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APRIL 9, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Local NAACP branch aims for reactivation

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES & HARPER WOODS — The Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods branch of the NAACP — which had its start in 2015 — petered out in recent years and ultimately deactivated without public notice due to declining membership and leadership vacancies.

“They ended up dissolving for the moment because there was nobody in active roles,” said Donna Alford, Shores resident and member of the current reactivation committee.

Spurred by the NAACP Michigan State Conference reaching out to inactive branches to encourage reactivation, community members last summer began gauging local interest and have since established the NAACP Grosse Pointes & Harper Woods Branch Reactivation Committee.

“This committee aims to rebuild a branch that is active, accountable and committed to serving the community through education, civic engagement and partnership, in alignment with the mission and policies of the NAACP,” said Sierra Donaven, committee member and Farms councilwoman.

To officially reactivate the branch, 100 members are required.

While the most recent reactivation meeting held last Tuesday brought membership to the cusp of that number, the branch still is actively seeking members.

To receive a copy of the sign-up form — \$30 in annual membership dues are required — email ginacsteward@gmail.com with the subject line “NAACP GPHW” or call Alford at (313) 587-0343.

The reactivation committee intends to submit its official application to the national NAACP to be considered during the organization’s May board meeting.

“First we get reactivated,” Alford said.

See NAACP, page 2A

BoE passes AI policy

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — After more than a year of discussion, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education passed an AI policy at its meeting Monday, March 23.

The final vote was 4-2, with President Clint Derringer, Vice President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Laura Hull voting in favor. Trustees Ginny Jeup and Sean Cotton were opposed. Secretary Valarie St. John was absent.

Cotton said he didn’t think the policy was “student-centric” or “education-centric.” Jeup said she believes it creates more bureaucracy.

Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop said he sought input from teachers and students.

“We didn’t want to have a fear-based policy,” he said.

See POLICY, page 8A



Oh, deer!

This precious pair was sighted at 18 Waverly Lane, Grosse Pointe Farms, by Dr. Dawn Harvey and Tom Garvey. Thanks for sharing this sweet sight — a sure sign of spring!

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM GARVEY

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In today's paper

Pointer running for state BoE

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Terry Collins, who served 14 months on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, has his sights set on a statewide seat.

Collins was nominated by the Michigan Republican Party at its convention in Novi Saturday, March 28, along with Bree Moeggenberg of Mount Pleasant, to run for two open seats on the state board of education.

Michigan Democrats will nominate candidates at their convention in Detroit Sunday, April 19.

Terry Collins

The current makeup of the board is six Democrats and two Republicans. Terms are eight years and the board meets once a month in Lansing.

See BOE, page 9A

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Pool repair strategy

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Piecemeal repairs and preventive maintenance of the main swimming pool at Windmill Pointe Park would avoid paying an estimated \$1,655,000 to do everything at once.

Most work needed to bring the pool up to snuff is for plumbing and mechanical equipment located underground or behind the scenes. Little has to do with appearance or patron comforts.

“There are two aspects to address,” said Eric Dryer, a planner with the city’s engineering consultants, OHM Advisors. “There’s mechanical-operational improvements, things like drain lines, a surge tank, mechanical room, equipment and a discharge line to the street.”

Upgrading those were estimated recently to cost a combined \$800,000.

“And things that are more amenity-level improvements not directly related to the mechanics of the pool,” Dryer said.

Those consist of everything from resurfacing the pool, replacing the pool deck, sealing joints and buying new swim team starting blocks, diving boards, deckchairs and handrails at pool entries and exits.

The price for that, categorized as amenities and finishing improvements, represented an additional cost of \$855,000.

Dryer didn’t come up with the estimates on his own.

“We had a pool contractor write up an assessment of the conditions of the pool,” he said.

Dryer said estimates assume the work would be done during warm months with the pool shut down.

“If you want to try to do it in that Labor Day-Memorial Day season, you have to deal with winter conditions,” Dryer said. “Sometimes you have to pay more for that. Some of that work has to be done in springtime, pouring concrete, that sort of stuff.”

In addition to retaining OHM for general engineering services, the city issued it a supplemental \$30,000 contract to assess recreation department facilities. Findings are intended to help the

See POOL, page 2A

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See POOL, page 2A

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Rick Linnel
Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Wife, Terry; teenage sons,
Breccan, Throop and Davis;
college-age stepson, Will; and
adult stepdaughter, Emma.

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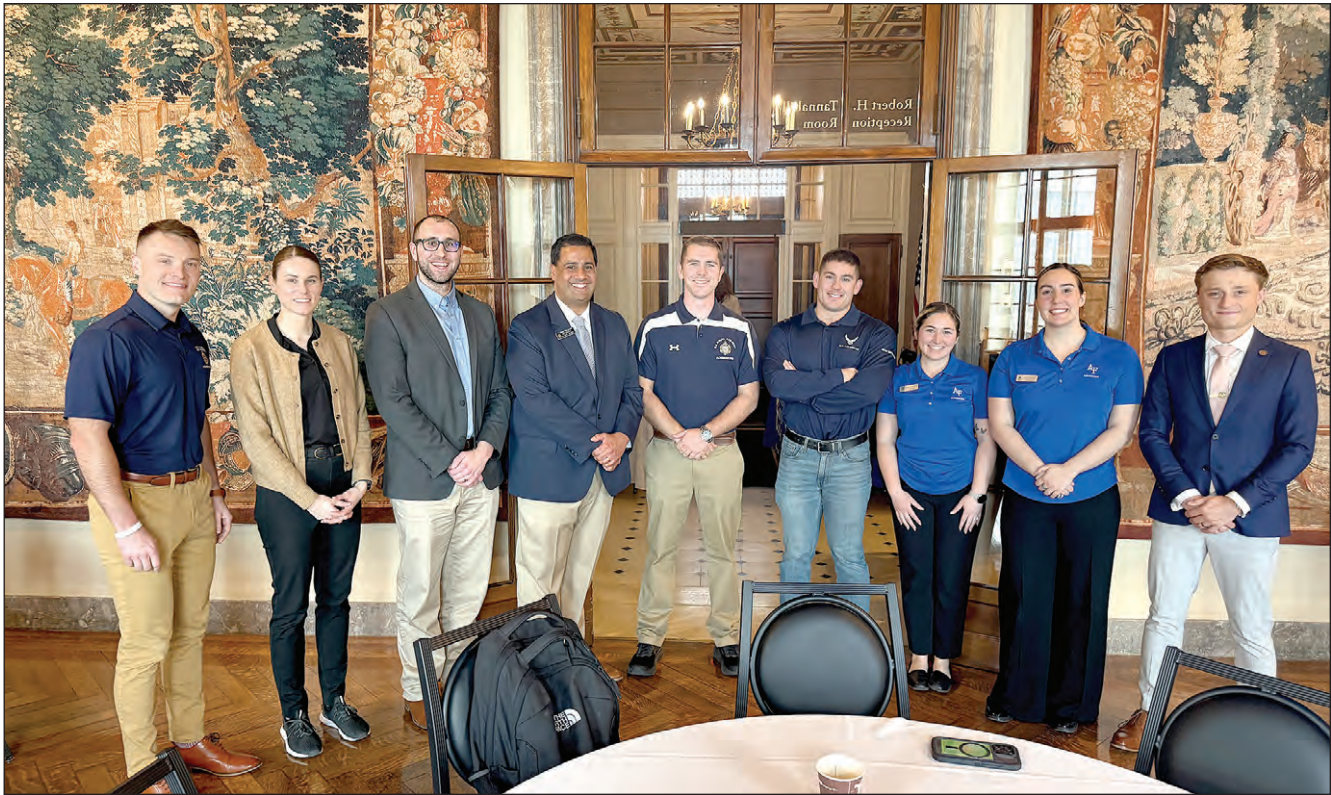
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From left, Lt. Sam Sokol; 1st Lt. Alexandra Beydler; Green & Gold Congressional Aide Patrick Stoddard of Lisa McClain's office; Regional Director of Admissions at the U.S. Naval Academy James Callicott; Lt. Jack Halliday; 2nd Lt. Evan Shreffler; 2nd Lt. Courtney Ambrose; 2nd Lt. Isabella Gelle; and Constituent Relations Specialist Corbin Smith.



Service academies outreach

The admissions offices of the United States service academies — U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy — came together March 6 and 7, to host outreach events at The War Memorial. The events were designed to better inform counselors, educators, students and parents about the nation's service academies and admissions pathways. The Friday educator event had a total of 25 attendees. The Saturday event welcomed 246 attendees, including 86 students representing 67 different schools. The events were supported by the congressional offices of Elissa Slotkin, Lisa McClain, Tim Walberg and Shri Thanedar.



Saturday, March 7, Lt. Jack "Tom" Halliday presented about United States Naval Academy information, such as introduction, majors and classroom sizes.

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, APRIL 13**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Finance Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods rescheduled city council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, APRIL 14**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Arbor Week Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Harbor Committee meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 18**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., for residents only.



COURTESY PHOTOS

On Friday, March 6, Lt. Jack "Tom" Halliday gave a presentation to approximately 25 attendees.

Farms 2025 PS report reveals steady crime stats

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — While off-the-clock K-9 Officer Rocco insists he is a lap-dog, his time in the vest last year also highlights instances of assisting in locating and apprehending a prowler in Harper Woods who had a previous arrest for the same offense in the Farms, as well as helping the Detroit Police Department locate a sawed-off shotgun used in an armed robbery. Rocco's job performance review is included as part of the Farms' 2025 annual public safety report, which comprehensively tracks crime statistics in the city each year. In 2025, the Farms saw major crimes — homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft — decrease slightly to 104 incidents from 120 the year prior.

In the cases of one rape, one robbery and one aggravated assault that were reported last year, the culprits in each were successfully apprehended. The city also saw eight incidents of burglary, 76 of larceny and 17 successful or attempted motor vehicle thefts. The Farms' fire department — the Farms is the only Pointe to employ four full-time career firefighters — responded to 393 fire runs in 2025. These included 191 false alarms, 51 carbon monoxide alarms and three structure fires within the city, as well as providing mutual aid to neighboring cities. The department's drone unit was deployed 27 times in 2025, for instances of helping to apprehend suspects

See STATS, page 4A

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Lock car doors

The Farms saw several larceny from auto incidents last week:

◆ An unlocked vehicle in the 400 block of Madison was rummaged through overnight into Monday, March 30.

◆ Approximately \$30 was discovered stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 300 block of Ridgemont at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 2.

◆ A good Samaritan turned in a passport that was found near Moross and Chalfonte. It was stolen from a vehicle in the 300 block of Ridgemont overnight into Friday, April 3.

◆ Three wallets containing a passport ID and \$500 in Canadian money were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 300 block of Ridgemont around 4:30 a.m. Friday, April 3.

◆ Fifty cents was stolen from the center console of a vehicle in the 300 block of Stephens overnight into Friday, April 3.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Drunken driving

A 53-year-old Harper Woods man caught an officer's attention when he turned left onto Moross during a solid red light at 10:11 p.m. Friday, April 3.

When the officer pulled him over, the man then put his vehicle in reverse, forcing the officer to reverse to avoid a collision.

When asked if he would be able to count from one to 100 and recite the alphabet from

A to Z, the man said, "Nobody can do that anymore."

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.195 percent, for which he was arrested.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Matter of time

Detectives in the city are on the trail of two suspects believed to be responsible for approximately 75 retail fraud incidents from multiple Kroger locations throughout the state, including 10 at the location on

Kercheval in The Village. The 50-year-old man and 53-year-old woman last targeted The Village location Sunday, March 22.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

No joke

Around noon Wednesday, April 1, a resident of the 1300 block of Grayton heard kids near a 2024 Kia parked at the side of the road.

"After the kids left the area, the owner observed pry marks and (a) door handle missing from the vehicle," police said.

SOS scammers

A resident didn't fall last week for online scammers issuing fake threats purporting to be from the office of the Michigan Secretary of State.

"The complainant received messages stating he needed to send money about keeping a valid driver's license," police said. "Messages were scams."

"Michigan does not have a Department of Vehicles and the Secretary of State does not send text messages threatening to suspend your license or registration," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said in a news release last October. "If you receive a text message like this, delete it and do not click on any links."

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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



FILE PHOTO

Whimsical details punctuate the playscape at Patterson Park.

GAME:

Continued from page 4A

"Every time I go there, like during the marshmallow drop (March 28), there are a lot of kids enjoying it. I hope (the city) tries to preserve it for at least a few more years. It's a wood structure. If it is protected and the rot replaced, that adds life to it, but I can't give you a number of how long."

Members of the recreation commission gave the playscape a vote of confidence during a meeting March 11. They didn't include it on a list of park assets in critical need of repair or heavy maintenance.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Michael Hindelang, Vice Chairman Paul Spratt; members Terry Ayrault, Roger Basse, Howard Bouton, James Ceuninck, Larry Haggart, Heather Hurley and Paul O'Donnell; city council

liaison and former commission secretary Patrick Gleason and Recreation Director Chad Craig.

Minor renovations to the playscape will cost \$150,000 to \$210,000, according to Dryer.

"Full replacement would be somewhere, depending on size, between \$640,000 to \$850,000," he said.

"Do those numbers include labor?" asked Bouton, among volunteers last year to clean, reseal and replace planks and make minor repairs to the structure.

"Depending on what you go with," Craig answered. "If you're looking at replacing that with something close to what's there with composite material, you're probably significantly closer to \$850,000. If you're looking at (spending) four to five (hundred thousand dollars), you're going to see something closer to what you see at Windmill."

The new playscape at Windmill, donated by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, is metal.

All attendees of the

missioners chose the kayak launch at Patterson. Consultants said it would cost \$60,000 to make the launch com-

ply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Other runners-up were the:

◆ Patterson playscape (three votes, costs ranging from \$150,000 for repairs to \$850,000 replacement),

◆ fishing pier (two votes, no cost estimate given) and

◆ boardwalk (one vote, \$2 million for full reconstruction).
Receiving third-place votes were, in descending order:

◆ the pickleball courts (three votes, no cost estimate),

◆ fishing pier (two),

◆ kayak launch (two) and

◆ one vote each for Patterson's boardwalk, ice skating rink (minimal cost for minor fix-its, up to \$300,000 for a refurbished cooling system and \$800,000 for a new cooling system) and gazebo (between \$10,000 to \$56,000 needed in the short term for reconstruction).



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC
16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
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OUR VIEW

Free speech really should be free

As we reported two weeks ago, a Grosse Pointe Woods man filed a civil rights lawsuit in federal court last month, claiming the Grosse Pointe Public School System violated his First and 14th Amendment rights by banning him from school property. Gary Shane Pruitt wants GPPSS to rescind a “no trespass” order issued against him Oct. 21, 2024, that bars him from all school property.

Mr. Pruitt also feels the district “shamed” him by posting his picture in the office at Parcels Middle School, alerting staff there he is banned from the building.

Mr. Pruitt attended a back-to-school night at Parcels in early September 2024, and “observed many rainbow/transgender pride flags” on display. In talking with district administrators to express his concern, Mr. Pruitt said he was told, “nothing was likely to change” and was told to contact the school board.

In a show of utter classlessness, Trustee Valarie St. John responded, “... if you are concerned that your child is seeing the colors of the rainbow, I would suggest sending them with tinted sunglasses so they aren’t subjected to the full spectrum.”

GPPSS leadership often talks about wanting parental input. The district’s curriculum committee has members who are parents and the Bond Advisory Committee in 2024 also had parents on it. Parental involvement extends to booster clubs supporting activities of all sorts and naturally parents make up the PTOs in each building.

But only listening to those who share your view is not leadership; it is merely an echo chamber.

Mr. Pruitt’s lawsuit claims that toward the end of September 2024, he was given permission to tour Parcels after classes were dismissed. He filmed the flags in question. No students or staff were identified. He made sure to blur out the face of one teacher seated behind her desk in front of a large pride flag, commenting in a voiceover there was no American flag in the classroom.

He posted the video in mid-October to the “Grosse Pointe Public Schools Concerned Parents” Facebook page. It can be viewed at tinyurl.com/5n7z2726.

We agree with Mr. Pruitt’s lawsuit when it says the voiceover was his “constitutionally protected speech and political opinion.”

Further, Jason Wesley, then the Parcels principal, said in an email to families, “The video did not contain any threatening content; rather it was political in nature, as expressed by a parent.”

So why ban him?
People who support such displays will say it is so students grappling with certain issues feel they are included and have a “safe space.” But what about students whose personal and family values differ? Is it OK for them not to feel safe?

It is very likely these supporters would strenuously protest if a teacher were to hang a universal Christian flag in their classroom or probably even a Gadsden (Don’t Tread On Me) flag. And please do not start writing letters to the editor about “separation of church and state,” a phrase which does not appear in the Constitution. The First Amendment only prohibits government from establishing a state religion and “prohibits the free exercise thereof.” Unless you want to start talking about renaming Richard Elementary School.

Teachers display things in their classrooms for several reasons. As reminders, as learning aids and as a way to spark discussion. A chemistry teacher



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure GP

One evening in late March, the sun was setting and the deep orange colors were captured in the window of a building across the street from the Grosse Pointe News office, with the window framing it, perfectly reflecting the trees and lights along Kercheval.

FROM THE OWNER By Sean Cotton

The foundation upon which everything is built

For regular readers who know me, I usually do not need to say this, but for clarity I will state it. While I serve as a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, I am not speaking on behalf of the board.

When it comes to educating our children, K-12 education is not one priority among many; it is the foundation upon which everything else is built. It is the one system that touches every child, in every community, regardless of background or circumstance. Almost every student who succeeds in college, in a skilled trade or in the workforce begins in a K-12 classroom, and every future opportunity is shaped by what happens during those formative years. If that foundation is weakened, nothing built on top of it will stand — not higher education, not workforce development, not economic growth. We can talk about expanding opportunity at the preschool level or investing in postsecondary success, but those efforts depend entirely on the strength of the system in between. That is the starting point for any honest discussion about education policy in Michigan today and it is the standard against which every budget decision should be measured.

And yet, over the past two budget cycles, what we have seen out of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is not a serious commitment to that foundation. It reflects a pattern of underinvestment at the most fundamental level of our public system.

Last year, Gov. Whitmer advanced a budget without a meaningful increase to the foundation allowance. Instead of investing directly into classrooms, the state changed retirement obligations for school systems and teachers, effectively creating pathways for salary increases through underfunding the retirement system. That approach shifts costs rather than solves them and it leaves districts



responsible for absorbing the long-term consequences. At the same time, Gov. Whitmer made the expansion of free preschool and free community college a priority, raiding K-12 funding to support those programs and tying their passage directly to the K-12 budget.

This year, we are told there is a “record” investment, including a proposed \$250 per-pupil increase. That increase does not keep pace with inflation or the real cost of educating a child.

In districts like Grosse Pointe, the numbers make this reality clear. Since Proposal A in 1994, the foundation allowance has grown from \$8,285 to roughly \$10,700 per student. At first glance, that looks like progress. But a dollar today does not buy what it did in 1994.

A school district is a labor-intensive public service and most of our budget goes to the people and services that support students every day, including teachers, aides, counselors, transportation, operations, health care and retirement costs. Because of that, the relevant measure is not the headline increase; it is purchasing power.

By that measure, the 1994 foundation allowance would be closer to \$19,800 per student today. Instead, we are operating at roughly \$10,700. That gap represents a steady erosion of the system itself and it forces districts into a cycle of cuts, consolidation and tradeoffs that have nothing to do with local mismanagement and everything to do with structural underfunding. Those tradeoffs are real and they are visible in every school district: larger class sizes instead of the smaller classrooms that drive better outcomes, fewer counselors and support staff, reduced course offerings and increasing pressure on teacher compensation and retention. Over time, those decisions compound and the very elements that produce strong educational outcomes are the ones that are gradually stripped away.

At the same time, the governor again is promoting new investments in early education and subsidized postsecondary programs. Those efforts are laudable and they matter. But they do not matter more than the foundation sitting directly in front of us. Expanding programs on either end of the system while starving the core is a fundamental policy failure.

See FOUNDATION, page 7A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
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68° 49°	59° 40°	58° 41°	74° 60°	76° 59°	74° 49°	66° 46°
Rain & T-Storms	Chance of Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain & T-Storms	Rain	Cloudy
40%	60%	20%	20%	40%	60%	20%
SUNRISE 7:02 am SUNSET 8:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:00 am SUNSET 8:07 pm	SUNRISE 6:58 am SUNSET 8:08 pm	SUNRISE 6:57 am SUNSET 8:09 pm	SUNRISE 6:55 am SUNSET 8:10 pm	SUNRISE 6:53 am SUNSET 8:11 pm	SUNRISE 6:52 am SUNSET 8:12 pm

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

LETTERS

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Detroit Red Wings collapse shows fundamental issues within organization



The Detroit Red Wings are an embarrassment. It is that plain and simple. Once again, this team has taken a season that should have brought playoff hockey back to Detroit and is flushing it down the drain. What makes it even worse is it seems like they do not even care.

This team has no fight. Over the last couple of weeks, the Red Wings have played in multiple games that have had major implications on their playoff chances and in those games, they are letting their opponents walk all over them. It seems like all these players have been thinking about throughout March

and into April is grabbing their golf clubs and heading to Florida or wherever to enjoy the offseason.

That is unacceptable. The fact this is being allowed to happen means everyone in the Red Wings organization needs to take a long, hard look in the mirror and figure out if turning this team back into a winning organization is something they actually want to do.

For once, I am not blaming the head coach. Todd McLellan’s comments in the media recently have made it seem like he is one of the only people in the locker room who actually cares about winning. He is trying to get the best out of his players in the biggest games of the year. He wants to motivate them to play tough hockey and win games, but it feels like nobody is listening.

The blame should fall on the players. They had everything in front of them and let it slip away. On Feb. 26, the day the

Red Wings resumed play after the Olympic break, they were second in the Atlantic Division with a seven-point cushion for a playoff spot. Over the last month or so, they have gone from firmly in the playoffs — and even having home ice advantage in the first round — to being on the outside looking in.

If the players do not want to be here and play winning hockey, then they can go somewhere else, but I doubt any other team would take them if that is their attitude. The Red Wings lack depth. It has been the biggest issue for the last few years when this team has seemed so close to making the playoffs, but just could not get over the hump. There are only a few players who really contribute and half the lineup seems to be guys who are just filling roster spots.

When you have a team full of players who seemingly do not want to play at a winning level, you also have to look at who

assembled that team. Steve Yzerman has been a failure as the general manager of the Red Wings. I was so excited in 2019, when it was announced he would be taking over, but we are seven years into the so-called “Yzerplan” and still do not even have a playoff appearance to show for it.

Yzerman has skated by on his reputation in Hockeytown and has gotten away with being complacent and timid when it comes to assembling a team. We constantly are being told to be patient and that the organization has great prospects who are too valuable to be traded away for players who might be able to help the Red Wings actually win now. Enough is enough.

It has been 10 years since we last saw playoff hockey in Detroit. That’s a decade without the playoffs for an Original Six organization. Technically, the Red Wings are not eliminated yet, but this team does

not inspire hope when it comes to making a miraculous run in the final games of the season. This is an organization that should be a cornerstone of the National Hockey League, that hockey fans everywhere want to see succeed, because hockey is fun when the Detroit Red Wings are good.

The standard in

Hockeytown should not be for fans to beg the team just to make the playoffs. Something clearly is not working. It has not been working for years, but the Red Wings organization keeps telling itself and its fans to be patient. That is not going to work anymore. We are done being patient.

About the environment

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner welcomed Yu-Tong Shao to the club’s March 10 meeting at Ford House. Shao, a Ph.D. candidate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Civil & Environmental Engineering discipline, presented, via Zoom, “Turning Agricultural Wastes into Climate Solutions.” The environmental science uses leftover inedible parts of crops, such as stalks, stems, leaves, roots and husks, for energy and carbon storage for greenhouse gas climate mitigation.

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

FOUNDATION:

Continued from page 6A

Michigan has never been at the very top nationally in educational outcomes, but it was once solidly in the top half of states. Today, we are in the bottom 10 in many of the core K-12 outcomes. That is not an abstract statistic; it is the direct result of years of decisions like the ones we are seeing now. To present this budget as sufficient, or worse, as a success, is simply wrong.

At a time when there is growing national attention on Gov. Whitmer and her future ambitions, including a potential run for president, it is fair to ask whether this approach reflects a focus on Michigan students or broader political positioning. The outcomes suggest that K-12 education is not being treated as the priority it must be.

I also do not understand why the MEA, NEA and other groups are not speaking out more forcefully. If they are not willing to challenge this level of underinvestment, it raises questions about whether political alignment is taking precedence over advocating for teachers and students. If they do not find a cham-

pion in this moment, they are unlikely to find one elsewhere.

As long as school financing and wage negotiations are conducted the way they are today, we need to invest significantly more on a per-pupil basis. Anything less will continue to produce the same results. K-12 funding should also be voted on as a separate budget, on its own, without preschool or postsecondary priorities tied to it.

More broadly, the financing of public education needs to change. I am not naive to the widely held view that we already spend too much on public education with results that are far from ideal.

Based on my study of

the system over the past three years, the current structure is not sustainable. Starting teacher salaries in many districts are not competitive for graduates with bachelor’s degrees, while compensation at the top of the scale often is strong and includes benefits and pensions that compare favorably to similar professions. At the same time, there is a persistent myth of local control, when in reality districts operate within a system that dictates most of the financial framework. Collective bargaining at the local level is not producing a fiscally solvent model, particularly when there is an expectation that foundation allowance increases directly translate into raises within an already underfunded system.

Wages and benefits should be structured at the state level, paired with real accountability in both academic outcomes and classroom environments. Schools must have the ability to ensure that one student does not disrupt the education of others. When accountability is

part of the system, public confidence can be restored for the many who have turned away from it and with it a greater willingness to invest.

K-12 education is the foundation of everything. If we fail here, we fail everywhere. Right now,

we are moving in the wrong direction, compounded by continued underinvestment in K-12 education by our governor.

Sean Cotton owns the Grosse Pointe News and sits on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

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Pointe Players to perform ‘Les Mis’

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After working with the current seniors the last few years, Director Dan DeMarco thought it was time for the Grosse Pointe South High School Pointe Players to take on something as large-scale as “Les Misérables.”

“We started talking about it late last year and realized we would have a really good group of seniors this year,” he said. “You have to have numbers to pull this off and we thought if we didn’t do it this year, we might not be able to again.”

And numbers they have, with a cast and

crew of around 80 students. So large, in fact, with lots of props, performances will be held at the Christian A. Fenton Performing Arts Center at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

“We had to make sure first with our technical directors that we could pull this off,” DeMarco said. “Between the props and the elaborate costumes, we’ve got a great group of parent volunteers who have been helping us track everything down.”

Although this will be the high school version of the musical, DeMarco said audiences won’t see many changes from the Broadway version.

“We cut a few lines,” he said, “some out of appropriateness and some to get the time down.”

Rehearsals have been running about two hours, 20 minutes, but DeMarco said he’s hoping to get that down to two hours, 10 minutes, including intermission, for the performances.

He noted most of the students in the production already were familiar with the overall story.

“They weren’t necessarily sure who all the characters were,” he said. “So they’ve been learning how certain characters interact with each other. Besides, the music is easy to access.”

And there will be a lot of music.

“This is considered a sung-through, so there are very, very few speak-

ing lines,” DeMarco said. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 23 to 25, with a 2 p.m. matinee April 25.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and students. They can be purchased at gpshs.seatyourself.biz or at the door.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIANNE ROMANELLI

POLICY:

Continued from page 1A

ice,” he said. “It’s about how we keep our students safe.”

Bishop added the district’s legal counsel provided boilerplate language for the policy, which then was adjusted based on feedback.

Students may use AI under narrow circumstances. It has to be approved by the assigning teacher. They must use a district-approved AI tool. They also must review AI content for inaccuracies. They cannot use it when original work is required.

Teachers will be able to use it for lesson planning, instructional design, developing prac-

tice materials and accessibility, such as language translation.

Jackie Shelson and Taryn Loughlin, co-presidents of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, said they want to work with the district in refining the policy.

“The GPEA initially reached out to the board after seeing the AI policy on the agenda,” they said in a statement. “Unfortunately, due to an oversight from the district, we did not know that a committee was working on the AI policy. Both the district and the board expressed that they are eager to work with stakeholders as they fine-tune this policy. While it was frustrating to find out the way we did

about the committee working on this, GPPSS does need a policy and the one that was outlined (at the meeting) is a great start.”

Bishop said the district’s EPLC (Educational Programs Leadership Council), which includes teachers, administrators, parents and students, will come up with administrative guidelines for the policy.

“That will be a robust discussion,” he added. “The first step is figuring out how to incorporate this into our schools.”

Bishop also noted the policy will be reviewed annually.

“That will be to address technical developments, legal updates and ever-evolving best practices,” he said.

Double champions

St. Paul Catholic School students are statewide champions in both age groups of the annual Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee. Eighth grader Elise Tranchida won the seventh/eighth grade contest and sixth grader Vincent Stanza won the fourth through sixth grade contest. This is the third year in a row St. Paul Catholic School students have been the statewide champs. Bee winners Stanza and Tranchida stand with Knights of Columbus organizers.



The St. Paul Catholic School forensics team won first place in the annual Cindy Pryor Memorial Forensics League Tournament. St. Paul’s team of 32 students outperformed teams representing Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Joan of Arc, St. Lawrence, St. Paul and St. Thecla Catholic schools. This is the second consecutive tournament the St. Paul team has won. Forensics is an extracurricular activity that strengthens public speaking and communication skills. Students in fifth through eighth grades showcased their talents in categories such as poetry, prose, storytelling, drama, declamation, multiple interpretation, duo interpretation and impromptu.

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GPPSS special education parents form committee

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — In an effort to better serve special needs students and their families in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, six parents began meeting last year and now have formed a parent advisory committee toward that end.

“People probably don’t realize 14 percent of our students receive some

type of special needs service,” said Jill Wurm, the group’s president. “This is a way to have a conversation because we need a bridge between the district and our families.”

The group made an initial presentation to the GPPSS Board of Education in late February, ahead of its first meeting March 4.

“We had 40 people RSVP and we ended up with 65 attendees,” Wurm said. “It was fantastic.

The takeaway is what a need there is for this in our community. We had people who stayed even after we wrapped up. Parents who have been through this were coaching new parents.”

Wurm said the group was appreciative that Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop and the student services team, led by Lillie Loder, were at the meeting to hear concerns.

“There are some things

we need to do better and we’ve never shied away from that,” Bishop said. “Sometimes you have to hear things that are uncomfortable, but the approach they are taking is one of opportunity.”

Wurm said parents with special needs students can often feel isolated.

“We want to grow a sense of community the way there is among parents whose kids play sports or are in band,”

she said. “Roy has been a great partner and this is a huge step in the right direction.”

The group meets next at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at Barnes Early Childhood Center, 20090 Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods.

“The district is going to respond to the concerns we brought up at the first meeting,” Wurm said. “It’s a good first step in developing trust. Things won’t change overnight,

but we see the possibilities.”

Aside from Wurm, the committee includes Dima Hausser, vice president; Andrea Pietrowsky, communications chair; Megan Wood, treasurer; Theresa Ellis, secretary and Kristin LaBerge, strategic policy representative.

The committee can be reached at grossepointepac@gmail.com or facebook.com/grossepointepac.

Mobile museum visit

Monteith Elementary School hosted Mobile Ed STEAM Day, an all-day event March 24, thanks to a grant it received from the STEAM Foundation to bring a portable hands-on science museum to the school.

Each class took a turn in the mobile museum and students were encouraged to visit all the stations or take their time exploring exhibits that appealed to their interests, like 3D printing, an archeological dig, engineering, art and working with robots.

Chance Johnson tried his hand at the Robot Repair Shop, where students used a magnetic wand to retrieve a metal piece without touching the sides.

PHOTO BY
RENEE
LANDUYT



Frankie Weidenbach checked out Buzz Wire and kept her hand steady as she attempted to pass a loop over a wire bent with difficult twists and turns. If the loop touched the wire, it beeped and students had to start over again.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

“Edutainer” Zak Phillips was the first stop students made when entering the mobile museum. Phillips explained the different stations set up to teach students about mathematics, technology, arts, virtual reality and more.



BOE:

Continued from page 1A

Democrat incumbents Judith Pritchett and Tiffany Tilley, whose terms are up, have announced plans to seek their party’s nomination, along with a third candidate.

“I hadn’t considered running for anything again,” Collins said. “I was approached by some local people and people at the state level and gave it some thought. I want to stay engaged in what’s happening in public education.”

He added he does not plan on running for the GPPSS board again. He was unsuccessful in seeking a seat locally in 2022, then was appointed by the board in late 2023 to fill an unexpired term when a vacancy was cre-

ated by David Brumbaugh’s resignation due to a job move. Collins did not retain the seat in 2024.

“Education is going to be a real focus in the governor’s race, as well it should be, based on the state’s performance,” he noted. “We’re 44th nationally in reading and not much better in math.”

Collins referred to what is known as the “Mississippi Miracle,” which brought the state from 49th nationally in fourth grade reading in 2013 into the top 10 now by focusing on intense teacher training, literacy coaching and strict phonics-based instruction, as a way to improve performance.

A 1983 graduate of Lake Shore High School, Collins has a business degree from the University of Detroit-

Mercy and is a finance analyst for General Motors.

“I’m very data-driven,” he said. “Everyone wants to know how their school is doing compared to peer districts, but it’s also important to know how you’re doing statewide and nationally.”

Collins said he’s already attended a few events, but thinks campaigning will pick up in August after each party determines their respective gubernatorial candidates in the primary election.

“It’ll be an interesting process,” he said. “Michigan families deserve a state board of education grounded in conservative principles, with strong academics, parental rights, local control, safe schools and responsible use of every taxpayer dollar.”

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“Rainy Day in Monet’s Garden” by Paula Fiebich.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM KLEIN

GPAA celebrates spring with ‘RENEWAL’

Works from 75 artists on display

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Stepping into the Grosse Pointe Artists Association gallery on a chilly April afternoon warms the heart with the anticipation of spring. “RENEWAL: Spring Forward” is the theme of the current exhibition, which is on display through Friday, May 1. “It’s a fun show,” GPAA President Karen Pope said. “I thought people would focus on renewal more, but really, everyone just hates winter. They’re relieved that springtime is coming and are focused on how happy they are for spring to come.”

Many artists submitted paintings or photographs of flowers and others included in their works a big harbinger of spring: the hummingbird.

A pair of photographers shared their idea of renewal with downtown streetscapes: one of Michigan Central Station and the other of the new Hudson’s building.

“It’s kind of exciting to see how they translated their thoughts about spring,” Pope said. “I’m taken with the amount of emotion that goes into this.”

For Liliana Gomez Ogliastri, who earned honorable mention for her “Prima-vida,” spring is “nature putting on its makeup and adorning itself again. ... Spring reminds me to live in the



“Spring Hunt” by John Jeffire.

present, to be protective of nature and to truly value this amazing and beautiful planet we are part of.”

“She moved from Colombia to Grosse Pointe and experienced her first spring six years ago,” Pope said. “She’d never seen spring before.”

Ogliastri’s piece was one of several selected for honors by juror Stephanie Onwenu, a landscape architect, visual artist and educator based in Detroit.

“I try to get working professionals (as jurors) who aren’t particularly familiar with the artists,” Pope said. “They’re kind

of outsiders, but they’re knowledgeable and bring a new dimension to the process.

“I chose a landscape architect because I’m learning that architects really have a lot of art training,” she continued. “She was very thoughtful in what she saw.”

“As an artist myself, I love to create,” Onwenu said, noting she enjoyed curation, as well as connecting with GPAA artists. “Looking at the different forms — 2D and 3D — really stood out to me for this show.”

Onwenu based her selections on color and the stories each piece told.

Her first-place selec-



Juror Stephanie Onwenu stands by some of her work.



Suzanne Allen receives a first-place award for “Cocoon,” from juror Stephanie Onwenu.

tion was Suzanne Allen’s “Cocoon,” an acrylic painting on watercolor paper mixed with collage.

According to the artist, “It depicts spring-blooming plants and butterflies; but I also renewed this

piece several times. It started as a painting of green leaves, but then I added the more colorful croton leaves and decided to break into the mat. Then I added some butterflies for movement. Finally, I added more butterflies outside on the surface of the framed piece, like butterflies breaking through the cocoon, another

“I enjoyed the 3D aspect of it,” Onwenu said. “Knowing the different plants, this reminded me of spring with the green leaves and more mature ones. And I love butterflies.”

Michelle Nunley’s “Renewal” — which combined clay, epoxy resin, natural stones, shells and various paints within a custom carved frame — earned second place for triggering a memory in the juror.

“It reminded me of the Belle Isle Conservatory and the koi pond there,” Onwenu said. “I really liked the depth of the piece and the details put into it.”

Donna Zetterlund earned third-place recognition for her painting, “Garden of the Mind 2.”

“This reminded me of the native plants I use as a landscape designer to create outdoor spaces,” Onwenu said. “I could smell the wildflowers in the painting.”

Honorable mentions also were given to Ellen Doyle for her painting “Alpine Irises,” Marcella A. MacLean for her photograph “Leaf on My Windshield,” Brenda Beene Shackleford for her mixed media bound book “Mother Earth Whispered” and Sara Wolf for her painting

See SPRING, page 2B



Above, Michelle Nunley’s piece, “Renewal,” placed second. Right “Garden of the Mind 2,” by Donna Zetterlund, received third-place honors.





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GPAA lecture examines DIA’s founding partners

USA Today readers have consistently voted the Detroit Institute of Arts among the top two art museums in the nation. The editors of the Michelin’s Green Guide to Detroit agree with them and give the DIA three stars, its highest rating.

Who helped the DIA develop its institutional vision that has guided it through the years to reach this acclaim? At 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12, in the Veterans’ Room of the historic Alger House on The War Memorial campus, librarian and researcher Mike Kroll will talk about the partnership of the DIA’s first director, Dr. Wilhelm Valentiner, and Edsel Ford. He credits the duo with establishing the foundation for the DIA’s current collection of more than 65,000 works — among the largest and most comprehensive in the United States.

It is fitting that the lecture will be held in Alger House, which was a branch of the DIA from 1936 to 1948, and home to Valentiner for some of that time.

Kroll theorizes the success of the Valentiner/Ford team is based on the two very different skill sets they brought to the table. Valentiner was an art insider and Ford was noted for bringing fast, stylish cars to market.

This is the final lecture in a series organized by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association. Kroll and The War Memorial donate their time and services, so all funds go directly to cover the expenses of GPAA’s programming for high school artists, senior citizens and veterans.

To register for the lecture, visit grossepointeartcenter.org/events/#!event-list



In the “Detroit Industry Murals” by Diego Rivera at the DIA, Edsel Ford, who funded the work, and DIA Director Wilhelm Valentiner, who commissioned it, are shown observing the industrial scene at the Ford Rouge Plant.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN POPE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM KLEIN

“Female Goose Showing Us Her Eggs” by Jim Klein.

SPRING:

Continued from page 1B

“The Return.”

Onwenu said she enjoyed meeting the artists during a gallery talk at the end of March.

“It’s one thing to see the pieces on a computer screen, but being in person adds depth and context to each piece,” she said. “And I got to meet the artists and hear their stories as well.”

Added Pope, “Our gallery talks are not just wine and cheese. The juror talks, then we ask for volunteers to talk about their work. A lot of times the artists will say, ‘This is my group, these fellow artists.’ It gives them a sense of belonging. The gallery talk has a way of creating a sense of community.”

The GPAA gallery is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

“I hope you like the show,” Pope said. “It’s really happy and uplifting with all the bursts of color. It makes you happy even on a cold day.”

More in store

In its guest gallery, GPAA currently is hosting the exhibition, “Self Expressions,” featuring work by mem-

bers of the Lakeside Palette Club, through May 1.

A gallery talk is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9. All are invited.

Next up for the GPAA is an exhibition featuring pieces created by its Promising Artists program for high school students, followed by an exhibition celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States.



“Cherry Blossoms” by Ellen Melcher is on display in the Lakeside Palette Club’s exhibition, “Self Expressions.”

AREA ACTIVITIES

- ### Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms:

 - ◆ Our Diaries, Ourselves: Author Talk, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9.
 - ◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ D&D Kids Club, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.
 - ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 16.
 - ◆ Marble Run Design, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park:

 - ◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 9.
 - ◆ Teddy Bear Clinic with MSU, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 10.
 - ◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 11.
 - ◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 14.
 - ◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 14.
 - ◆ Gettin’ Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 15.
 - ◆ Crafternoons @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 16.
 - ◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods:

 - ◆ Reader Dog, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, April 11.
 - ◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ Botanical Bookmark Linocut Workshop, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ The Laughing Stacks Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 13.
 - ◆ Financial Literacy Month Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 15.
 - ◆ Colonialist Richard Cranch, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15.
 - ◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 16.
 - ◆ Poetry Workshop with M.L. Liebler, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16.
- ◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16.
 - ◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18.

Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres hosts its welcome back spring meeting at noon Thursday, April 9, at Viviano’s on Harper in St. Clair Shores. The gathering will feature a floral demonstration and is followed by lunch at Waves. Sharon Lutz is the event hostess.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

 - ◆ The movie “Soul on Fire,” is shown at noon Friday, April 10. Cost is \$4 and includes snacks.
 - ◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, noon to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. The gang is going to Waves in St. Clair Shores.
 - ◆ Spanish for Beginners, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 14 to June 2. Cost is \$40 for the series.
 - ◆ Continuing Spanish, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 14 to June 2. Cost is \$40 for the series.
 - ◆ Lunch & Learn: Live Well with Dr. Gupta, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15. Cost is \$10.
 - ◆ Spring Serenade, with the Detroit Opera, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$20.
 - ◆ Canasta, noon to 4 p.m. Mondays.
 - ◆ Wise Guys Conversation Group, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays.
 - ◆ Texas Hold ’em Poker, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday.
 - ◆ Knitting for Charity, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.
 - ◆ Pinochle Club, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
 - ◆ Crafting for Charity, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays.
 - ◆ Mahjong Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
 - ◆ Bingo and Treats, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays.
 - ◆ Ping-Pong Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays.
 - ◆ New Games at The Helm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Questers

The Pear Tree Questers meets at 1 p.m. Friday,

- April 10, at the home of member Jenny McAtee. The program entails the history of charm bracelets. Members are encouraged to bring their own charm bracelets.
- ### POST Detroit
- POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during April. To sign up for the following, visit mutualadoration.com:
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Bud Vases with Rachel Gervais, 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 10. Cost is \$65.
 - ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Garden Bird Bath, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$100.
 - ◆ Knitting Workshop: Beginner Level, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$70.
 - ◆ Screen Print Workshop: Tea Towels with Scarlet Crane, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Art as Talisman Workshop: Intention Painting with Shug, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 11. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Weaving Workshop: Framed Tapestries, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Cost is \$85.
 - ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Create Your own Goo with Melissa Dettloff, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays, April 11 and 19. Cost is \$100.
 - ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Resin Jewelry with Trice Clark, noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Cost is \$45.
 - ◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Necklaces, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Cost is \$95.
 - ◆ Visible Mending Workshop with Matthew Addonizio of Approved Textiles, 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 12. Cost is \$70.
 - ◆ Beginner Sewing Workshop: Linen Throw Pillows, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Basket Weaving Workshop: Tote Baskets, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$125.
 - ◆ Enamel Workshop: Colorful Wall Hanging Pendants, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$100.
 - ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Critter Dish Trinket Trays, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$60.
 - ◆ Mending Workshop: Loom Darning, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 19. Cost is \$75.
 - ◆ Ceramics Workshop: Botanical Imprint
- See EVENTS, page 6B

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Fontbonne fashion show raises funds for cancer treatment

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Fontbonne Auxiliary presents its Fashion for Hope fashion show fundraiser at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“I am humbled and honored to chair the fashion show once again,” said Stephanie Berri, who promises an exciting evening full of high fashion and fabulous raffle prizes.

New this year, Berri will host a VIP preview party at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at her Grosse Pointe Farms home, featuring designer Ximena Kavalekas.

“I wanted to do a little something different,” Berri said. “My friend Ximena agreed to come to my house and do all this. She is a well-known designer in Miami. Her handbags are carried by Sarah Jessica Parker and Sophia Vergara.”

Kavalekas will bring handbags and clothing to the preview party, offering VIP guests a chance to snatch them up before they hit the runway, Berri said.

“And 10 percent of any purchase will be donated to Fontbonne,” she added.

Those interested in the preview party — which does not require the purchase of a ticket — should RSVP to (313) 618-8636.

Kavalekas also will share her designs during the April 23 fashion show, joining the styl-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON LOUDERMILK PHOTOGRAPHY & PRODUCTIONS

A model struts along the runway during last year's show.

ings of Saks Fifth Avenue, Just Girls, Lilly Pulitzer, The Village Boutique, Pearl and The Village Palm.

Tickets to the fashion show are \$125 each. Proceeds will support a new treatment option for cancer patients at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

“We’re trying to raise money for Pressurized Intra-peritoneal Aerosolized Chemotherapy, which is a cutting-edge, minimally invasive treatment for late-stage abdominal cancer that uses a lower dose of chemotherapy, reducing side effects and hospital stays while minimizing exposure to the rest of the body,” said Lorna Zalenski, Fontbonne president. “Henry Ford St. John Hospital is the only hospital in Michigan offering this therapy.

Patients travel locally, nationally and internationally to receive this therapy.

“When I started in nursing, oncology was my first love,” she added, “so I’m thrilled about this.”

“The surgeries are performed by my husband (Richard Berri, M.D.) and the great team they have at Henry Ford St. John Hospital,” Berri added.

Fontbonne has a fundraising goal of \$35,000 or more. In addition to ticket sales, sponsorships and other opportunities to support Fontbonne are available.

“We’re still looking for underwriters for our printing costs, centerpieces, favors, valet parking,” Zalenski said. “We also welcome advertising in our program book. You can also become a patron of

the event.

“If someone wants to be a sponsor or underwriter or patron or advertiser, they can do it in memory or on honor of someone,” she added.

All levels of support are tax-deductible and should be reserved by Monday, April 13, for inclusion in the fashion show program book.

For more details, call Zalenski at (313) 590-5607 or email llz523@aol.com.

Though she’s previously co-chaired the event, this is Berri’s first year helming the fashion show herself. She credited Zalenski and everyone at Fontbonne for their support.

“I’ve made great friends and I hope to see lots of new friends at the fashion show to support this amazing event,” she said. “This is a great community that



From left, Fontbonne Auxiliary President Lorna Zalenski, 2025 fashion show co-chairs Stephanie Berri and Camille Cracchiolo at last year's event.

is very generous. ... And Lorna is an amazing woman with an amazing heart.”

“The feeling is mutual,” Zalenski added. “Stephanie steps right up and goes above and beyond. We’ve become good friends. And a shout out to

Camille (Cracchiolo), who has done a lot of good leg work for us.”

Berri’s former event co-chair, Cracchiolo served on this year’s Fashion Show Committee, along with Jordyn Cytacki, Kathy McDonald, Madeleine Phillips and Zalenski.



Mary Lamparter carefully reviews fishbowl raffle prizes.



Madeleine Phillips, Fontbonne corresponding secretary, browses last year's crop of raffle prizes.



Guests at last year's event await the fashion show.

Eastside Republican Club to host candidates in critical 2026 races

The Eastside Republican Club will host Michigan gubernatorial candidate Tom Leonard and Michigan Senate District 12 candidate Eileen Tesch at its next forum Tuesday, April 21, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Leonard was nominated as state representative in 2012, and served as Speaker of the House in his third and last term.

His major legislative achievements include mental health and teacher pension reforms, as well as tax relief. He also helped pass Freedom of Information Act expansion and Michigan constitutional carry. He has been a partner and shareholder at Plunkett Clooney law firm since 2020. Leonard’s Republican primary com-

See RACES, page 5B

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OBITUARIES

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

Nancy Jo Swartz

Nancy Jo Swartz, 75, passed away Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Nancy was born Feb. 15, 1950, to Helen and Gordon Owens, both now deceased. She also was predeceased by her husband, William Swartz; and sister, Cheri Darling. She is survived by her son, Jonathon Morgan (Carla); grandchildren, Emma and Sam; nephews, Mike Darling and Todd Darling (Min); and two grand-nephews.

Nancy, well-loved by parents, colleagues and students, often was likened to “The Frizz” from “The Magic School Bus.” She had the heart of a teacher and inspired youth for three decades at Richard Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Her appetite for education transcended the classroom to neighbors, friends and even Mad Hatter-themed tea parties. There was no bound to her ingenuity, hobbies or interests, including cooking, gardening and ushering at Detroit’s Fisher Theatre.

An avid learner, there was a contagious thrill whenever she shared a new discovery. As a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Nancy gave witness to a heart of service and love for her country. A cherished neighbor, she was known for adoring her little dogs, especially her many pugs. Her passion for quilting was evidence of her creative talent and left people inspired by each quilt’s intricate designs. She loved Jesus and worshipped weekly, in addition to supporting Christian charities worldwide.

A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. James Lutheran Church, 170 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms. A luncheon will immediately follow at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Her family and friends will miss their beloved Nancy.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, bit.ly/4BvECe; or the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/donate.

George “Jerry” Jaglowicz

George “Jerry” Jaglowicz, 91, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 26, 2026, at home in Schaumburg, Ill.

Jerry was born July 27, 1934, in Detroit, to George Jaglowicz and Marion Stocker Jaglowicz. He grew up on the northeast side of Detroit and attended Detroit University High School (now University Liggett School) in Grosse Pointe Woods. After high school, he graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 1958. He played on the football team during his freshman year.

In 1959, he married the love of his life, Gretchen Slenger, in Ann Arbor. They enjoyed 48 wonderful years together before her passing in 2007.

After college, Jerry worked for the family business, Jaglowicz Shoes, before joining General Foods (now Kraft Heinz). He retired after 32 years in various sales management roles.

Jerry was a true sales professional who thoroughly enjoyed his customers and colleagues, many of whom became his lifelong friends.

Jerry was an avid U of M football supporter and active Alumni Club member, which led to him attending many games in Ann Arbor and dozens of away games, including in Hawaii, and a Rose Bowl win in Pasadena in 1989.

In retirement, Jerry and Gretchen spent their winters in Naples, Fla., and made many new friends along the way. Annual summer trips to Saugatuck with their Michigan friends were a special event.

Jerry enjoyed fishing on Lake St. Clair with his father and children, as well as boating on Geneva Lake in Wisconsin, golfing in Florida and his weekly tee time with his friends from Elk Grove at Fox Run Golf Links in Illinois.

Jerry is survived by his two children, Laurie Wenzel and John Jaglowicz; son-in-law, Michael Wenzel; daughter-in-law, Tina Altobello Jaglowicz; four grandchildren, Bradley Wenzel (Aubrey), Nathan Wenzel (Lisa), Danielle Jaglowicz and Alyssa Conlon (Aidan); and two great-grandchildren,

Landon and Mason Wenzel.

A private service will be held in Ann Arbor at a later date.

Francine Kramer-Quasarano

Francine Kramer-Quasarano, 72, of Harrison Township, passed away Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026.

Francine was born Dec. 28, 1953, in Grosse Pointe Farms, to Bernadine and Joseph Kramer. She was a 1968 graduate of St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School and a 1972 graduate of Dominican High School. She married Vincent Quasarano in 1989; they enjoyed a fun and loving relationship for 36 years. She built a career as a hairstylist at Edward Nepi Salon and Salon Besa, where she thrived doing what she did best: connecting with people and making them feel beautiful inside and out. Her vibrant, outgoing and caring personality fostered lifelong friendships with her fellow stylists and clients.

Francine loved dogs, especially her beloved boxer, Cooper. Dogs loved her back, most of all for her kind spirit, but also because she always had a treat in her pocket or car. She was always moving and loved to travel with Vince, her family and friends to new places like the Grand Canyon, Hocking Hills, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Zion National Park, Paris and familiar favorites like Lexington and Hubbard Lake. But she was most at home wherever she was surrounded by the ones she loved. Francine loved any reason to celebrate; Halloween was her favorite holiday and she was known to go all-out with decorations both fun and frightening.

Above all else, she adored her family. She was a devoted and loving wife, sister, stepmother, step-grandmother, daughter and aunt. She had a special gift for making time together fun, often bringing games, crafts or some small surprise that turned ordinary moments into lasting memories. Francine will be remembered by all who knew her for her generosity, joy, boundless love, kindness, perseverance, gen-



Nancy Jo Swartz



George Jaglowicz



F. Kramer-Quasarano

tle demeanor and the way she made people feel loved, cherished and cared for.

Francine is survived by her husband of 36 years, Vincent Quasarano; step-daughter, Kimberly Starr (John); brothers, Joseph Kramer (Gerry), Michael Kramer (Ellen) and Timothy Kramer (Colleen); sister, Nadine Unkovich (John); as well as her step-grandsons and many beloved nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

The following foundations had a special meaning to Francine: St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, the Macular Society, the Michigan Animal Rescue League and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

A funeral Mass and celebration of life was held at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park.

Catherine Danz Kaiser

Catherine Danz “Catie” Kaiser, 47, of North Charleston, S.C., passed away at home Friday, March 13, 2026, after a tenacious and courageous five-year battle with cancer.

Catie was born in Grosse Pointe to Jay and Christine (nee Sholander) Kaiser. She grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1996, before graduating from Beloit College. Catie made her home in Charleston, S.C., and worked as a waitress and bartender to fund her start in nursing. She was a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and was a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for Adults/Adolescents. She also earned a Master of Science in Nursing degree.

She worked at the Medical University of South Carolina her entire career. Her work resulted in a number of unit-based committee chairmanships, as well as membership on the board of the Charleston County School District Health and Wellness Advisory Committee and the Medical University of South Carolina Health and Wellness Committee.

Catie was heroic as a nurse and committed to her work. She was tireless, self-sacrificing and recognized by her peers with a number of commendations and awards, including Unit Nurse of the Year and Service Line Nurse of the Year. She also was a Palmetto Gold Award Finalist and MUSC Health Safety Coach of the Year.

Catie enjoyed travel and had many opportunities during her youth and later, with her husband and son, to visit Scandinavia, Europe, Africa and much of the U.S. She had an unmatched dry humor and the remarkable abil-



Catherine Danz Kaiser



Mary Matta

ity to induce people to smile when she entered a room. Her kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity touched the lives of all who met her.

She will be greatly missed by her loving husband, Stuart K. Cribb; and her son, Brode. Catie also is survived by her parents; sisters, MaryBeth Coffey (Ryan) and Bridget Stallkamp (Timothy); as well as her nieces, nephew and a host of uncles, aunts and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Liberty Hill Afterschool Enrichment Program, 4790 Hassell North, North Charleston, S.C. 29405, lhenrichment.org/donate.

Mary Matta

Mary (nee Aboud) Matta, 93, passed away peacefully Monday, March 30, 2026.

Mary was born in 1932, in Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, Canada, alongside her identical twin sister, Jane. Mary and Jane were the youngest of eight children born to Rose and Najib Aboud. As a child, Mary moved with her family to the Toronto area, where she was raised and educated. She later worked as a legal assistant in Toronto, a role she greatly enjoyed.

In 1960, Mary married her beloved husband, Virgil. From then on, they were known as “The Virg ’n’ Mary.” They moved to Detroit, where they raised their four children and became active members of St. Matthew Church and the school community. In 1974, Mary encouraged her family to relocate to Grosse Pointe Park, where they became devoted members of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish and its Catholic school.

Mary was deeply connected to her Lebanese heritage and community. She was involved in organizations such as the North Lebanon Society and Fontbonne Auxiliary. She was a volunteer at Henry Ford Medical Center—Grosse Pointe Cottage Hospital. She also worked with the Detroit Convention Bureau.

Mary had a vibrant social life and loved playing cards well into her 93rd year, as well as

entertaining guests and spending time with friends and family. Mary’s knack for cooking was legendary and she prided herself on creating some of the best versions of classic Lebanese dishes. She enjoyed reading and word puzzles until her final days. She especially cherished meaningful conversations and lively discussions, including her passion for politics.

Above all, Mary’s life centered on her family. She was endlessly devoted and gave her love, time and energy to them without hesitation.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Virgil; as well as her parents, all her siblings and their spouses.

She is survived by her loving children, Barbara Tolbert (John), Robert (Rima), Paul and Victoria Matta-Zonni (Joe); cherished grandchildren, Jack (Angela), Kyle, Courtney, Sophia, Juliana, Jonathan and Andrew; and many nieces and nephews that kept in close contact with her over the years, especially Katheryn, Kiera and David Frame, Alexandra and Nabil Khoury, Dr. Amine and Karin Amine, Marilyn, Jay, Michael, Cheryl, Mary (Haddad), Tina, Corinne, Carla, Cassie, Christopher (Fahad), Carolyn, Diane, Connie (Haddad), Paul, Pam, Janice, Michael, Diane and Sandra (Zed) and Caroline and Paula (Habib).

Mary’s last few years were deeply enriched by her wonderful caregivers, Mary, Joann, Theresa, Beth and Diane. Her family is appreciative of the love and care they provided.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 10, with a scripture service at 6:30 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

Mary will lie in state at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 11, until a 9:30 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Burial will be held in Windsor, Ontario.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/3XuSSi0; or Kiera’s Hope Project, P.O. Box 26, Dexter, MI 48130, cdk15research.org/kiera-s-hope-project, in honor of Mary’s niece, Kiera Frame.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

‘Eliminating the Electoral College’ hosted by LWVGP

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe will host a program examining the role and future of the Electoral College at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Throughout American history, five presidential elections have resulted in a candidate winning the presidency without securing the most votes nationwide — raising concerns about whether the system fully reflects the will of the people.

The Electoral College determines the outcome of presidential elections based on state-by-state results rather than the national popular vote. Critics contend this structure can distort rep-

resentation and shift decisive influence away from the broader electorate.

The featured speaker is Maria Woloson, president of the League of Women Voters Oakland Area and an attorney with more than 30 years of experience. She has been actively engaged in this issue following the 2000 and 2016 presidential elections, both of which resulted in presidents who did not win the national popular vote.

In 2022, the League of Women Voters of the United States identified eliminating the Electoral College as a top priority and launched a multi-year initiative to advance the effort.

The public is invited to attend. Registration is not required.

DAR announces contest winners



Zachary Morgan, left, and Elliott Hemler were honored by DAR for their video.

COURTESY PHOTOS

American History Video Contest

America celebrates its 250th birthday July 4, 2026. For the DAR American History Video Contest, the organization asked students in grades five through eight to craft a video titled, “Lunch with a Signer.”

Students responded to the questions, “If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our country becoming independent?”

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American

Revolution selected the chapter-level winning team of Elliott Hemler and Zachary Morgan, sixth graders at University Liggett School. Both students have a passion for history and demonstrated a knack for bringing history to life with their winning video. The students elected to have lunch with Phillip Livingston. A founding father, merchant and politician, Livingston represented New York in the First Continental Congress in 1774, the Second Continental Congress from 1775-78, and then signed the Declaration of Independence.

From left, Amelia Unkel, Sonya Jayakar and Amelie Duhaime earned third, first and second places, respectively, in the DAR American Revolution Essay Contest.



Patriots of the American Revolution Essay Contest

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recently announced the winners of the Patriots of the American Revolution essay contest, which targets 10th grade students. All of this year’s winners at the chapter level are from University Liggett School.

The contest asks students to select a figure from the era of the American Revolution, 1773-83. In the essay, students must discuss how their chosen figure influenced the course of the

American Revolution, who he or she was and his/her contribution to the founding of a new nation. The essay parameters challenge a student’s knowledge of the Revolutionary War era, as well as the people whose roles shaped history.

The chapter’s first-place winner is Sonya Jayakar, whose essay is titled, “The Heroic story of Polly Cooper: A woman who pronouncedly influenced the founding of a new nation.” Cooper,

See PATRIOTS, page 6B



From left, Mary Shanle, Violet Marchesseau and Quentin Zhou earned third place, second place and first place, respectively, in DAR’s American History Essay Contest.

American History Essay Contest

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recently announced this year’s American History essay contest winners. Each year eighth-grade students across the country are asked to write an essay about a prescribed topic, which then is submitted to a panel of judges to select winners. With the

250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence this year, students were asked to respond to the following questions in their essay: “If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would

See HISTORY, page 6B



Staff of The Helm pose outside Lola’s Taco Bar on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HELM

Helping The Helm

The Helm is the partner organization for Lola’s Taco Bar Good Taco program in April. The Helm will receive \$1 for every Spicy Jerk Chicken taco Lola’s sells in April. A few members of The Helm staff took a lunch field trip to Lola’s to try out the tasty treat.



Staff of The Helm try the Spicy Jerk Chicken taco. Their verdict: It’s delicious and perfectly spiced.

Wei Yu, Keun-A Lee in concert April 12

Wei Yu, principal cellist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Keun-A Lee, keyboardist for the DSO, will be featured in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12.



Wei Yu, left, and Keun-A Lee will perform at Memorial Church April 12.

Yu and Lee are resident favorites at Grosse Pointe Farms. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

humor to their joint performances. They will provide a program featuring works by Schubert, Haydn and Dvorak.

Memorial Church is located at 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, offers its Lunch, Laugh and Learn program Thursday, April 16. Rosann Kovalcik, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, will speak about the care and feeding of ruby-throated hummingbirds, Michigan’s only hummingbird species. Lunch is at noon, followed by the program at 12:45 p.m. Free-will donations are collected at the door. Reservations are required. Call (313) 884-4820 to secure a seat.

RACES:

Continued from page 3B

petitors include Mike Cox, John James, Perry Johnson, Aric Nesbitt and Ralph Rebandt.

Tesch was mayor of Algonac in 2016, and currently is a podcaster and investigative journalist. Her political activism includes exposing waste, fraud and abuse, as well as advocating for election

integrity, government overreach, right to life and parental rights.

Tesch’s Republican primary competitor is Shelley Wright. The winner will run against Kevin Hertel in the November general election.

“We look forward to hearing these candidates explain their platforms on how to get Michigan back on track,” said Renee Strobl, Eastside Republican Club chair.

“Michigan is tired of the Democratic radical agenda that has disastrous repercussions, not the least of which includes insecure elections and sexually transitioning our youth.”

Doors to the forum open at 7 p.m. All are welcome. A \$5 donation is suggested for non-members.

Visit eastsiderepublican.club or find the club on Facebook or X.

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Continued from page 5B

Amelie Duhaime placed second in this category with her essay, "Agent 355: A Heroine Still Unknown." Agent 355 is said to have been a spy who assisted George Washington in win-

The chapter's third-place essay winner is Amelia Unkel, whose essay is titled, "Courage has no gender: Margaret Corbin's struggle for Independence and Equality." Corbin was a tenacious Pennsylvania woman who followed her husband into service and literally dressed as a man to join him in battle at Fort Washington on Manhattan Island. She was the first woman to receive a military pension.

Continued from page 5B

Violet Marchesseau was awarded second place as she selected a signer

This year's contest judges found it challenging to select the winners from among many talented, creative students.

Continued from page 2B

◆ Ford House After Dark, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Admission is \$25 for Friends, \$35 for the pub-

lic.

Blood drives

◆ 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 17, The

The War Memorial

◆ Middle School
Dance: Under the Stars,
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Family Center

◆ **Health for Her: Sex & Intimacy as We Age, 6 to 7:15 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.**

Rotary

Live music

Singer/songwriter Jeff Fisk will entertain at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at Antonio's in the Park, 15117 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Tickets are \$25 and available at jef-fisk.com. Proceeds benefit Habitat For Humanity Detroit.

Healthy GP&HW

The Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Coalition meets at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. State Sen. Kevin Hertel will discuss two policy areas currently moving through the Michigan Legislature: proposed legislation to ban the consumption and distribution of kratom in Michigan and a package

aimed at strengthening online safety protections for minors. All are welcome to attend.

GPAA

◆ Expressive Figurative Painting with Liz Frankland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, April 21 to May 12.

Garage Resale

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores, hosts its Spring Garage Resale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 17, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Early-bird admission for \$1 is Friday from 8 to 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the McWarm Program and the church.

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2C GP GABBY | 2C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C - 5C COMICS

Welcome the wood duck as Michigan’s state duck

By Rosann Kovalcik
Special Writer

It’s official! We have a state duck and what a beauty it is: the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*).

A stunning waterfowl, wood duck males sport green and chestnut colors on their head, which is tufted and has striking white markings dashing front to back. Other markings and colors all over the bird make it an absolute pleasure to view.

The females have subdued coloring, but sport a characteristic white eye liner. Wood ducks are one of the few duck species equipped with strong claws that can perch on branches and grip bark.

Most wood ducks leave Michigan for the winter, returning in March already paired and looking for a nest cavity. That’s right: They are a duck species



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSANN KOVALCIK

Wood duck fledglings.

that uses a tree’s natural cavity or one created by a woodpecker. They will readily use nest boxes provided for them and a pair can be observed at Lake St. Clair Metropark, recently seen inspecting the nest boxes provided. In California, a large, well-coordinated nest

box program produced more than 1 million wood duck ducklings from 1991 to 2024.

Wood ducks are dabbling ducks, which means they reach with their beaks for aquatic plant material, sometimes making a shallow dive. They will eat acorns, smartweed,

water primrose, panic grass, duckweed, millet, waterlily, blackberries and wild cherries, as well as flies, beetles, caterpillars, isopods and snails.

The female lays anywhere from six to 16 eggs and she alone incubates them for 28 to 37 days. Young ones take a literal dive from the nest to the ground below when they are one day old. They will remain with the female for five to six weeks, but are not capable of flight until eight to nine weeks of age. Wood ducks are one of the few ducks that may have a second brood.

As a result of market hunting and loss of bottom-land hardwood forests and other valuable habitat, wood ducks were driven to the brink of extinction at the turn of the 20th century.

Fortunately, protections provided by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the restoration of crucial habitats has helped wood ducks achieve a dramatic recovery over the decades.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMON DONTREMONT

A wood duck male.

Ducks Unlimited has played a key role in the population of these highly prized birds now being healthy.

Where can we go to see these beauties? As of the end of March, many wood ducks are gathered in small groups near Crescent Sail Yacht Club and Farms Pier Park. They

also can be seen at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. Any nature trails that are near water also would be suitable places to allow you looks at our state duck.

Rosann Kovalcik is the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Grosse Pointe Woods.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE SUBOLEFSKY

A wood duck pair.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Dr. Paul Ward

The ‘1-2-3 Magic’ approach to raising children

The “1-2-3 Magic” approach, developed by psychologist Dr. Thomas W. Phelan, rests on the idea that children feel safest when parents act as calm, confident leaders rather than as peers or “best friends.” It promotes a “benevolent dictatorship,” where adults clearly are in charge, but their authority is exercised with warmth, fairness and consistency. Discipline is framed not as punishment or power struggle, but as teaching: helping children learn what is safe, respectful and expected, so they can ultimately manage themselves without constant supervision.

Foundational to this model is the link between discipline, safety and attachment. Children typically misbehave less because they are bad and more because they feel insecure or unsure where the limits are. Predictable rules and consequences create a sense of emotional safety, echoing attachment theory’s idea of caregivers as a secure base and safe haven. Parents are encouraged to be warm and emotionally available, yet clear and consistent in expectations and follow-through, so children can test limits while trusting that the relationship remains stable.

The book warns against two common errors: treating children as “little adults” and overparenting. The “Little Adult Assumption” happens when parents mistake early independence (dressing, snacks, bathroom) for adult-like emotional or cognitive maturity, handing over choices that should

not be optional and eroding parental authority. At the other extreme, helicopter parenting — overprotection and constant intervention — can undermine confidence and coping skills, contributing to anxiety and dependence. In everyday practice, “1-2-3 Magic” uses simple, pre-taught rules and a neutral counting system (rather than arguments or lectures) to enforce limits. Over time, fair, consistent discipline builds character, emotional security and self-control, allowing children to grow into resilient, responsible adults.

Dr. Paul Ward is a licensed clinical psychologist with more than 20 years of experience treating adolescents, adults, couples and families. He is the owner and clinical director for Michigan Psychological, PC, with offices in St. Clair Shores and Shelby Township. For more information, visit mi-psych.com.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

The Family Center will host a three-part parenting series based on its most recent Community Book Discussion, “1-2-3 Magic,” with three panelists each speaking on a different aspect of their take-aways from the book. The Family Center has copies of all of its Community Book Discussion books, as well as kits for book clubs.

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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Think structured fun to reduce summer screen time

Dear Gabby: My kids have turned into full-time phone zombies. Even in paradise on spring break, I had to take their phones. If they're not asleep, they're scrolling, tapping or watching something. I suggest going outside and suddenly I'm the villain. How do I get them to actually do something? I'm worried about the upcoming summer. — Screenagers in the Shores

Dear Screenagers: Here's the truth: If you simply say "go play outside," you'll get eye rolls and they'll go right back

to their "shorts" and unfunny, annoying videos. You need a solid strategy. Start by replacing, not just removing. A blank "no phones" rule creates mutiny and frankly it just doesn't work. A plan can create buy-in. Think in terms of structure that can also be fun:

- A weekly "challenge list" (bike ride, water balloon tournament, build something ridiculous in the yard, crafts, old toy clean-outs) with a reward when completed (ice cream, a NeeDoh, etc).
- Invite a friend over.

Kids are far more motivated in packs to go "do something."

- If they are sitting at home whining or trying to get the phones back, present a list of chores that need to be done. Nobody finds something to do faster than a teen faced with garbage duty.
- Set a daily limit on screen time so it's not all-or-nothing. Try to be realistic; the goal is moderation.

Also, lean into their interests. If they love filming, have them create a "summer vlog." If they like games, turn real

life into one — scavenger hunts, backyard competitions, neighborhood Olympics. And yes, you may have to tolerate a little whining at first. That's just the sound of a brain rebooting from the dopamine overload. Stick with it. By week two, they'll likely remember what boredom is — and more importantly, realize how to fix it.y.

— Gabby

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

Private matters, public knowledge

DEAR ANNIE: I love your advice and the fact you're able to cut to the chase. I find myself in need of your level head, too! I've been (mostly) happily married for 26 years. My husband is very gregarious and never met a stranger. In fact, he happily opens up his life to anyone and everyone. I feel like he constantly overshares, but as long as he keeps it to his own information, that's fine. However, he doesn't keep my information private, especially my health

information. A few years ago, I had a cancer scare and chose not to tell even my adult children until I knew for sure. He told his co-workers, his side of the family, our friends — all before I knew what my test results were. Everyone thought I had cancer, so I eventually had to explain that no, I didn't. I also had surgery a couple years ago and wanted to keep it private, but I started getting messages like, "I'm so sorry you have to have a hysterectomy.

What happened?" I have a very public job in a small community. Most people know me. It's highly embarrassing when I have to step in the spotlight, knowing that all these people know my personal, private information. I've talked to him over and over about this. He always apologizes and says he "forgot" that I prefer to keep things private. I even tried keeping my health information away from him — my own husband — so he couldn't share it. But he

also opens my mail and sees my bills and test results before I do. There is no "hiding" anything from him. How do I handle this, Annie? I'm getting desperate. — Personal Information Is Private

DEAR PERSONAL INFORMATION: Your husband's friendliness shouldn't be confused with what's happening here — breaching trust. Medical information is yours to share, not his to broadcast. You've already explained



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

your wishes. Now's the time for firmer boundaries. Tell him plainly that sharing your private information is unacceptable and that "forgetting" is no longer an excuse. This is about respect. If he still doesn't get the message, protect your privacy in practical ways, like having mail sent electronically or asking your doctors not

to share information with anyone but you. A good marriage includes trust and discretion. He doesn't need to stop being outgoing. He just needs to learn that your life is not his story to tell.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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MOVIE REVIEW
"The Unknown Country"
2022 - Not Rated
1 hr 25 min
★★★★☆

If you're looking for a fast-paced, thriller, you'll probably want to pass on this one. "The Unknown

Country" is a gentle, lyrical road-trip movie that's primarily focused on a young woman dealing with loss, healing and self discovery. It's the very antithesis of an action film. But what a wonderful experience it is. It's an hour and a half respite

from the troubled reality we're currently living through. The film is from the talented young director Morriisa Maltz, a relative newcomer who's known for her films "Jazzy" and "Ingrid." It's unfortunate that this film had such a limited release, but it's been garnering quite a bit more attention now that it's offered on a number of streaming platforms. Maltz wrote the screenplay along with its star Lily Gladstone and Lainey Shangreaux. This is the perfect example of what an indie film is all about. Like most indies, it was made on a limited budget. But it features great performances from everyone in it, especially Lily Gladstone. Gladstone has been rather busy as of late, appearing in several films including "Killers of the Flower Moon," "Jazzy" and the TV series "Reservation Dogs." She does an outstanding job here and was captivating in every scene she appears in. And she's one of the few professional actors in the movie — the rest of the cast are real folks Ms. Maltz encountered along the way. Cinematographer Andrew Hajek did a phenomenal job — which is most apparent in the camerawork of the countryside, painting a gorgeous portrait of what a beautiful country we live in. There were several shots of snow-covered landscapes that I thought would make wonderful paintings. His use of aerial photography of Lily



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



driving on deserted stretches of highway were equally impressive. They perfectly captured the mood of loneliness and isolation. As the film begins, we meet Tana (Gladstone), a young Oglala Lakota woman living in Minneapolis. She was the primary caregiver for her terminally ill grandmother, who has just passed away. She packs up her grandmother's Cadillac and hits the road. Her first stop is Spearfish, S. D., to reunite with her Native American relatives and participate in her cousin Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux's wedding. Lainey describes the events leading up her wedding. She met and fell in love with her childhood sweetheart Devin when they were only 13 years old. As she puts it, "We got tired of our parents trying to keep us away from each other." They decided to have a child so they couldn't be kept apart. Jasmine, a smart, energetic young girl, was the result of their plan. As you'd expect, the entire segment of the film is focused on Tana spending time with her family and is full of joy leading up to the actual wedding ceremony. It's a scene that ends too quickly. Tana's next stop is the Pine Ridge Reservation, to reconnect with her grandmother's younger brother August, played by Richard Ray Whitman ("Reservation Dogs"). He tells her that her grandmother was almost like a second mother to him and that Tana reminds him of her. It's a tender scene as we listen in on him reminiscing about his past. When the two of them hug at the end of Tana's visit, it's quite an emotional send off. You get the sense that it won't be the last time the two get together. The last portion of the film takes place in Texas. It's a welcome relief from the snowy, frigid climates Tana's been experiencing. It's also the most joyous

part of the story. Tana decides to stop in a bar/dance hall and has a blast participating in some exuberant line dancing. It's led by the 90-something year old Florence, or Flo as she's known to everyone. Then she hooks up with a bunch of fun-loving kids her own age and ends up spending the rest of the evening with them. One of the gang is Isaac, played by Raymond Lee of "Top Gun: Maverick." The two of them hit it off and it's a perfect antidote to the melancholy feeling that's been just below the surface for Tana. Overall, the film felt like a hybrid of a documentary and fiction. One of the techniques that Ms. Maltz employed is after several of the scenes, there was a brief aside where the focus of the scene discusses his or her life. I especially enjoyed the commentary from Pam, an offbeat waitress at a diner Tana visits early in the film.

See MOVIE, page 3C

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SONY MUSIC

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I don't usually change up my makeup routine. Once I find something I like, I stick with it. Lip products always have been the exception, mostly because I never really had a go-to. Between Michigan winters and constantly dry lips, I usually fall back on the same basic chapsticks. I also find a lot of lip products annoying to apply and even more annoying to keep reapplying throughout the day.



Summer Fridays Flushed Lip Stain has been a bit of a game changer for me. It's

a long-wear stain designed to leave a soft, flushed tint that enhances your natural lip tone and the formula is lightweight, buildable and transfer-proof. I use the shade Slipper, which is basically just a slightly deeper version of my natural lip color. I apply it once in the morning on dry lips and that's it. From there, I can put on chapstick, gloss or whatever else I want throughout the day and the color stays put underneath. Even

after coffee, lunch and everything in between, there's still a noticeable wash of color on my lips. One of the biggest perks is how easy it is to use. The marker-style tip makes it simple to apply without overthinking it and it dries down quickly without feeling tight or flaky. Other lip stains I've tried tend to feel dry or patchy, but this one doesn't. It's also easy to wear on its own or layered with balm or gloss for more shine, which beauty

editors often recommend for a softer finish. I like that it gives just enough color to make me look a little more put together without looking overly done. It's subtle, low effort and actually lasts, which is pretty much everything I want from a product at this point. If you're someone who doesn't want to think about your lip color all day or if you deal with dry lips and avoid most lip products because of it, this one is

worth trying. It's easy, reliable and quietly does its job. I'm giving it five out of five alligators. 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@grossepointe-news.com. 5 Out Of 5



Bright and herby artichoke pesto pasta

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Artichokes always have been a big deal in my family. Hands down, they're our favorite vegetable. It might have a little something to do with the melted butter situation. There's just something about pulling off those tender leaves, dipping them into warm butter and scraping off every last bite that feels both indulgent and oddly satisfying. It's the same reason we go all in on crab legs, any method of delivery. A perfectly steamed artichoke slows everything down in the best way. You sit, you chat, you dip, you savor. Add a glass of dry, crisp wine and suddenly it feels like a special occasion. That said, fresh artichokes can be a bit of a commitment. They're not always easy to find. I'm looking for the beautiful green, bulbous and meaty kind that aren't \$7 a piece — though I also know that's wishful thinking. So while we love them, they tend to be reserved for those moments when we want to make something feel a little extra special. Which is exactly why I love this recipe. This is an artichoke flavor bomb, all thanks to a can. Artichoke pesto has quickly climbed to the top of my list of favorite pasta

sauses. It's rich, herby and a little garlicky. All the elements of traditional pesto but with a bright, fresh twist. Because I'm starting with canned artichokes, I really lean into fresh ingredients to bring everything to life. Basil, mint and arugula go into the mix and together they create this incredibly vibrant, aromatic sauce. You could substitute frozen artichoke hearts if you can find them. Mint might sound a little unexpected, but it's very subtle and works so well with the artichoke. It doesn't overpower anything, it just adds this light, fresh note that makes the whole dish feel a little more special. The sauce is completely raw. Everything gets tossed into a food processor or blender and that's it. No cooking no fuss. Then, when you toss it with hot pasta and a splash of pasta water, something kind of magical happens. The heat wakes up all those fresh herbs and aromatics and suddenly the whole dish smells — and tastes — incredibly vibrant. It's simple, it's fresh and it gives you all the artichoke flavor you love minus the side of butter. It's a weeknight win for sure. Cheers, Mombeau

- Artichoke Pesto with Orrechiette**
- 1 14 oz can quartered artichoke hearts
 - ½ cup basil, firmly packed
 - ½ cup arugula, firmly packed
 - ½ cup pine nuts
 - 1 large garlic clove, smashed
 - 2 Tbsp chopped mint leaves
 - Juice of ½ lemon
 - ½ tsp kosher salt
 - ½ tsp red chili flakes
 - ¼ cup Parmigiano Reggiano
 - 3 Tbsp olive oil, plus 2 Tbsp
 - 1 cup reserved pasta liquid
 - 1 lb orechiette pasta
 - Flaky sea salt
- Add all ingredients, except the pasta and pasta water, to the bowl of a food processor or blender. Pulse until smooth. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add a couple tablespoons of

salt and then the pasta. Cook for about 10 minutes or until al dente. While the pasta boils, add about one cup of the pesto to the bottom of a serving bowl. When the pasta is ready to be drained, remove a half cup of pasta liquid. Add the water to the pesto in the bowl and stir to combine until it becomes slightly creamy. Add the drained, hot pasta over the top. Use a couple large serving spoons to pull the pesto through the pasta. Top with remaining olive oil, some extra Parmesan and torn basil and mint.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

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MONDAYS & SATURDAYS

MOVIE

Continued from page 2C

Her explanation of how she acquired all her cats and their names is very entertaining. I wish she included more of these insightful interludes. Another thing I appreciated is the fact that the movie never turned dark. There's one scene where while getting gas at night, Tana encounters a creepy-looking guy staring at her. When she pulls out of the gas station, she notices him following her. "Uh-oh," I said to myself. But before long, he turns off the road and that's the last we see of him. The fact that the movie ends up on a happy note was refreshing. In a way it reminded me a bit of last year's "Train Dreams." They both have a quietly calming feel to them — kind of like movie therapy! Note to parents: The film is unrated and I'd give it a PG-13. Fine for family viewing. As luck would have it, you have a bunch of viewing options. Streaming for free on Kanopy and

Hoopla (with your library card) and Tubi. And on Netflix, Hulu, and Prime, and to rent on Apple TV, YouTube, Plex, 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 buy it! If you have any movie 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: moviejunkie.mark.blogspot.com.

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Grosse Pointe Theatre presents the beloved musical based on Roald Dahl's classic story. Follow Matilda, a brilliant young girl with a vivid imagination, as she dares to stand up for what's right — and discovers her own extraordinary power along the way.

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Grosse
Pointe
News

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



Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

4/9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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4/2 Solution

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below.

BAGS
BOTTLES
CAP
CLEAN
GREEN
LOCAL
PLASTIC
PROBLEM
STRAWS
TONS
WORLD

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



Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in CAPRICORN.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 9, 2026: You are competent, practical, energetic and focused. You have a strong drive and strength of purpose. This year exciting changes will bring you increased personal freedom. Let go of what holds you back. Seek out new opportunities. Expect to travel.

♈

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Today your ruler, fiery Mars, enters your sign, introducing a six-week window of increased activity and a chance to further your own interests. You'll be more of a fighter for your own rights than usual. Tonight: You're admired.

♉

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

For the next six weeks, Mars will be hiding in your chart, which can be a bit challenging. You might be frustrated and feel resigned to being in the background. You might not get credit for what you do. Tonight: Explore!

♊

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

You're entering a lovely six-week window that's the perfect time to formulate your goals and actively pursue them. You can work successfully with others, especially if you coordinate your needs with theirs. Physical activity with friends will appeal. Tonight: Check your finances.

♋

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Today, fiery Mars moves to the top of your chart to stay for the next six weeks, arousing your ambition as never before. You'll get a lot done! But you might end up in conflict with authority figures, bosses or parents. Tonight: Cooperate.

♌

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Exciting news! For the next six weeks, you'll be more intellectually creative with goals related to writing, publishing, exploring new ideas and traveling. Put your energy into expanding your mind. Tonight: Get busy.

♍

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

In the next six weeks, you might encounter confrontations about shared property, taxes, debt, insurance issues or inheritances. Physical intimacy will be memorable! Tonight: Socialize.

♎

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Tread carefully in the next six weeks, because fiery Mars is opposite your sign. The problem is this can create confrontations in all your one-on-one relationships, especially spouses and partners. Tonight: Family time.

♏

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You'll be surprised at how productive you'll be in the next six weeks. Fiery Mars will help you accomplish whatever you want to do, especially at work. You'll put all of your energy into getting things done. Naturally, you want credit for what you do. Tonight: Conversations.

♐

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The planet Mars symbolizes our ego, and in the next six weeks, you'll demand to be yourself and express yourself exactly how you want. You'll shun self-denial, self-discipline and postponing self-gratification. Romance will be passionate and sexy. Tonight: Take care of your possessions.

♑

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You can expect increased activity (even chaos) on the home front for the next six weeks -- perhaps due to houseguests, residential moves, redecorating projects or renovations. Make an effort to get along with family members to avoid domestic strife. Tonight: You are strong.

♒

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The everyday tempo of your life will accelerate in the next six weeks. You have things to do, places to go and people to see! Do what you can to avoid arguments. Easy does it. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

♓

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll work hard to boost your income in the next six weeks. You also might find that you seem to identify more strongly with your wealth, your assets and the things that you own. Stay chill. Tonight: You're admired.

BORN TODAY

Actress Elle Fanning (1998), actress Kristen Stewart (1990), actress Cynthia Nixon (1966).

Contract Bridge

PLANNING THE PLAY

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 6 2
♥ J 7 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 9 4

WEST

♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ Q 3 2
♦ Q J
♣ K 10 8 2

EAST

♠ A 9 3
♥ 6 5
♦ 10 9 6 4
♣ J 7 6 3

SOUTH

♠ J 5
♥ A K 10 9 8
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A Q 5

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

Opening lead — diamond queen.

The outcome of many deals depends on whether or not declarer times his plays correctly. Consider this case where West leads the diamond queen against four hearts. After taking the trick with dummy's king, how should declarer proceed?
The first thing he must do is count his losers. This reveals that he could lose a spade, a heart, a diamond and two clubs. He then seeks a line of play that gives him the best chance to avoid at least two of these losers.
South sees at once that, come what may, he must lose a spade trick. But he also sees that if he is very lucky, he might not lose another trick! If East has the queen of hearts and king of clubs, a couple of winning finesses will neutralize them. South can also get rid of his diamond loser by forcing out the ace of spades and later discarding a diamond on one of dummy's high spades. Finally, his third club can be ruffed in dummy.
But South isn't in six hearts, and so must put his thoughts in proper order just to ensure making 10 tricks. Clearly, the most pressing matter is to try to get rid of the diamond loser before the defenders can establish their trick in that suit.
Declarer therefore leads a low spade from dummy at trick two. Let's say he wins with the jack and plays another spade to dummy's queen. East takes his ace and returns a diamond to dummy's ace.
After discarding his diamond loser on the king of spades, South proceeds to the next order of business and finesses the queen of clubs. This loses to West's king and back comes the ten of spades. South ruffs, cashes the ace of clubs and trumps a club with dummy's seven.
Next comes a trump finesse, which (unluckily) loses to West's queen. However, South makes the contract even though both finesses lost. Observe, though, that had he attempted either finesse before leading a spade at trick two, he would have gone down one. His plays had to be timed perfectly.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 9, 2026

ACROSS

1 Grated lemon peel
5 Bigger than big
9 Tropical trees
14 Capital on a fjord
15 Plow pullers
16 Best possible
17 Hibernation hideout
18 Bumper flaw
19 "August: ____ County" (Streep film)
20 Lemon source?
23 Compete (for)
24 Lofgren of the E Street Band
25 Decide not to accept
27 What you can't do after moving your king, in chess
30 Mythical wife of Jason
32 Bonkers
33 Juice source?
37 Santa ____, California
38 Book club members
40 Whichever
41 Cookie source?
43 High-pitched woodwind
44 Wall climbers

45 Thick-skinned safari beasts
47 Meal packed in a basket
50 Aquatic barker
51 Poem of praise
52 Bread source?
58 Pie chart lines
60 Smoothie berry
61 MBA student's class
62 Gregorian
63 Fictional detective
64 Nevada casino city
65 What drivers honk
66 Genesis garden
67 Dino with short arms

DOWN

1 French novelist
2 Jacob's twin
3 Narrow opening
4 City where the Blue Jays play home games
5 Spacecraft section
6 Business VIPs
7 Courteous chap
8 Opposed to
9 Trailblazers
10 Sponsored spots
11 Depart
12 Wizard's specialty
13 Wintry mix
21 Feel yucky
22 Diner's request
26 British sports car, for short
27 Tabby's toenail
28 Top-notch
29 Temporary wound cover
30 ____ of transportation
31 Decorative pitcher
33 Cover with asphalt
34 Wet weather
35 Lowdown
36 Salon colorants

38 Comes back to
39 Writer Jong
42 Transgression
43 Hazelnut
45 Zone
46 Possesses
47 Place where packages may be delivered
48 The Gem State
49 Fragrant chest wood
50 Small drum
53 Barn roof topper
54 Like some coffee
55 Laptop brand
56 Zilch
57 Golden fort
59 Quaint stopover

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	A	B		C	O	L	T		I	N	N			
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4/2 Solution

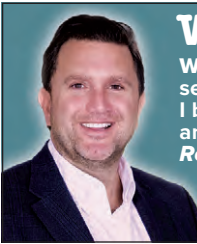
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4/9

Food Supply by Susan Gelfand

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Knights, Blue Devils open baseball season

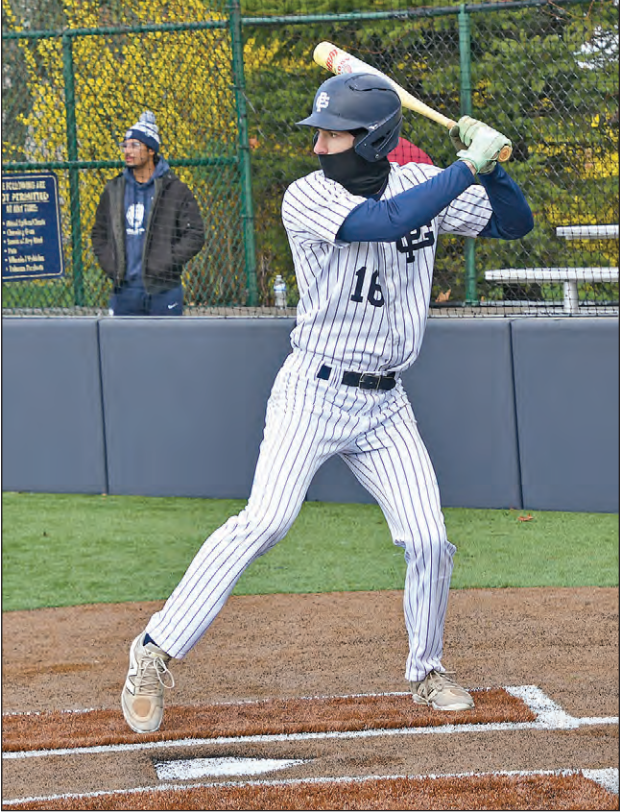
By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Even though the weather still feels a bit like winter, it is time for baseball and the spring sports season in Michigan. Last week brought opening day for the Detroit Tigers, as well as for high school varsity baseball for some of the teams in the Pointes. Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School took to the diamond for the first

games of the 2026 season. **University Liggett** The Knights began the new season Wednesday, April 1, on the road for a doubleheader against Catholic League foe Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard. Liggett and the Irish ended up splitting the pair of games to open the season at Eastern Michigan University's Oestrike Stadium. The first game was an 11-2 loss for the Knights.

Five runs in the third inning for Gabriel Richard were enough for the Irish to pull ahead and not look back. The Knights' runs came on an RBI groundout by Javion Gray in the fifth inning and an RBI single from Dom Djurasaj in the sixth. Liggett bounced back in the second game of the day. After having 11 runs scored on them in the first matchup, the Knights scored 11 to notch their first win of

the season, 11-7. Ravi Hines finished with three RBIs in the win, while Alex Durham and Gray brought in a pair of runs each. Miles Quinn earned the win on the mound, pitching 3.2 innings and allowing just one hit with six strikeouts. Liggett visited Troy Athens after press time Tuesday, April 7. The Knights are in action on the road again Thursday, April 9, visiting Rochester.



South's Drew Hess steps into the batter's box for his first at-bat of the season Monday, April 6.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Jack Danielewicz throws the first pitch of the 2026 season for Grosse Pointe South baseball against Detroit Western International Monday, April 6.

Grosse Pointe South Opening day for the Blue Devils Monday, April 6, had both the good and bad that come with baseball in early April in Michigan. South hosted Detroit Western International for the first game of the season, which saw plenty of action for South before the game was suspended due to weather in just the second inning. The Blue Devils exploded for nine runs in the first inning of the season, when the field actually saw some sunshine. The first was scored by Drew Hess after Brody Vinyard drew a walk with the bases loaded. South continued to add to the lead, with the biggest hit com-

ing on an inside-the-park home run by Brendan Stafford that cleared the bases and added four runs to the scoreboard. Luke Thompson added another to South's lead in the second inning with an RBI on a fielder's choice, making the lead 10-0 before play was called off due to weather. As of press time, there is no further information on if the game will be

resumed at a later date. Jack Danielewicz got the opening day start on the mound for South, allowing no hits and striking out five batters in just two innings. South hosted Marysville after press time Wednesday, April 8. The Blue Devils are at home again Thursday, April 9, hosting Detroit Catholic Central at 4:30 p.m.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Smith ready to build on South lacrosse legacy in senior year

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When he started with the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys lacrosse

team as a freshman a few years ago, the Blue Devils had high hopes that Jack Smith would become one of the program's next great play-

ers. It is hard to find anyone who could say Smith has not met those expectations given he already is South's all-time scoring leader and

his sights are set on having one last great season in the blue and gold. Looking back on how far he has come, the goal to leave a strong legacy at South has gone well for a guy who only started playing the game a couple of years before high school. Once he picked up a stick after watching his older brother, Thomas, play for years, Smith was hooked immediately. "I fell in love with it," he said. "I thought it was super fun and super fast-paced. After that, I played every day." Smith has been one of the most important players on South's attack for his entire career as a Blue Devil. There is a certain level of confi-

Grosse Pointe News



Athlete
OF THE WEEK

Jack Smith
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Lacrosse

Sponsored by Ray Laethem Buick GMC



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Jack Smith, pictured in a game last season against UD Jesuit, is the all-time leading scorer for South boys lacrosse.

dence necessary to become a prolific scorer while constantly being the main focus of oppos-

ing team's defenses, and Smith has the right mentality when it comes to his abilities on the field. "(I'm) aggressive but confident," he said. "... I step onto the field and think to myself, 'Nobody can guard me.' I know it sounds a bit overconfident, but as a player,

Jack Of All Trades

- 8 goals & 10 assists in 4 games this season with South boys lacrosse
- Scored 58 goals with 26 assists in 2025
- 2025 Division 2 All-State Honorable Mention

See ATHLETE, page 4D

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Experienced North golfers ready to raise the bar this spring

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It is almost always a positive in high school sports when a team is entering a new season with plenty of athletes returning for another campaign. The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys golf team gets to enjoy that benefit this spring, with 10 golfers returning to the roster

from last season. Last spring had its ups and downs for the Norsemen. The team finished fourth in the MAC Red Division championships and was unable to qualify for a spot in the Division 1 state finals. However, with the amount of talent North has returning to the roster, plus some additional pieces, the Norsemen want to set

higher expectations for this season. “We want a winning record this year and we want top 10 place in all of the tournaments we enter,” North boys golf head coach James Hansinger said. “Our second goal would be to qualify for states.” Helping lead the way on the road to meeting those goals will be senior captains

Alejandro Delgado and Jean-Paul Shemmai. Juniors Charlie Mueller, who just received All-State recognition on the ice for his performance with North’s boys hockey team in the winter, and All-State swimmer Tyler Collins also are expected to be strong contributors this spring. North also adds Aiden Burney and Jack Griffin to the roster with

hopes they can provide an added boost. The Norsemen hope those key contributors and more can help the team with strong finishes in the MAC Red and at some competitive tournaments throughout the spring. The Norsemen have head-to-head matchups against both crosstown rivals, University Liggett School April 22,

and Grosse Pointe South May 13, and also will compete in South’s invitational tournament at Country Club of Detroit April 27. North opened the season after press time Wednesday, April 8, with a match against Cass Tech. The Norsemen hit the links again Wednesday, April 15, hosting Henry Ford II at Lochmoor Club.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Gators finish winter season on state, national stage

Above left, 26 Grosse Pointe Gators swimmers represented the club at the Michigan Swimming 11-14 State Championships at the Holland Aquatics Center March 20-22. The group included 14-year-old Ronin Hobson, who won the state title in the boys 13-14 50-yard breaststroke with his time of 27.05. Fellow 14-year-old Anna Cooper was the state runner-up in the girls 13-14 50 breaststroke (29.83).

Above right, Four Grosse Pointe Gators made the trip to Orlando, Fla., in March to compete at the 2026 NCSA Spring National Championships. From left, Brendan Beland, Brady Bond, coach John Fodell, Caroline Bryan and Corinne Stencel.

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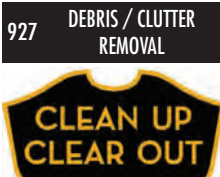
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North boys track and field optimistic ahead of new season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys track and field program enters the new season with what it believes could be its most balanced roster in years. The Norsemen are optimistic that their mix of experience, with veteran leaders in some areas and talented younger athletes in others, could be a strong recipe for success this spring.

“I have very high expectations for the season,” North boys track and field head coach Eric Eplin said. “We have a good balance of veteran leadership and rookie athletes. We look to be competitive in the MAC White

and we have our eyes set on a regional championship.”

Much of North’s younger talent from which the team hopes to get impact performances right away comes mostly in events like sprint races and throwing. Helping lead some of those younger sprinters will be one of the team’s senior captains, Phil Prost, who should be a key piece in some of North’s biggest sprint races this season.

The team’s other senior captains are a pair of distance runners who have been leaders for the Norsemen both in track and in cross country for some time — Sam Parish and Paul Stephens. The pair were part of the 4x800-meter relay team that qualified

for the state finals for North last year. Stephens also was the 800-meter regional champion last spring.

North will take on the MAC White Division in meets this year and also has some invitationals on the schedule it hopes will bring solid competition. Some include the Warrior Invitational in Woodhaven April 18, the Wandering Wizard Invitational hosted by Grosse Pointe South May 2 and the Wayne County Championships May 22.

North opens the season Thursday, April 9, with a road meet against Stevenson. The Norsemen are in action again Monday, April 13, going on the road to face Port Huron Northern.



COURTESY PHOTO

Distance runner Paul Stephens, pictured in a race during the fall 2025 cross-country season, will serve as one of North boys track and field’s senior captains this spring.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

you have to have that mentality.”

All of that attention from opposing defenses has helped Smith become the type of player he is, which is exactly what his coaches at South were hoping he could become. He is able to run the offense for the Blue Devils and give them a boost whenever and wherever they need.

“He’s getting at least two or three guys thrown at him every time he gets the ball and dodges to the goal,” South boys lacrosse head coach Justin Macksoud said. “He has the eyes of every defender and the goalie on him at all times and he can still make it look easy. ... He has become the total package as an attackman: a lethal dodger and shooter, an accurate and willing passer and the leader of our offense.”

As a junior last season, he tallied 58 goals and 26 assists in 20 games on his way to being a Division 2 All-State honorable mention. Through four games for South already this spring, Smith has scored eight times and notched 10 assists.

His rising assist numbers already reflect the biggest thing Smith wanted to improve on for his senior campaign. He has been known as a goal scorer and is confident in his abilities

there; however, Smith wants to be known as anything but a selfish player. It took some looking back to the leaders at South he admired as a younger player and now Smith thinks he could have the best spring of his career as an all-around playmaker.

“Going back to my freshman year, I really looked up to Griffin Adams. ... He made everyone look better at the game and play better,” Smith said. “I can score goals, but I don’t want to only be able to do that. I want to bring

the whole team up with me, so I’m trying to really dial in my ability to find the next pass and find the open guy.”

Being on the field with some of his fellow seniors with whom he has played for years helps with Smith’s goal of wanting to create opportunities around the field. Smith is part of a core group of seniors on South’s attack who know each other well both on and off the field.

Being best friends with the guys who are on the front line with him makes it easy for any one of them to make

a big play at any moment. If they work together as well as they believe they can, Smith and his fellow seniors at South could have a chance of going out on top, which is precisely what they want.

“Having my best friends like Jack Cotton and Eugene Agnone ... we push each other,” Smith said. “I love knowing that they’re there for me and can get me with an assist or chase any ball. I can’t tell you how much it helps having that chemistry with guys like that.”



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Jack Smith holds the ball for South during a 2025 regional playoff game against University Liggett.



The spring sports season is heating up. If you’re looking for a place to keep up with all the action, look no further than @GPNewssports on Instagram.

Our page is dedicated to providing fans around the Pointes and beyond with the latest news and features surrounding Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett sports.

Best of all, you can be part of the action too! Send your best sports photos and moments to our DMs for a chance to be featured on our page and in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News.

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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, April 28, 2026 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 20481 Mack Avenue (Parcel ID: 007-03-0039-001). The subject site is zoned the C, Commercial Business District where a Miscellaneous Business Establishment (a proposed off-ice hockey training facility) is considered a Special Land Use.

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 at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at 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. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:04/09/26