he's slashing his way through the underbrush with a machete and the next he's



Playing with fire.



Home sweet home.



A pagan drum ritual.



A mad dash through the fields.



A display of swordsmanship.



The warriors.



Some summer fun.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

8/7 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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7/31 Solution

Contract Bridge

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
North 1 NT East 2♣ South 2 NT West 4♣
Pass Pass 5♥ Dble
Opening lead — king of clubs.

There are players who indulge regularly in deceptive bidding. There is nothing wrong with this style if the practitioner can point to more successes than failures over the long haul.

The danger inherent in making such bids is that all too often the deceptive bidder misleads his partner instead of the opponents. Nevertheless, there are occasions when a well-calculated deceptive move can pay big dividends

while running very little risk of luring partner into a critical mistake.

Consider the present deal, where Edith Freilich (formerly Kemp) held the South hand. Her partner opened one notrump, indicating 12 to 14 points in the partnership's methods, and East overcalled with two spades. Freilich felt that East-West were very likely to make at least a game in spades, so she did not see much point in making a routine bid of three hearts. Instead, she decided to bid two notrump, ostensibly showing some spade strength, in the hope of discouraging her opponents from persisting in spades.

As it happened, West had much too good a hand to bid less than four spades, but when this came around to Freilich, she bid five hearts. West then elected to take the safe course by doubling, and that ended the bidding. West led the K-Q-A of clubs, and five hearts doubled eventually went down one — 100 points.

Even if West had led or shifted to his singleton diamond and gotten a ruff, Freilich would still have gone down only two — 300 points. This would also have been an excellent result, considering that East-West could have scored 480 or 980 points by bidding a game or slam in spades.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Caution! Avoid shopping (except for food or gas) or important decisions today until 10 p.m. EDT (7 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from CAPRICORN into AQUARIUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, August 7, 2025:

You want to help others, individually or on a larger scale. You're determined, perceptive and adventurous. This is a year of service, probably service to family. Take care of yourself so that you can be a resource for others who will turn to you for guidance, comfort, solace and courage.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Although this is a poor day to shop for anything except for food or gas -- and it's also a poor day for important decisions -- you can still research ideas and discuss them with partners or close friends. Expect an interruption to your daily routine. Tonight: Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Be careful. People notice you, and something unusual might occur that reflects on you. Fortunately, you're confident and encouraging to others, especially at work. Nevertheless, check the Moon Alert, and avoid important decisions and shopping. Tonight: You're admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

An element of excitement will spice this day, even though it's a looney-goosey day and a poor time for making decisions or shopping. Travel plans might be interrupted. Publishing, the media and legal matters might surprise you. Stay small but stay steady. Tonight: Study and learn.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

This is a tricky day for financial discussions and interactions with family, especially about home improvements. Something unexpected might make you change directions or change your mind about an issue. Wait until the Moon Alert is over before you act or decide. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Be cooperative with others and ready to go more than halfway. Stay light on your feet, because someone close to you might throw you a curveball. Even though you'll be convincing others when talking to others, don't go out on a limb today. (Check the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Computer glitches and machinery breakdowns might cause delays at work today. Similar delays could impact your health or something to do with a pet. Even though you have some solid ideas about how to deal with shared finances, wait until the Moon Alert is over before you act. Tonight: Work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is a wonderful day for artists to express their creative talents. However, it's a poor day for shopping or analytical or financial decisions. Enjoy the arts, the entertainment world, sports events and playful times with children. Live it up! Tonight: Schmooze.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your home routine might be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down. Something unexpected could occur. Stock the fridge so you're ready for surprise company who might drop by. Stay on your toes to deal with whatever happens. Tonight: Cocoon!.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is a mildly accident-prone day. Therefore, be mindful. Don't shop, except for food and gas. (See the Moon Alert.) You might enjoy physical activity and competitive sports, even though someone close to you could throw you a curveball. Tonight: Discussions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a Moon Alert for most of this day, which means you have to double-check everything. Restrict spending to food and gas. Meanwhile, something unpredictable might affect your possessions or your cash. Protect what you own. On the upside, you might find something valuable. Tonight: Check your possessions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today the Moon is in your sign, and it is also a Moon Alert. This is why you might feel disoriented and indecisive. Nevertheless, you'll be upbeat and optimistic, and your energy level will be high. Be smart and avoid important decisions. Restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: Lively times!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Take it easy today. In fact, if you can, play hooky. This is a poor day for shopping (except for food and gas). Likewise, it's a poor day for decisions. Don't volunteer for anything. However, your creative vibes are rich. Express your talents! Tonight: Solitude.

BORN TODAY

Actress Charlize Theron (1975), hockey player Sidney Crosby (1987), co-founder of Wikipedia Jimmy Wales (1966).

This week's crossword is dedicated to the memory of Frank Martilotti
A loyal Grosse Pointe News reader who never missed a puzzle.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 7, 2025

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ACROSS | 47 Minibike's relative | 10 Genius worker? | 42 Home entryway used for removing shoes |
| 1 Williams who won an Oscar for "Good Will Hunting" | 49 Mails | 11 House | 43 Overact |
| 6 Itty-bitty branch | 51 One of 206 in the human body, typically | 12 Way into a room | 48 ___ gates |
| 10 Not good | 52 Family name on "Bluey" | 15 Elm or fir | 50 Part of a bottle or a guitar |
| 13 Nonsensical | 54 Focus of many museums | 18 Immunologist Anthony | 51 Spinner of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" |
| 14 Many a science-fiction character | 55 Overfed flight paths | 23 Permit | 52 Wish |
| 16 Brazilian city, for short | 59 Rowing blade | 25 Zhuzh | 53 "No problem!" |
| 17 Point guard? | 60 Shortstop? | 26 Scrappy-Doo's uncle, familiarly | 54 Way off |
| 19 Words at a wedding | 63 Tire pressure abbr. | 27 Offer one's point of view | 56 Harvest |
| 20 ___ noche (tonight, in Spanish) | 64 Islamic sacred text: Var. | 28 French pastry shop | 57 Showed up |
| 21 Go on to say | 65 Rental car company | 31 Tire pattern | 58 Toffee candy bar |
| 22 Casino employee | 66 Look over | 32 Small whirlpool | 61 Lobster ___ diavolo |
| 24 Board game with a candlestick piece | 67 Mini- (convenience store) | 33 Well-used pencil | 62 Scrooge's exclamation |
| 26 "Nifty!" | 68 Very energetic | 35 Appears to be | |
| 27 Sight-related | | 36 Fifth element | |
| 29 Biol. or chem. | | 38 Suite spot? | |
| 30 Lo-cal | DOWN | | |
| 33 Resort amenity | 1 Go up | | |
| 34 Goalkeeper? | 2 Burden | | |
| 37 Church offering | 3 Cheese or peanut butter, in a mousetrap | | |
| 39 Id's counterpart | 4 Undamaged | | |
| 40 Didn't just rent | 5 Modernizing prefix | | |
| 41 Linebacker? | 6 Swap | | |
| 44 Low island | 7 "I give you my ___" | | |
| 45 Honesty is the ___ policy | 8 Co. known as "Big Blue" | | |
| 46 Thurman of "Kill Bill" | 9 Historian/author Doris Kearns ___ | | |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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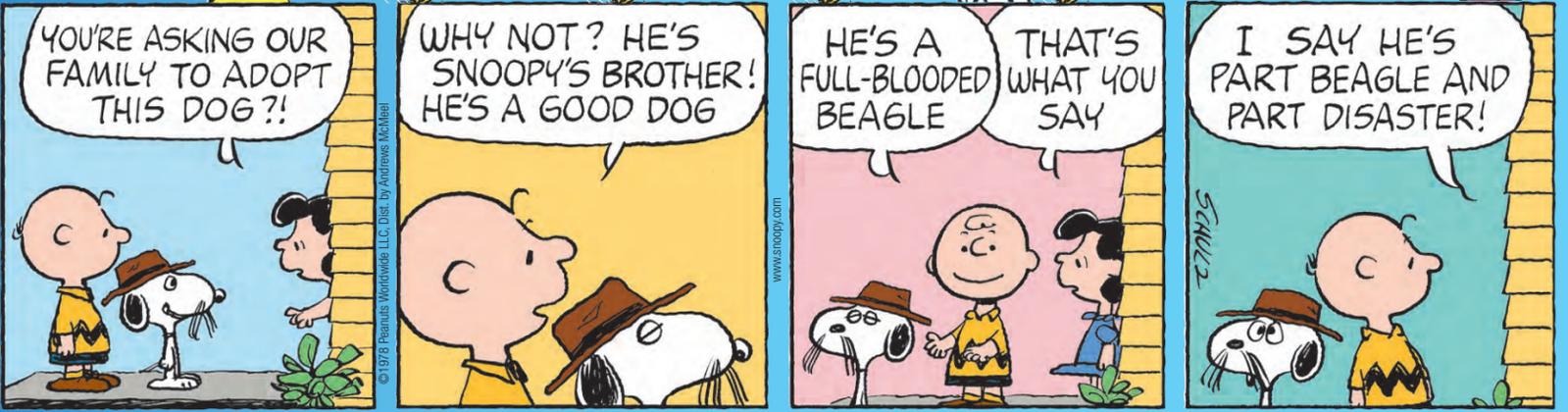
Take Your Positions! by Ricky Sirois

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15		16				
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59					60		61				62			
63					64						65			
66								67				68		

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

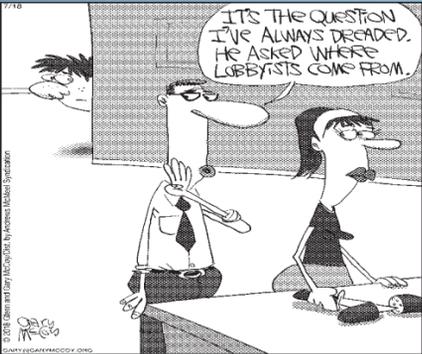
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

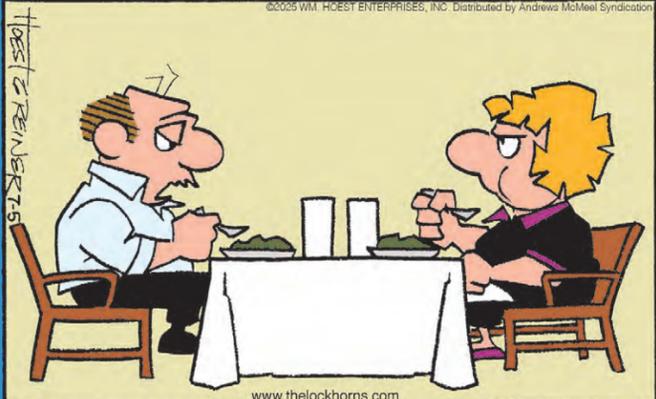
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

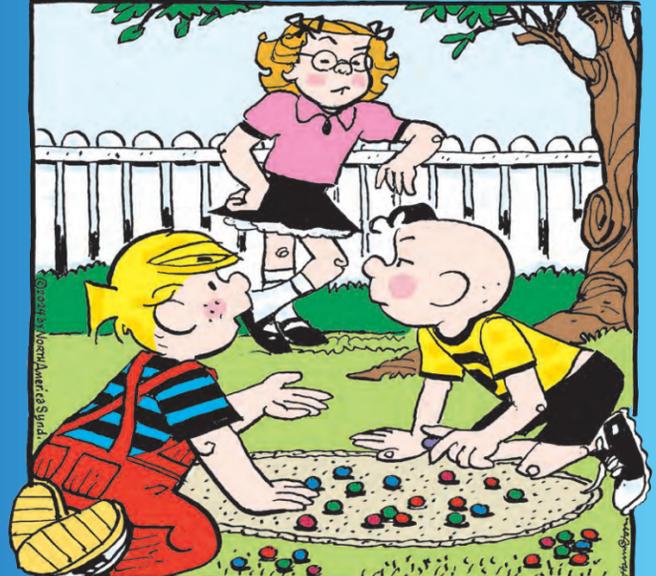


"I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR DOWN ON THE FOOD CHAIN BEFORE."

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

Crankshaft

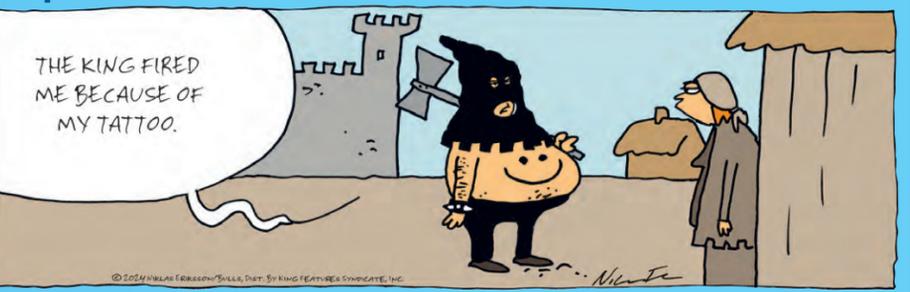
Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



"IT'S OK, JOEY. MARGARET'S JUST SNOOPERVISING!"

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis

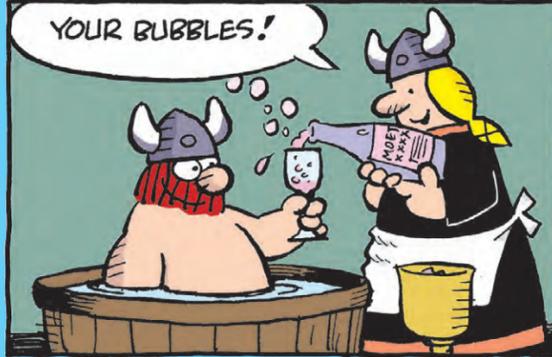


Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators) Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

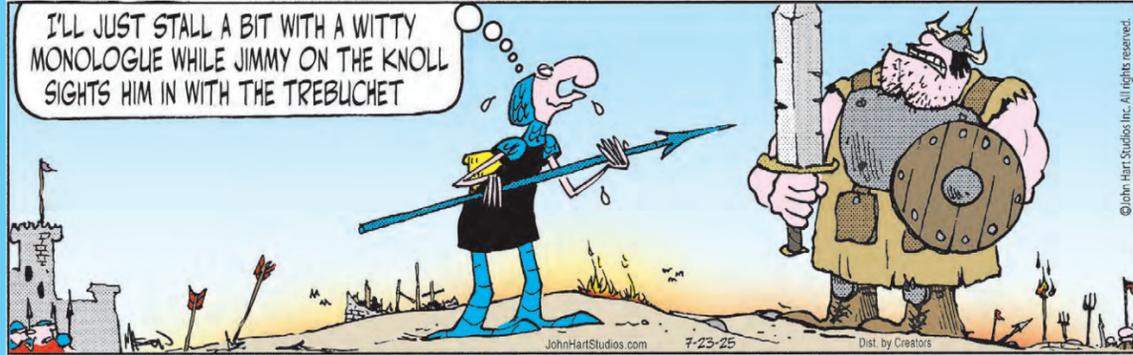
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

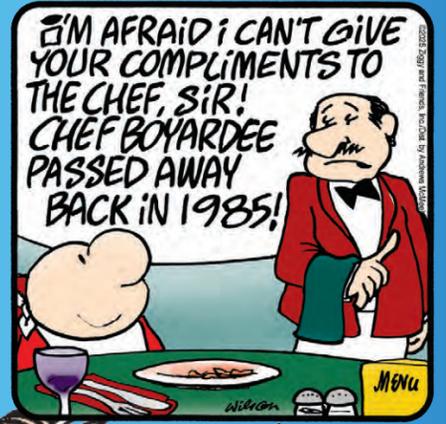
Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



"I say we just yank out that purple squiggly thing and see if he feels better in the morning."

Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



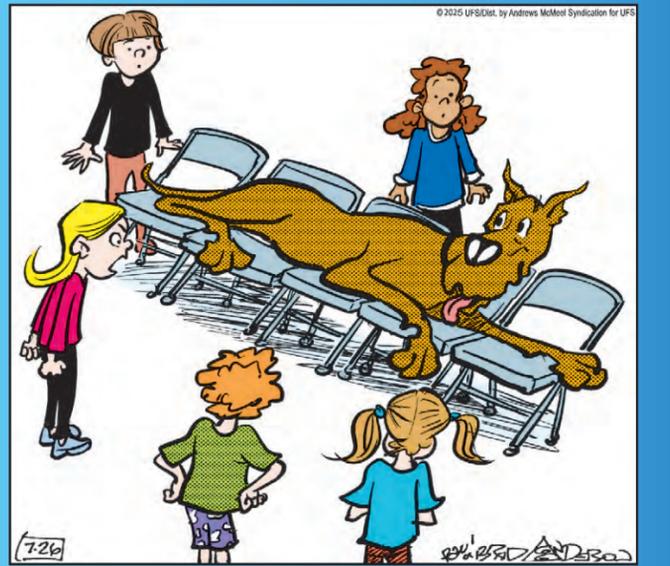
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



"That's not how we play musical chairs!"

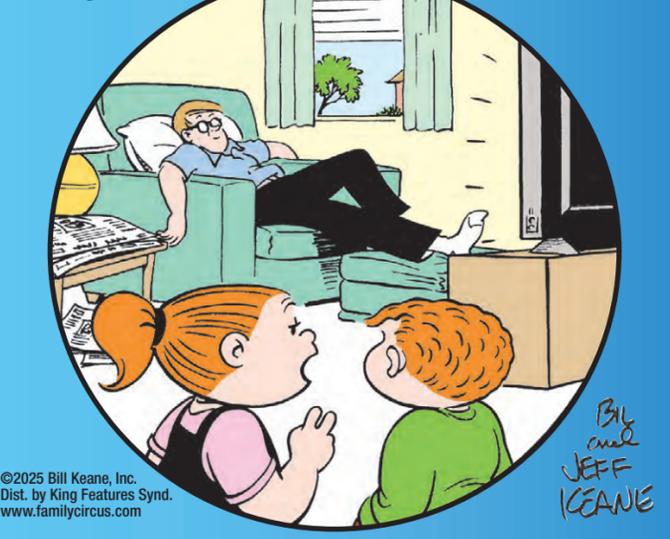
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



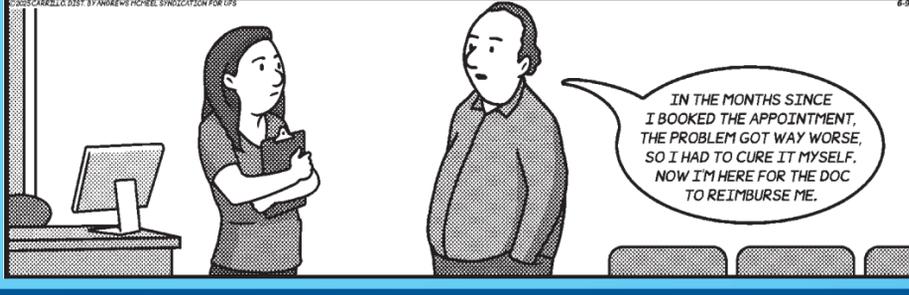
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



"Daddy watches anything that has at least two people and a ball in it."

Kid Scoop

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Salty Science

Most of the ocean doesn't freeze. Why? Salt water freezes at a lower temperature than fresh water.

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE STEMDINI THE SCIENCE OF MAGIC

THE MAGIC RAIN TRICK



This trick takes a little practice. Do it a few times until you can do it well. Then, perform it for your friends and family!

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- scissors
- clear plastic lid
- small glass
- pitcher of water

1. Prepare your props
Place the glass upside down on the plastic lid. Trace around the glass to make a circle, drawing a little tab as shown. Cut just outside the circle to make it a little bit larger than the mouth of the glass. Be sure to cut out the tab.

2. Perform the trick
Place your pitcher and glass on a table. Hide the plastic circle in the hand you won't use to pour.

3. Pour water
Pour water from the pitcher into the glass, until it begins to overflow. Say "I can tip this glass of water over my head and keep it from pouring out."

4. Cover the glass
Put down the pitcher and cover the mouth of the glass with the hand hiding the plastic circle. Secretly place the circle over the mouth of the glass, covering the entire top.

5. Turn the glass
Pick up the glass with your other hand and turn it over quickly, but gently. Slowly remove the hand holding the top of the glass. If done right, the circle will stick to the glass and the water won't spill out.

6. Lift the glass
Lift the glass over your head and say "Magic tricks are hot work. I think I'll cool off." Then gently push on the tab. The plastic circle will come off and the water will fall on you!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions with accuracy.

The Science Behind the Trick:

Air pressure is all around us. The plastic lid sticks to the surface of the water and is pressed by air pressure. Even when the glass is turned over, air pressure will hold the plastic lid in place.

Float an Egg

Question: How can you make an egg float in a bowl of water?

Hypothesis*: _____

*Note: a hypothesis means a thoughtful guess.

GET: • a large bowl
• warm water
• an egg
• salt
• spoon



DO:
1. Fill your bowl with warm water.
2. Gently place the egg in the water. What happens?

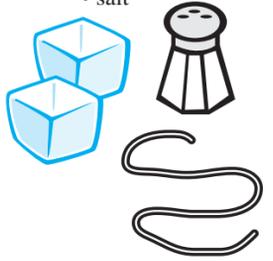
1. Remove the egg and stir at least one cup of salt into the water. Stir until you can't see any grains of salt.
2. The water will look cloudy. Place the egg in the salty water. What happens?

An Egg-splanation

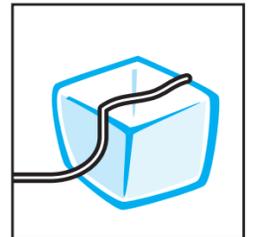
Did the egg float? Adding salt to water makes it heavier. In salty water the amount of water the egg displaces weighs more than the egg and the egg floats.

Standards Link: Science/Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

GET: • ice cubes
• thread
• salt



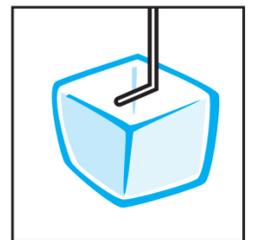
DO:
1. Soak your thread in some water then lay it on top of an ice cube.



2. Sprinkle a tiny bit of salt along the thread and wait about 30 seconds.



3. Lift the thread. Does the ice cube cling to the thread and get lifted as well?



Explanation: The salt melts the surface of the ice. The coldness of the ice then refreezes this water, trapping the thread and freezing it to the ice.

Standards Link: Science/Investigation: Conduct simple experiments.

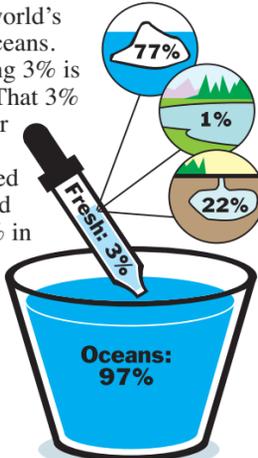
Extra! Extra! Water Planet

North Pole Expedition

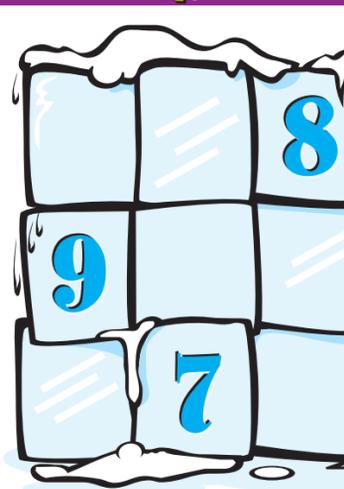
You have \$1,000 to spend on things for a trip to the North Pole. Look through today's newspaper and "buy" what you'll need. Can you spend exactly \$1,000 without going over?

Standards Link: Mathematics: Number Sense: Students estimate and solve problems using money amounts.

97% of the world's water is in oceans. The remaining 3% is fresh water. That 3% of fresh water divides into 77% contained in icecaps and glaciers, 22% in groundwater aquifers (drinking water) and 1% in lakes and streams.



Kid Scoop Puzzler



Quick! Before it melts! Solve the puzzle frozen in my ice cubes and you will have good luck!

Fill in the blank squares with numbers to make the sum of each side and each diagonal add up to 15.



Standards Link: Mathematics: Number Sense: Adding sums to 15.

Double Double Word Search

QUESTION
PRESSURE
PRACTICE
SCIENCE
SURFACE
MAGIC
FLOAT
WATER
TRICK
TRACE
SALT
BOWL
HIDE
HEAD
EGG

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

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

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

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Kid Scoo-doku™

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word MAGIC in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Find the Question

Read an article in today's newspaper and find a quote from a person being interviewed. What question do you think the interviewer asked?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand and interpret quotation in expository text.

Why do fish live in salt water?

ANSWER: Because pepper makes them sneeze.

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Lochmoor swims way to sixth straight MICSA championship

By Meg Kelly
 Editorial Intern

At the 2025 MICSA Championships, hosted by Edgewood Country Club, the Lochmoor Club swim team shattered expectations and records alike, becoming the first team in league history to break 1,100 points in a six-lane format. With a final score of 1,126, Lochmoor secured its sixth consecutive league title and further cemented its reputation as the powerhouse of Michigan summer club swimming.

The Seadragons' commanding performance wasn't a surprise to those who have followed the program's steady rise the last two decades. Under the leadership of longtime head coaches Kevin and Christine Hafner, Lochmoor now has won 20 MICSA titles in the past 24 years.

The Hafners, along with returning coach JT Bujold, also guided the team to its 24th dual meet title, capping off a perfect 6-0 season heading into championships.

This year's title was won by the strength of the full roster, with swimmers contributing



Lochmoor Club swimmers celebrate in the pool after securing the club's sixth consecutive MICSA championship July 27. It was also the 20th championship win for the club in the past 24 years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN HAFNER

Grayson Graskewicz led the way in the 13-14 boys' butterfly, while Pia Pilotto and Evie Gerstenberger made waves in the 8 & under division, each earning wins in breaststroke and backstroke.

Swimmers like Gwen Gwinnett, Tyler Vandenberghe, Cole Kallabat and Clare Hafner also climbed the podium in their respective events, helping build an early-points lead.

The club won four of six relay events, including both 8 & under relays and the boys' and girls' freestyle relays. The 8 & under team of Charlie Grano, Burke Fossee, Anthony Ferlito and Weston Fossee captured gold in the freestyle relay, while the medley squad of Pia Pilotto, Claire Gram, Lucas Aliahmad and Evie Gerstenberger earned another top finish.

The 2025 championship was a reflection of the teams' effort. Swimmers ranging from age 5 to 17 delivered personal bests, top finishes and team spirit that powered them through the three-day meet.

points in every age division. But there still were a few individual performances that stood out.

Liam Hafner, competing in the 9-10 boys division, not only won both of his events, but also broke the MICSA record

in freestyle. His older sister, Ella Hafner, continued her dominance in the 13-14 division by sweeping the freestyle events and anchoring relay wins that helped seal Lochmoor's team title.

In the senior girls division, Nicole McEnroe delivered two clutch victories of her own, winning both the backstroke and individual medley, while Brady Bond swept the sprint events for the 15-17 boys.

Other major contributors included Gigi Thibault, who earned high finishes in both backstroke and butterfly for the 9-10 girls, and Mia Fozo, who pushed a freestyle win in the same age group.

Farms-City 11U team finishes as state runner-up

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

After going undefeated through group play and battling its way to wins in the quarterfinals and semifinals, the Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League 11U baseball team looked more than deserving of a spot in the 2025 11U State Tournament last week. Farms-City got the chance to play for the state title close to its home turf Thursday, July 31, at Ghesquiere Park. The Farms-City team continued its valiant effort throughout the entire tournament to the end of the championship game, but ended as the state runner-up after an 11-7 loss to Greater Bay.

Last Thursday's championship game was hard-fought from the beginning. While Greater Bay jumped to an early 1-0 lead in the first inning, Farms-City bounced back to tie the game and eventually take the lead with an RBI single from Jack Mulvaney. Greater Bay answered quickly and reclaimed the lead 4-2 by

the end of the second inning.

Farms-City trailed until the top of the fourth inning before getting one of the biggest swings of the game in its favor. Rain Goddard launched a two-run home run over the fence to tie the game at four runs apiece.

"I'm very proud of this team and they played their hearts out."

BILL CRANDALL, FARMS-CITY 11U MANAGER

However, the momentum from Goddard's home run did not stick with Farms-City very long. Greater Bay rallied in the bottom of the fourth inning with four runs to jump back ahead 8-4. Greater Bay extended its lead even more to make it 11-4 by the end of the fifth inning.

Despite trailing going into the sixth and final inning, Farms-City refused to go down without a fight. The team was able to load the bases and bring across three runs on a hit by Gavin Ahee to narrow the gap



on the scoreboard before the game ultimately ended, with the heart and tenacity the Farms-City team displayed until the final out being a perfect example of their effort throughout the entire tournament.

"I'm very proud of this team and they played their hearts out," Farms-City 11U manager Bill Crandall said. "We spent the last six and a half weeks together practicing and made huge improvements. It was truly a team effort to finish second in the state. Memories were made."

See BASEBALL, page 2D



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Top, teammates crowd Rain Goddard at home plate after his game-tying home run in the fourth inning. Above, Farms-City pitcher Teddy Harber makes an impressive sliding tag to get Greater Bay's Spencer Kruzell out at a home plate.

2D | SPORTS

I SAY— SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

Tigers' trade deadline moves leave more questions than answers



Now that we are a week removed from the MLB trade deadline that was last Thursday, July 31, there have been more than a few reactions to the moves the Detroit Tigers made. Back in July during the All-Star break, I wrote that the Tigers needed to focus on pitching at the trade deadline to patch up some of the biggest holes on the roster. They did that, but not quite in the way that myself or many others exactly thought.

Going into the trade deadline, there were plenty of pitchers that were widely considered to be trade targets for many teams including the Tigers. Along with Arizona Diamondbacks third baseman Eugenio Suarez being the most sought after hitter and

him seemingly voicing his desire to come to Detroit, there were expectations that the Tigers would be making a big move.

There were moves made by the Tigers, just not big ones. Not ones that anyone would really expect a team that seems to be primed to compete for a World Series to make. The front office addressed the need for pitching, especially in the bullpen, but did not add pieces that made fans any more confident in the team's ability to win big games down the stretch with September and October approaching.

Charlie Morton, Paul Sewald, Rafael Montero and Kyle Finnegan. Those are the pitchers the Tigers acquired at the trade deadline. These were hardly any of the big names that fans were hoping for. The question now remains — what exactly is the plan for the Tigers?

Considering how much of the season has gone with the Tigers seemingly having the American League Central division locked up and

poised to be a top seed in the playoffs, the team could have very well taken the approach of going all in. I certainly would not have been opposed to that. Championship windows, especially in baseball, can close in a heartbeat and need to be taken advantage of whenever possible.

It does not seem like that was the Tigers' vision at all. The front office was vocal about not wanting to part with any top prospects to acquire players at the trade deadline, and considering that the Tigers have one of the best prospect pools in all of baseball right now it is easy to understand why they would do that. However, the conservative approach gets almost ridiculous at a certain point.

Are the Tigers really trying to win a World Series now? Or are they just trying to stay good enough to keep fans interested in another postseason push?

Do not get me wrong. The Tigers are still good. They are still going to

make the playoffs and Detroit is going to get the excitement of October baseball for another year, but trading peanuts for a group of pitchers who would have potentially been dropped by their current teams if they were not traded does not exactly give the impression that a team is trying to seriously compete among the best.

What is the most concerning is the fact that other teams who will likely be with the Tigers in the postseason did use the trade deadline to get better. Suarez ended up going to the Seattle Mariners, who are now challenging Houston for the lead in the American League West and certainly have the talent to make a big splash in the postseason. The New York Yankees also made big improvements to their bullpen and snagged Colorado Rockies third baseman Ryan McMahon to fill the biggest hole in their lineup.

If you want to be an extremely optimistic Detroit fan, National League teams that the



Tigers would potentially have to meet in the World Series got significantly better. The Philadelphia Phillies, who just won two out of three games against the Tigers last weekend, made big moves to improve their pitching and bolster their status as serious contenders. The New York Mets and San Diego Padres also made moves that seemingly increased their levels of talent too.

This leaves the Tigers basically in limbo. They are still good enough to win the Central division, and nobody is really even challenging them for it now. The Cleveland Guardians are having their share of issues and the Minnesota Twins sold off seemingly their entire team at the trade deadline. However, when

the Tigers get to the post-season, who knows if they will be good enough to stack up against the teams like the Yankees and Mariners who did make the kind of moves that Detroit should have made to get better.

If last year's Tigers season proves anything, it is that you never quite know what can happen in the world of baseball. Maybe the Tigers will continue to be gritty and use that attitude to just win games no matter what, or maybe they show that they don't quite belong among the elites. We still have about two more months of regular-season baseball to see how things shake out, but there are more questions than answers after what happened last week.



<p>21235 RIVER ROAD GROSSE POINTE WOODS COMING SOON</p>	<p>26952 CARRINGTON PL HARRISON TOWNSHIP FOR SALE</p>	<p>20225 SHADY LANE ST CLAIR SHORES FOR SALE</p>
<p>22435 LAKECREST ST CLAIR SHORES - WATERFRONT FOR SALE</p>	<p>22953 ALLEN CT SAINT CLAIR SHORES PENDING</p>	<p>29156 JEFFERSON CT ST CLAIR SHORES - WATERFRONT PENDING</p>

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GPN: 8/7/25 CNS-3952693#

Above left, Farms-City fans jump out of their seats to celebrate a game-tying home run hit by Rain Goddard in the fourth inning of last Thursday's 11U Little League state championship game. Above right, Nathan Crandall stands in the batter's box for Farms-City.

PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

LEGacy — New generation of North athletes look to continue family's kicking tradition

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Fifty-five years ago, when 14-year-old Rade Savich emigrated to the United States from what was then Yugoslavia, he had no idea he was only a few years away from being a Division I college athlete in a sport he had never heard of.

Fast forward to 2025, where his great-nephew, Ben Savich, is an emerging star as the sophomore kicker for the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team, heading up the third generation of Savich kickers and following in the footsteps of his great-uncle and father.

The Savich family has excelled for decades in anything that has to do with kicking a ball. Ben currently is getting ready for the upcoming fall football season with

the Norsemen and also gearing up to take the field with North's soccer team alongside his twin brother, Alex. While the athletes in the Savich family have largely made a name for themselves on the gridiron, the soccer pitch is where the family's legacy began back in Europe.

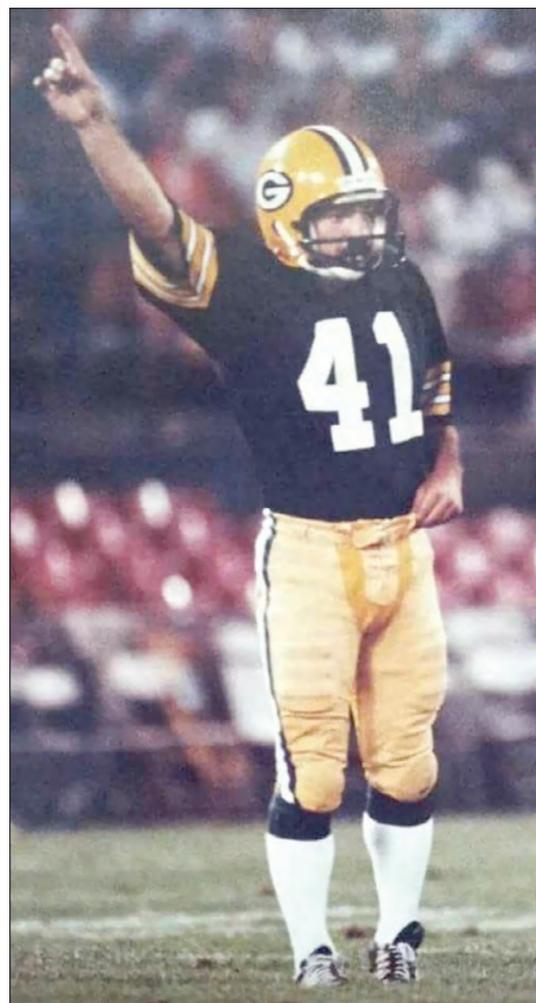
"We didn't really have what you would call youth sports; you would just play soccer with whoever wanted to pick up soccer," Rade Savich said about his earliest sports memories while growing up in Europe. "... You'd go over to the fields and pick up a game and play. ... It was survival of the fittest. You learned the hard way on the field."

In 1970, Rade and his family moved to the United States and settled in St. Clair Shores.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Ben Savich kicking at the the Chris Sailer Underclassmen Invitational Camp in July.



Rade Savich with the Green Bay Packers during the 1981 NFL preseason.

He began attending Ottawa Junior High School, now Jefferson Middle School, where he first was introduced to a new kind of football.

"To me, football was soccer," he said. "... I had no clue what (American) football was when I came over. I went to Ottawa Junior High School. ... David Gardner was the coach of the football team. I wrestled in gym class and he thought I was strong, so he sort of talked my family into letting me play football because I had some athleticism and strength, so he introduced me to football."

Rade began primarily playing running back and linebacker. However, one day he decided to line up and try taking a few kicks. As he progressed into high school football at Lakeview, he found his place as a kicker once he began to realize he

was not going to grow big enough to really fit at any other position.

That turned out to be a blessing in disguise. At the time, Rade was able to distinguish himself as a kicking star by being a soccer-style kicker, approaching the

University.

"You could say, more or less, that I was at the beginning of the wave of soccer-style kickers," he said. "... Realizing that I was pretty good at kicking and, honestly, the situation we had was that I wanted to go

school records at the time for longest-made field goal and most career field goals made. After college, he tried his hand at making it to the National Football League, kicking in training camps and pre-season games with teams like the Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings and Washington Redskins.

While his chances in the NFL didn't materialize, Rade was successful in starting his family's kicking legacy. His nephew, Paul Savich, Ben and Alex's dad, followed in his path by becoming a kicker at Lakeview and eventually at Central Michigan as well, from 1998 through 2001. He made 39 career field goals and 81 extra points as a Chippewa to continue his family's tradition within the program and going on to spend one year as a pro-

'You'd go over to the fields and pick up a game and play. ... It was survival of the fittest. You learned the hard way on the field.'

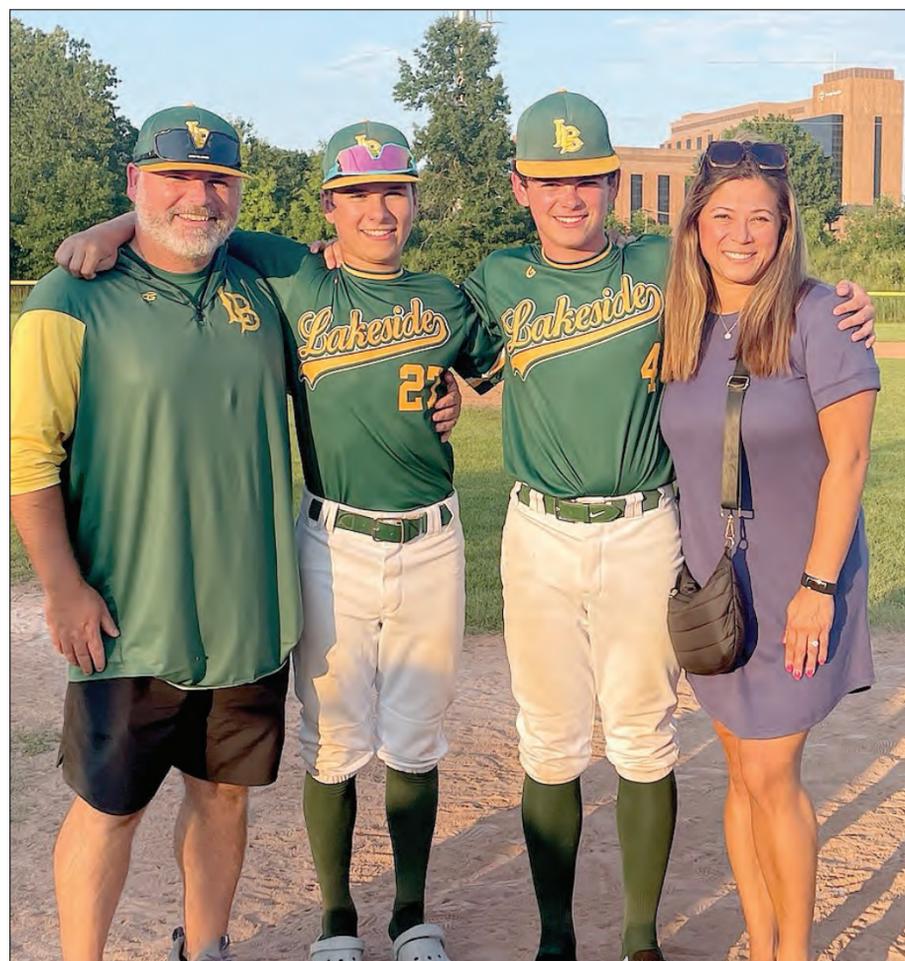
RADE SAVICH

ball from an angle and kicking with the instep of the foot rather than straight-on with the toe. It might be the style every football kicker uses nowadays, but it was just emerging in the 1960s and 1970s. Rade worked hard to perfect it and his dedication to the art of kicking ultimately landed him a scholarship to play football at Central Michigan

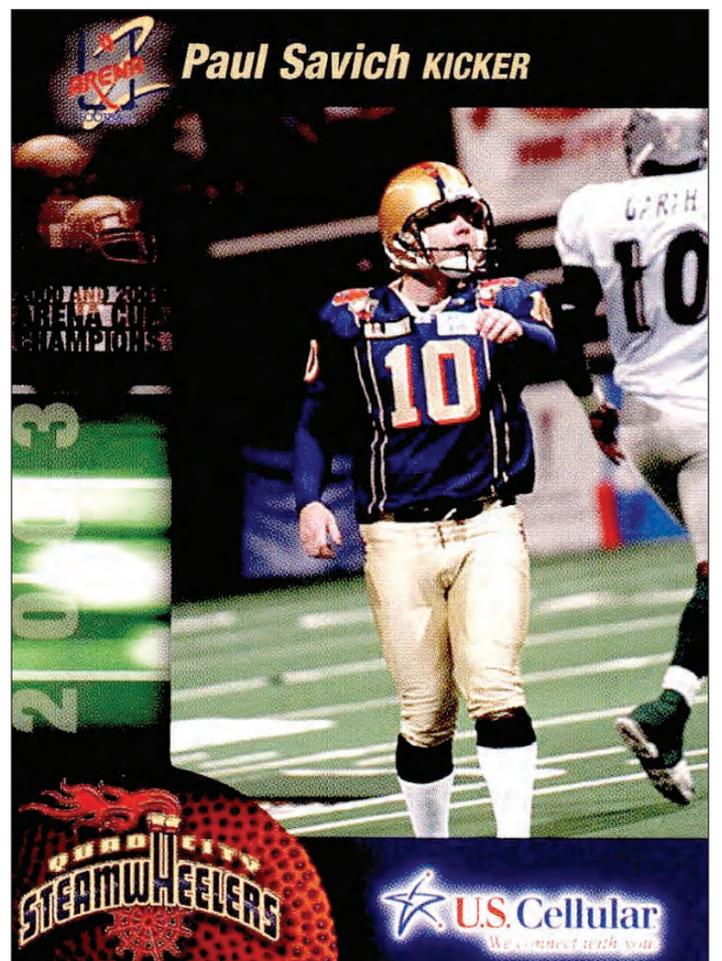
to college, but there was no way that I could afford to go to college being immigrants with no big financial backing. I just had to bear down and earn it and worked hard to get to the level I needed to earn a scholarship."

Rade's career as a Chippewa was a successful one. He earned first-team ALL-MAC honors in 1978, and set

See SAVICH, page 6D



Above left, the Savich family. From left; Paul Savich, Alex Savich, Ben Savich and Pam Savich. Above right, a copy of Paul Savich's 2003 Arena Football League trading card with the Quad City Steamwheelers.



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6D | SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTOS

Ben Savich is entering his sophomore season as a kicker with Grosse Pointe North varsity football.

SAVICH:
Continued from page 3D

Ben Savich is a professional kicker in the Arena Football League. "This whole kicking thing derived from us being really good soccer players and just being

able to kick a ball well," Paul Savich said. "... My earliest memories were probably just getting into high school and my uncle asking if we ever thought about kicking footballs. At that time, we didn't really. We thought we were just

'My path turned into kicking footballs because I took the path my uncle paved for me.'

PAUL SAVICH

going to play soccer and possibly go into college playing soccer and my older brother, Dan, did play four years of soccer at University of Detroit Mercy. ... My path turned into kicking footballs because I took the path my uncle paved for me."

Paul and his wife, Pam, a former Division I softball player at the University of Illinois, now are watching the next generation of Savich family athletes begin to take shape. Ben Savich made his first career field goal for the Norsemen last fall in the team's playoff win over Port Huron and also plays soccer and baseball with his brother, Alex.

This offseason, Ben was one of the prospects invited to a camp hosted by Chris Sailer Kicking and was ranked by the organization as the No. 1 kicking prospect in Michigan for the class of 2028. He still has quite a way to go in his development as he enters his sophomore

season, but those who came before him seem to believe he has what it takes to be the next great Savich kicker.

"When (Ben) was much younger, I saw the potential," Rade said. "I could see that he had that pop. You just know when you see or hear a kid hit the ball. You know something's there. Eventually, Paul and I coached him into going to a field and kicking a few. ... I think eventually, he saw that maybe he had something here. I don't get to spend a lot of time with him, but Paul knows what he's doing and will communicate with me."

"My dad and Uncle Rade have been great in mentoring me as a kicker and punter," Ben said. "They both know the techniques very well, so I try to learn as much as I can. My dad can still kick the ball, so it gives me extra motivation to compete with him, too."

If there is one word that sums up what drives the Savich family, it is competition. The competitive spirit that twin brothers Ben and Alex have in practically everything they do is just an extension of what their family has been doing for years, using challenging but friendly competition to drive each other.

"We've learned to be competitive by trying to

beat each other in anything we do," Alex said. "We compete in sports, in school and anything we can think of, including fishing, video games and golf."

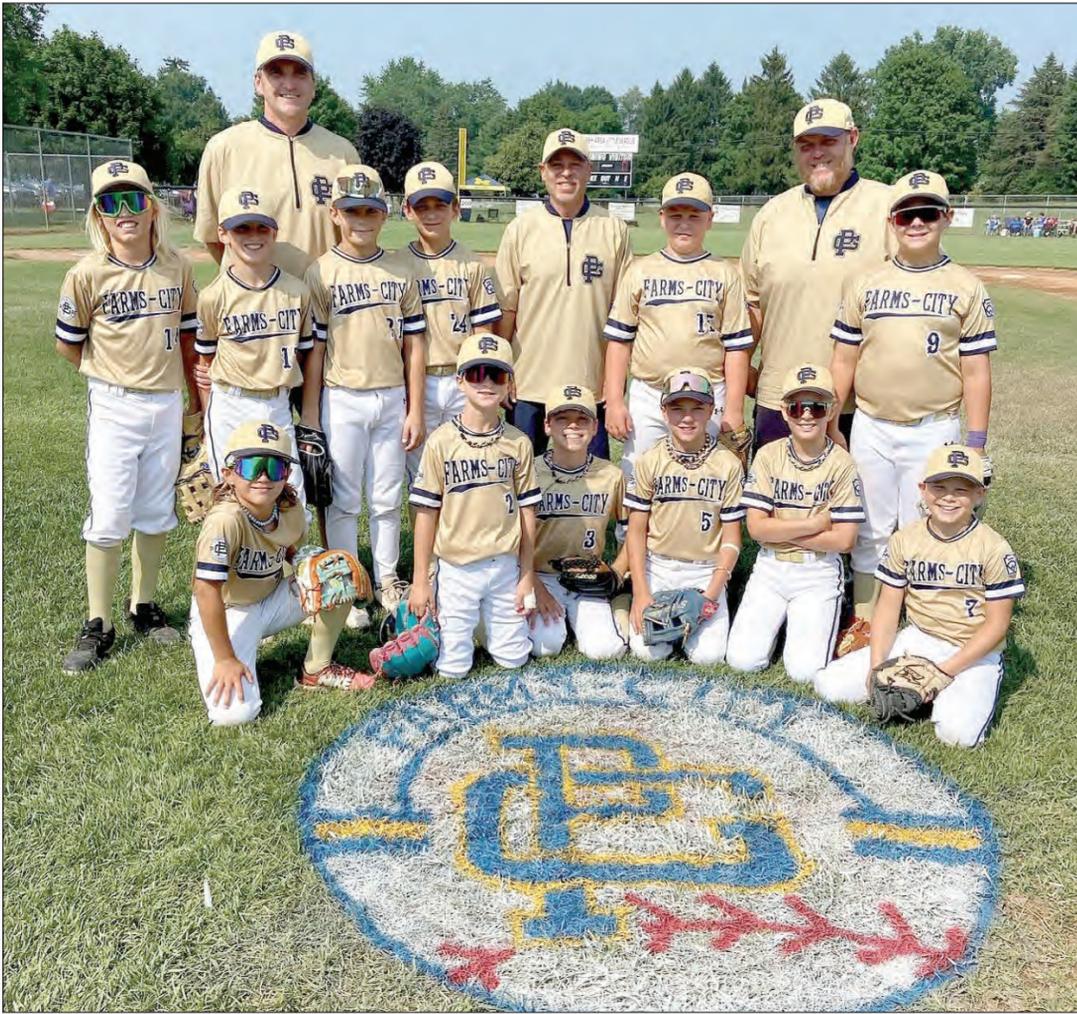
Whether it is Ben and Alex, Paul and his brother Dan, or Rade and his brother Drago, the Saviches are always pushing each other to the next level. It began with a family coming to America more than 50 years ago and doing whatever it could to work hard and achieve a dream. While that dream might be differ-

ent for each generation, the driving force is still there and is what the family hopes pushes Ben, Alex and whoever comes next to greatness.

"I think it comes from the way that we compete with each other," Paul said. "That was the way with my uncle and my dad. They were two boys and they had a ton of competition with one another. They tell me stories all the time about who was better at what. ... They kind of instilled a level of competitiveness into us."



Brothers Ben, left, and Alex Savich received varsity letters and scholar athlete awards as freshmen from Grosse Pointe North last year.



Farms-City 10U reaches state final

The Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League 10U team finished as state runner-up at the 2025 Michigan 10U Little League State Tournament last week in Tecumseh. Farms-City won two out of three games in pool play before being victorious in its quarterfinal and semifinal matchups, advancing to the state championship game where the team lost a close game 2-1 to Taylor North.

The team's roster includes: J.P. Albrecht, Ethan Arnold, Parker Crandall, William DeWitt, James Dzubak, Andrew Krall, Cass Lupo, James Mason, Henry Miller, Mason Peplinski, Ray Temkin, Ellis Ward, team manager Mike Dzubak and coaches Rob Crandall and Brian Arnold

COURTESY PHOTO



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City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use at 20647 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID: 40-007-01-1763-000). The subject site is zoned the C, Commercial Business District where a fast food restaurant (Playa Bowls) is a special land use. No drive-thru is permitted, dining is take-out or within the restaurant.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office (cityclerk@gpwmi.us), up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmi.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Atolin
City Clerk