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Grosse Pointe News

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

VOL. 87, NO. 16, 30 PAGES

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APRIL 16, 2026

GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Child care plans revived at former JOANN building

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Likely within a year's time, 208 young children will spend weekdays being cared for within the same building where their mothers, until recently, wandered fabric aisles selecting materials for their Halloween costumes and blankets.

Grosse Pointe Farms City Council on Monday night enthusiastically

See CHILD, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Izzy Donnelly teaches a Defer Elementary School second-grade class in the Cook Schoolhouse dressed as a schoolmarm from 100 years ago. A handful of the students dressed up from that time as well, the boys in suspenders and the girls in long dresses and bonnets, including Defer teacher Hannah Socha, who wore a yellow dress and bonnet.

Second graders go back in time

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Ever wonder what it was like to attend school in the Pointes a century or more ago?

Second graders from the Grosse Pointe Public School System have been finding out this month via field trips to Cook Schoolhouse.

"It's part of our social studies curriculum on how education and transportation have changed

over time," said Sarah Neely, a teacher at Maire Elementary School who spearheaded the project. "The unit is inquiry based and our essential question is: How can I think like a historian about how our community has changed and how can I make change?"

Neely said students read a variety of informational texts during the unit, including informative/explanatory and procedural texts. As they learn about different

aspects of community life, and how they have changed over time, students learn how to "do the work" of historians, including how to create and interpret a timeline and how historians make sense of the past through the examination and analysis of primary and secondary sources like photos, oral histories and interviews with older adults.

"We used to do this at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's

Provençal-Weir House, which had a replica of a one-room schoolhouse," she added. "They did some remodeling so we had to find a new place."

Neely said the Cook Schoolhouse was the obvious choice.

"We're supposed to be discussing what it was like attending a one-room schoolhouse, so why not do it in an actual one-room schoolhouse?" she laughed. "It's so great

See TIME, page 9A

STEAM Fdn. cuts ties with GPPSS

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAM Support has decided to stop funding grants for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

The announcement came at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Monday, April 6.

"We wanted to inform the board the STEAM Foundation will not be making any more contributions to our public schools," Matt Agnone, the group's treasurer, said during public comment, "while we decide whether we will continue giving at all."

Walt Fitzpatrick, the foundation's executive director, said the board of directors will meet soon to decide next steps.

"This decision is being influenced by the actions of this board, specifically the policy against PfAE (Pointers for Academic Excellence)," Agnone added during his comments. "This policy appears designed to single out one organization and one family."

See STEAM, page 9A

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Charlevoix construction starts next week

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Engineering oversight of Charlevoix business district streetscape renovations, scheduled to start next week, has been assigned to a firm that helped plan the project.

Construction is supposed to start Monday, April 20, and conclude early October, according to Patrick Droze, a principal of OHM Advisors. The company handles engineering services for the city on nearly everything from sewers to helping prioritize maintenance of municipal recreation assets.

"Hopefully we'll have groundbreaking festivities," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Council members on April 13 awarded OHM a \$480,000 contract to coordinate streetscape planning and execution, including representing the city to state and federal government regulatory agencies.

Retaining a specialist for engineering oversight of major construction work is routine.

Charlevoix's forthcoming streetscape is a joint effort of the city and the Tax Increment Finance Authority, boundaries of which encompass the four-block streetscape zone. TIFA exists to stimulate economic

development within its overall boundaries.

"The project has been designed over the last year and the purpose is to revitalize the downtown Charlevoix corridor," Droze said.

Revamping the streetscape is intended to improve the district's appeal and walkability by introducing curbless roadway edges, wider sidewalks, ornamental lighting, benches, greenspace and more.

Preparations for the project began last year with installation of a water main.

"We already did the water main project so we didn't have to dig things up again," said

Nick Sizeland, city manager.

As groundbreaking nears next week, city officials and OHM representatives arranged informational meetings this week with district business owners and neighborhood residents. Agenda items included construction timelines, road closures and related matters. Sessions were scheduled this week, after the Grosse Pointe News deadline.

As construction takes hold, the public will be kept informed. "OHM will prepare notices to the business or residents updating them of project costs," Droze

See ROAD, page 3A

Week Ahead	3A
Opinion	6A
Schools	9A
Features	1B
Obituaries	4B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	4D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Alden Gallup

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Trimming keeps the power on

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — For tree lovers, the worst place to plant a tree is under power lines.

For tree haters, under power lines is one of the best places to sacrifice a tree. In that location, a tree is almost destined to grow among the lines and be pruned into deformity or chopped down altogether in deference to the electric grid’s integrity.

Trees and power lines don’t mix.

“Trees are the leading cause of power outages and can create dangerous safety hazards across the energy grid,” according to the DTE Energy website dealing with the company’s tree

trimming program. “Fallen trees are responsible for nearly half the time our customers spend without power.”

DTE maintains a five-year rotating cycle of tree trimming in the Pointes.

To reduce the chance of trees and power lines crossing paths in the city, one of the utility’s contractors will soon trim trees on both sides of Patterson Park.

“There’s a total of 83 trees or shrubs that need to be trimmed or removed,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. “The biggest reason behind that is for power reliability purposes. There’s just a lot of stuff that needs to be cleaned up that is eventually going to create an issue there.”

“Davey Tree is doing the work,” said Tom Jenny, director of public works. “I’d say it will take about two weeks.”

Backyards on portions of Grand Marais and Bedford have common boundaries with Patterson.

“We have contacted everyone on Grand Marais and Bedford who will be affected by tree trimming,” Jenny said.

“Before we begin trimming, we will send you a letter letting you know we will be in the area,” according to DTE’s online explanation of the trimming process. “Shortly after, planners will assess your neighborhood and create a trimming plan. If a tree poses a serious hazard to the power lines, and/or if trimming will dam-

age the tree’s health, it may need to be removed. These trees will be marked with two white dots.”

Jenny knows something that a lot of people who plant trees under power lines evidently don’t: Trees grow, often upward.

“It will grow back,” he said of pruned areas.

DTE’s trimming is at no direct cost to the city.

“They were on Yorkshire-Kensington last week,” Recreation Commissioner Paul O’Donnell said. “They have no fear, these guys, going up, bracing themselves against small branches way up in the air.”

Jenny expects work to begin on the Grand Marais side of the park, then the Bedford side.

Kill pest before it hatches

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Time is ticking on a chance to wipe out colonies of spotted lanternfly before they hatch and spread all over.

“This time of year you can still find their egg masses,” said Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission.

Spotted lanternfly is a sap-sucking invasive pest which commission members are combating.

It’s easier and more efficient to kill the pests as they sit clumped and stationary in egg form instead of after they hatch and spread individually through the environment damaging trees and other forms of vegetation.

“It is important to be able to identify the different stages in the spotted lanternfly’s life cycle — egg masses, the nymphs and adult insects — and eliminate them at the source,” said Michael Gilmore, city forester in the Park, City and Farms. “See it, squash it.”

“Now that it’s warming, egg masses will start hatching and the first nymphs will start appearing,” Kyle said.

Although spotted lanternfly is established throughout Michigan, Commissioner Kelly Konieczki was first to confirm the bug last year in the Park. She killed it among tree of heaven shoots on which it was feeding in her backyard.

Konieczki and Kyle

See PEST, page 5A

CHILD:

Continued from page 1A

approved a preliminary site plan for UK-based N Family School early education daycare to construct its first U.S. location in the former JOANN building on Mack near Moross.

“The N Family School philosophy is to use holistic early education, emphasizing experiential plan-based learning, strong family involvement and preparing kids for schools through unique methods that they call their N approach,” said Bradford Egan, a developer with EIG14T Commercial Real Estate.

The same concept was shot down by the city in January, specifically because at that time it was proposed for the former Rite Aid building on The Hill, which ignited significant concern over congesting the business district during pick-up and drop-off times.

“Nobody argued that it’s needed in the community,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “It just was the location.”



Above, the proposed facade of the building along Mack Avenue. Right, the main entrance to the child care center will be at the back of the building.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The JOANN property is a win-win for all parties involved, as it offers the size requirement and building footprint needed for a daycare, would be a community use within a community service dis-

trict and would put the property back on the tax roll. The city purchased it several months ago after JOANN went bankrupt and closed all locations.

“A big part of why the city purchased that property was to have control over what ultimately went in that site,” Reeside said. “This gave council the ability to find a use they felt was most appropriate for that district.”

Even better, the Mack location will afford N Family to welcome 208 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, compared to the 179 children the Kercheval location could

have accommodated.

Should all go according to plan, the city will sell the property — at the same time as final site plan approval — to developer EIG14T Commercial Real Estate, which intends to sign a 20-year lease, with options for renewal, with N Family School.

“The final site plan also will require a conditional use permit,” City Attorney Bill Burgess noted. “... Among the conditions that may be required include what happens if the facility does not continue for the full term of the 20-year lease that’s

being proposed. What are the reversionary rates since the city is going to be selling the property to the developer?”

The current site plan for the 17,000-square-foot building includes 13 playrooms, 40 parking spaces in the surface lot to be leased and an 8,000-square-foot play garden adjacent to the north side of the building, which N Family also intends to lease from the city.

“The N Family play garden is different than what you would typically find in a U.S. daycare facility,” Egan said. “They’re much more organic, much more experiential.”

Trudy Anderson, executive director for N Family in the U.S., added, “What we do outside in the garden, it’s not just playtime. It’s taking the classroom outside as well. We believe that the environment is the third teacher for the child.”

There will be approximately 36 staff members — including a school director, school education manager and front house manager — and hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“Their drop-off times are typically 7:30 to 9 a.m.,” Egan added. “Pick up is typically 4:30 to 6 p.m., but as we’ve spoken about in the past, those are the most frequent times the children are dropped off or picked up, but they do sporadically come in and out based on the parents’ needs throughout the day.”

Upon receiving final site plan approval, Egan estimated construction will take approximately seven months to complete.

The team intends to whitewash all of the brick, replace windows and the roof, add new signage and lighting fixtures and construct the main entrance along the back of the building.

“We will expedite, to the extent possible, the application process,” Mayor John Gillooly said. “... We’re going to do everything in our power to assist you in developing this very, very important corridor to our great city.”

N Family School also is currently exploring locations in Northville, Novi, Birmingham, Plymouth and Royal Oak as part of its U.S. expansion.

“We’re starting here in Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota,” Anderson said. “Those are our first three states. We have an aggressive growth plan and we want to go into communities that, one, have a need — Grosse Pointe Farms definitely has a need — but also where we can make an impact.

“I’m excited that we can elevate early childhood education in the U.S. in general by helping others see what can be done and how we can take care of our team members and what that can do for the children and the families.”

City council approved the preliminary site plan 6-0, with Councilman Lev Wood absent.



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Community invited to support 2026 military enlistees

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — For the second consecutive year, The War Memorial will host the only ‘Our Community Salutes’ ceremony in the state, honoring local high school seniors who have elected to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces.

“We’re honored to welcome the Class of 2026 and their families to the Our Community Salutes ceremony — a proud, community-wide tribute to the young people of metro Detroit who’ve chosen to serve our country,” President and CEO Maria Miller said in a release. “Their decision to enlist demonstrates exceptional courage, commitment and selflessness and we’re grateful for the opportunity to recognize their service at The War Memorial.”



COURTESY PHOTO

The oath of enlistment is administered by Army Brig. Gen. Ravi Wagh during last year’s OCS ceremony at The War Memorial.

The ceremony takes place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, and will feature the oath of enlistment, keynote speaker Coast Guard Cmdr. Brett McCall and an opportunity for community members to come together to express gratitude, offer support and celebrate the enlistees’ transition into military service.

“Even if you’re not enlisted, if you’re a community supporter, if you’re a veteran, we’d love to have you out on Tuesday, May 5, and truly be the first to say thank you,” said Alex Szwarc, patriotic programming and communications administrator. “This is a community event where we want to

recognize and honor these high school seniors who are making the decision to go into the military.”

Enlistees registered as of press time hail mainly from Macomb and Oakland counties and represent several branches of the military, including the Army National Guard, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Other enlistees interested in participating may register at warmemorial.org/events/ocs2026.

“I am exceptionally proud of these brave young adults in Detroit who have taken the oath to protect our liberties and freedoms at a critical time,” said Dr. Kenneth Hartman, OCS - USA founder and president. “We must do everything we can to honor and support them as they embark on their military journey.”

Following the ceremony at 7:30 p.m. will be a reception and small resource fair aimed at providing transitional resources to the new enlistees.

Organizations currently set to participate include Macomb County Veteran Peer Support, Raising American Heroes and USAA.

According to U.S. Army Recruiting Command, only 1 percent of Americans currently serve in active duty.

“As America celebrates our 250th anniversary in 2026, we’re reminded that the strength of our nation has always come from those willing to serve something greater than themselves,” Szwarc said. “As we recognize 250 years of American independence, we celebrate those who will help carry that legacy forward.”

Fundraiser planned for local teacher, coach

A hockey-themed fundraiser is planned for Katie Sime, a teacher and coach at University Liggett School battling brain cancer.

Sime, 44, was diagnosed in January and underwent surgery and

continues radiation therapy. Her husband, Mike, is the athletic trainer at Grosse Pointe South High School.

The event starts at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Eastside Hockey Arena. It will include a

50/50 raffle and silent auction featuring signed memorabilia. Current and former players of the Grosse Pointe Chill and Freeze — two local women’s hockey teams — will face off at 7 p.m. Sime, a 1999 South

graduate, has played goalie for the Chill for several seasons.

“As a goalie, you learn to just stand up and face whatever the opponent throws your way, trying to make it to the end of the game,” she said.

“This is just one of life’s challenges thrown at me and I will stand up to not only face it, but survive. This time, I’ve got an entire community behind me.”

Sime added she is grateful for all the support.

“Growing up in the Grosse Pointes has

always been a blessing and it’s why most of us come back to raise our families here,” she noted. “Since the discovery of my brain tumor, the immediate surgery and the subsequent brain cancer diagnosis, the other

See COACH, page 4A

Historic locations tour kicks off with Jacobson’s

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Jacobson’s is the natural place to start as organizers begin gathering community stories to effectuate a virtual tour through The Village’s history, which will pair plaques in prominent locations.

A call to the community on Facebook earlier this month garnered a flood of comments recalling the good old days of the upscale department store at Kercheval and St. Clair.

“I remember the original white exterior before the expansion to the whole block,” wrote



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jacobson’s on Kercheval in September 1964.

one respondent, who spent summers in high school working at the wrap desk in the men’s department. “All sales were written up on

they thought they would like.”

Other respondents reminisced over the sailboat grilled cheese sandwiches, first jobs as teenagers and Christmas photos with Santa.

As told via the first location on the virtual tour — which can be found at app.seemylegacy.com/community/2617/stories — Jacobson’s opened Nov. 15, 1944, in the former Tuttle & Clark building at 17030 Kercheval.

As it flourished in the downtown district, the store expanded substantially along

See TOUR, page 4A

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, APRIL 20**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole sitting as the Finance Committee, 7:15 p.m.
 - ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, APRIL 21**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
 - ◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 23**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Spring Beautification meeting, 7 p.m.

ROAD:

Continued from page 1A

said. “OHM anticipates the frequency of these notices to be monthly and also coincide with major changes in shifts.”

It was announced early this year that construction will take place in two steps. The first step is on the lower half of the quarter-mile district between Alter and Lakepointe. Meanwhile, the upper half of the district will remain open to traffic.

When the lower half is finished, that section of roadway is reopened to traffic and crews move up Charlevoix from Lakepointe to Beaconsfield.

Of the new streetscape’s engineering cost, the city’s portion is \$124,000 and associated with road resurfacing. The \$356,000 balance is funded by the Tax Increment Finance Authority,

Actual construction costs total \$3,184,739 and have three funding sources:

- ◆ a \$1,811,344 federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant administered through the state transportation department,
- ◆ \$573,586 from the TIFA and
- ◆ the roughly \$800,000

balance is paid from city funds for road resurfacing.

Terms of OHM’s contract include biweekly construction meetings.

“Throughout the construction phase, OHM will consult and advise

the city on project-related issues,” Droze said. “In the event that the contractor’s operations are not in conformance with plans or the project specifications, the construction observer will notify the contractor and city.”

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Rock (and roll) on

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

Alden Gallup (aka Stirling, but more on that later) thinks like a stock broker, talks like a child of the 1960s and acts like a Boy Scout.

When arranging an interview for this story, Gallup asked that it be after 4 p.m., since that’s when the stock market closes for the day.

“I’ve been in it the last 25 years,” he said. “That’s basically how I make my living, along with a little bit of Social Security.”

The Woods native, who lives there again after several years in Detroit, was part of the first graduating class at Grosse Pointe North High School in 1970. Also known as Mike growing up, Gallup was voted “best dressed” senior year.

“I used to wear yellow satin jeans and cowboy shirts with pearl buttons, plus I had a really good Rod Stewart shag haircut,” he laughed. “I called my style ‘avant preppy.’”

Gallup said he is thankful for growing up in the Pointes and the education he received.

“Back then, they used to say a Grosse Pointe diploma was the equivalent of two years of college,” he noted. “I guess you could say I’m old school Grosse Pointe. I met a lot of great people and made great friends I still have today.”

But rather than college, Gallup decided to follow his entrepreneurial spirit and love of music.

“I opened Rypped Records at 7 and Mack in the basement of a Singer Sewing store,” he

recalled. “George Harrison had just released his first solo album after The Beatles broke up and there’s a song on the album titled ‘My Sweet Lord.’ The nuns from St. John’s (now Henry Ford St. John Hospital) would come in wearing their habits to buy the 45 and I’d be blasting punk music on the speakers. It was kind of embarrassing.”

And that’s where the “Stirling” comes in.

“A lot of musicians at the time were very androgynous and using pseudonyms,” Gallup said. “David Bowie with his Ziggy Stardust persona, Alice Cooper in makeup, Lou Reed’s ‘Walk on the Wild Side.’ So I became Stirling, since it’s a man’s name in England and I’ve always been an anglophile. My sister was Heather Fields because of her long, flowing blonde hair.

“Our cousin was Sandy Beach, because he had blond hair and sort of a Beach Boys look,” he continued. “And we had a friend who was a big guy and he was Lincoln Continental.”

After closing Rypped Records, Gallup joined Harmony House, working out of the company’s third store at Mack and Stanhope. As a record buyer, he got free concert tickets and was invited to a lot of after-parties, hanging out with the likes of Stewart and KISS.

“We had a lot of radio stations that would call and ask what the top sellers were,” Gallup said. “I was more likely to tell them New York Dolls or The Knack, even though

Debbie Boone was quite popular with ‘You Light Up My Life.’”

He owned another record store briefly, called The New York Rock Exchange, at Mack and Bedford.

“I guess the name was a foretelling of my financial acumen,” Gallup smiled.

A broken-down car eventually cost him his job with Harmony House.

“I couldn’t get to work from Detroit and I couldn’t afford to fix it,” he said. “In a way it was a blessing in disguise. I didn’t have a bachelor’s degree, so it forced me to do something alternative instead of taking a corporate job.”

Having been so heavily involved with the Detroit music scene, Gallup started to promote local acts and nightclubs.

“I had a few groups that wanted me to manage them, but bands are too democratic,” he said. “If you need to get a press release out quickly, it can take them forever to agree and then you’ve missed the deadline.”

Gallup said he also never wanted to join a band, even though he has recorded some original music.

“I was in the choir growing up at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and the director told me I had a good voice,” he said. “But bands in the 1970s, there was just too much drug culture. I’ve always been more of a beer dude.”

As a promoter, Gallup said it was always important to develop trust and a friendship with the artists and have a



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDRA KUBAT

Alden Gallup reflecting in Audra Kubat’s Detroit House of Music.

relationship with local media.

He has worked almost exclusively the last several years with Audra Kubat.

“She’s been called the Joni Mitchell of Detroit,” Gallup explained. “She recently did a big show at the DIA and that took a lot of work — rehearsals, planning set lists, even figuring out what she should say between songs and coordinating stage production.”

Now 74, Gallup said he is “lowering the volume” on his promotional work and looking forward to spending more time at his place near Sleeping Bear Dunes.

“No electricity, no plumbing, wood stove,” he smiled, pulling a small flashlight from the jacket of his sports coat. “I never go anywhere without this. When I head up there, I need to make sure to arrive at least 90 minutes before sunset. It’s a mile off the road and you never know what debris may have fallen across the trail.”

Having grown up in the Woods and now back living there, Gallup joked, “I was born at St. John’s and I’ll probably die there. It’s the closest hospital.”

Hospital shooting case delayed again

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A probable cause conference involving a shooting at Henry Ford St. John Hospital last month has been delayed a second time.

Originally scheduled March 18, it was postponed to Wednesday, April 8, when it was rescheduled again for 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, before Municipal Judge Theodore Metry.

A 17-year-old Detroit male is facing several felony charges stemming from the incident in the parking lot at the hospital March 5. According to a press release from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Trejion Sanders is charged with assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm, carrying a concealed weapon, felonious assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He is being charged as an adult.

Officers responded to a report of shots fired shortly before midnight Thursday, March 5, in the parking lot along Mack at the hospital. They found Sanders had been shot by a security guard as he and three other suspects were attempting to steal a vehicle.

Worthy said the guard first tried to deploy his Taser but it did not take effect. The release also said Sanders fired a handgun at the security officer, a 31-year-old Eastpointe man, but missed. The officer returned fire, striking the defendant in the leg. Sanders underwent surgery at the hospital and was moved to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center. He was arraigned by Metry Friday, March 13, and given a \$250,000 cash/surety bond.

Metry amended the bond at the prosecutor’s request that Sanders not be on hospital property except for emergency needs.

A preliminary exam is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, although Gary Bresnahan of the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office said the most recent delay is so that “attorneys can revisit the case and determine if the preliminary exam is needed.”

Michigan law allows defendants to waive their preliminary exam and proceed directly to circuit court.

—Ted O’Neil

TOUR:

Continued from page 3A

Kercheval and, after 56 years, closed in 2002.

“Historic preservation is about more than just old buildings,” said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe. “It’s about what those buildings mean to a community, who is connected to those buildings and the stories that come with that. So we really wanted to focus on that and hear from people and get them to share their stories about why this place is important.”

Other historical downtown locations likely to be added to the tour, and which will slowly roll out as the year progresses, include Saunders, the Krausmann building at the corner of Kercheval and Cadieux and Merry Mouse/Café la Chat, which once thrived in the current Lucky Detroit Coffee space.

Locations also will be added based on community input.

“It’s the ones that people really connect to,” said Maggie Ehrlich, MSGP board member and member of the

design committee, which is heading up the historic tour project. “It’s going to hopefully be grassroots and sort of symbiotic.”

The plaques, which will feature photos provided by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and a QR code to the online tour, likely will be placed beginning this spring or summer.

“We just want to start building that interest a little bit and have enough of those stories up online,” Willcock said, before the physical plaques are placed as phase two of the initiative.

COACH:

Continued from page 3A

communities we’ve become a part of have continued to show up for me in my time of need. To my neighbors, the Cronovich crew, Eastside FC, Liggett, FCMA, kickball, the hockey community at large, now my medical team and, lastly, my amazing family (especially my husband), I am so overwhelmed, and feel so undeserving, of your continued support.”

The Simes live in the Farms and have four

children ranging in age from 7 to 14.

Amy Cowan, who is organizing the event, added there will be a presence there by the Detroit Red Wings, but the team hasn’t said which players will attend. The game will include a ceremonial puck drop with Sime and the players. Daniella Bruce, who does on-air reporting for the Wings and Detroit Tigers, will announce the game.

“We are asking the community to rally around Katie and her family to help ease the financial and emotional burden during this time,” Cowan said. “The support and generosity of the Grosse Pointe community would mean so much as they navigate this journey together.”

A GoFundMe set up soon after Sime’s diagnosis, which can be found at [shorturl.at/uqxm6](https://www.gofundme.com/u/qxm6), has raised almost \$94,000 with a goal of \$100,000.

Tickets for Saturday, available at the door, are \$20, or \$30 with a commemorative cup. Donations also can be made via Venmo @skating-for-katie.

—Ted O’Neil

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City of Grosse Pointe

No crimes to report per detectives.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Recovered car

The key fob was left inside a gray 2023 Range Rover when it was stolen from Windward Place around midday Wednesday, April 8. The owner was able to ping the vehicle to Hereford in Detroit, where officers located it inside a garage.

Bad boss

The owner of a restaurant on The Hill was reported for assault and battery last week, after he allegedly showed up to the business intoxicated while it was short-staffed and proceeded to yell profanities at an employee, ultimately grabbing her arm and pushing her.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Several other employees and customers witnessed the incident.

Stolen bike

A black and gold Huffy Racing 50 BMX bike was stolen from a front yard in the 400 block of Manor between Monday, April 6, and Thursday, April 9.

Stacking up

A 31-year-old Detroit man was arrested on an assault and battery warrant out of Detroit at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, April 12, after he was pulled over near Hillcrest and Frankfort for illegally tinted windows, an expired license plate and a suspended driver's license. The man additionally had nine prior license suspensions.

Work traffic

A Wendy's employee left the parking lot at

10:43 p.m. Sunday, April 12, entered the center median on Mack and then failed to yield before attempting to drive across Mack onto Lannoo, nearly striking a patrol car in the process.

The 21-year-old Detroit woman was cited for an expired license plate and no insurance. —Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Reckless

A 61-year-old St. Clair Shores man was ticketed for an expired driver's license and no proof of insurance after being pulled over around 1:15 p.m. Thursday, April 9, on southbound Lakeshore near Vernier. Officers received an

alert to look out for a 2025 Dodge Ram driving recklessly, running red lights and speeding. The driver of the Ram told officers he was trying to get away from a road rage incident, in which another driver was threatening him, before being ticketed.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Theft from car

Overnight Saturday, April 11, an unknown thief entered a vehicle parked in the driveway of a house in the 1300 block of Three Mile Drive and stole Ray-Ban sunglasses valued at \$100.

Theft of car

A driveway littered

with shards of broken automotive glass was all the owner of a locked 2016 Kia Forte found Sunday morning, April 12, in the 1300 block of Maryland.

It is suspected the theft happened sometime after 10 p.m. the prior night.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Exact moment

Surveillance footage showed two suspects stealing a 2024 Jeep from a driveway in the 2000 block of Stanhope at precisely 2:41 a.m. Friday, April 3.

The report did not indicate if the vehicle was unlocked or if the keyfob was inside.

Phoney business

A resident in the 20000 block of Montague Lane filed a report the morning of Saturday, April 4, indicating he had been defrauded of \$15,000 due to a scam message he received on his iPhone indicating his Apple account was compromised.

He called the number provided and also was told there were fraudulent charges to his bank account. The suspect instructed him to open a "secure" account that appeared to be run by the federal government. The victim made two deposits into that account, \$5,000 and \$10,000, before visiting his bank and realizing he had been scammed.

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

PEST:

Continued from page 2A

were unable to confirm a subsequent sighting in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"We looked for hours in the City but couldn't find another," Kyle said.

Some oils have tested positive for killing the pest in egg form.

"The most effective products were paraffinic or mineral oils such as JMS Stylet Oil, Damoil and Lesco Horticultural Oil, commonly used in fruit systems as insecticides to control soft-bodied insects," according to an Ohio State University update. "Many of these oils are available at local garden centers."

A 3 percent solution of oil killed up to 75 percent of treated eggs.

"The only plant-based oil, soybean oil, had similar control of egg masses when applied at a 50 percent concentration," according to OSU. "However, smashing or scraping the egg masses will provide greater efficacy than the ovidices currently available."

"We know it's coming," Kyle said. "We don't know what to expect."

Spotted lanternfly produces a stream of sugary waste, called honeydew, on which mold grows and attracts wasps and flies.

Kyle hopes something can be done to protect the Pointes from the type

of infestations making a mess an hour's drive south in Ohio.

"One of my coworkers lives in Toledo," Kyle said. "She said there were so many spotted lanternflies, it was like how we have fish flies. You'd drive down the street and spotted lanternfly was crunching under the tires."

In February, the Ohio Department of Agriculture quarantined the state for spotted lanternfly. No trees or nursery stock may be moved out of the state without passing inspection. Michigan also has a quarantine.

"Wayne County is included in (Michigan's) quarantine zone," Kyle said.

During the egg stage of their lifecycle, spotted lanternfly is easy to find and eliminate.

"Egg masses can be found on many outdoor surfaces, from trees to outdoor furniture, and even on vehicles," according to a commission notice drawn from state Department of Natural Resources findings. "Egg masses resemble chewing gum with a gray, waxy, putty-like coating."

"It looks like dry mud or clay," Kyle said.

"Egg masses are the only stationary stage of the spotted lanternfly, making them an easy target for removal," according to a Dec. 29, 2025, update from The

Ohio State University extension service posted on the Lucas County, Ohio, website, lucas.osu.edu.

Kyle said sightings can be reported to:

◆ the beautification commission at beautification@grossepointepark.org;

◆ Park City Forester Michael Gilmore at gilmorem@grossepointepark.org; or

◆ various options offered through the Michigan DNR.

"You can take a photo, note the area and report the sighting to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (by calling) (800) 292-3939," Gilmore said.

Reports to the beautification commission will be forwarded to the Midwestern Invasive Species Information Network, a data aggregation site established by Michigan State University entomologists.

On the network's website, misin.msu.edu, an option on the homepage navigation bar, "Report," displays 525 invasive species being tabulated in the state. The alphabetical list goes from African oxygen weed to zebra mussel.

Kyle proposed making life difficult for the bug by eliminating its favorite source of sap, the tree of heaven.

"I hope that gives us some protection and the insect will go somewhere

else," she said.

The tree is rated highly invasive in Michigan. It grows fast and well in urban areas. Chutes and saplings abound. Growth potential reaches 70 feet.

"Lisa is correct," Gilmore said. "Removing the tree of heaven when found will definitely reduce the spread of spotted lanternfly in our area."

But doing so could be the equivalent of solving one problem by creating

another.

"The challenge with totally eliminating the spotted lanternfly's favorite food source, Ailanthus (tree of heaven), as a control, is that it will move onto other species such as maples, grapevines and fruit trees," Gilmore said.

In nature, most solutions aren't linear. Fixing one thing often creates something else needing attention.

"Eradicating (tree of

heaven) the species is a step in the right direction," Gilmore said. "The problem is locating the plants, because due to its invasive nature, they hide in alleyways and fence lines, which are usually less traveled and inconspicuous."

"Alleys are ripe with tree of heaven," Kyle said. "Now that we started searching for tree of heaven in the Park, there are a lot more than I thought," Kyle said.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

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OUR VIEW

Spring (we hope) has sprung

Many readers are probably familiar with the 12 seasons Michigan cycles through each year. If not:
actual winter,
fool's spring, that first 50-degree day in February or March that makes you want to grill,
second winter, when it snows after fool's spring,
spring of deception, or more false warmth,
third winter, usually involving an ice storm,
allergy season, when everything turns yellow,
actual spring, which is about a week long,
summer,
hell's front porch, the hottest and most humid parts of late July and August,
fake fall, when leaves start to turn while it cools down,
second summer, with a brief warm up and
actual fall, usually ending after Halloween with the first snowfall.

Of course, we also have construction season, when those pesky orange barrels begin impeding our trips up north.

Now that some warm weather has arrived, here are some things around the Pointes telling us spring is here.

It is hard to walk anywhere lately without seeing tulips, daffodils, magnolia trees and cherry blossoms making their colorful, annual debuts, even if early-morning dog walks still require a winter jacket.

Plus, the lawn company trucks are out in full force. We just hope no one tries to pull an Evel Knievel again like last year, when one young man, distracted while filming Lake St. Clair on his phone, used an open trailer on Lakeshore as a ramp and drove halfway through the front of it.

Then there are outdoor sports for all ages, with baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse and track in full swing, not to mention the upcoming Little League parades. Oh, and there is this newfangled thing called pickleball. Has anyone heard of it?

Soon, marinas at the city parks will be full and Lake St. Clair will be abuzz with boats of all shapes and sizes. Then, come Memorial Day, the pools open for the season. All except for Pier Park, where the Farms is redoing its aquatic facilities. Kudos to the Park and Woods for graciously allowing their neighbors in the Farms to use their pools this summer, as well as the Shores and the Grosse Pointe Public School System for accommodating the Farms' synchronized swimming and swim team practices, respectively.

With the Shores planning to revamp its pool at Osius Park not far down the road and the Park trying to figure out the future of its pool at Windmill Pointe Park, we are sure the reciprocity and spirit of cooperation will be felt again.

And just because we have an extra bounce in our step, we have a bonus sign of spring for you. This one holds the power that, with a single mention, sends shivers down the spine of anyone who has been dive-bombed by one: the red-winged blackbird. Yes, it's time for this loathed feathered frenemy to nest and bring forth yet more red-winged blackbirds into our orbit. Of course, Mother Nature is wonderful and the circle of life is sweet, but we could do without the aggressive nest protection and aforementioned dive-bombing



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

The vibrant blue ground cover that typically appears in April in Grosse Pointe are Scilla siberica. They blanket lawns in a sea of deep blue that serves as the first colorful greeting of spring. The plants thrive in partial shade and fill spaces quickly, giving color to the lawns before the perennials start to bloom.

GUEST VIEW By Andrea Ward, Ph.D.

One-size funding does not fit all

(Editor's note: The name of the student mentioned here has been changed to protect his identity.)

William is a sweet sixth grader. He also has autism and is nonverbal. He spends most of his day in a special education classroom where he learns how to communicate what he needs through typing and the use of picture boards.

These needs vary day to day based on a wide-ranging set of factors, from William's food, medication and sleep to family struggles, special school events and safety drills. William becomes physically aggressive when he is frustrated or overwhelmed and he will hit, grab and scratch himself or other people around him. In the past, he has hurt students, teachers, assistants and administrators.

William does not want to hurt anyone; this is one of the only ways he can communicate his frustration. He has a behavior plan to keep everyone safe, which includes regular movement breaks for him, Kevlar sleeves for our staff and at least two staff members with William at all times.

There are many other special education students in our building. Some just need more instruction in a small group format. Others have needs that are much more complex, where a paraprofessional is assigned to help them throughout the day. The special education system, enshrined in law to help William and all our students learn and grow, is therefore equally complex and, because the cost of helping each student varies, expensive.

Michigan's special education system is currently funded through a cost reimbursement model, which is chronically underfunded. Each year, the state's annual budget is short hun-

dreds of millions of dollars, with only 28.6 percent of each district's special education costs reimbursed on average.

Since districts are required by law to provide these services, the underfunding means they must find the money elsewhere. Districts like the Grosse Pointe Public School System rely on the general fund and millages to cover the shortfall from the state, often resulting in an inadequate education for all our students.

What's more, special education funding is partly tied to millages, and since millages are tied to property values, students across the state rarely have the same level of services.

According to the Autism Alliance of Michigan, high-wealth communities generate as much as \$5,395 per student from a one-mill tax. In lower socio-economic areas, the number is closer to \$1,195 per student. This is especially concerning since more than half of the special education students in Michigan live in areas that can only generate \$2,100 per student.

In an effort to address this issue, the Autism Alliance of Michigan and a coalition of stakeholders have studied this issue and created the Finance Reform Blueprint, which can be found at shorturl.at/4Ffr2. This report contains a comprehensive plan that outlines steps to help Michigan students who receive special education services.

See GUEST, page 7A

LETTERS

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

Where's the fair chance?

To the Editor:

Moussa Hamka, a proven leader in this district, longtime principal at South and someone elevated to central administration by Dr. Andrea Tuttle, has applied to be superintendent in Dearborn. That should concern our board of education and anyone who cares about the health of our school district. It is more than reasonable to believe he would have applied here, in the district he has served for over a decade, if the board had followed a fair and open process instead of anointing Dr. Roy Bishop without one.

For anyone following the board, the process was striking. Five members of the board — Colleen Worden, Clint Derringer, Valarie

See LETTERS, page 7A

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Undecided about AI

It feels like AI has taken over almost everything these days. Don't get me wrong, my history on ChatGPT is long. I ask it pretty much any question that pops into my head at any given moment, because unlike

Google or Yahoo, there aren't any sponsored articles or ads (yet). I've used it to help me with article organization, design a room and recently sent it a photo of a confusing foreign stovetop and it told me in seconds exactly how it worked. Genius! However, the generic tone and robot-like cadence it delivers are really becoming boring. Since I work at a newspaper, perhaps I'm

unfairly negative because we employ professional (human) writers who work really hard to write with their own quirks, slang and voice. I think that's what makes the writing interesting, but what I see online most days feels way too smooth — with a particular rhythm that screams AI. Another beef I have with the "agents" or the AI "whatevertheyrecalled," is that they're super wordy. Maybe it's because we

have become permanently attention-deficited from the way of the modern "get it right now" world, but someone needs to edit the robots. I'll take a listicle or a summary, please. Then again, we could probably all just request the computers to "please keep it short" and the good little robots would spit out something more bite-sized. I have read several articles lately about college admissions officers crav-

ing authentic essays from prospective students. I hope that spills over into business and social media. I cannot be asked to read AI-generated social media posts, articles and emails that are monotone and miles long. Can you? According to a study by the University of Florida, reading for enjoyment has decreased 40 percent over the last two decades. But, I wonder, will it start to increase again as we start to crave original thought and an authentic voice? I sure hope so. I would love to get your thoughts on this. What do

you love about AI and what do you dislike? Is it good for the world or terrifying? I am getting up there in age and want to keep up with the times. If you think it's a great thing, I would love to get your take. Incidentally, I ran this column through AI and it gave me a 7.5 out of 10. "Ah, the great AI debate. This piece is engaging, relevant and very 'you,' but with a few tweaks it could feel sharper and more polished to make it a 9." Nah, I think I'll stick with my 7.5.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1951
75 years ago this week

CITY KEEPS WATCHFUL EYE ON UNIMPROVED PROPERTIES: The City of Grosse Pointe Council spent considerable time Monday night discussing measures which the members agree must be taken to preserve the general character of the large area situated south of Maumee Avenue and running to the lakefront. There are some large tracts of unim-

proved land in this section and under present zoning laws it is feared some developments might be started which would deteriorate the area.

1976
50 years ago this week

BOARD ANNOUNCES LAYOFFS: The Board of Education announced the layoffs of 162 teachers — more than one quarter of its professional teaching staff — at its April 12 meeting. The

staff cuts, along with others in the library budget, will save the system about \$1 million. This figure is roughly equivalent to the amount of revenues which would be generated by the 2.75 additional millage rejected by Pointe voters at the March 29 election.

SECOND MILLAGE ELECTION SET FOR JUNE 14: Public school millage proposals will again be split into propositions of additional millage and millage renewal for the consideration of voters in a second election. The announcement was made before an audience of hundreds of teachers, students and

parents at the Board of Education's April 12 meeting. Board president Joan Hanpeter said the board has not determined the amount of additional millage which will be sought because "We have not had time yet to adequately weight everyone's viewpoint in the matter."

2001
25 years ago this week

SHORES COUNCIL CHAMBER TO GET MAKEOVER IN 2001: The Village of Grosse Pointe Shores courtroom

and council chamber will undergo renovations and remodeling over the next few weeks to replace some worn out furniture and repaint some faded walls. The village council chambers also doubles as the village's courtroom. That means the room has to function as a meeting room and a courtroom. The room was last redecorated back in 1984. Since then, state requirements for courtrooms have changed.

2016
10 years ago this week

RETRIAL HEARING FOCUSES ON GENTZ TESTIMONY: Just as the hearing on whether Bob Bashara will be granted a new trial in the murder of his wife appeared to be winding down, it ratcheted right back up. Bashara, on Tuesday, April 12, appeared in front of Judge Vonda Evans and finished testifying in a hearing that has been going on, sporadically, since October 2015. Along with Bashara in the courtroom was Joe Gentz, Bob Bashara's handyman, who confessed to killing Jane Bashara, but said he was paid to do so by Bob Bashara.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

One of the suggestions listed in the Blueprint is to implement a weighted funding model for special education students. This would mean GPPSS would receive a base amount of money for all students in the district, and students with special needs would get additional money. Since the needs of special education students vary, it would make the most sense for the money to be allocated according to disability group or tier. Students with the least complex needs would be in Tier 1, where those with the most needs, like William, would be in Tier 4.

Here is what these tiers look like in practice. Special education students in Tier 1 who have mild disabilities are usually in a group of about 20 children. To help them, the district buys special textbooks and hires a special education teacher. The plans for these students are usually straightforward. Students with autism who are in Tier 4, on the other hand, often need much more complex support. William gets help from several adults throughout the school day. His Individualized Education Program, or IEP, includes support from the school social worker, the speech and language pathologist, the occupational therapist, physical therapist, ASD teacher, two paraprofessionals and adapted physical education and music teachers. In addition to these services, William needs a sensory room to help him stay calm. This room

needs to be equipped with a sensory swing, crash pads, special lighting, a trampoline, weighted blankets, noise-canceling headphones and visual supports. Implementing a weighted system to fund special education in Michigan would result in a system better able to meet William's needs and the needs of every special education student. It is what the state must do if we're to set these students up for success in school and beyond. *Andrea Ward, Ph.D., teaches special education at Pierce Middle School and is a 2025-2026 Teach Plus Michigan senior policy fellow. The mission of Teach Plus is to empower teachers to take leadership over key policy and practice issues that advance equity, opportunity and student success.*

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

St. John, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp — now operating as a supermajority with absolute power over our schools, moved to appoint Dr. Bishop with no public discussion, no posting and no opportunity for qualified internal candidates to apply. It is a level of control they have begun to flex time and again. Many in the community suspect this decision was made behind closed doors by the five of them, raising serious concerns that the Open Meetings Act was violated. Even if Mr. Hamka were not ultimately selected, simply allowing him and others the opportunity to apply and interview would have demonstrated basic respect for his service, upheld principles of equity and fairness and ensured equal opportunity in a decision of this magnitude. This is a real consequence of a board majority that chose to abandon the longstanding processes and traditions of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. For decades, this district has followed a simple and respected practice: When selecting a superintendent, you open the process, invite applications and allow qualified candidates to compete. It reflects basic principles of

good governance. Consistent with EEOC guidance, employers should use hiring practices that provide broad access and ensure all qualified candidates have a fair chance. If Trustees Worden, Derringer, Hull, Klepp and St. John have any integrity, they should immediately halt contract negotiations with Dr. Bishop and open the process. If Dr. Bishop believes in equity, he should demand it. *LISA PAPAS
City of Grosse Pointe*

The cost of ignoring history

To the Editor: The brilliant philosopher George Santayana wrote in 1905, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." The wartime leader Winston Churchill famously paraphrased these words. Santayana was writing about patterns in human behavior

and the cost of ignoring recent history. That warning applies now as new donor policies take hold in our schools. Residents should be paying close attention to board meetings and what is being said publicly. What is unfolding closely tracks what Aimee Fluitt advanced during her time on the Grosse Pointe Park City Council and as a board member of WeGP, a local advocacy group. The leaders of that same WeGP have pushed for policy changes in our schools and have taken aim at Pointers for Academic Excellence. The influence is not subtle and the direction is clear. The question is why there is such a consistent effort to push away people who have supported our schools. Clint Derringer, Colleen Worden and the current board leadership are moving down that same path, marching to what appears to be a very simi-

lar tune. It resembles the Park's "gang of five" period voters rejected in 2021. The posture toward donors and community support feels identical. Valarie St. John's visible smirk as the GP STEAAM Foundation considers stepping back says plenty. When a foundation hesitates and the response is satisfaction, it signals something deeper than policy disagreement. A supermajority now controls the board, with more than two and a half years remaining. Dr. Tuttle is no longer there as a counterbalance, as

she was clearly forced out. The agenda is being implemented steadily and relentlessly, with limited outcry from the community. Voters are told this is what they chose. That claim deserves scrutiny. There was no campaign centered on weakening donor partnerships, pushing out an effective and brilliant superintendent or following the influence of WeGP. If candidates for the school board election in November who are aligned with the GP Democratic Club and

WeGP win again, the consequences will not be theoretical. I guarantee we will see school closures once again, consolidation and fewer programs for our students. Social engineering will follow, all justified in the name of efficiency, funding higher teacher salaries and mental wellness. Grosse Pointe has seen this cycle before in our schools and municipalities. Santayana's warning was not abstract. It was practical and applies here. *KRISTYELLIS
Grosse Pointe Park*

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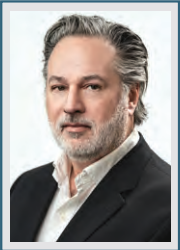
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STRENGTH AND CLARITY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Marina work to take longer

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The completion date to plug holes in the marina breakwall is adrift. Despite assurances in recent months that work would be finished by opening day of the marina April 15, repairs didn't start until last week. Construction will spill into the boating season for at least two weeks, according to an update this week. "We anticipate work to be completed by Friday, May 1, at the latest," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. The \$512,000 project, funded by boaters through well rentals at the 270-slip municipal marina at Windmill Pointe Park, is to fill gaps in the breakwall forming the harbor's sin-

gle, combined entry and exit. "The work going on will be completed when it's completed, but won't delay the opening of the marina, is that right?" Michael Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission, asked Craig. "They (the contractor) reassured us they will not impact boats entering or exiting the marina while that work is taking place," Craig said. Yet progress has already stalled. "I don't know what we can do about the current problem, which is the water (level of Lake St. Clair) is too high," said Larry Haggart, head of the commission's marina subcommittee. "I was talking to (the contractor, E.C. Korneffel). The water's too high and they cannot do the weld-

ing under water. They could do it, but that's a lot more expensive to do underwater welding. They didn't count on that. They're hoping the water will go down." "Wind conditions didn't help," said Craig, citing onshore breezes. "Wind was blowing it (water) right into the marina, so it was up a couple inches higher than they could tolerate," Haggart said. "We're hoping that's going to drop in the next few days and they're going to be able (get) construction going on the harbor entrance." "Construction's already going," Harbor Master Tom Fraser said. "It's just some things they have to do welding-wise." "They have a lot of welding to do," Haggart said.

State mandates backflow inspections

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Dirty water and drinking water aren't supposed to mix. But sometimes they do, which is why the city embarked this month on a five-year campaign to root out verboten forms of hydraulic fraternization called cross connections. The effort complies with a state environmental mandate for which individual jurisdictions pay the cost. "This is an unfunded mandate," Councilman Max Wiener said. "The Michigan Drinking Water Act has been updated to include a provision for implementation of a residential inspection program for cross-connection control of our water systems," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "State enforcement of this rule has picked up in recent years." "An EGLE mandate is coming down pretty heavy," said Tom Jenny, head of public works. "Typically, you don't fight with EGLE (the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Engineering)." "When you do it proactively, you build goodwill with EGLE," Wiener said. To keep on pace if not ahead of regulators, Park

officials on April 13 issued a five-year contract starting July 1 for a company to inspect residences for cross connections. "Cross connection" means a connection or arrangement of piping or appurtenances through which a backflow could occur," according to a definition in the state Cross Connection Rules Manual. "Michigan prohibits cross connections and requires each water supply to implement a cross-connection prevention program including inspections, testing, recordkeeping and education," according to "Cross connection control," on the EGLE website. Park inspections were contracted to Hydrocorp for a total \$249,666 spread over five years. "Hydrocorp conducts over 110,000 cross-connection control inspections annually," according to the company's service agreement with the city. Among the company's findings in southeast Michigan, 56 percent of properties fail first inspections. Most violations involve irrigation systems. "Without a backflow prevention device, chemical pesticides or fertilizers from lawn systems can backflow into house-

hold water," according to a common explanation. "Modern plumbing regulations often help prevent these situations, but many homes have older plumbing or do-it-yourself projects that may result in unprotected cross connections and pose a risk," said EGLE on its website. "Almost everyone has a backflow preventer on their sprinkler system," Jenny said. "We just have to test them." State rules prohibit four forms of cross connection: ♦ between a public water supply system and a secondary water supply, ♦ by submerged inlet, ♦ between a public water supply and piping which may contain sanitary waste or a chemical contaminant and ♦ between a public water supply system and piping immersed in a tank or vessel which may contain a contaminant. Remedies are the responsibility of property owners. "Any costs associated with the replacement, modification, installation and testing of backflow prevention assemblies are the responsibility of the property owner, manager or occupant," reads a sample social media post Hydrocorp proposed issuing as part of the inspection process.

GPPPS Foundation does it again

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A crime-fighting charity is paying the first annual installment of a five-year contract to arm public safety officers with new Tasers and accessories. The package consists of new Taser electric stun guns, cartridges, battery packs, related equipment and annual certified training classes. "Tasers serve as a critical component of the public safety function of the Park," said Jim Bostock, director of pub-

lic safety. "They're worth their weight in gold. The five-year program will ensure that all our Tasers will be replaced in accordance with their designed lifespans and any applicable warranties." A portion of the new equipment's \$92,100 overall cost is being paid by the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation. "Our mission is to help equip Park officers with the tools necessary to ensure their safety and the safety of the community," said John Wolski, foundation executive director. "Tasers are one

of many tools that support that goal." "The foundation has generously agreed to pay the first year of this contract," Bostock said. "The city will pick up years two through five." The foundation's first-year tab is \$11,892. During each of the four subsequent years, the city pays individual installments of \$20,236 totaling \$80,208. Bostock said he didn't know why the foundation's annual payment, which covers a full year of the contract, is less

See GPPPS, page 10A

Dogs' day out in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Animal lovers and pet owners are invited to bring their four-legged friends to the first annual Village Bark and Browse from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2. The organic, laid-back event will invite families to stroll with their dogs through participating businesses — many supplying bowls of water and offering treats — and receive complimentary handmade dog bandanas and bow ties. Shops such as Glitter & Scotch additionally will offer giveaways and Sidecar Slider Bar has committed to selling pup coats to go. "We will have pet-

friendly businesses marked," said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe. "Some businesses aren't cut out for that, obviously. Restaurants — the health department codes state they are not supposed to have pets inside. Some businesses maybe have breakables so they don't have a lot of flexibility, but others say, 'We have dogs in here all the time.'" Highlighting the event will be a strolling doggy fashion show from 10 a.m. to noon to compete for the title of "Best Dressed Pup in The Village." Participants will check in at the start of the event, receive a card to identify themselves as participants and then simply stroll around while the

business owners and employees serve as judges and keep track of their favorite looks. Winners will receive a prize basket from Pet Supplies Plus. "They don't have to be at a certain place at a certain time and all line up and worry that their dog is not feeling their outfit at that very moment," Willcock said. "We understand kids and animals, they're cute and we love them, but sometimes they're not always as cooperative as we'd like, so we want to make sure we're building in that flexibility." Professional pet portraits also will be offered for \$10 by Ruff Life Photography, in addition to raffles and a coloring

See DOGS, page 10A

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TIME:

Continued from page 1A

from a community standpoint to have such rich resources.”

Built in 1890 near the corner of present-day Mack and Lochmoor, Cook was known as Fractional District No. 9 School. It operated until 1922, when several smaller districts combined into the Grosse Pointe Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, the forerunner of GPPSS.

Slated to be razed, it was moved to its current location near Woods city hall in 2006.

“Very few communities are lucky enough to have something like this,” Neely added. “You can simulate this in a regular classroom, but it’s not the same.”

Neely obtained grants from the Louisa St. Clair chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education to offset costs and buy McGuffey Readers.

The textbooks for first through sixth grade were common in American schools from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century and emphasized spelling, vocabulary and public speaking.

Grosse Pointe Woods City Council also waived the rental fee on the building for the field trips.

While Cook Schoolhouse already had a few desks, there was a question as to where all



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, Izzy Donnelly taught as a schoolmarm would 100 years ago. Behind her on the chalkboard is a tongue twister, “Betty Botter bought a bit of butter,” which the class delightfully repeated a few times. Left, Andrew Render recites the tongue twister to Donnelly while the class and Defer Elementary School second-grade teacher, Hannah Socha, listen.



Left, Isabelle Sparkman and Elaine Haberkorn play a rolling hoop game during recess. The object of the game was to roll the hoops to see who could cross the finish line first or who can keep their hoop rolling upright the longest. Right, Connor Gillman and Graham Miller play game of graces, using two sticks to toss a ribboned hoop to each other.



Grosse Pointe North High School, where he also plays football and runs track. He joined Scouting as a kindergartner at Monteith Elementary School.

“When I first joined, I’d see the Eagle Scouts and really looked up to them,” he said of his quest to attain the rank. “It’s an honorable achievement.”

Neely said she’s happy how everything came together.

“It’s so great to have classes at Cook for the first time in 104 years,” she said. “It’s been beautifully restored and we get to use it to do exactly what it was meant for.”

the students would sit.

Enter Hayden Senter, a member of Troop 96 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church who was looking for an Eagle Scout project. He built and stained 10 benches over three weekends and delivered them earlier this month.

“I looked at several designs and even though

the benches required bolts and screws, we were able to modify them to match the era,” Senter said. “I think they look pretty authentic.”

Neely said Senter was a pleasure to work with.

“He was so appreciative for the opportunity and made them look as close as possible to what would

have been used back then,” she said.

Senter, who lives in the Woods, is a freshman at



The wooden benches were made by an Eagle Scout. On the benches are the replicas of the Original McGuffey’s Eclectic First Reader, used in 1836.

STEAM:

Continued from page 1A

The board voted last month not to accept donations from groups it deems “political influence organizations.”

Board President Clint Derringer, Vice President Colleen Worden, Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Laura Hull voted in favor of the change. Trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup voted no. Secretary Valarie St. John was absent.

PfAE, registered as a Political Action Committee, supported a slate of candidates that opposed Derringer, Worden, Klepp and Hull in the 2024 election.

Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, started PfAE in late 2022, after being elected to the board, but is not involved in its day-to-day operations.

“PfAE has given real support to this district,” Agnone said.

He mentioned the group bought musical instruments for the district, recognized top teachers nominated by students with monetary gifts and awarded two graduating student-athletes — one female and one male — from each

high school.

PfAE also spent \$100,000 supporting campaigns in favor of passing the recent sinking fund millage and bond, as well as offered to pay for transportation and swimming lessons for GPPSS students living in Harper Woods because the pool at Parcels Middle School is closed.

The STEAM Foundation, which also includes members of the Cotton family, was started three years ago to support science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and math initiatives in the district by funding grants for which teachers applied.

It has awarded \$1.2

million to more than 70 applicants. Some of its larger grants included \$133,000 for a new video scoreboard in the gym at Grosse Pointe North High School and \$25,000 for the district to host an AI summer camp through a program started by doctoral students from MIT and Stanford.

“We felt it was important for the community and board to hear directly from us,” Agnone said. “We did not make this decision lightly. My fellow board members and I have thoroughly enjoyed being members of this organization and having such a positive impact on all Grosse Pointe public school students.”

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The Request for Proposal and supporting documents will be available by April 23, 2026. The mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at GPPSS Administration at 20601 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. All proposals must be submitted electronically to agrusaa@gpschools.org no later than 10:00 am on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Contact agrusaa@gpschools.org to request the bid documents and confirm your attendance at the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

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Motherless Moms Club seeks to provide connection, comfort Inaugural event is May 3

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Kate Myers was 24 when her mother died unexpectedly. She leaned on a small group of close friends, as well as her mom’s sister, for support through the confusion and chaos. “At such a young age ... I was not prepared to lose the most pivotal female in my life,” she said.

To provide a safe space of connection, shared experience and comfort with other women who have lost their mothers, Myers is hosting the first Motherless Moms Club event Sunday, May 3. “I’ve had some time to process my own loss and think about what I would have wanted and what I needed,” she said. “... It wasn’t until this year, through self-reflection, that I realized there’s such a need for this special group of women to get support. And I’ve been a mom for the last four years, so I can speak to that as well. “I created this with motherless moms in mind, but supporters are also welcome,” she added. Not only is Myers lean-



ing on her personal experience to host the event, but her professional experience plays a role as well. A licensed clinical therapist for 14 years, she has operated her private practice, Silver Springs, since 2018. “I went into this field because I wanted to help people,” she said. “... It’s important to have togetherness. With my experience and background, I hope to make a difference in someone’s life or day. At any age, it’s never easy to lose a parent.” The event takes place 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3. It’s no coincidence the event takes place a week before

Mother’s Day, she added. “As women, being a motherless mom and going through that journey, our relationships with other women become especially important,” she added, “especially being without one of the most important influences in your life.” Guests will eat lunch and hear from two speakers, Myers and Marla Ruhana, LMSW. Engagement activities and giveaways also are part of the program. “You don’t have to be a motherless mom to attend; supporters are welcome,” Myers said. “Some of my closest



COURTESY PHOTO

Kate Myers hosts the inaugural Motherless Moms Club event Sunday, May 3, a week before Mother’s Day.

friends still have their moms, but I don’t know where I’d be without them. It takes a village; relationships are so important.” Myers, the mom of two young children, has a full-time job in addition to her private practice. Her life is full, but she believes the Motherless Moms Club is something not to be overlooked. “This is arguably one of the most important events ever,” she said. “Everyone I’ve told about it says

there’s such a need. If you still have a mom in your life, unfortunately you’re eventually going to go through that (loss). This is our first event, but what I want from the Motherless Moms Club is a place to connect, relate, find togetherness in what we’ve been through.” Tickets are \$75. A limited number of sponsored tickets is available. “If someone has financial hardship, contact me,” Myers said. “I want those tickets to go to

The details

What: The Motherless Moms Club Mother’s Day event
When: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Where: Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores
Why: Whether you’re a mom missing your own mom or just need a supportive space, this event is for you. Guests will connect, share stories and honor the special bond of motherhood in a warm, welcoming atmosphere that celebrates strength, love and resilience.
More: The event includes lunch, two speakers, giveaways and engagement activities.

someone that needs it.” For an event overview and link to purchase tickets, visit tinyurl.com/57x9xjd7. Contact Myers through Instagram @motherlessmomsclub. “If I can help someone who’s feeling the chaos and confusion and brain fog, it’s what I need to do,” she said. “If just one person walks away thinking, ‘I was in the right place at the right time.’ Maybe they made a friend with someone who knows what they feel like. ... Grief is ever-evolving. There are different phases. Doing this now has opened up a new (phase) in my own grieving process. “There is a need and it’s so important.” Sponsorships and donations are welcome; all sponsors and donors will be mentioned at the event.

Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast is May 7

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The National Day of Prayer, established by President Harry S. Truman in 1952, and permanently designated to occur the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, encourages people “to turn to God and pray.” In its observance, the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts the 40th Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. “The essence behind this is bringing the community together — civic leaders, business leaders and residents — for a moment of shared reflection, unity and fellowship,” said Jennifer Boettcher, chamber president. Joining attendees will be the mayors of all five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, as well as keynote speaker Darryl Woods Sr., a former inmate who, at age 18, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Woods served 29 years of his sentence, repeatedly being denied parole and failing three commutation attempts. While

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incarcerated, he became a minister and started programs to reduce parolee recidivism and the school-to-prison pipeline. He was pardoned in 2019, by then-Gov. Rick Snyder. “His message is that you can’t be bitter,” said Abigail Barroso, director of engagement. “You need to focus on what you can do to be better. His focus is on faith; he says he was put in prison to share God’s love.” Woods is the founder of

Fighting the Good Fight, the mission of which is to bridge relationships between law enforcement and community members, returning citizens and youth through various initiatives, as well as provide mentoring for at-risk youth in the juvenile justice system. He currently is in the midst of a five-year term as an at-large police commissioner, after joining the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners in January 2024. Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison plans to attend the prayer breakfast. “(Woods) has such an uplifting story,” Barroso said. “He’s very inspiring and very calm, quiet and humble. I’m excited to hear more of his story. “... I always wonder who we’re going to find for our next (Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast),” she added. “We’ve got so many great people sharing their amazing stories. I’m so grateful he wants to share his time and story with us.” Doors for the Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast are at 7:30 a.m., with the program beginning around 8 a.m. Tickets are \$65 each and available online at grossepointechamber.org or by scanning the QR code, right.



COURTESY PHOTO

Darryl Woods Sr. will share his story of hope and resilience during the 40th Mayors’ Prayer Breakfast May 7.



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Henry Ford physician honored with AAD’s highest honor

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Henry Lim, M.D., FAAD, senior vice president of academic affairs and former chair of the Department of Dermatology at Henry Ford Health, recently was honored with a Gold Medal from the American Academy of Dermatology, the organization’s highest honor.

“It’s nice to be recognized for something that I enjoy doing,” Lim said. “This is given only once a year to one single individual for the entire membership of probably about 18,000 dermatologists from the U.S. and around the world. ... It is humbling and it is gratifying, especially since I enjoy doing what I’m doing.”

Lim joined the Henry Ford Hospital Department of Dermatology in 1997, serving 20 years as chairman before being elected president of the American Academy of Dermatology — the largest U.S.-based dermatological organization, he pointed out.

“I stepped down from chairmanship and was the president for a year, 2017-18,” he said. “Since then, I’ve continued to practice at Henry Ford Dermatology and now am the president of the International League of Dermatological Societies, which is sort of the United Nations of dermatology.”

The City of Grosse Pointe resident, who initially planned to become a pediatrician, was drawn to the field in medical school.

“I liked the specialty, so I decided to apply to dermatology and only at the institution where I rotated at, which was NYU,” he said, “because I liked the way dermatol-



COURTESY PHOTOS

American Academy of Dermatology President Dr. Susan C. Taylor and Henry Ford Health’s Dr. Henry Lim, the AAD’s 2026 Gold Medal award recipient, pose for a photo during the organization’s annual meeting in Denver.

ogy was taught in the institution. Even though I only applied to one, they accepted me and the rest is history. I was trained there and stayed on.”

Throughout his career, Lim has established himself as a leading international expert on photodermatology and vitiligo. He also established a robust clinical and laboratory research program at Henry Ford and advanced the understanding and treatment of pigmentary conditions, especially in people with skin of color.

“One portion of our work is to show the effect of sunlight,” he said. “Not only it causes sunburn, which is well-known, especially in light-skinned individuals, but in dark-skinned individuals it causes pigmentary alterations, which is the skin becoming very dark and it lasts very long. So it’s beyond tanning and

that is especially a challenge for patients of populations with skin of color.”

Significant to his research was the realization that a portion of sunlight called visible light — thought to be inert — has a lasting and negative impact on people with darker skin tones.

“In lighter skin it causes sunburn,” he said. “In darker skin we were the first group that investigated that it causes very significant pigmentary alteration. Those are very important developments and achievements that I feel very gratified about.”

Lim is among researchers working to develop protection against visible light, in addition to ultraviolet light.

“The regular sunscreen that we have ... does not protect against visible light,” he said. “It protects against UV. The visible light portion has

become a very important part of the sunscreen industry, how to protect against that.

“... If you go to CVS or other stores, you can see a lot of sunscreen will be marked as tinted sunscreen,” he added. “That’s directly the result of our work, because tinted sunscreen is the best sunscreen we can have in the U.S. to protect against visible light.”

Research continues as tinted sunscreen stains clothing, “so there are other areas now the sunscreen industry is looking into and we’ve been actively working on that,” Lim said.

Lim has published more than 700 articles and edited 11 textbooks with more than 41,000 citations in Google Scholar. He has been cited by expertscape.com as the world’s top-rated expert on sunscreen.



Dr. Henry Lim, senior vice president for academic affairs at Henry Ford Health and the system’s former dermatology chair, accepts the American Academy of Dermatology’s Gold Medal during the organization’s annual meeting March 27, in Denver. The award recognizes Lim’s lifetime contributions to the field of dermatology.

Lim also is integral in the treatment of vitiligo, a condition that causes loss of skin pigmentation.

“We use light to treat various skin diseases, from psoriasis to eczema,” he said, “but the one that we treat a lot — our center is considered to be one of the leaders in the world on this — is vitiligo, which is the Michael Jackson disease, where you have complete loss of pigment. We have a vitiligo center and one of the treatments is to use light to bring the color back. Nowadays the medication is topical and also, in clinical trials, an oral medication to help the color come back, in combination with sunlight with phototherapy UV treatment in the office.”

Lim’s research in photodermatology and vitiligo, as well as patient care and training young physicians, are among his proudest accomplishments.

“I have many, many patients I have known for many years, not only themselves but also their families,” he said. “... At

the same time it is very gratifying to be able to interact with younger physicians. ... It is very gratifying to see them grow professionally, to see them become successful in their own area. “... And doing research to push the frontier of the knowledge forward is also very gratifying,” he added. “I feel very blessed with those three activities and feel that I do all of them well, so I’m not sacrificing one for the other.”

Lim thanked Henry Ford for supporting him throughout the years.

“Having been at Henry Ford since ’97, it has been a great institution because it allows me to do the opportunities I have just outlined,” he said. “... This type of activity, effort, recognition, takes a lot of my time, but that means that also other people within the department would have to help me in covering some of the activities that I do when I’m away, when I do research. This institution has been great allowing me to do activities, including to be a leader in dermatology.”

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

◆ Marble Run Design, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

◆ Drawing Dragons, 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 20.

◆ Adopt-a-Stream Presentation by Clinton River Watershed Council, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 21.

◆ Earth Day Animal Spot-A-Thon, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April

23.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 21.

◆ Gettin’ Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

◆ 1,000 Hours Outside: Earth Day Clean Up, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

◆ Belle’s Brave

Bookclub, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ 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.

◆ Sensory-Friendly Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 20.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 22.

◆ The Keep it Simple Sing Along and Jam: Earth Day Jam Session, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 23.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25.

◆ Anime-Style Character Drawing Lab, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

◆ Miniature Painting Class, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Ford House

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

◆ Ford House After Dark, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

Admission is \$25 for Friends, \$35 for the public.

◆ Lecture: Know Your Trees, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Admission is \$12 for Friends, \$15 for the public.

◆ Science Saturdays: Map Quest, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18, for ages 7 to 11. Cost is \$6 for Friend children, \$12 for Friend adults.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 23, Lakeview High School, 21100 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Parish, 26100 Ridgmont, Roseville.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 30, Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For informa-

tion on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Liquor & Lore: A Celebration of Bourbon, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 17. Cost is \$83.

◆ Premier World Discovery: Treasures of Ireland, 8 to 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 21.

◆ Staying Connected: You’re Not Alone, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22.

◆ Jazz Brunch featuring Dave Bennett, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 26. Tickets are \$80 general admission, \$95 VIP.

◆ Middle School Dance: Under the Stars, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30. Cost is \$22 before April 27, \$25 after.

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.

GPAA

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

◆ One-day Painting

Workshop with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 17.

◆ Writing Workshop with Jan Dale, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 18.

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

Heart Health

Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit, hosts a free Healthy Heart screening from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18. Participants receive a free whole-heart checkup, including an EKG, as well as blood pressure, body mass index and blood glucose screenings. Attendees will receive their results the same day and meet one-on-one with a doctor. Stroke assessments and education on weight loss, diet and nutrition also are provided. Visit henryford.com/campaign/healthy-heart-screening-event

POST Detroit

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

◆ Beginner Sewing Workshop: Linen Throw Pillows, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Cost is \$75.

◆ Basket Weaving

See EVENTS, page 3B

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Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Ten-Minute Play Festival May 1-3

Grosse Pointe Theatre’s Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival returns May 1 to 3, at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. The theme of this year’s festival is “The Waiting Room.”

More than 343 playwrights from 10 countries submitted their 10-minute plays for consideration. All plays were screened to make sure playwrights followed the theme, criteria and minimal set requirements of a desk, desk chair and three additional chairs. The narrowed list of plays then was sent to independent judges not affiliated with Grosse Pointe Theatre. The judges’ 10 top-ranked plays will be presented at each of the three performances.

The Ten-Minute Play Festival was created 13 years ago by longtime Grosse Pointe Theatre member Mary Lou Britton, who wanted to present an opportunity to get fellow members interested in the art of playwriting by creating 10-minute plays. Playwriting workshops were offered to members and the finished plays were presented at GPT membership meetings.

“This opportunity was simply to be one of the monthly workshop performances at our monthly membership meetings,” Britton said. “When we saw how much people enjoyed the writing and the shorter time commitment for the production, everyone agreed the program should be expanded and made into an annual event.”

Since then, a committee was formed, a series of three workshops are offered annually to everyone and play submissions have attracted playwrights from across the world. The committee works year-round to present an educational performance program that not only encourages aspiring playwrights, but also introduces others to directing, acting, stage management and other volunteer roles that make the festival a success each year. This labor of love is another example of Grosse Pointe Theatre’s mission to connect, create and inspire communities through theater.

This year’s festival program chairman, Pete DiSante, has been involved since its inception. A gifted writer, performer and director, DiSante has had several of his short plays performed at Grosse Pointe Theatre’s membership meetings, the play festival and a few other theater groups.

Regarding this year’s festival, DiSante said he wants audiences to have a wonderful experience. “I look forward to audiences enjoying the efforts and talents of everyone involved in the play festival,” he said. “I hope audiences will leave the performance feeling that they have had a unique and enjoyable experience and even gain some new perspectives on the subjects covered in this

See PLAYS, page 6B

Projects, volunteers sought for chamber’s Community Impact Day

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to another successful Community Impact Day and is counting on residents to be a part of the plan.

The community-wide event takes place 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 13. The chamber is seeking more projects, as well as volunteers for the afternoon.

“We are still looking for projects, but currently are accepting volunteers to assess Grosse Pointe Farms’ tree canopy by seeking areas that gap natural shade and trees; picking up trash along the Moross Greenway; gardening at the Ford House; gardening at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall; gardening at The Helm and getting summer-ready at Kids on the Go,” said Abigail

Barroso, director of engagement with the chamber. “We’re open to anything. We just ask that it’s not someone’s home. It should be something that will help the community.”

Any business district, nonprofit organization, church, school group or other organization is invited to reach out to the chamber with a project, which can range from laying mulch to stuffing envelopes.

“We want to help community organizations get work done,” Barroso said. “And we want to bring a lot of people out to help.”

Added Chamber President Jennifer Boettcher, “It’s about bringing the community out together and building friendships. All the volunteers get a T-shirt and everyone’s invited to an afterparty at 4 p.m. at a to-be-determined location.”

Project suggestions may be submitted until Friday, April 24, to info@grossepointechamber.com.

Sponsorships are accepted until Thursday, April 30, which also is the deadline for volunteers to register.

“You can sign up through the chamber website — grossepointechamber.org — and choose the project you want,” Boettcher said. “It can be you and your colleagues volunteering as a team or you as an individual helping out.”

Summer save-the-dates

Further enriching the community, the chamber hosts the following summer events:

- ◆ Legacy on the Lake — Thursday, June 11, at The War Memorial, honoring the Van Elslander family.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Art Festival — Saturday,

Aug. 1, on The Hill. Artist/vendor applications currently are being accepted at grossepointechamber.org.

- ◆ Nonprofit Mixer — Thursday, Aug. 20, at Ford House.



To volunteer for Community Impact Day, scan the QR code.



To become a sponsor for Community Impact Day, scan the QR code.

Optimists host 16th annual Oratorical Contest

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe recently hosted its 16th annual Oratorical Contest at The War Memorial. This year’s speech topic was “The Moment I Realized I Belonged — My Definition of Community.”

Anya Smrt received a gold medal, while Sophie Byrn earned silver and Annie Geresy earned bronze. All three are students at Pierce Middle School.

Smrt and Byrn are eligible to proceed to the Area Optimist Oratorical Contest, which takes place April 18.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome. Visit gpoptimists.com for meeting locations, dates and time. Follow the club on Facebook.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Anya Smrt, Sophie Byrn and Annie Geresy.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

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 Nesting Plates, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sundays, April 19 and 26. Cost is \$125.
- ◆ Custom Paw Print Tiles, sessions offered 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 19. Cost is \$65.
- ◆ Ceramics Workshop: 4/20 Puff Pipes, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 20. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Intro to Zine Making Workshop with Melissa Dettloff, 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$75.
- ◆ Painting Workshop: Making Natural Ink with Foraged Plants, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$60.
- ◆ Upholstery Workshop: Seat Cushions, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 25 and May 2. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Artful Chalkboards, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Cost is \$100.

- ◆ Concrete Planter Workshop: Succulent Gardens, 3 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Cost is \$65.
- ◆ Hand Lettering Workshop: Intro to Pointed Pen Calligraphy, 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Cost is \$75.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Adrian Lewis, CEO of Forgotten Harvest, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

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.

- ◆ Spring Serenade, with the Detroit Opera, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$20.
- ◆ The movie “Everybody’s Fine” is shown at noon Friday, April 24. Cost is \$4.
- ◆ Springtime Basket Making, noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, with Deb VanderLinde, The Basket Mak’r. Cost is \$65.
- ◆ Dance Fever for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, April 28 to June 4, with instructor Andreas Browne.
- ◆ Thrift Store Adventure and Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 30. Cost is \$10 for roundtrip transportation to the Full Circle Thrift Store, followed by lunch at Sindbad’s.

- ◆ Health for Her at The Helm: Sexuality and Intimacy as We Age, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30. The program is presented in partnership with The Family Center.
- ◆ 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.

HW Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts its spring book sale 1 to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. More than 5,000 books, hundreds of deleted books and old records will be available for the first time. Fill a Friends tote bag for \$5. For information, email Friends of the Harper Woods Library

President Charlie Perry at spunky981@comcast.net.

The Family Center

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

- ◆ Free Community Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays in April.
- ◆ It’s Not You: Identifying and Healing from Narcissistic People, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

Reunion

The Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th reunion Sept. 19, at MotorCity Casino Hotel. The event features a casual dress code, food stations and a cash bar. For more information or to RSVP, visit gpnclassof1976.com.

Sunrise on Vernier

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

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair

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

Toastmasters

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

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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.

Carol Louise Semack

Carol Louise Semack, 80, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 4, 2026.

Born and raised on Detroit's east side, Carol graduated from Dominican High School and later Aquinas College. She made her home in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she lived for more than 50 years.

Throughout her life, Carol worked in a variety of roles, including at Henry Ford Hospital, Comerica Bank and with the Grosse Pointe Public School System in one of the school stores.

A woman of deep Catholic faith, Carol lived through acts of kindness, honesty and service to others. She held a special place in her heart for The Helm at the Boll Life Center, where she volunteered her time, as well as the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center.

She was a dedicated hockey mom, a devoted hostess who cherished time with friends and a lover of music, puzzles and card games, most notably bridge.

Carol had a love for life and checking off her bucket list. Being "Mimi" to her grandchildren was one of her greatest honors and joys. She especially cherished her time with family in Oscoda and road trips with her granddaughters and son, Douglas. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her kindness, generosity and the love she gave so earnestly.

Carol is survived by her sons, Michael (Mary), Gregory (Dolly) and Douglas Semack; grandchildren, Ansley Conchola (Joseph), Lauren, Sydney, Morgan, Catherine and Nicholas Semack; great-granddaughters, Sophia and Isla Conchola; and siblings, Joyce (the late Keith) and David (Kellie). She was predeceased by the father of her sons, Richard Semack; and parents, Roland and Agnes Loweke.

Memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscasy.org/help-us-serve/donate/.

A funeral Mass was held April 13, at St. Joan

of Arc Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Joseph Henry LaGrasso

Joseph Henry LaGrasso, 78, passed away Wednesday, April 8, 2026. He was a loving father, grandfather and friend.

Joseph cherished his family. He took great pride in building the family business and was a true friend to many. Throughout his life, his friends and family benefited from his quick (and sometimes inappropriate) sense of humor, business acumen and devotion to God. Joe was a deeply devoted Catholic.

Joseph was born July 17, 1947, in Detroit, to Salvatore and Rose LaGrasso. He graduated from Austin High School in 1965, and St. Bernard College in Alabama in 1969. He met Cheri, his wife of 40 years, and they had three children and four grandchildren together.

Most important to Joe were his family and his friends. He was the father of Stephanie Trautman (Philip), Lindsay Laskowski (Justin) and Alex LaGrasso; grandfather of Anna and Charlie Trautman and Blake and Owen Laskowski; brother of Michael LaGrasso; and stepbrother of Jim Zerilli and Joe Zerilli. He is survived by many nephews, nieces and godchildren, as well as many friends who will miss him dearly. Joe was the kind of person people called to talk with, get advice from and share a laugh with. He had a one-of-a-kind personality.

As a leader in the produce industry, Joe spent more than 50 years building LaGrasso Brothers Produce into the large company it is today. He took immense pride in his work and was well-respected by all in the industry. In addition to his family, friends and work, Joe was an avid bowler at the Detroit Athletic Club.

His family received guests Monday, April 13, at A.J. Desmond & Sons

Funeral Home, 32515 Woodward, Royal Oak.

Visitation was held Tuesday, April 14, before a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at Holy Name Catholic Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham.

A Rite of Committal was held at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph-Detroit, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, the capuchins.org/donate.

Arrangements entrusted to A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Lawlis

Mary Ann (nee Guzicki) Lawlis, 96, passed away peacefully Friday, April 10, 2026, just before her 97th birthday.

Mary Ann was born April 24, 1929, in Detroit, to Walter and Lucille Guzicki. She was a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods for more than 50 years and a devout member of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

Mary Ann obtained a bachelor's degree from Marygrove College in Detroit. She was known for her artistic ability, which she expressed through painting, chalk drawing, sewing and sculpting. Her love for the arts led her to be a docent at the Detroit Institute of Arts for more than 40 years. She loved to travel and took many trips with her husband, Walter, including to Mexico, Peru, Europe and all over the U.S. She also was known for her love of family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Ann was the beloved spouse of Walter Lawlis, who predeceased her in 2015. She also was predeceased by two of her siblings, Gertrude Bruttell and Michael Guest.

She is survived by her sister, Virginia Filar (Chuck); eight children, Patricia Hendricks (Thomas), Karen Mahan (Don), Maureen Meadows (Gene), James Lawlis (Susan), Margaret Lawlis, Peter Lawlis (Shannon), Dan Lawlis (Diane) and Tim Lawlis (Donna); 10 grandchildren, Elizabeth Tobin (Douglas), Patricia Alcorn (Dani), Alexandra



Carol Louise Semack



Joseph Henry LaGrasso



Mary Ann Lawlis

Villarreal (Sam), Samantha Koster (David), Conor Lawlis (Isabella), Gini Lawlis, Sarah Lawlis, Jenna Lawlis, Kelly Mahan and Bridget Mahan; and three great-grandchildren, Avila and Lilliana Lawlis and Elena Villarreal.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in the future.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Henry Louis Ritter

Henry "Hank" Louis Ritter, 94, passed away Sunday, April 5, 2026. He was a man of profound integrity, technical brilliance and quiet leadership.

A decorated veteran and cornerstone of the Detroit professional community, Henry leaves behind a legacy defined by service, family and his stewardship of one of the world's most historic architectural firms.

He was predeceased by his parents; and brother, David. He is survived by the love of his life, Susan "Sue" (nee Schneider) Ritter; loving children, Kevin Ritter of Atlanta and Daniel Ritter (Kristin) of Grosse Pointe Shores; sisters, Ruth Orintas (Bill) and Mary Verville (Bob); brother, Robert Ritter (Grace); sister-in-law, Patti Ritter; and many beloved in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Born in 1941, Henry was a lifelong Michigander. He attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and graduated from Austin Catholic High School in 1959. A dedicated hockey goaltender from a young age, he was known for building a large skating rink in his family's backyard each winter, creating a hub of joy for his family and neighborhood children alike.

His pursuit of excellence led him to the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in structural engineering. While in South Bend, Ind., Henry's

passion for hockey took on a historic dimension. As a goaltender, he was instrumental in the formation and growth of the university's hockey team, helping lay the foundation for what became a storied varsity program. He remained a proud and steadfast alumnus and a lifelong fan of the Fighting Irish.

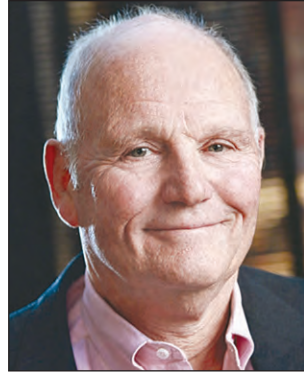
During his college years, Henry joined the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps, beginning a distinguished path of service to his country. Following graduation, he served two years of active duty, including a tour during the Vietnam War. As a second lieutenant and engineer, he served with exceptional valor and distinction and earned the Bronze Star Medal for his service in the theater of war.

Henry's professional life was defined by his more than 40-year tenure at Albert Kahn Associates. He joined the legendary firm, renowned for its global impact on industrial architecture, and ultimately rose to the role of chief operating officer and shareholder. Henry helped guide the institution through the modern era, preserving the high standards of excellence established by its founder until his retirement at age 68.

In 1968, Henry married Susan Schneider. Together, they raised their two sons, Kevin and Dan. Though a man of quiet ways, his love was expressed through his constant presence and gentle humor. A master of the harmless prank, he also was known for the affectionate nicknames he gave his boys: Kevin, whom he lovingly called "Keek," and Dan, whom he often referred to as "Joe."

Hank will be remembered by his loved ones for his devotion to his family, calm demeanor and kind heart. Often described as "the epitome of a good guy" and "salt of the earth," he will be loved and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters



Henry Louis Ritter

Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

MEMORIALS

Janet Mary Toenjes

JAN. 31, 1937 — FEB. 7, 2026

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 17, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. She will be inurned at the church following Mass.

A luncheon will follow at WaterMark Bar and Grille in St. Clair Shores.

Her full obituary was published in the Feb. 26, 2026, Grosse Pointe News.

Floramae H. Kliber

MAY 1, 1922 — DEC. 13, 2025

Flo will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. Friday, May 1, until a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Flo will be buried at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, next to her husband, Ed, who served in the U.S. Navy.

Her full obituary was published in the Dec. 25, 2025, Grosse Pointe News.

Correction

The obituary for Nancy Jo Swartz, published in the April 9 edition of the Grosse Pointe News, should have read a celebration of life will take place 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18, at St. James Lutheran Church.

Optimist Club visits Salvation Army Conner Creek Community Center

The Lakeshore Optimist Club recently took a road trip to the Salvation Army Conner Creek Community Center, where Capt. Dalvius King-Harvy provided a walking presentation and tour of the newly renovated center.

Club members were impressed by the facility, which includes a large multipurpose room and chapel; a commercial kitchen; a full-size gymnasium; several classrooms for after-school programming; a food pantry; counseling rooms; a workout room with certified equipment; and a board room.

More important than the facilities are the programs offered within them. After-school programs for youth

focus on building academic skills. Music classes are offered in six-week increments. Meals are served to youth four days a week and kids are sent home with "Blessing Bags" to augment nutritional needs. Physical fitness also is stressed with the gymnasium, workout room and the Fit Fridays for Families program.

The leaders at the Salvation Army Conner Creek location are tied to other community resources through working relationships with organizations such as Gleaners Food Bank, Forgotten Harvest, Wayne State University and the Detroit Police Department. The goal is to work toward physical, emo-

tional and spiritual wellness. The center serves Detroit's east side, Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores.

The club presented King-Harvy with a donation to assist with their work in the community. To learn more, visit centralusa.salvationarmy.org/connercreek/home/#whatwedo

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to speakers and learn what the club is about.

Visit gpointimists.com for locations, dates and times each month and follow the club on Facebook.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Kent Comer of the Lakeshore Optimist Club; Capt. Dalvius King-Harvy with the Salvation Army Conner Creek Community Center and Jeff Graham of the Lakeshore Optimist Club.

Assumption Cultural Center spring programs starting

Assumption Cultural Center presents its 2026 Spring Cultural Series, which aims to educate, excite and entertain through cultural events, exercise opportunities, shopping experiences and other activities.

Food lovers might be interested in learning how to make spinach cheese pie Monday, April 27, or Greek biscotti Monday, May 4.

Assumption also offers the six-week class, Adult Greek Dance Lessons, beginning Monday, May 11, for those wanting to learn traditional Greek dancing.

Church iconography tours, to view the works of world-renowned iconographer Vlasis Tsotsonis, are available — and ideal for those with an interest in art, history, anthropology or religion.

For children, Assumption

Nursery School & Toddler Center is accepting registrations for its 2026 Summer Camps — Early Childhood Camp for ages 1 to 5, and Youth Camp for ages 6 to 10. Parents may choose one or two five-week sessions.

For those interested in fitness, Assumption’s spring session of KALOSOMATICS runs through Friday, June 5. Students may join class any time during the session; registration fees will be pro-rated from the time of registration. Women and co-ed classes feature a cardiovascular emphasis incorporating aerobics, yoga and Pilates-like mat work. Beginner, intermediate and senior classes are offered, day and evening. Students may alternate classes and times to accommodate personal schedules; new students may attend any class free for

one week and seniors receive a 25 percent discount.

Assumption also offers Yin Yoga, during which students hold postures that move into deeper connective tissue. For those who prefer team sports, Assumption offers pickleball, including various clinics that teach beginners how to play and help more advanced players learn skills to improve their game. A pickleball machine helps players develop better muscle memory for improving shot placement and ball control. Courts are available for private rentals, including 7 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Other fitness classes include Tae Kwon Do Karate for adults and children.

Assumption has two all-new offerings this spring. Art for Adults Painting Class takes place Wednesdays, April 22,

29 and May 6; and Sewing for Kids, teaches children ages 7 to 14 to create their own designs, sew and use a sewing machine. Moms are welcome. Sewing classes run Saturday mornings, April 18 and 25, and May 2.

Travel with Assumption offers a trip to Spain, Sept. 30 to Oct. 12. To learn more about the trip, Assumption is hosting Travel Night at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

Other opportunities for self-improvement are a Sound Bowl Healing class Monday, May 18 or June 1; French language classes taught by the Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe; and Greek language classes for beginners, teens, advanced beginners and intermediates.

For those who like to shop, the Spring Fling Ladies’ Night, which includes appetizers and

refreshments, a cash bar and shopping, takes place Thursday, May 14. Assumption’s 16th annual Giant Garage Sale takes place Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 13.

Marchiori Catering at Assumption offers catering services for events of all sizes, from weddings to conferences, business meetings to organization gatherings. It also offers soups to go year-round, carryout menus and, new this year, pop-up courtyard summer dining.

For more information or to register for events, call Assumption at (586) 779-6111. The Spring/Summer 2026 brochure may be viewed at assumptionculturalcenter.org.

Assumption Cultural Center is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

Spring tree care: Simple steps for healthier, stronger trees in the Pointes

By Suzy Berschback
Guest Writer

As winter loosens its grip and Grosse Pointe’s tree canopy begins to wake up, spring is the most important time to give your trees the care they need to thrive. A few simple practices — done correctly — can dramatically improve tree health, longevity and even property value. Here’s what every homeowner should know this season.

Start with mulch, but do it right

Mulching is one of the best things you can do for your trees. It helps retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, suppress weeds and gradually improve soil quality as it breaks down.

But there’s a right way — and a very wrong way. You’ve likely seen trees with mulch piled high against the trunk like a cone. This is called a mulch volcano and despite how common it is, it can seriously damage or even kill trees.

When mulch is piled against the trunk, it traps moisture and creates the perfect environment for rot, pests and disease. It also can lead to girdling roots that choke the tree over time.

Instead, aim for a mulch “donut” with these easy steps:

- ◆ Spread mulch in a wide ring around the tree.
- ◆ Keep mulch two to three inches away from the trunk.



COURTESY PHOTO

A pin oak on Ridgemoor in Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Apply a layer about two to four inches deep.
 - ◆ Extend the ring as wide as possible (ideally toward the drip line).
- This donut shape allows air to reach the trunk while keeping roots cool and hydrated.

Watering: More important than you think

Spring rains help, but they’re not always enough — especially for newly planted trees.

Follow these general watering guidelines:

- ◆ New trees (one to three years): Deep water one or two times per week if rainfall is limited.
- ◆ Established trees: Water during dry spells (around every two to three weeks).
- ◆ Water slowly and deeply so moisture reaches the root zone.

A good rule of thumb: Trees need about one inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. Deep watering encourages strong root growth, while frequent shallow watering can weaken trees.

Protect your tree from ‘weed whacker damage’

One of the most common — and preventable — causes of tree decline in neighborhoods like ours is mechanical damage from lawn equipment.

Repeated hits from weed whackers or mowers can:

- ◆ strip bark,
- ◆ interrupt nutrient flow and

- ◆ open the door to insects and disease.
- Over time, this can kill an otherwise healthy tree. Follow these prevention tips:
- ◆ Maintain a mulch ring (your donut!) around the tree to keep equipment away.
 - ◆ Never let trimmers touch the trunk.
 - ◆ Consider a physical tree guard for young trees.
- Mulch rings don’t just help soil; they act as a protective buffer against accidental damage.

Spring check-up: what to look for

Take a walk around your yard this spring and look for:

- ◆ cracked or damaged branches from winter storms;
- ◆ mushrooms or soft bark near the base (a warning sign of decay);
- ◆ exposed roots or buried trunk flare; and
- ◆ signs of pests or early leaf issues.

If something looks off, it’s worth consulting a certified arborist early. Small problems are much easier (and cheaper) to fix.

Check your city’s tree programs

Many of the Grosse Pointes offer tree planting or replacement programs for trees located in the public right-of-way (typically the area between the sidewalk and street).

These programs may:

- ◆ replace dead or removed street trees at low or no cost;
- ◆ provide approved species suited to our local environment and
- ◆ help maintain the longterm health of the community canopy.

Residents are encouraged to check their specific city website for details on eligibility and how to apply. Healthy trees don’t happen by accident. They’re the result of small, consistent care decisions made over time.

Suzy Berschback is a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms and is working with the Urban Forestry Commission of the City of Grosse Pointe in its effort to restore the Pointes’ tree canopy and provide community education.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Racquet Up!

From right, Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner welcomed Rosemary O’Conner, Raqiyah Morrow and Sunrise Rotary Foundation Chairman Steve Basile to the weekly Rotary breakfast meeting March 24, at Ford House.

O’Conner, executive director of Detroit-based Racquet Up, shared the story of her local nonprofit, which supports and empowers Detroit youth through squash, academics and community service. The program has yielded a 100 percent high school graduation rate for students in northwest Detroit who completed it. Racquet Up support continues through the Graduate Success Program, which extends the total program engagement timeline seven years beyond high school graduation, offering support through college degree programs or navigating the workforce.

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House.

For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

Time to get crafty at The Helm

Get in the mood for spring and create festive décor during a Springtime Basket Making workshop at The Helm.

Deb VanderLinde, aka The Basket Mak’r, visits The Helm noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, to help participants create a Daisy Denim Wall Basket. Participants will weave the basket and dye it before adding embellishments that

include a denim pocket, fabric straps and daisy rivets. The completed project will be 6 inches wide by 7 inches tall — perfect to add a seasonal touch to the front door or anywhere inside the house.

Cost is \$65 and includes all materials, as well as snacks and drinks.

Not into crafting? No worries. Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of

Detroit Opera vocalists 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at The Helm. The Springtime Serenade has been a favorite of members of The Helm for many years and doesn’t disappoint. Cost is \$20 and includes a light lunch and dessert.

Registration is required for both events. Register at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600.

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Wayne County CASA introduced to GP's Lakeshore Optimist Club

Colleen McLellan, grant writer and former volunteer, provided information about Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, at a recent Lakeshore Optimist Club meeting.

CASA is a network of trained community volunteers who are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in foster care. The volunteers ensure every child has a voice in the legal system.

The program started in Seattle in 1977, when Judge David Soukup conceived the idea of citizen volun-

teers speaking up for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Currently, there are 890 CASA programs across the country, with 29 counties served in Michigan. According to the annual report, Wayne County CASA served 150 children, including 50 new children, to the program. There were 26 new volunteers trained with 72 total volunteers advocating for the children in the Wayne County program.

Volunteers go through extensive training and background checks prior to being accepted in CASA.

McLellan conveyed that her time as a volunteer was a wonderful experience. It is a worthy and rewarding mission to assist a child to gain access to resources as they transition to a foster care situation. For more information about the program and how to become a volunteer, visit waynecountycasa.org/.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Visit gpoptimists.com for meeting locations, dates and times each month or follow the club on Facebook.



COURTESY
PHOTO

PLAYS:

Continued from page 3B

year's plays."

Arlene Pollock, program vice chair, is no stranger to the performing arts. She has acted for several years in various groups and became involved with Grosse Pointe Theatre's Ten-Minute Play Festival program five years ago, first as a performer, then as a director and soon after as a playwright.

"I have enjoyed performing some very different characters at the Ten-Minute Play Festival," Pollock said. "This program is a perfect vehicle for busy people who love theater but cannot invest months in rehearsal time; and it's also a great learning opportunity for those new to the performance experience."

"Three years ago, I directed a 10-minute play for the first time," she added. "I loved it so much that I have continued directing for the play festival ever since."

This year, Pollock will be directing “The Yellow Submarine,” inspired by a true story written by Patricia Ellis.

Pollock credits GPT's Playwriting Workshops, taught by Britton and Stella Woitulewicz, for helping her understand how to craft a short play while staying focused on what is important to convey in such a short performance time. The work has paid off.

"Last year, I was delighted to see a play I wrote, 'The Truth Will Set You Free,' chosen and performed by a wonderful team," she

said.

According to Britton, play festivals have been around for several years, but Grosse Pointe Theatre provides more tools for those wanting to learn the craft of playwriting.

“We offer workshops to our members and the public who may be new to playwriting and not sure how to go about the process,” Britton said. “We are a full-service festival, encouraging local playwrights, directors, actors, stage crew, in addition to accepting plays from around the world, which happened organically a few years ago. These elements make our festival a little different.

“The popularity of our play festival is exciting and encouraging,” she continued. “We hope to grow sponsorship opportunities so we can continue to highlight the incredible talent our play festival offers.”

There will be a sign-up sheet at this year's festival for those interested in learning more about playwriting workshops and the play festival.

"I want to acknowledge the high level of effort of all the volunteers involved in making our Ten-Minute Play Festivals successful and rewarding events," DiSante said.

Performances take place at 7 p.m. Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3. St. Michael's Episcopal Church is located at 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Tickets are \$15 with open seating. Purchase tickets online at gpt.org/playfest or by calling (313) 881-4004.

The lineup

◆ "The Good Old Days," written by Roy van Hooydonk of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Directed by Arlene Schoenherr, with assistance from Monica Quinn.

◆ "The Waiting Room," written by Jon Freda of New York, N.Y. Directed by Rick Hawley, with assistance from Erica Hobbs.

◆ "From a Distance," written by Eric Suben from Mamaroneck, N.Y. Directed by Elizabeth Schaefer.

◆ "Destination Trouble," written by Beth Polsky of Santa Monica, Calif. Directed by Stella Woitulewicz and Dominic Aldini.

◆ "Emergency Contact," written by Pamela Morgan of Normal, Ill. Directed by Dan Woitulewicz.

◆ "Waiting for Waiting for Godot," written by Dan Woitulewicz of Macomb Township. Directed by Kelley Donnelly.

◆ "The Yellow Submarine," written by Patricia Ellis of the City of Grosse Pointe. Directed by Arlene Pollock.

◆ "The Relax and Restore Treatment," written by Annelyse Beaman Miller of Troy. Directed by Emmajean Evans.

◆ "Pantalaimon," written by Erica Hobbs of Detroit. Directed by Sharron Nelson Corbin.

◆ "Hope Springs a Turtle," written by Bill Brohaugh and Lisa Holt of Florence, Ky. Directed by Janie Burkey.

Actors involved in this year's festival include Lauren Allen, Justin Bradley, Julie Brewster, Margaret Carroll, P. Chandrasekar, Hailey Elwarner, Noor Fahmy, George Farrell, Kathryn Fetter, Olivia Fogel, Lynnie Heinemann, Bill McCarthy, Jackie Michl, Geoffrey Nathan, Mark Palise, Corbett O'Meara, Joanna Panagos, Arlene Pollock, Laura Ann (LA) Salter-Bulka, Dawn Vanhulle, Claire Winingier, Dan Woitulewicz and Gwen Wunder.

Additional volunteers include Tom Archinal, Beth Battles, Dante Bufalini, Jef Fisk, Erin Getzin, Jeff Kloster, Jill Kloster, Kathy Morris, Chris Moy, Dale Pegg, Gordon Richardson, Jeff Ver Beek, Laura Ver Beek, Marcia Wright and Linda Zublick.

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Ford House announces 2026 Outdoor Summer Concert Series

High school students invited to design official poster

Ford House, the historic home of Eleanor and Edsel Ford and a National Historic Landmark on the shores of Lake St. Clair, has released the lineup for its 2026 Outdoor Summer Concert Series and launched a first-ever concert poster contest open to high school students in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Building on a 2025 season that drew nearly 5,000 guests, Ford House presents a lineup spanning '90s nostalgia, orchestral excellence and Detroit soul. The series opens July 10 with *Saved by the 90s*, continues Aug. 14 with the Michigan Philharmonic and closes Sept. 18 with the Dave Hamilton Band. All three concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are held on the grounds of the main residence, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

“One of the things we believe most deeply at Ford House is that this place belongs to everyone,” said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO. “Last summer, thousands of people walked through our gates for the first time because of these concerts and many of them became frequent guests or Friends of Ford House.”

“This year we’re taking that spirit a step further by inviting young artists from our community to put their mark on the series,” he added. “The poster contest is a natural extension of everything these concerts are meant to be: joyful, inclusive and deeply connected to this place and the people around it.”

The lineup

- ♦ *Saved by the 90s* — Friday, July 10
For anyone who grew
- up with a CD binder in the backseat and MTV on in the background, *Saved by the 90s* is a nationally touring tribute experience covering the artists who defined the decade: Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, Nirvana, Oasis, Alanis Morissette, Foo Fighters, Blink-182 and more. Period costume is welcome, but the only requirement is showing up.
- ♦ *Michigan Philharmonic* — Friday, Aug. 14
The Michigan Philharmonic, under the direction of music director and conductor Nan Washburn, has earned 19 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming and two first-place honors from The American Prize in Orchestral Performance. The complete program will be announced in spring 2026.
- ♦ *The Dave Hamilton Band* — Friday, Sept. 18



Rooted in the soul, funk and rhythm that put Detroit on the musical map, the Dave Hamilton Band brings classic hits and original music that honors a sound the whole world came to love.

Poster Contest

Alongside the concert announcement, Ford House invites students in grades 9 to 12, who are enrolled in Macomb, Oakland or Wayne county high schools, to design the official 2026 Outdoor Summer Concert Series poster. The winning design will be professionally printed and used in Ford House’s official marketing throughout the summer. The selected student will receive four complimentary tickets to each of the three concerts, recognition on the Ford House website and social media, as well as the possibility to have their poster offered for sale at the

events or The Shop at Ford House.

Submissions are due Thursday, April 30.

“Eleanor and Edsel Ford were passionate collectors and champions of art and design and they always intended this estate to be a source of beauty and inspiration for others,” said Andrea Ozanich, public events specialist. “Inviting students to create something that will be seen by thousands of guests on these grounds is a direct expression of that legacy. We are so excited to

see what this community’s young artists will bring to this opportunity.”

Complete contest guidelines and submission information are available at fordhouse.org/concert-poster-contest.

Tickets

Concert audiences choose between two ticket options: seated tickets, which include a provided chair in the prime center area directly in front of the performers, or lawn tickets,

which allow guests to bring their own chairs and blankets. Guests are welcome to bring food from home; outside alcohol is not permitted. Concessions on site offer snacks, hot food and a selection of beer and wine.

Concert packages, which include admission to all three concerts at a 10 percent discount off individual ticket prices, go on sale to Friends of Ford House at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, and to the general public at 10 a.m. Friday, April 24. Package pricing is \$59 for lawn and \$108 for seated tickets for Friends, and \$73 for lawn and \$135 for seated tickets for the general public.

Individual concert tickets go on sale to Friends of Ford House at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, and to the public at 10 a.m. Friday, June 5. Individual pricing is \$22 for lawn and \$40 for seated tickets for Friends, and \$27 for lawn and \$50 for seated tickets for the public.

Friends of Ford House membership, which starts at \$50, provides early access to tickets for all Ford House events, along with a range of additional benefits. More information is available at fordhouse.org/friends.

Tickets and complete event details are available at fordhouse.org/concerts.



Mission-minded

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Mark Heppner, left, welcomed Gina Gabel, far right, to the April 7 Rotary meeting at Ford House. Gabel is the founder and president of Thrive, a global nonprofit based in Grosse Pointe that offers on-the-ground food relief in Bangladesh and the Philippines. Gabel and members of the Thrive Youth Council from Grosse Pointe South spoke to attendees about the mission of Thrive, which has provided 5 million meals to school children during the last 13 years. Thrive can be reached at thrive-global.org. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to join its Tuesday morning breakfast presentations at Ford House. For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT GRAMBO



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Mind your manners, even if others don’t mind theirs

Dear Gabby: I attended a lovely wedding recently and brought a thoughtful (and, frankly, not inexpensive) gift for the bride and groom. Because I wasn’t sure about shipping it ahead of time, I handed it directly to the bride at the reception. I never received a formal thank-you note afterward. Now I wonder if the gift was misplaced in all of the excitement of the event.

It’s now been quite a while and I can’t help but feel a little slighted. I was raised to believe that a written thank-you is simply good manners, especially for a wedding gift.

I’ve been tempted to quietly ask a few mutual relatives if they received notes, just to see if this is a pattern or if I’ve somehow been overlooked.

Should I investigate or is this something I should just let go? — Missing Manners in the City

Dear Manners: You are correct that, traditionally, a written acknowledgment is expected for wedding gifts. Before you appoint yourself head of the Thank-You Note Oversight Committee, consider this: Asking around will not bring you the note you’re missing. It will, however, risk stir-

ring up unnecessary gossip and placing others in the uncomfortable position of comparing gratitude receipts.

There are several possible explanations. Your gift may not have made it safely to its final destination. The couple may be overwhelmed, disorganized or working their way through a very long list. Or yes, it’s possible a note was simply overlooked and she thought the initial thank-you sufficed.

If your concern is whether the gift was received, you may send a brief, gracious message along the lines of: “I hope you’re enjoying married

life! I’ve been thinking about you and wanted to make sure the gift I brought made it home safely.” This gives the couple an opportunity to acknowledge it without accusation.

If your concern is recognition, then the most dignified course is to let it go. Good manners are a reflection of your own standards, not a guarantee of others’.

— Gabby

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

Scrolling my life away

DEAR ANNIE: I used to think I had decent self-control. Now I’m not so sure.

Somewhere along the way, Instagram became the background music of my life. I wake up and reach for my phone before my eyes are fully open. I tell myself I’m just checking the weather or answering a text, but my thumb already knows the route: Instagram, stories, scroll, scroll, scroll. I can lose 30 minutes without even standing up.

It’s not even fun anymore. Half the time I’m not laughing or learning. I’m just ... consuming. Watching other people’s kitchens, vacations, workouts, “perfect” marriages and glow-ups. I’ll see a post about someone reorganizing their pantry and suddenly I’m spiraling because my own house looks like a crime scene. Then I feel guilty for judging my life against a highlight reel I know isn’t real.

The worst part is how it

makes me absent. I’ll be talking to my kids or my spouse and catch myself drifting toward my phone like it’s a magnet.

I’ve tried deleting the app, but I always re-download it. I’ve tried time limits, but I override them. I’ll promise myself, “No phone in bed,” and then there I am at midnight, lit up like a campfire, watching strangers live their lives while mine is quietly passing by.

Is this an addiction? And if it is, how do I stop

without feeling like I’m crawling out of my own skin? — Scrolling My Life Away

DEAR SCROLLING: You’re not failing. You’re coping. Phones are designed to be irresistible, especially when you’re tired, overstimulated or carrying more than you admit. The fact that it doesn’t even feel good anymore is an important clue. This isn’t a character flaw. It’s a habit that has outgrown its purpose.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Start slow. Don’t try to “quit” your phone. Put Instagram in a folder on the last screen, turn off notifications and choose two short check-in windows a day. When the urge hits outside those times, pause and ask, “What am I actually needing right now?” Rest? Comfort? A break from responsibility? Then give yourself a real version of that, even if it’s

just a glass of water, a walk to the mailbox or two minutes of quiet.

And if you keep slipping, that’s not proof you can’t change. It’s proof you need support. Talk to a friend, or a therapist.

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

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Great things are coming from Lola’s Taco Bar

In these parts, we get excited when a new restaurant is on the horizon. A freshly painted white brick building with a pop of turquoise drew much attention to the corner of Mack and Norwood, where Boston Market preceded Steak n Eggs.

It was the talk of town and, by that, I mean Facebook. Finally, the official sign went up. Her name was Lola. But she’s not a showgirl and this certainly is not the Copacabana. Let’s “tacobout” our new girl on the block — and the tacos she brought with her.

This is Lola’s Taco Bar. When I first learned of the foursome behind Lola’s, I knew great things were coming. First up is the husband and wife duo, Brandon and Mel McRill. Brandon is the architect behind the concept. A Michelin-starred restaurateur, Brandon oversees the brand’s overall direction, culture and growth strategy. He keeps Lola in line and smiles on everyone’s faces. The Grosse Pointe native started his hospitality journey while washing dishes at the Grosse Pointe

Hunt Club when he was younger. As an adult, he made his way through highly acclaimed kitchens in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. NYC and Philly brought him his first ownerships and he earned his coveted Michelin star at his NYC restaurant, Pearl & Ash.

His partner in life and business, Mel, has been on this journey with him as director of operations at all four his restaurants. With her background, Mel also specializes in beverage development with a strong focus on marketing and programming. Guest experience is very important to Mel and she ensures it’s kept to a high standard, with every guest feeling a warm welcome. Mel was introduced to Michigan when she and Brandon moved to Grosse Pointe in 2024.

Up next is Chef Brandon Zarb, who also has ties to Chicago in his industry background. In Michigan, Chef Zarb has worked in the metro area for many years. Imperial in Ferndale, the Detroit Athletic Club and Rising Star Academy all have experienced his expertise. You may even

catch some of Rising Star’s employees helping at Lola’s from time to time. Chef Zarb has earned a reputation for bold, flavorful interpretations of Mexican street food, which is why he was the perfect person to design Lola’s menu. He is the master behind Lola’s scratch-made salsas and every flavor that comes out of the kitchen. He’s a true master at his craft.

Last but not least, and someone I’ve known more than 25 years, is Niko Moschouris. Niko is a quick-service restaurant genius. He got his start in the industry in his early 20s by bringing struggling Subway franchises back to life, which led him to become a top-performing development agent for the brand. With Lola’s, he brings decades of experience in scaling restaurant brands, handles operational systems, growth strategy and the infrastructure that will allow Lola’s to eventually expand. He also is a board member with Detroit Wing Company and Beyond Juice + Eatery. To say this man has mastered QSR is an understatement. The fact he started at such a young age and continued to follow this path says something about his dedication to this industry.

On Jan. 12, 2026, the countdown clock on their newly launched website read 00:00:00. Lola’s finally opened its doors and packed them in. All 50 seats remained filled throughout the day. I couldn’t wait to pepper Brandon with my questions, the first being one of the most important: Who is Lola?

“Lola is the person whose dinner table you always want to be at,” he said. “She makes incredible tacos, throws legendary parties and makes everyone feel like family the second they walk through the door. She’s not a real person. She’s the spirit of what we’re building.”

They wanted the name to feel warm and fun. Lola checks all boxes.

“Lola represents everything we want this place to feel like: welcoming, lively and the spot you always want to come back to,” Brandon said. “Great food, good energy and always room at the table for one more.”

In fact, when they renovated the new space, they included a communal table. Major renovations were done to this building. They gutted the entire inside and Detroit-based Tury Design designed the new interior, creating a bright, modern, breezy space with a neutral yet calming color palette of creams, peach and a rich, dark turquoise.



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Along with the communal table, cozy booths and window rail barstools welcome each guest. One of the best new highlights is a custom mural by Ivan Montoya, a Mexican-born, Detroit-based artist. Everything left behind from Boston Market sold at auction, except one very specific item.

“The one thing we just couldn’t let go of (was) the proprietary Boston Market rotisserie oven,” Brandon said, adding they gave it a deep, thorough cleaning but like to believe there’s a great amount of seasoning in its heart. “It felt like fate, a taco bar inheriting a legendary rotisserie. That oven now turns out our whole rotisserie chicken dinners and it’s one of the things that makes Lola’s truly unique.”

With ownership having so much experience in

finer dining, I asked what best describes Lola’s as a whole. Taking the best of their backgrounds, from high-quality ingredients, advanced cooking techniques to really intentional hospitality, then putting it into a fast, affordable format was their mission.

“Our menu is built around the idea that a taco is the perfect vehicle to deliver fresh, bold flavors,” Brandon said. “Everything is scratch-made with real, honest ingredients.”

This means minimally processed, whole foods like fruits, vegetables, spices and grains; and no artificial preservatives, coloring or flavoring sweeteners.

“It’s chef-driven food that doesn’t take itself too seriously,” he added.

Their proteins are prepared in-house daily,

See FOOD, page 4C



COURTESY PHOTOS
Chips ‘n’ dips, classic burrito, rotisserie chicken bowl



The owners, from left, Brandon and Mel McRill, Brandon Zarb and Niko Moschouris.



Trompo and tacos: spicy chorizo, rotisserie chicken and al pastor.



This month’s Good Taco: Spicy jerk chicken.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I cannot say enough good things about the L.L. Bean Boat and Tote. I genuinely think it might be the most useful bag I have ever owned. I've used it in just about every situation possible and it somehow always makes sense.

With spring here and summer coming fast, it feels like a good time to mention it because these tend to sell out or get backordered once warm weather hits.

The Boat and Tote has been around forever for a



reason. It originally was introduced in 1944, as Bean's Ice Carrier, made

from sturdy canvas to haul heavy loads from car to cooler. That same durability is still the main appeal. The canvas is thick and structured, the seams are heavy duty and the bag holds its shape even when it's empty. It stands up on its own, which sounds small but makes a huge difference when you're loading and unloading it constantly.

I have the large size with long handles and it has become my everything bag. I use it as a

carry-on when I fly, a large work bag when I'm juggling a million things, a weekender, a grocery bag, a sports bag and a throw-it-in-the-trunk catchall. I've filled it to the top more times than I can count and it still looks almost new. It's one of those rare pieces that doesn't need to be babied. You just use it.

Another reason it works so well is how simple it is. There are no unnecessary pockets or zippers to deal with. It's lightweight for

how strong it is, easy to wipe clean and comfortable to carry even when it's packed. It also comes in different sizes and colors, so you can pick what actually fits your routine.

After using it nonstop, I get why people are so loyal to this bag. It's practical, durable and quietly reliable in a way that makes everyday life easier. If you've been thinking about getting one, I would not wait too long. It's one of those things you end up reaching for

far more than you expect. Definitely giving it five out of five alligators.

You can find this and other options online at llbean.com.

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

A fresh take on chicken Caesar

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

At this point, it's impossible not to give the internet some credit because I fall for viral recipe trends all the time. There is always some brilliant hack or food combination that I just wouldn't have thought of. Remember blanket dumplings and asian cucumber salad made in a jar? Or the popping, frozen cranberries that are soaked in 7UP and then coated in powdered sugar?

All new and fun ideas that peak the interest of kids and bring them into the kitchen. Smash burgers on tortillas remain the number one hit in my kitchen. It's innovative because it rethinks the bun as a lighter and thinner choice. Plus the tortilla and meat cooks together. While they are undeniably delicious, they're also messy and a little too greasy to be a regular on our dinner schedule. I wreck my shirt when I flip them every single time.

Wearing a kitchen apron just isn't in my routine. This chicken Caesar salad version feels like the smarter, cleaner and lighter upgrade. Using ground chicken breast keeps

things simple, and a quick hit of cooking spray is all it takes to get a crispy, golden crunch on the tortilla without a bunch of excess oil.

Caesar salad is definitely an unexpected favorite at home. There are brief stretches where it shows up at the table a little too often though and I don't want to risk burning everyone out on it completely. So every now and then I need to pull back long enough for someone to request it again. They love those classic flavors and textures of crisp romaine and creamy dressing with crunchy croutons.

When I'm in a pinch and don't have time to make it, I head to Fresh Farms Market and pick up their baby romaine and a bottle of their homemade Caesar dressing. When I'm really strapped for time, I just buy their already put together Caesar salad. The dressing really is the best store-bought in the area. All five of Mombeau's kids agree. That's what makes this recipe such a win. It can be made fast and effortlessly when I need it to be. A flavorful

chicken Caesar salad all wrapped up in a warm and crunchy handheld tortilla.

So thank you Tik Tok for making something so familiar, fresh and exciting!

Cheers, Mombeau

Chicken Caesar Smash Tacos

1 lb ground chicken breast

1 tsp Greek or Italian seasoning

1 tsp garlic powder

½ tsp pepper

½ tsp salt

6 small flour tortillas

2 romaine hearts, chopped

⅓ cup Caesar dressing

½ lemon

croutons

In a bowl, mix the spices with the ground chicken until well combined. Divide the mixture evenly among the tortillas, then use a



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

spoon to spread the meat in a thin, even layer across each one. Lightly coat a skillet or griddle with cooking spray and preheat it over medium heat. Place the tortillas meat-side down onto the hot surface and spray the tops with a bit more

cooking spray. Cook for about three minutes, or until the chicken is golden brown, then flip and cook for another three to four minutes until the tortilla is crisp and browned on the bottom.

While the tortillas are cooking, combine the let-

tuce, dressing and croutons in a bowl, squeeze the lemon half over the top and toss until everything is evenly coated.

Once the tortillas are done, transfer them to a plate and top each with a generous scoop of the salad, then fold them like tacos and enjoy.



EAT WELL, FEEL WELL, LIVE WELL

Fresh Farms Market

355 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe • freshfarmsmarket.com





Sweet wine

There is an old saying in the wine business: "Americans talk dry but drink sweet." I believe this is true.

I evaluate dozens of wines each week. Most of the whites are either actually sweet or so soft that they would taste terrible with food. And unfortunately, a growing number of red wines, including some of the most expensive, are also now either deficient in acidity or actually sweet.

However, instead of decrying this situation, I always remember how many Americans consume hot dogs and burgers, fries, potato chips, onion rings and popcorn — with cola.

This is not the only nation

that appreciates sweet beverages with savory foods, but we hugely adhere to that model.

Indeed, "dry" wine may be more popular nationally today than ever before, but much of it isn't dry in the traditional European sense.

The use of quotation marks around the word dry in defining what today's wines taste like suggests that not all zero-sugar wines actually dry on the palate.

Many wines that historically were always dry today are no longer dry.

And although many issues are at play here, only one of them is sugar.

It is easy to make certain that a wine is slightly sweet. Just make sure it

has some sugar, which can be achieved legally in several ways. One is to stop the fermentation before all the sugar is converted to alcohol.

This common tactic makes otherwise dry wines more appealing to people who don't like bone-dry wines. And there are apparently a lot of such people in this country.

Another way to make a wine taste sweet is to guarantee it has high alcohol. The higher the alcohol in a wine, the sweeter it tastes. Dozens of California Zinfandels have 15.5 percent alcohol or more. Such wines can taste sweet.

Many winemakers have told me they know of the wide use of high-proof alcohol added to red wines to make them "sweeter" on the tongue.

When I said that tactic was illegal, they often reply that detection is impossible and that in any case, the U.S. government has no system in place to monitor such issues.

Occasionally, you find

high alcohols is in U.S. wines that are \$100 or more a bottle and sold only at tiny wineries. The government testing program never tests such wines for compliance with alcohol regulations. As long as a winery pays its federal tax, the government is satisfied.

Another way to make a dry wine taste sweet is to make certain that acid level is very low and the pH level is very high.

Better-balanced red wines should have an acid of 6.0 g/L or higher and a pH of 3.6. I realize that this is geeky, but I think it's time that all wineries began to tell consumers what the acids, pHs and other statistics are of their wines.

Empowering consumers to know what they are buying so they can make an informed decision is a lot better than hiding such facts

behind the line. I usually get: "Most consumers don't care."

When a bottle of wine is selling for \$20 or more, consumers should know what they are getting.

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

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MONDAYS & SATURDAYS



4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES, TSG ENT. LEA PICTURES AND ARCHERY PICTURES.
Left, Will Arnett as Alex Novak and Luara Dern as Tess Novak in the 2025 movie “Is This Thing On?” written and screenplay by Bradley Cooper, Will Arnett and Mark Chappell and directed by Bradley Cooper.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Is This Thing On?”
2025 - Rated R
2 hr 1 min
★★★★★

I think it’s interesting when an actor decides to get into directing. In a way, it’s a natural progression and it usually works out. Take the case of Bradley Cooper. As an actor he’s known for his films like “Silver Linings Playbook” and “American Sniper.” His first foray into the world of directing was 2018’s remake of “A Star is Born,” which he starred in with Lady Gaga and Sam Elliot. This was followed up with “Maestro,” a biopic of the composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein. Cooper did an admirable job playing



Left, Bradley Cooper as Balls and Will Arnett as Alex Novak.

the Maestro and the film was nominated for several Academy Awards. But as they say, the third time’s the charm. And Mr. Cooper’s third endeavor “Is This Thing On?” is certainly charming. Not only did he

direct the film, he co-wrote it with Will Arnett (“Arrested Development”) and Mark Chappell. Plus he co-starred in it and was responsible for some of the camerawork. Talk about hands on! The film is loosely based on the life of British comedian John Bishop, but Cooper has made it his own.

Alex (Arnett) and Tess (Laura Dern, “Jurassic Park”) are amicably separated after a 20-year marriage. They have two children that they refer to as “Irish Twins” and are living apart — Alex in New York City and Tess in the suburbs. They still get along and as is usually the case, are just barely able to keep up with their kids’ schedules, and juggling custody. Alex’s parents Marilyn (Christine Ebersole, “The Wolf of Wall Street”) and Jan (Ciaran Hinds, “Belfast”) are very supportive of the couple and do more than their share of watching the kids. They’re a happily married couple and set an example of what an ideal marriage looks like. Both



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

actors turn in great performances.

Alex is having a hard time dealing with being separated and the fact that a divorce is looming. One evening he’s wandering around the city and decides to stop into a bar for a drink. Problem is, there’s a cover charge and he doesn’t have any money on him. It turns out it’s Open Mic Night at the comedy club, and he doesn’t have to pay if he goes on stage.

So he does and it’s a huge revelation to him. After a bit of awkward hesitation, he starts ad-libbing whatever comes to mind, which is basically details about his marital status and his impending divorce. He doesn’t tell any jokes per se, he just opens up about what a tough time he’s going through.

At first he’s met with silence. But as he continues, the audience becomes more sympathetic and starts to chuckle. This gives him the confidence he needs to continue with his monologue. And it isn’t long before he actually starts enjoying this new experience. Instead of going to a therapist, he now can open up about his trials and tribulations on stage. So he starts signing up for gigs several times a week. He also starts hanging out with the other comedians after his performances. It’s great fun hearing the comics razzing each other and he’s an easy target for them. Which he takes in stride.

While all this is occurring, Tess is also coming out of her shell as well.

We learn that she’s a former member of the gold medal-winning Olympic volleyball team. She decides that it was the love of her life and she needs to get involved with the sport again. So she applies for a job coaching the team for the up and coming Olympics. It’s a cathartic experience for her to throw herself into.

It sounds like it could be a depressing film, but it isn’t at all. Sure it does have its more melancholic moments, but Arnett and Dern keep it on the lighter side. It’s also refreshing to see a movie where you don’t have to pick sides — you truly are pulling for both of them to make their relationship work. Adding to the humor is their group of friends they’ve been hanging around with since their college days.

They include a hilarious Bradly Cooper (surprise!) who plays “Balls” and his wife Christine (Audra Day). While they’re very different, they somehow make their relationship work. Maybe it’s because they’re high a lot. And Cooper’s character is one of those goofy guys who just can’t keep quiet for a minute. He’s constantly blathering on and on, especially when he’s telling Alex about his potential acting jobs.

I really enjoyed this heartfelt and believable movie. I’d be hard pressed to call it a rom-com although it does have a bit of both. It’s more of an engaging drama with some lighter elements in it. I especially like the use of close up cinematography—when Alex is on stage, the camera is so close it’s almost uncomfortable. You truly get a sense of just how nervous he is struggling to find the right words to keep his performance on



track. It helped make the film that much more real. I look forward to seeing what Mr. Cooper does next.

Currently streaming on Hulu and to rent on Prime, Apple TV, YouTube, Fandango, and other streaming services.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually 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.



Alex (Arnett) on stage.

FOOD

Continued from page 2C

including pork that’s marinated and cooked on a traditional trompo, which is a vertical rotisserie spit used to cook marinated pork, specifically for al pastor items. Their chicken is slow-roasted on the rotisserie daily.

“Our salsas, guacamole and dressings are all scratch-made fresh every day and we fry in seed-oil-free frying oil, which is a detail we feel strongly about,” Branden said.

Lola’s serves seven different street tacos, ranging from \$3.50 to \$5. Street tacos are made on soft tortillas with flour (or corn) and are approximately four to five inches. They are designed to be handheld and eaten within two to three bites. The options are al pastor (pork trompo), rotisserie chicken, street corn, Baja shrimp, steak trompo, spicy chorizo and jerk chicken. All are filled with delicious sauces, salsa, veggies and packed with flavor.

I asked why no hard taco shells: “We do get asked

that a lot,” Branden replied. “There’s something about that first bite through a warm, pliable tortilla with fresh fillings that a crunchy shell just can’t match. No shade to the hard shell. It’s just not the Lola’s way.”

Food Gossip agrees! The burrito menu offers four flour tortilla-filled options: al pastor, rotisserie chicken romaine, Cali-style with fries inside and a classic with your choice of protein. Rounding out the bulk of the menu are their bowls and salads: a veggie protein salad and, you guessed it, al pastor and rotisserie chicken bowls — yet slightly different from the tacos and burritos.

All of the above can be enjoyed with Lola’s house-made tortilla chips, dips and salsas made fresh daily. Chef Zarb knocked this category out of the park.

“Our dip and salsa lineup is a big part of the Lola’s experience,” Branden said. “We’ve got our salsa verde and our fire-roasted salsa roja. Our guacamole features avocado, cilantro, lime, onion and a touch of Aleppo pepper.”

Then there’s the queso lineup: queso blanco, street corn queso, spicy chorizo queso and rotis-

serie chicken queso. All of them are smooth and cheesy, each with their own special ingredients.

Lola’s kids’ menu is a big hit with the littles. Chicken tacos, cheese and chicken quesadillas and chips and queso are all “kid approved” for only \$3 to \$4. Gluten-free and vegan options also are available. Corn tortillas are available upon requests and they have dedicated fryer space for gluten-free items so there’s no cross-contamination.

As many of their ingredients are plant-based, it’s easy to customize a vegan bowl or burrito. Don’t hesitate to ask!

The fan favorite? “The al pastor taco is our runaway No. 1,” Branden said. “Pork trompo with smoky adobo sauce, sweet pineapple, white onion and cilantro. It’s the first thing on the menu for a reason.”

It is divine. He also said the Baja shrimp taco is a close second and the rotisserie chicken dinner has become popular as well.

“It’s become a go-to for families looking for a high-quality, easy meal,” he added.

This consists of a whole rotisserie chicken, slow-roasted and juicy, served family-style with three

beans, orange mojo rice, chips and salsa, warm flour tortillas, jalapeño onion relish, queso fresco, fresh cilantro and limes. Host a build-your-own-taco night at home with all the fixings for only \$29. Now that’s a legit “meal deal” and the owner’s personal favorite.

As for everyone else’s favorites, Chef Zarb is an al pastor guy, while Niko swears by the Cali burrito with steak trompo. Mel’s all for the spicy chorizo taco with a classic margarita.

Oh! The margaritas! Yep. Mel made sure a good margarita was part of a Lola’s full experience. Ranging from \$7 to \$9, the current tequila-based margs are the classic, a blood orange margarita and frozen Pina colada margarita. These are served on draft for speed and consistency, but think that means “premade” by any means.

“Every day, our team squeezes fresh limes and prepares simple syrup, which is mixed with fresh agave and quality tequila,” Branden said. “The classic is served over pebble ice: tequila, fresh lime and agave, done right. And the

frozen options bring tropical, refreshing vibes that pair perfectly with everything on the menu.”

P.S. You can get a margarita to go. Lola’s also carries some canned beers, as well as Mexican favorites Tecate and Modelo. Plus it offers bottled Jarritos in three flavors, along with a non-alcoholic frozen strawberry beverage for guests who want the frozen drink experience, minus the alcohol.

Your sweet tooth is covered with warm and fluffy cinnamon and sugar doughnuts that are served with a rich dulce de leche for dipping.

“Don’t sleep on the doughnuts; people are obsessed,” he said.

Let Lola’s take care of all of your catering needs. They have a dedicated catering menu with multiple packages from which to choose. Find catering information online at lolastacobar.com\catering-menu or email the catering team directly at catering@lolastacobar.com.

Another thing to look forward to this summer at Lola’s is the front patio — the perfect spot for enjoying ice-cold margaritas, chips, dips and conversa-

tions with friends, as soon as the Michigan weather breaks.

If you haven’t yet, download the Lola’s app to your phone so you can place your patio order before you get there.

“We want Lola’s to be more than just a restaurant,” Branden said. “We want to be a gathering place and a good neighbor.”

Lola loves her community and we are thrilled to call her our neighbor. Follow on social media for all of Lola’s updates — Facebook: Lola’s Taco Bar, Instagram: @lolastacobar

Fun Fact: The Good Taco is the taco of the month. One dollar from every taco sold goes directly to support a local organization, be it schools, sports teams, nonprofits or community groups in our neighborhood.

“It’s our way of making sure that every time you enjoy a taco at Lola’s, you’re also doing something good for the community,” Branden said.

This month’s Good Taco is the spicy jerk chicken and this month’s recipient is The Helm, which helps our aging neighbors.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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4/9 Solution

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below.

ADVERTISE
BUY
CLAIMS
COMPANIES
CREATE
DESIGN
FACT
FALSE
KNOW
OPINION
TRUE

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

Contract Bridge

CLUBBED INTO SUBMISSION

West dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 9 8 5

♥ 8 6 3

♦ J 2

♣ Q 7 5 4

WEST

♠ J 2

♥ A 10 4 2

♦ K Q 10 7 3

♣ 10 3

EAST

♠ 10 4

♥ Q J 9 5

♦ 8 6 5 4

♣ K 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q 7 6 3

♥ K 7

♦ A 9

♠ A J 6 2

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The most successful declarers are those who constantly seek ways to improve on their chances. This holds true no matter how good or bad the final contract might be.

Take this case where South starts out as a slight favorite to make four spades. If East has the heart ace or the singleton or doubleton king of clubs, 10 tricks are a virtual certainty.

When the deal occurred, South won the king of diamonds with the ace, cashed the A-K of trump and exited with the diamond jack to West's

queen. This forced West to return a club or a heart, both apparently beneficial to declarer's cause.

However, after West returned the ten of clubs to South's jack, declarer found he had not materially improved his position. He tried playing the ace and another club, but East won with the king and returned a heart to set the contract one trick.

Declarer was a bit unlucky to fail on this line of play, but he should have done better. When he led a diamond at trick four, he already knew that West had started with the K-Q of diamonds and jack of spades; West therefore could not hold both the ace of hearts and king of clubs, since he had passed originally. Consequently, at least one of these two cards had to be in East's hand.

To cater to the main threat to his contract — that East has the club king and West the heart ace — South should lead a club to the jack at trick four. If the finesse loses, East becomes marked with the ace of hearts.

In the actual case, though, the club finesse wins. Declarer then cashes the ace of clubs before exiting with a diamond. West wins with the queen but must either concede a heart to South's king or lead a diamond, allowing South to ruff in dummy while discarding a heart from his hand, and the game is home.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg April 16, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 Hundred Wood (setting for "Winnie-the-Pooh")
5 Big biblical boat
8 How a storybook may be read
13 Best, in modern lingo ... or a farm animal
14 Horseshoe-shaped letter
15 Midsections of bodies
17 Gear for a rock band
18 This sucks!
20 Microsoft Teams communications, briefly
21 ___, The Creator
22 Herb in essential oils
23 Bonkers
25 Deliver a speech
28 Falsehood
29 This bites!
32 Name hidden in "late riser"
33 Actress Susan of "L.A. Law"
34 Boggy
35 "___ mio!"
37 "Clair de ___"
38 Apt letters to be missing from in ___ ation
- 39 Chat room pioneer
40 Cocktail at a taqueria, informally
44 This blows!
47 Channel with famous "unplugged" performances
48 Car parts that can be popped
49 Crunchy corn chip
50 Tons
52 Mopes around
54 Word after "hot" or "open"
55 This stinks!
58 Skeleton material
59 Break free
60 Electronic composer Brian
61 Slightly open
62 Curt
63 Do stitchwork
64 Insult

DOWN

- 1 Opposed to
2 Independent shared-living collective
3 Kendrick Lamar, e.g.
4 Aliens, briefly
5 Sore
6 True friends, slangily
7 Masculine vibe in "Barbie"
8 Quad bike, for instance: Abbr.

- 9 Mauna ___ (Hawaiian volcano)
10 Baddies in "The Lord of the Rings"
11 For the most part
12 Dance popular in the early 2010s
16 Hook's sidekick
19 "Shoot"
21 Best
24 Web developer?
26 Commotion
27 Actress Moriarty of "The Boys"
30 "Same for me!"
31 Sign of an earthquake
36 Ruler unit
37 Superman's love
38 Split with a legal process

- 39 Cites as evidence
41 Apple avatar that tracks your facial expressions
42 Eye parts scanned for identification
43 Food merchants
44 "Finally"
45 Pinocchio's grows
46 No ___, and/or butts
47 Spell caster
51 Ski lift with letter-shaped parts
53 Be sure of
56 College-level courses, familiarly
57 "Gosh!"
58 Like this puzzle's theme?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

4/9 Solution

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I Hate This Crossword! by Jack Scherban

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15					16
17					18			19						
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50			51			52			53			54		
55				56	57						58			
59							60				61			
	62						63				64			

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, April 16, 2026: You are caring, intellectual and dedicated. Family and community matter to you. This year is your turn to socialize and enjoy life, because your creativity and zest are at a pinnacle! Nurture the happiness and beauty that you have within you. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is a powerful day for you. Mercury in your sign is lined up with Neptune, while your ruler fiery Mars gets a boost from Pluto. This means your ability to magnetize things is amazing and unimaginable. Tonight: You're strong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
A powerful behind-the-scenes energy is at work today, which you might or might not be able to harness. If you can use it, you will set things in motion to go in the direction you want. You'll be persuasive and irresistible. Tonight: Quiet time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Your popularity is strong! Today you can work with others — either in a partnership or in conjunction with a group or an organization — to make changes for the better. You'll be zealous about achieving your goals. Work with others to get what you want! Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Today two things can happen: Either you take charge and set your armies marching to achieve your objectives, which might be to fight opposition to what you want to do. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your wanderlust is powerful! Today your imagination and desire for something exciting is off the charts. Travel or do anything to expand your world. Reach out and do something different! Tonight: New ideas, new places.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Grab every chance you have to use the wealth and resources of others, (including the government or your partner) to improve something that's important to you. Travel and romance are blessed. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Romance is passionate today. Meanwhile, relations with spouses, partners and members of the general public are powerful. Someone might convince you to do something, or vice versa, you will convince them. Tonight: Be friendly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your imagination and drive combine today, giving you power to achieve what you want at your job, or with your health, or issues that are pet related. Don't waste the energy that you have today to make positive changes. Use it. Tonight: Work to get organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is an amazing day for those in sports, the entertainment world or the hospitality industry. You have energy to burn! You'll be purposeful, direct and incredibly persuasive. It's a great day to socialize as well as enjoy playful times with kids. Tonight: Have fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Recently, increased activity and chaos at home have made demands on your time and energy. Today you can wrap things up because people will listen to you. You might help a family member. Do it. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
If you're in sales, marketing, teaching, acting or writing, you're unstoppable today, because your powers of persuasion and ability to magnetize people to you are remarkable. Don't back down. You're in the zone! Tonight: Discussions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Financial discussions will go well today because you are imaginative and persuasive. You see what you want and you're not afraid to go after it. More than that, you're not afraid to wish for a miracle. Tonight: Check your money.

BORN TODAY
Actress Sadie Sink (2002), actress Claire Foy (1984), actor, writer, director, producer Jon Cryer (1965).



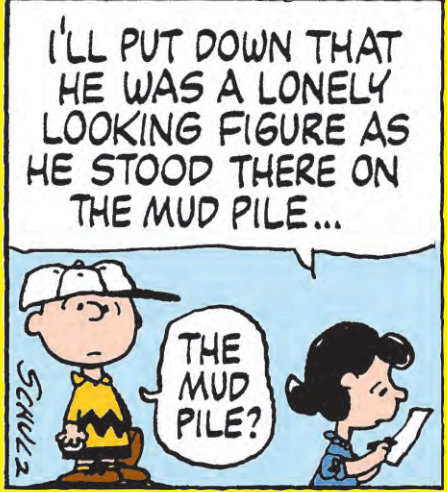
Grosse
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THURSDAY COMICS



Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts



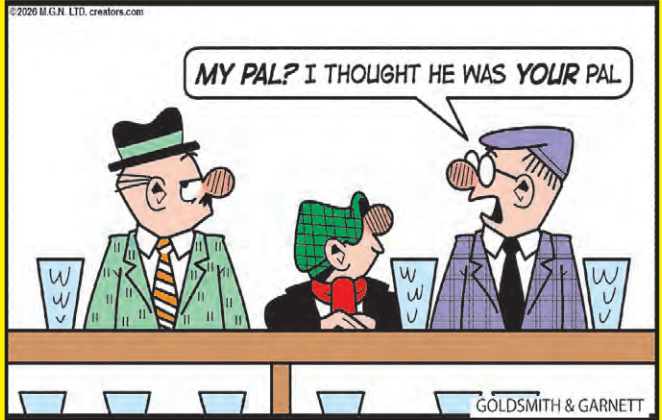
Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp



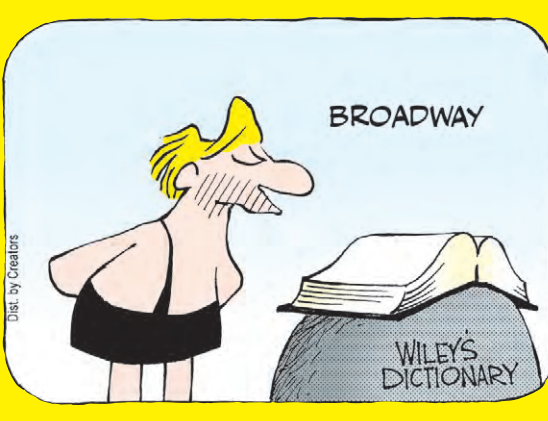
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy



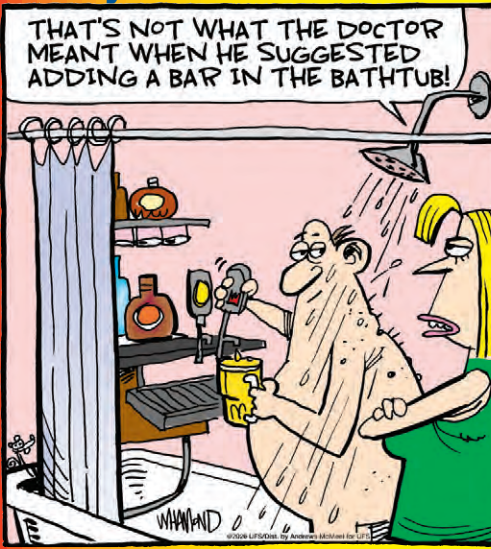
B.C.



Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check Dave Whamond



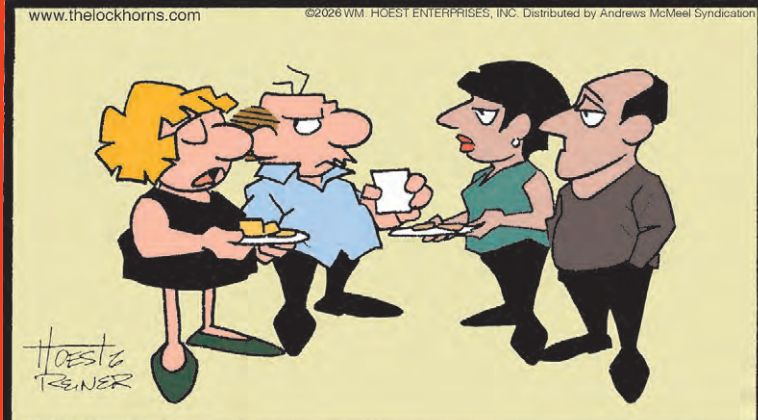
Beetle Bailey



Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

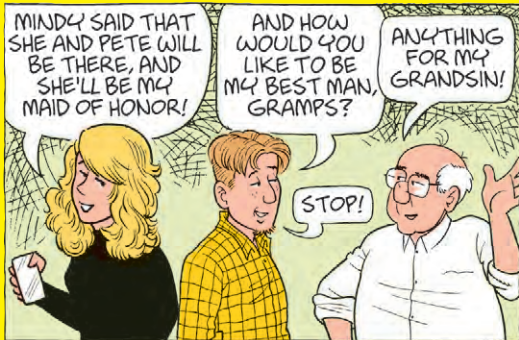


Mother Goose and Grim

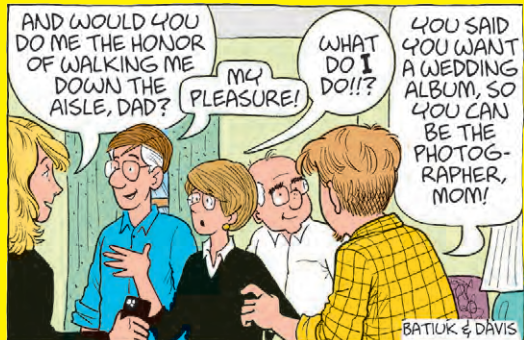


Mike Peters

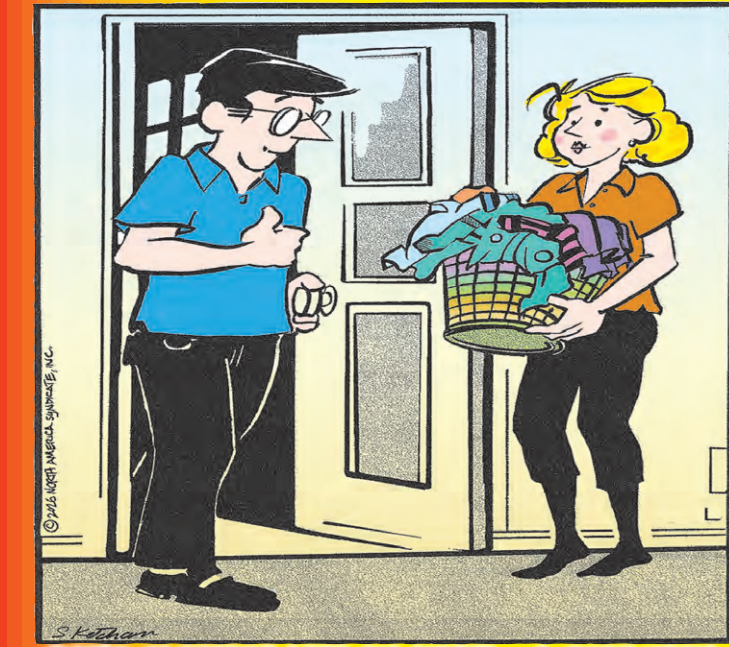
Crankshaft



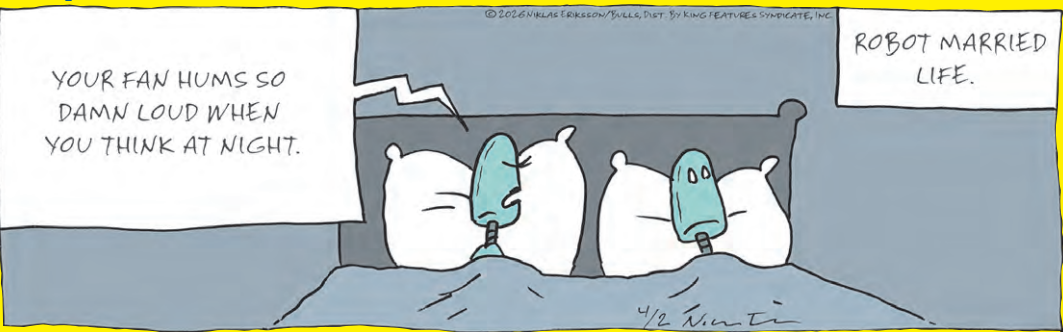
Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



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



Carpe Diem



Niklas Eriksson

Wumo



Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

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THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



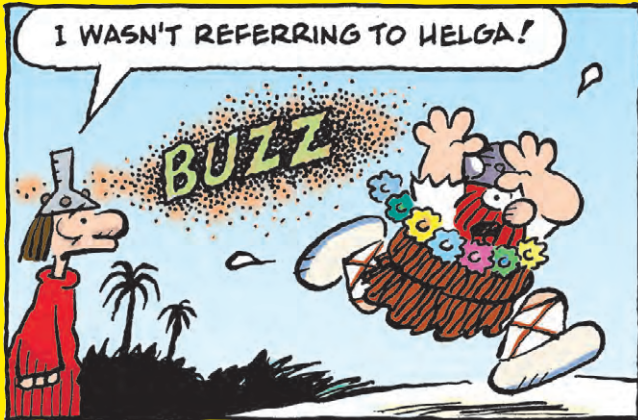
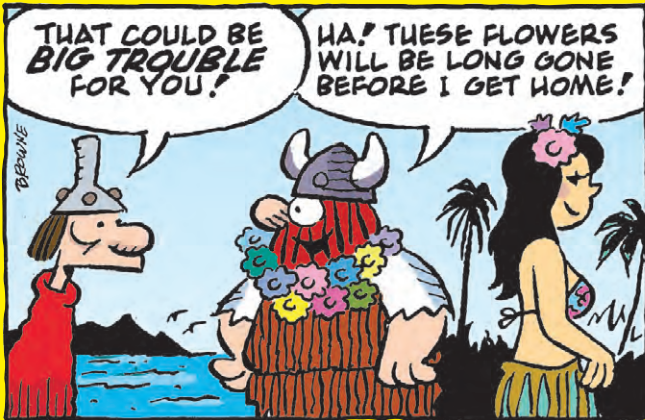
Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren

Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



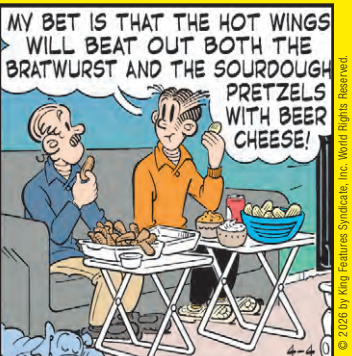
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



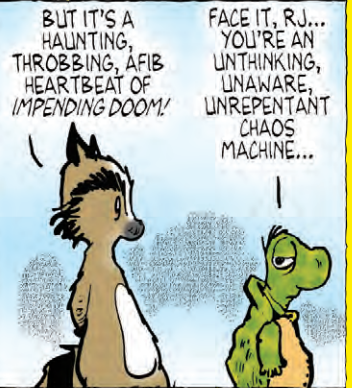
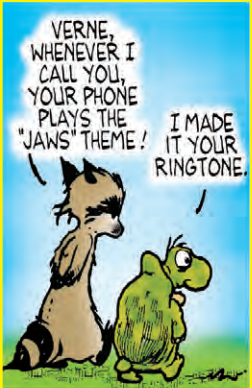
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



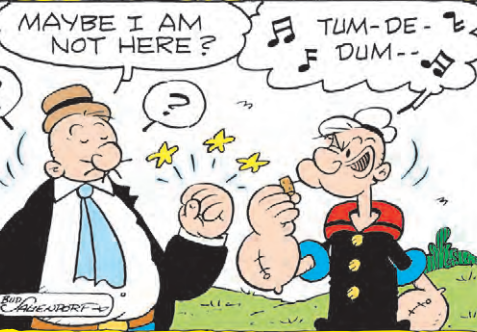
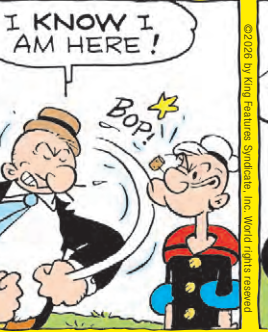
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



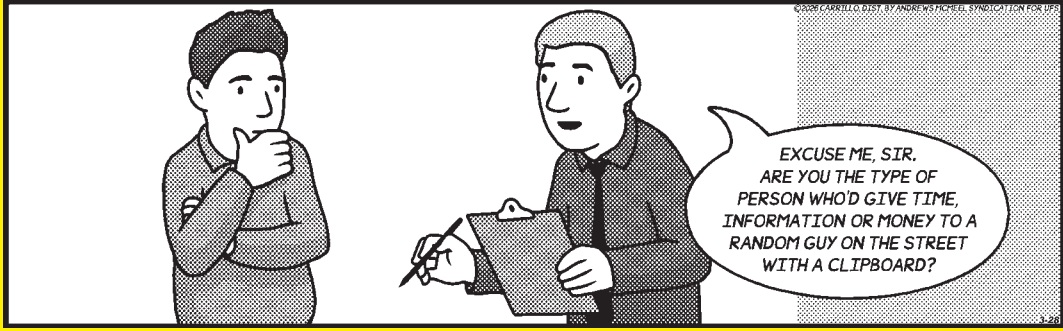
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



Proof It! 
Are you an eagle-eyed reader? There is one big error in the banana facts below. Can you find it? Hint: Think locations.

Let's Go Bananas!

Nutritious and delicious, bananas are one of the best-loved foods on earth by people of all ages. Let's learn more about this tasty treat!



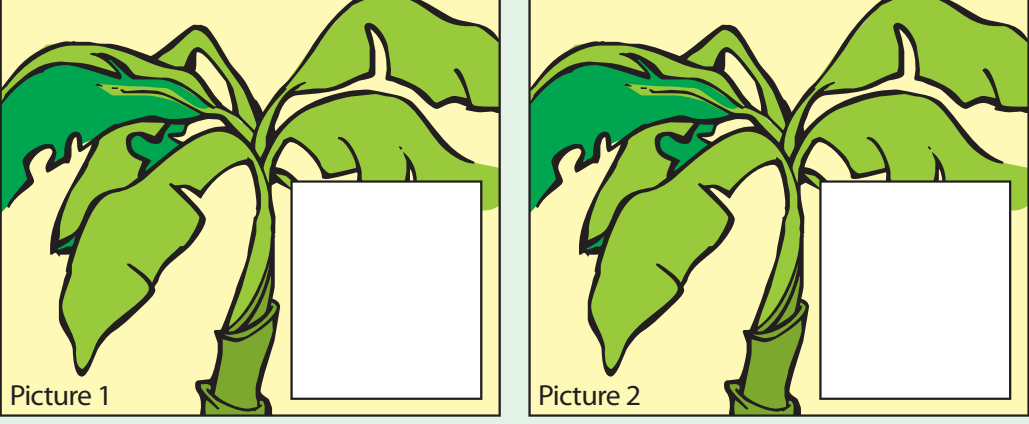
Bananas do not grow on trees!

There is no such thing as a banana tree. Banana plants are actually very tall herbs. There is no woody trunk. The stem is formed from tightly wrapped leaves. New leaves grow out of old leaves. Some banana plants grow amazingly fast. One plant spurts up 20.5 centimeters or about 8 inches every day. If you watch very carefully, you can see this plant grow!

Standards Link: Life Science: Plants have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction.

You've Got to Hand It to Bananas

Bananas grow in clusters called **hands**. There can be 15-30 bananas on each hand. Each banana is called a **finger**. The word *banan* is Arabic for finger.



Which way will the bananas grow?

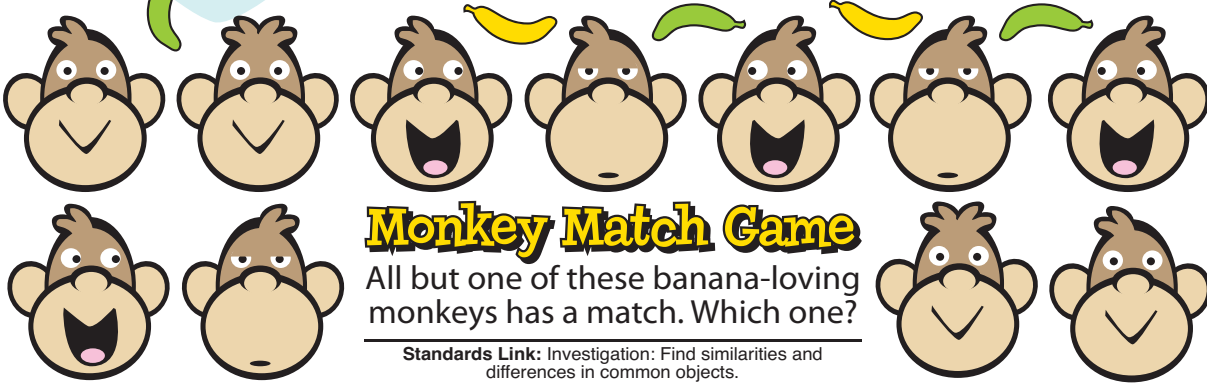
When a banana plant is ready to fruit, it shoots out a long stalk from which the fruit will grow. Which way do you think the bananas will grow? Draw what you think on Picture 1. Then use the code to find out how bananas grow. Draw this on Picture 2.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Did you know?

Bananas are one of the fruits that contain all the major vitamins: A, B1, B2, B6 and C.



Monkey Match Game

All but one of these banana-loving monkeys has a match. Which one?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Extra! Extra! Banana Scavenger Hunt

Peel back the pages of this newspaper to find:

- 4 adjectives that describe a banana
- 5 verbs that tell what you can do with a banana
- a number with as many digits as there are letters in the word "banana"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify adjectives and verbs in writing; Math/Number Sense: Identify numbers to 100,000.

- A** $38 - 17 + 6 =$
- B** $156 + 27 + 144 =$
- C** $18 + 18 + 14 =$
- D** $75 + 42 + 33 =$

Complete the math problems at left. Then match the answer with each of these banana facts.

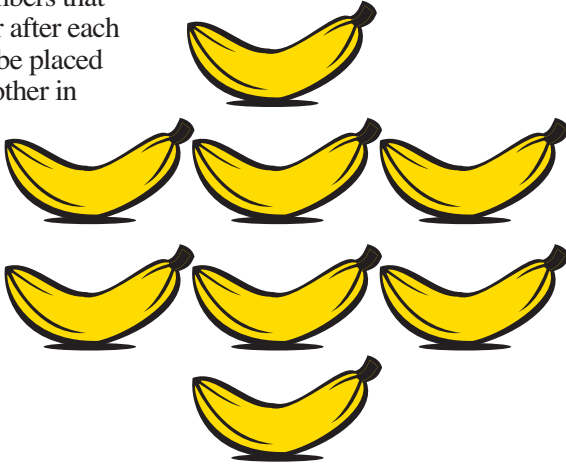
- It is said that Alexander the Great discovered bananas in his conquest of India in the year **B** B.C.
- The average American eats about **A** pounds of bananas every year.
- A banana plant produces from **C** to **D** bananas at a time.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Compute sums and differences.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler Double Double Word Search

Baffling Bananas

Number the bananas 1 to 8. But wait! Numbers that come before or after each other may not be placed next to one another in any direction.



Hint: Cut out eight slips of paper, number them 1 to 8, and try arranging the numbers different ways.

Standards Link: Math Reasoning: Solve problems using a variety of strategies.

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

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

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: NUTRITIOUS
The word **nutritious** means something that is healthy to eat.

Loaded with vitamins, bananas are amongst the most **nutritious** fruits you can eat.

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

FROM THE **Kid Scoop®** LESSON LIBRARY

Top Bananas

Find five words in the newspaper that describe how a banana tastes. Write a banana poem or a paragraph using these words.

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use adjectives. Writing Applications: Write brief descriptions of objects.

What is yellow on the outside and gray on the inside?

ANSWER: An elephant trying to disguise himself as a banana.

Write On!

Favorite Way to Eat a Banana

Chocolate covered? Sliced on a peanut butter sandwich? Or, just plain? Describe with at least five details.

SPORTS



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Track teams make statements in early competition

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With spring break now in the rearview mirror, the spring sports season is in full swing for teams around the Pointes. For the boys and girls varsity track and field squads from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North, last week brought some of the first big meets and invitationals of the season. There were chances for the best athletes representing the Blue Devils and Norsemen to make a statement right away early in the season and some did just that.

Grosse Pointe South
The South girls track and field team has started the season on a roll. The Blue Devils earned their second dual meet victory of the spring Tuesday, April 7, defeating Eisenhower 86-51.
One of the biggest highlights of the victory came from senior Morgan Duff, who won the long jump and nearly set a South record with her jump of 17 feet, 6.5 inches. Duff also finished first in the 400-meter dash and helped South to a first-place finish in the 800



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ZARANЕК

South’s Rylee Piornack, Lydia Thomason-Redus, Eleanor Pilsner and Morgan Costello race in the 6400 relay at the Patriot Relays Saturday, April 11, helping the Blue Devils to a first-place finish.

sprint relay.
“Morgan contributes to this team without fail,” South girls track and field head coach Steve Zaranek said. “Her most exciting moments still lie ahead.” Other big moments from South’s victory over Eisenhower

included freshman distance runner Eleanor Pilsner taking first place in the 3200 run with a time of 12:12. Senior Ciara Pongratz earned three victories for the Blue Devils, finishing first in the 100 and 300 hurdles, as well as the high jump.

The Blue Devils moved on to their first invitational of the season Saturday, April 11, at Livonia Franklin’s Patriot Relays. The South girls made a statement by taking first place in the team standings, bringing home the win with a total of 99

points.
Pilsner, Rylee Piornack, Morgan Costello and Lydia Thomason-Redus took first place in the 6400 distance relay. Piornack, Costello, Pilsner and Pongratz also finished first in the distance medley relay. In the 1600

relay, Pongratz, Costello, Ava Babcock and Calisse Budek earned another victory for South.
South’s boys team also competed against Eisenhower Tuesday, April 7, falling 80-57 in the dual meet. Senior Tristan Winger earned first-place finishes for South in the 100 and 300 hurdles. Joseph Agnone also took a pair of first-place spots in shot put and discus.
The Blue Devils’ boys team took seventh in Saturday’s Patriot Relays, with 25 points as a squad. Lance Lynch earned one of the team’s only top finishes, coming in first in shot put, while Liam O’Donoghue took first place in the pole vault.
The boys and girls teams for South are in action again Saturday, April 18, traveling to Woodhaven for the Warrior Invitational.

Grosse Pointe North
North’s boys and girls teams both earned victories in a dual meet on the road against Stevenson Thursday, April 9, to begin the season. The boys won by a score of 89-48, while the girls were victorious

See TRACK, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Ostrowski sets the tone for South softball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Viviana Ostrowski is the tone setter for the Grosse Pointe South varsity softball team. In the field, batter’s box or dugout, the senior is always ready to lead by example for the Blue Devils. A lot of responsibility rests on Ostrowski’s shoulders, whether it is being one of the few senior leaders on South’s team this spring or being the spark at the top of the lineup, but it is a role she embraces every day.
“I love batting leadoff and going first for pretty much everything we do,” Ostrowski said. “I like to set the tone for the team, because if I do well, I can go back to the dugout and remind everyone that they can do the same thing. It’s easier for me if I go in without any expectation or thinking about what the girl before me saw. I

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Viviana Ostrowski

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Softball

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

can have a clean mindset and not have anything to expect.”
The leadoff spot is where Ostrowski feels comfortable. It is a role she has held for South the past couple of seasons, with her speed and ability to make contact and get on base giving South consistent offen-

sive opportunities right out of the gate.
A Division 1 All-State honorable mention last year in center field, Ostrowski hit .443 and stole 27 bases. Her batting average is at .421, with eight RBIs in seven games so far this spring, but what is beginning to stand out more this season is her increased power — something she has been working on to add another valuable tool to her skillset at the top of the lineup.
“I’m a left-handed hitter and I’m pretty fast,

so a lot of times coaches have me doing small ball just to get on base,” Ostrowski said. “I was telling Coach Fleming at the start of this year that I’m going to hit bombs this year. That’s my goal and what I worked on all winter. ... My first at bat of the season, I got the results and hit a home run on my first swing, which was a really awesome feeling.”
That increased power is a welcome factor for the Blue Devils and coach Bill Fleming. What is more important, however, is the example Ostrowski has set by constantly striving for improvement. It is what has helped make Fleming’s decision to have Ostrowski be a team captain both last season and this spring so easy.
“Vivi is one of the hardest-working, dedicated student-athletes I have been fortunate to coach,” Fleming said. “She sets a positive example for all of the players in our program. Her work ethic, her competitiveness and her dedication to the softball program are second to none.”



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South senior captain bats leadoff for the Blue Devils in a game against Detroit Western International Monday, April 13.

Ostrowski embraces her responsibilities as a senior captain just like she embraces her role as the leadoff hitter in the lineup. It helps that she gets to share that leadership role with one of her closest friends,

Mackenzie Simon.
The two are the only seniors on South’s roster this year. The expectations are high after the Blue Devils added district and regional cham-

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Batting Leadoff

- Batting .421 with 8 RBIs through 7 games in 2026
- 2025 Division 1 All-State Honorable Mention
- Senior captain for South varsity softball



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Blue Devils lacrosse extends winning streak with big week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys lacrosse team is hitting its stride early in the season. The Blue Devils earned two victories last week after the team returned from spring break, extending their winning streak to four games as the season heats up.

The first win for South came Thursday, April 9, when the team went on the road and earned a high-scoring victory over Tecumseh 19-11. Eugene Agnone led the way with a six-goal performance, followed closely by five goals from fellow senior Jack Smith. University of Detroit Mercy (D1) commit Colin Cotton added two goals as well, to go along with another strong performance at the faceoff X.

The Blue Devils followed that with another road victory Saturday, April 11. South traveled to take on Lake Orion, one of the state's top 15 teams in Division 1, according to rankings on Laxnumbers.com, and the Blue Devils pulled off a close 11-10 win.

“It was a huge win for

the program and for this team specifically,” South boys lacrosse head coach Justin Macksoud said. “It shows that if we’re focused and have our minds right, we can play with just about anyone.”

The Blue Devils were ahead 8-4 at halftime and led 10-5 in the fourth quarter. Lake Orion tried to make a late surge, but Chris Bejin helped seal the win for South with a late, decisive goal.

Agnone helped lead the way once again with a hat trick. Bejin, Jackson Kean and Jack Cotton each scored twice, with more goals added by Smith and Bennett Walsh. Luke Parent’s effort in net with 15 saves also was a massive help for the Blue Devils on the way to victory.

Last week’s wins helped improve South’s record to 4-2 so far this season, with more challenging matchups ahead. The Blue Devils hosted South Lyon after press time Tuesday, April 14. South is on the road to face Troy Thursday, April 16, and returns home for a matchup against Stoney Creek at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 18.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GILLESPIE

South’s Throop Linnell defends against a Tecumseh attacker during the Blue Devils’ 19-11 victory Thursday, April 9.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

pionships to the trophy case last season, so both Ostrowski and Simon know the example they have to set. Ostrowski would not want to take on that responsibility with anyone else.

“Both of us have the same mentality,” she said. “We want to be constantly getting better and winning games. ... I’m happy being a captain with her because she’s awesome and supportive. We have a lot of underclassmen on the team this year, so leadership is a big thing. I think we’ve done a

really good job of getting the underclassmen used to the varsity setting.”

While Ostrowski and Simon are the two biggest veteran leaders South has this season, there are still plenty of players in the lineup who were part of the squad that reached the Division 1 state quarterfinals last year. Ostrowski knows there is no time to dwell on the past, no matter how great last year’s deep postseason run for the Blue Devils was.

It is up to Ostrowski to help set the tone in every game and for the season. It is what she does best and it could be

what helps her senior year become another one of South softball’s best springs ever.

“Last season was awesome and we want to carry that into this season,” she said. “... A reminder that we’ve been emphasizing is that it’s a new season and a new team. It’s not like we can just go in expecting that we already have anything. We need to attack every opportunity with our full effort. ... Our motto this year is ‘do more’ because we had an awesome season last year, but we want to keep going. We want to make the semifinals and state finals.”

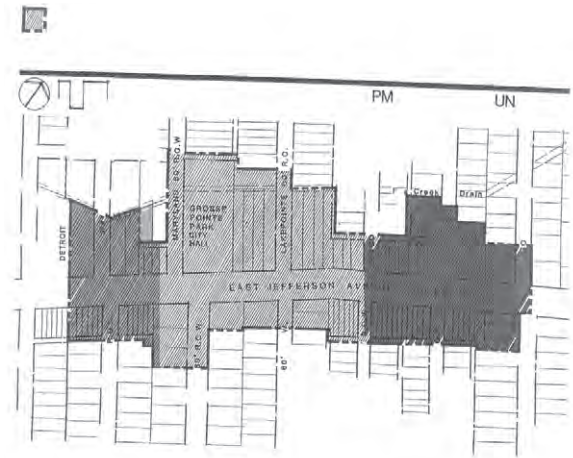


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Ostrowski celebrates on second base after hitting a double in her first at bat Monday, April 13.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

During its regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park City Council on May 11, 2026, the City Council will be conducting a public hearing at 15115 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230, that will begin at 7:00 p.m., local time. The public hearing will be conducted to hear comments and recommendations on a proposed ordinance to amend the Development Plan for the City of Grosse Pointe Park Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) and to extend the duration of the tax increment financing plan for 30 years. **THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT DOES NOT INCREASE ANY TAXES OR PROPOSE ANY NEW MILLAGES.** Maps, plats, and a description of the amendments to the development plan, including the method of relocating families and individuals who may be displaced from the area, are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City of Grosse Pointe Park City Hall, which is located at the address provided above. **THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DO NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES BEING RELOCATED OR DISPLACED.** At the public hearing, all aspects of the amendments to the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans will be open for discussion. The area to which the Development and Tax Increment Financing Plans apply in relation to highways, streets, streams, or otherwise is shown on the shaded area of the map provided below:



Bridgette Bowdler,
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Grosse Pointe News



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Baseball season in full swing for South, North and Liggett

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Baseball season is officially back in the Pointes, with the teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School getting back into action on the diamond last week. Some teams and players still are trying to get their feet under them in the first games of spring, but last week’s action had some early highlights.

University Liggett
After opening the new season 2-1 in their first few games, the Knights had ups and downs in their first full week of action. It started Tuesday, April 7, with a 7-5 loss to Troy Athens that saw Liggett lose its lead in the final innings. The Knights went down 2-0 early in the game, but RBI hits from Joey Harris, Javion Gray and Ravi Hines in the second inning helped Liggett pull ahead 3-2. Athens climbed back to take a one-run lead in the fifth, but a two-RBI single by Gray in the top of the sixth inning helped move the Knights back ahead 5-4. The lead did not last long, however, as the Redhawks were able to scratch three runs across in the bottom of the sixth that eventually led to the victory. Even in a close loss, the Knights believed the game had some encouraging signs. It may have been a rough start to a shaky week, but Liggett knows where it is as a team, still getting its feet wet in a new campaign. “We have a young team with two freshmen and three sophomores in the lineup,” Liggett baseball head coach Jay Ricci said. “... They’re going to go through

growing pains and have to learn. A lot of players are in first-time situations. Whether they succeed or fail, they’re still learning, and that’s OK.” Liggett bounced back Thursday, April 9, with a 10-3 win on the road against Rochester. Gray helped lead the way with a pair of RBIs on two hits. Hines, Kanaan Taylor, Alex Durham, Dom Djurasaj and Alex Nicholson all drove in runs as well. That ended up being the Knights’ only win of the week, however. Liggett was blanked in a 6-0 loss to L’Anse Creuse North the next day Friday, April 10. Saturday, April 11, the team hosted New Boston Huron in a doubleheader, with both games being losses for the Knights. The Chiefs took game one 10-1, with Durham bringing in Liggett’s lone run. Game two was closer, but still resulted in a 3-1 defeat for the Knights. The road may not get easier for the Knights in the coming days, with games this week against Grass Lake and Jackson Lumen Christi, both of which are ranked in the top 20 for Division 3 by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA). Winning games is the ultimate goal, but the Knights want to emphasize steady improvement in these early days of the season no matter who the competition is. “Just sharpen things up,” Ricci said. “Don’t focus on the wins and losses because, whether we win or lose, if it’s done the right way, then it’s progress for us. ... The competition is not going to get any easier, but as long as we’re getting better and smarter, then we’re going in the right direction. That’s all that matters at this



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

South’s Brody Vinyard slides head-first into home plate to score a run for the Blue Devils against Grosse Pointe North Monday, April 13.

point in the season.” Liggett hosted Grass Lake after press time Wednesday, April 15. The Knights go on the road Saturday, April 18, for a doubleheader against Lumen Christi. **Grosse Pointe South** South has been able to string together strong performances early in the season. Wednesday, April 8, the Blue Devils were dominant at home, winning 10-0 against Marysville. Brendan Stafford and Ben Kocik led the way on a big offensive day with a pair of RBIs each. Brody Vinyard, Charlie Michelotti, Charlie McPartlin, Trey Grabowski and Luke Thompson all brought in runs as well. Freshman Gordon Williams got the shut-out win on the mound,

allowing just four hits and recording seven strikeouts in four innings of work. South was at home again Thursday, April 9, hosting the MHSBCA’s No. 4-ranked Division 1 team, Detroit Catholic Central. A close game between two state-championship hopefuls resulted in South’s first loss of the season, with the Shamrocks winning 7-5. The Blue Devils took an early lead in the first inning on a sacrifice fly by Dane Lezotte. The Shamrocks quickly answered, building up a 4-1 lead by the third inning. A pair of runs for South in the bottom of the third, brought in by Stafford and Lezotte, helped the Blue Devils pull the game back to within a run. Catholic Central built back up its lead, eventually moving ahead 7-3 by the seventh inning. Two more runs for South, once again brought in on hits by Stafford and Lezotte, made things closer, but South’s comeback bid ultimately fell short. South bounced back from the loss quickly, earning a sweep in a doubleheader against Wyandotte Roosevelt Saturday, April 11. The first game was an 11-5 win for South, with Thompson and Quinn Steinhebel helping power the offense with three RBIs each. Game two of the doubleheader was lower scoring and closer, but another win for South. Two RBIs from Nick Ogden, along with five

shutout innings and eight strikeouts on the mound from Alex Foote, helped South earn a 4-2 win. South opened MAC White Division play Monday, April 13, with a matchup on the road against crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North. The Blue Devils’ offense had a huge day, stringing some big innings together for a 22-3 win in the rivalry showdown. Drew Hess finished the day with three RBIs, all coming from a three-run home run in the seventh inning. Charlie McPartlin, Jack Leonard and Charlie Michelotti all had two RBIs each as well. For North, Jacob Sahadi had a solo home run to deliver one of the Norsemen’s highlights of the game. South hosted North after press time Tuesday, April 14. The two teams meet again for a doubleheader Thursday, April 16, beginning at 4 p.m. at UWM Field (formerly known as Jimmy John’s Field) in Utica. South is scheduled to host Detroit Edison for a doubleheader Saturday, April 18, starting at 11 a.m. **Grosse Pointe North** The Norsemen opened the season Wednesday, April 8, with an 11-4 win against Berkley. DJ Edwards, Caleb Butler and Edward Macaulay had two RBIs each as the North offense exploded for 14 hits. Sophomore Zane Hemler earned the win on the mound, striking

out six batters over three scoreless innings. The rest of the week was not as kind to North. The Norsemen suffered a close loss at home Friday, April 10, falling 7-6 to Eisenhower in extra innings. Trailing 6-2 in the seventh inning, the Norsemen rallied to tie the game. That rally was sparked by a three-run home run from Trevor Lipscomb to make the score 6-5, with Macaulay driving in the tying run shortly after. Eisenhower took the lead back in the top of the ninth inning and North was unable to rally another comeback effort. The Norsemen dropped both games of a road doubleheader against Divine Child Saturday, April 11. The first game was close and high-scoring, with North losing 9-8. Lorenzo Dichio’s pair of RBIs helped North build an 8-5 lead, but the Falcons rallied late with four runs in the seventh inning to snatch the victory. Game two of the doubleheader was a blow-out in favor of Divine Child. Lipscomb brought in the only run for the Norsemen in an 11-1 defeat. North visited Grosse Pointe South after press time Tuesday, April 14. The team faces South again in a doubleheader Thursday, April 16, at UWM Field. North is back home Saturday, April 18, for a doubleheader against Wyandotte Roosevelt beginning at 11 a.m.



North’s Jacob Sahadi (No. 7) is greeted by his teammates at home plate after hitting a home run against South Monday, April 13.

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
CITY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 48225
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harper Woods will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input on the distribution of the special assessment levy.

Residents who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their written comments regarding this matter to the City Clerk’s office prior to the hearing date.

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

POSTED: April 10, 2026
PUBLISHED: April 16, 2026

4D | SPORTS

Softball teams search for wins after return from break

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After some time off for spring break, softball teams from around the Pointes were back on the diamond last week, ready to kick the 2026 season into high gear. The squads from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all had action-packed weeks looking to gain some ground early in the new season.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils were busy last week coming

off of spring break. South took the diamond for its first game back from vacation Thursday, April 9, hosting MAC Blue Division foe L'Anse Creuse. The first game of league play did not go in the Blue Devils' favor, with the team falling in a close game 4-3.

The Lancers were able to string runs together early, building up a 3-0 lead through the first three innings. South got on the board in the fourth inning with an RBI hit from Madison Iverson, but L'Anse Creuse went back up by three in the

very next frame. An RBI double by Sophia Husek and another hit by Iverson helped South scratch two runs across in the sixth inning, but it was not enough to close the gap. Despite the loss, South got an impressive pitching performance from junior Makenzie Waterson, who tallied 12 strikeouts over seven innings. South shook off the loss quickly, as the rest of the week was full of dominant wins. The Blue Devils rattled off three

wins Saturday, April 11, while out-scoring opponents by a total of 63-2. Saturday's first big win was a 20-1 victory over Westland John Glenn. Junior Courtney Cowan had a huge performance with five RBIs on three hits, while senior captain Mackenzie Simon brought in three runs on a pair of hits. South then went on to win 21-0 over Royal Oak in the next game, with Avery Lollar, Sophia Husek and Elizabeth Carswell all having three-RBI performances. Lollar followed that up with four RBIs in South's final game of the day, a 22-1 win against Warren Woods-Tower. The Blue Devils followed the dominant weekend with another big win Monday, April 13, hosting Detroit Western International. Cowan and Vivian Lindow finished with a pair of RBIs each as South took down the Cowboys 15-0. The Blue Devils are home again Thursday, April 16, hosting Warren Woods-Tower for a MAC Blue Division showdown at 4:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen eased back into things after spring break with a couple of games last week. The first was a MAC Red Division matchup at home against Romeo Tuesday, April 7, which resulted in a 10-6 loss for North. Down 2-0 in the bottom of the third inning against the Bulldogs, Victoria Mangol helped put North in front with a three-RBI double. Romeo took back the lead in the next inning, however, and North was unable to catch up. A two-run triple from Emma Barr in the bottom of the sixth was something the Norsemen hoped could spark a rally, but the comeback effort fell short. North went on the road Thursday, April 9, for another MAC Red game against Anchor Bay. It was another tough result for the Norsemen, falling to the Tars 5-1. An RBI single by Carina Jensen in the third inning brought in North's only run. North hosted Dakota Tuesday, April 14, after press time. The Norsemen are in action again

Thursday, April 16, with a matchup on the road against Henry Ford II. **University Liggett**
Liggett opened the season with a doubleheader on the road at Royal Oak Tuesday, April 7, and was able to start the new campaign with a pair of wins. The first was a 19-3 victory over the Ravens, with Isabella Nihem leading the way with three RBIs for the Knights. Liggett took game two of the doubleheader, which was closer than the first, 8-7. Nihem again was the spark for Liggett's offense, bringing in three runs for the second game of the day. The Knights were on the road again Thursday, April 9, to face Birmingham Seaholm. Liggett took its first loss of the spring, falling to the Maples 15-5. Nihem and Louisa Dragovic both had a pair of RBIs in the loss. Liggett hosted a doubleheader against St. Catherine after press time Tuesday, April 14. The Knights go on the road for another doubleheader Thursday, April 16, taking on Marian.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Freshman Madison Iverson steps into the batter's box for South against Detroit Western International Monday, April 13.

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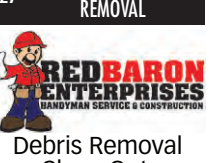
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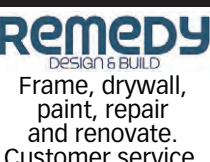
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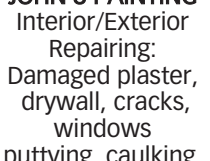
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6D | SPORTS

TRACK:

Continued from page 1D

74-62.

Sophomore Parker Persyn won both the 100- and 200-meter races for the North boys

team. Persyn, Phil Prost, Shawn Davis and Lamar Smith also finished first in the 400 sprint relay. Smith, Prost, Noah Hunter and Drew Odell earned another victory in the 800 relay.

North's boys team

earned wins in some distance events as well. Senior captain Paul Stephens finished first in the 800, and helped the Norsemen win the 3200 relay with teammates Sam Parish, Neil Orłowski and Dylan

Phillips.

For North's girls team, Kayli Johnson took first place in the 100-meter dash. Kimora Laster-Walker won the 400 and senior Avery Boutell earned a win in the 800. Johnson, Laster-Walker,

Alexis Allen and Quinn Notebaert took first in the 800 relay.

The North girls dominated in the field events as well. Rose Parker finished first in shot put, Lauren Loper won discus, Jessica Atchison

took first place in pole vault and Allen earned another victory for the Norsemen in long jump.

Both teams for North also travel to Woodhaven Saturday, April 18, to compete in the Warrior Invitational.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North lacrosse wins OT thriller

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys lacrosse team earned its first win of the season last Thursday, April 9, defeating St. Clair 6-5 in overtime. Peter Welch scored twice for North, including the game-winning goal in overtime. JR Smarch, Emerson Hiliker, Cole Champine and Derek Falmer all found the back of the net as well for the Norsemen, while goalie Nate Gray made 17 saves in the win.

Above, North's Cole Champine celebrates with teammate Dane Willson after scoring a goal to tie the game in the third quarter against St. Clair.

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