

Curtain rises on donor-fueled playhouse

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The lyric, “Impossible things are happening every day,” has special meaning when the Grosse Pointe Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” starting June 5 at its new home, the Schaap Center.

The production is the 78-year-old theater company’s first in the center, but not the last.

“Schaap Center leadership, and Paul Schaap particularly, have offered Grosse Pointe Theatre a future for another 78 years,” said Danielle Caralis, GPT president.

With a bow to “Pippin,” which isn’t on the bill this season but could be someday, there’s magic to do, plays to play and hearts to warm in the



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

A ceremonial ribbon cutting opens the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery Sunday, May 17. From left are Abigail Barroso, director of engagement for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce; Jenny Boettcher, chamber president; Sheila Tomkowiak, City of Grosse Pointe mayor; Maria Miller, president and CEO of the chamber board of directors; John Gillooly, Grosse Pointe Farms mayor; Valerie Kindle, mayor of Harper Woods; center name-sake Paul Schaap; State Sen. Kevin Hertel; Danielle Caralis, president of the Grosse Pointe Theatre and Schaap Center board member; Arthur Bryant, Grosse Pointe Woods mayor; Michele Hodges, Grosse Pointe Park mayor; Linda Zublick, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Theatre and board member of the chamber; Van Hauswirth, chamber board member; and Lisa Fraser, chamber finance director.

49,000-square-foot, 435-seat A. Paul and Carol C.

Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

Decades of talk about building a regional performance center in the Pointes turned promising when Paul Schaap and his wife, Carol, now deceased, got in the act.

In 2012, they bought land on which the building sits on Jefferson between Maryland and Alter Road in Detroit and gave the bulk of \$50 million in donations needed for construction.

It all came together during an opening gala

performance Saturday night, May 15, and matinee reprise the next day.

“It’s a relief and great pleasure to see this space,” Schaap said. “It’s been 14 years and a lot of hard work by a lot of people.”

Farms resident Bill Doherty attended the Saturday black-tie gala with his wife, Cynthia, and friends.

“The entertainment was unbelievable,” Doherty said. “I thank the Schaap family for this beautiful gift to the Park and Detroit area.”

The tax-exempt center,

its balconied theater and art exhibition spaces, represent the largest investment in the history of Grosse Pointe Park.

“The Schaap Center stands as a cultural heartbeat for the Grosse Pointe community and its impact will reach far beyond the arts,” said Jenny Boettcher, president of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. “It will strengthen our neighborhoods, energize our business districts and inspire a new generation to see the Pointes as a vibrant, welcoming home for all.”

“It’s going to mean everything for the Grosse Pointes at large and, frankly, the entire metro Detroit community,” said John Gillooly, mayor of Grosse Pointe Farms. “The arts are very important to all of us. You see the commitment a number of individuals and groups have made. It reflects what we all need — we need the arts; we need a good place to congregate and forget about some of the other things going on.”

“This is our catalytic moment, an historic moment for the community,” Park Mayor Michele Hodges said.

She spoke in the paneled lobby near a backlit board listing the names of donors.

“These people have an angelic effect on our community,” Hodges said. “They serve with their hearts and minds. We’re very fortunate to have a community that is this generous. We can’t do the work alone.”

The Grosse Pointes’ state Sen. Kevin Hertel arranged for the center to receive a \$1.7 million Michigan Economic Development Corp. grant for stormwater handling.

“This is a beautiful space in our community that will benefit people for decades to come,” Hertel said. “We were

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BEST:

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your favorite nonprofit fundraisers.

In addition to some of our tried-and-true returning categories — think the best places to buy a wedding gift or high-end fashion — we’ve added a bonus category: Best high school sports team to watch. Why not give our student-athletes some love?

A complete list of categories can be found on the ballot on page 7A. The ballot also will be printed in the May 28 edition. Just clip it, fill it out and mail it in — or drop it to our office, 16980 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

If you prefer the electronic method, online voting begins today at grossepointenews.com/best.

“Best of the Best is one of our favorite ways to help celebrate our unique and impressive community,” Publisher Anne Gryzenia said. “From hidden gems to longtime favorites, this is your chance to cheer for people and places that make life here so special.”

The deadline for all nominations is midnight Thursday, June 4.

Top vote-getters receive recognition in our Best of the Best special section, due out in our July 16 full-run edition, which hits every home in Grosse Pointe. Additional honors include Best of the Best plaques and window stickers to commemorate the amazing businesses and services available in the Pointes.

What are you waiting for? Cast your votes today!

— Jody McVeigh

CENSUS:

Continued from page 1A

occurred nearly a decade ago, when the Census Bureau estimated the Pointes had a cumulative 4 percent decline since the 2010 census. City officials also questioned those numbers.

As the Grosse Pointe News reported at the time, the Woods had issued 53 new building permits between 2010 and 2017, while the Farms and Shores issued

23 and 10, respectively, during the same period.

When the 2020 census numbers were released, they showed a cumulative increase of 2.1 percent. That included:

- ◆ City, +4.7 percent,
- ◆ Farms, +7 percent,
- ◆ Park, +0.3 percent
- ◆ Woods, +2.2 percent.

The only outlier was the Shores, which the federal government claimed lost 359 residents, or 12.3 percent of its population. City

Manager Steve Poloni rejected that finding, saying the number of park passes issued in 2020 showed otherwise.

“We appealed, but they were only doing big cities,” he said. “We filed a lot of paperwork and they just dropped it. We never got anywhere with the federal government.”

Reeside questioned if the drop in enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System played a factor in the new estimate. The district is down about 1,000 students from the 2019-20 school year.

District administrators have said there were 500 students living within GPPSS boundaries during the 2024-25 school year attending public schools — both conventional and charter — elsewhere, prompting officials to explore a virtual school in hopes of bringing some of them back.

The Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments estimates the 2030 census, compared to the 2020 numbers, will show growth in three of the five Pointes, with additional residents of:

- ◆ Farms, +47,
- ◆ Park, +25 and
- ◆ Woods, +120.

SEMOG predicts the Shores would lose 152 residents and the City 20 compared to 2020.

“They (SEMOG) don’t have a crystal ball, but they do follow trends and have access to local information,” Woods City Manager Sue Como said.

Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said that city has been showing steady growth.

“We have a lot of young families moving in and we’ve made zoning more flexible to allow for condos to be built above retail in our business districts,” he said.

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Woods officers receive public safety awards

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Several members of the public safety department, including the officer and supervisor of the year, were recognized during the city council meeting Monday, May 4, for their efforts in 2025.

Sgt. Mark Agnetti, who has spent his entire 23-year career with the department, was named supervisor of the year.

“The future of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety is in good hands due to his dedication and hard work with the field training officer program, an intensive period of training that new recruits must successfully complete as they transition into their new role as an



PHOTO BY TED O’NEIL

From left, Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke, Sgt. Mark Agnetti, Officer Mitchell Hendrix, Sgt. Walter Galat, Officer Joseph Hazuka, Dispatcher Kristen Morano and School Resource Officer Jeff Martel. Not pictured, Sgt. Darrell Fisher and Officers Eugene Gunnery and Neal Kapoor.

officer,” Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. “He has always displayed an initiative to work to the best of his ability and is an excellent mentor for our new officers.”

Agnetti has a Bachelor of Science degree in fire

science from Lake Superior State University, where he also took criminal justice courses.

“I originally wanted to be an arson investigator, but that’s really only available if you work for the state or a big city,” he said. He attended the

Michigan Police Corps, run by the U.S. Department of Justice and no longer active, at Ferris State University to get his police credentials.

“I wanted to make a positive contribution,” the Troy native said. “That was the driving force for

getting into this profession.”

Jeff Martel, school resource officer at Grosse Pointe North High School, received officer of the year.

Martel’s role as an SRO “fits him like a glove,” Kosanke said.

“Not only did he volunteer for the position, he

has built a strong and trusting relationship with the school and is trusted by the students,” he added. “He has become a steady fixture at school social and sporting events, ensuring crowd safety.”

Martell said he was honored and surprised, but

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MILLAGE:

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missing extra (money) needed to address long-term deferred maintenance at many of the larger park facilities,” Dryer said. “Larger allocations of the general fund could be made to the parks department. However, this would come at the expense of other departments which are in need of funding.”

Establishing a recreation capital improvement plan is doable, but unreliable, according to Dryer.

“They tend to fall off,” he said, meaning earmarked funds tend to be tapped for competing projects and priorities.

Another choice is a bond sale. Bonding has precedent.

“The city had a recreation improvement bond (in 1984 of \$570,000) and marina improvement bonds (in 1969 of \$150,000 and in 1979 of \$170,000),” Dryer said. “Today, the value of those (bonds) would be approximately \$1.8 million, \$1.3 million and \$775,000, respectively.”

Then there’s the option of a voter-approved dedicated millage, as currently with water-sewer infrastructure improvements.

Dryer said a recreation millage assessment of between 0.5 and 0.75 mills would generate \$416,836 to \$625,254 per year in revenue, based on last year’s property values.

For the owner of a house assessed at \$475,000, the millage rates translate into payments of \$237.50 to \$356.25 per year and \$19.79 to \$29.69 per month.

“To support both the needed maintenance and capital improvement projects identified in the five-year plan, supplemental funding will be needed to bridge the gap between the available city funding,” Dryer concluded.

Advisory

Michael Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission, was quick to state the board is an advisory body. Members aren’t taking a stand on sources of funding.

Rather, they’re doing their duty by investigating options and forwarding them to city council for vetting and whatever action.

“We’re not here to ask to recommend a funding source,” Hindelang said. “The plan is addressing the realities of what it costs and identifying options. Administration will make a recommendation to the council.”

Prospects

“We’re having to get creative about how to fund this,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “The city has been providing maintenance and doing capital improvement projects over the years. However, as costs are going up, other costs are going up: wages, fringe benefits, supplies and everything.”

“I view a tax request as an option of last resort, not a starting point, and only after we can clearly show both need and value,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The recreation department’s status as the second-highest funded department in the city, at more than \$2.3 million,

underscores its value to residents.

“Parks and recreation are an important part of quality of life in our community,” Hodges said. “Residents want to see us continue investing wisely in those assets. At the same time, we also have to recognize that many property owners already feel significant pressure from taxes and rising costs.”

She said the conversation must start with value.

“Before asking taxpayers to consider any new millage or bond proposal, we need to demonstrate that we’ve fully explored every other available funding source, including grants, partnerships, sponsorships, phased implementation and other existing revenue opportunities,” Hodges said.

The master planning process was intended to reveal community priorities.

“If residents ultimately decide that certain improvements are important enough to support financially, that’s a conversation worth having,” Hodges said.

MEMORIAL:

Continued from page 1A

Capt. Rick Armstrong, commander, USCG Sector Detroit. Armstrong oversees 427 miles of international border with Canada through lakes Erie, St. Clair and Huron and along the Detroit and St. Clair rivers.

Alongside the traditional Gold Star Honor Roll — the reading of the names of Grosse Pointers who have been killed in action — the ceremony also will feature the advancing and retiring of the colors by Marine Aircraft Group 41 out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base, as well as an invocation by the Rev. Andrew Van Culin, Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

Boy Scout Troop 96 will participate in leading the Pledge of Allegiance, while the Grosse Pointe Veterans Club and American Legion Posts

303 and 372 will place the memorial wreaths.

Allison Ristovski is set to sing the national anthem, with the Motor City Brass Band performing a prelude, as well as taps.

The ceremony will conclude with a performance of “Amazing Grace” on bagpipes by Mary Beth Nicholson.

“We all live busy, hectic lives,” Szwarc said. “Memorial Day is a good chance to slow down, pause and reflect on why we have the three-day weekend and come out to a beautiful setting at The War Memorial.

“... It should be a very meaningful morning and a good way to start off your Memorial Day.”

Registration is free but required at warmemorial.org/events/memorialday2026.

The ceremony also will be live-streamed on The War Memorial’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

— Laurel Kraus

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MAY 25

◆ Memorial Day

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Memorial Day ceremony at Circle of Honor, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.

◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities meeting, 6:30 p.m.

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Native Plant Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at city hall.

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Building space for healing through movement

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

When Dana Hafer talks about yoga, she does not describe it as something athletic or performative, but as a practice that reshapes how a person connects to their own body and mind. That perspective now defines Detroit Yoga Lab, where Hafer focuses on creating a space that prioritizes grounding, accessibility and nervous system awareness over intensity or perfection.

Even before yoga became central to her life, she described herself as someone who did not voluntarily step into the spotlight.

“I grew up just outside of Cleveland, Ohio, and moved to the Detroit area in 2002, eventually settling in Grosse Pointe in 2008, where I raised my two daughters,” Hafer said. “Before yoga, I was fairly quiet and intro-

verted. I wasn’t athletic or someone who naturally put myself out there.

“Yoga came into my life in the mid-’90s through simple curiosity,” she continued. “At first, there wasn’t some profound connection. I was just interested in movement and fascinated by how yoga made me feel in my body.”

What began as something she returned to for physical activity slowly became something she relied on more deeply during periods of instability and pain, when life felt especially heavy and unsteady.

“At first, yoga was simply something that made me feel better physically and emotionally,” Hafer said. “But as my life became more challenging, it took on a much deeper meaning. I was raising two young daughters with very little support, limited financial stability and a tremen-

dous amount of stress and isolation. Yoga became one of the few places where I could breathe, reconnect to myself and feel even a small sense of steadiness.”

That relationship with yoga changed most dramatically during one of the most difficult periods of her life, when sudden loss left her feeling unable to function in even the most mundane tasks.

“That shift happened in 2018, after my husband died suddenly,” Hafer said. “The grief, stress and trauma completely leveled me. My nervous system was shattered. I couldn’t get out of bed without shaking.

“During that time, the only thing I could do was breathe and move through a simple sun salutation,” she added. “I could match my breath to my movement and be present for maybe five minutes. That was all I had the capacity for.”

What she came to understand in that period reshaped her entire view of yoga, ripping away ideas of performance and achievement.

“I realized that yoga is not about performance, aesthetics or advanced poses,” Hafer said. “That was the moment I knew this work was bigger than me.”

For Hafer, yoga became less about physical practice and more about rebuilding a relationship with herself.

“For much of my life, I lived in survival mode,” she said. “I was raising children, navigating loss, carrying enormous stress and constantly focused on taking care of everyone else. There wasn’t much space left to hear myself, feel myself or even understand what I needed.”

Over time, the practice created space for some-

thing she describes as a slow return, not to who she was before, but to a more present version of herself.

“It gave me a place to pause long enough to actually feel the person inside of me that had been buried underneath stress, grief, fear and survival,” Hafer said. “And over time, it helped me not only see that person, but slowly bring her back to life.”

That lived experience now shapes the foundation of Detroit Yoga Lab, which she purchased in 2023. The studio, she says, was never intended to mirror traditional wellness spaces focused on intensity or achievement.

“Detroit Yoga Lab was created for the people who feel overwhelmed, burned out, grieving, disconnected or exhausted from trying to perform wellness perfectly,” Hafer said. “We’re much more interested in truth than perfection.”

That philosophy comes directly from her own experience of needing something simple, supportive and nonjudgmental during difficult seasons of life.

“I kept thinking about the person who could barely get out of bed, because I had been that person myself,” Hafer said. “We don’t ask people for performance. We ask for presence.”

That intention shows up in every detail of Detroit Yoga Lab, from the pacing of classes to the language used and the overall environment. Every aspect is designed to support regulation rather than intensity.

“Everything is thoughtfully considered, from how a class begins and ends to pacing, breath, transitions, music and energy,” Hafer said. “We want classes to feel grounded, accessible and supportive rather than



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTINE CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Dana Hafer poses to reflect inner peace in her Detroit Yoga Lab studio.

intimidating or performative.”

Rather than focusing on physical achievement, Hafer emphasizes awareness and relationship to the self.

“Yoga may begin on the mat, but it’s meant to ripple into every part of your life,” she said. “People often come for movement, but they stay because they start noticing how it changes the way they relate to themselves. They become more mindful, more compassionate, more aware and more present.”

Her definition of wellness has shifted alongside that understanding, from something created externally to something practiced internally.

“Personally, I define wellness as living with childlike curiosity, presence and integrity,” Hafer said. “For a long time, I thought wellness meant pushing harder and carrying more. Now

I believe real wellness is much gentler and much more honest than that.”

Today, Hafer describes this chapter of her life as one built on stability, intention and continued healing, both personally and through the work she creates for others.

“What’s next for me is learning how to fully live outside of survival mode,” Hafer said. “I’m married to the love of my life and Detroit Yoga Lab feels much more like a passion project than a job.”

At the center of her work remains a belief shaped by everything she has experienced and learned through yoga, not as performance, but as presence.

“It’s about this: Even in the hardest moments of your life, you can still pause, you can still breathe, you can still meet yourself with compassion, one breath at a time.”



Detroit Yoga Lab classes allow attendees to become in tune with their inner selves and calm the mind.

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Swim fundraiser May 31

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

their races were as obvious.

It doesn’t do much good to have a swim meet when worn-out timing and scoring equipment make it hard for judges to determine close finishes.

“The equipment has seen better days,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation in Grosse Pointe Park. “It’s faulty more times than not, which makes swim finals challenging.”

In preparation for this year’s season, the Lake

Front Swimming Association, which organizes competitions and a season-ending collective meet among the five Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores municipal teams, hosts a fundraising golf tournament Sunday, May 31, at the St. Clair Shores Golf Club. Tee times start at 9 a.m.

Tickets cost \$125 per golfer.

Included are 18 holes of golf with cart, two drink tickets, lunch at the turn and a dinner banquet afterward.

Prizes will be awarded for hitting a ball closest to the pin, the longest drives for men and women, as well as tournament champions in men, women and co-ed divisions.

“The goal is to raise funds for timing and scoring equipment that is basically obsolete and outdated,” Craig said. “I encourage people to share with friends, neighbors and everyone to get a team entered.”

Scoring equipment includes touch pads and a big electronic score-

See SWIM, page 8A



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AWARDS:

Continued from page 3A

awards are not why he does the job.

“Being an SRO has been great and it’s about much more than just safety and security,” he said. “It’s about mentoring the students and creating an environment where they feel safe, respected and heard.”

Martell is in his 22nd year with the Woods and 30th overall in law enforcement.

“It’s probably the answer everyone gives, but I’ve always wanted to help people,” he said. “That’s what I enjoy.”

Agnetti, along with Sgt. Walter Galat and Officers Eugene Gunnery and Neal Kapoor, received life-saving awards for their actions the evening of April 6, 2025, after responding to a 911 call from a resident who was having trou-

ble breathing.

When they arrived, the woman was no longer breathing, did not have a pulse and was foaming at the mouth. Along with a crew from MedStar, they performed CPR on the woman for 30 minutes until she was able to breathe on her own.

“The determination of you and your platoon members who did not give up in your attempts gave the resident a fighting chance at life,” read the award each of them received.

Sgt. Darrell Fisher and Officer Joseph Hazuka, along with Galat, Gunnery and Kapoor, responded to a 911 call the night of Dec. 18, 2025, from a woman who thought her husband was dead. The man, a cancer patient, collapsed trying to get up to use the restroom and had no pulse and was not breathing when officers arrived.

The officers used a LUCAS machine, which is a battery-powered device meant to apply consistent CPR chest compressions. The man eventually regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital.

“The hard work and team efforts displayed by you and the other members of your platoon helped to save the life of the resident,” read the life-saving award each of them received.

Officer Mitchell Hendrix and Kapoor received department citations for their role in arresting an armed suspect Feb. 26, 2025, who had threatened to kill his ex-girlfriend, her family and himself.

Dispatcher Kristen Morano received a director’s commendation for her efforts as communications training officer and for coordinating the department’s Law Enforcement Information Network audit.

Sewer separation levy to hit Farms taxes

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Come July 1, Farms residents will see their tax rate rise 1.4485 mills, from 17.2943 mills to 18.7430 mills.

“There will be a slight increase in our tax rate this year, because we need to pay off our sewer bonds,” said Lev Wood, councilman and chair of the audit and budget committee. “Everybody’s aware of the sewer project that’s going on. It’s a \$45 million project. We need to pay those bonds back.”

For years the Farms maintained the lowest millage rate among the Pointes and, as recently as 2025, it rested at 16.4

mills.

A 0.34-mill increase for the senior services millage was implemented in the 2026 budget cycle and 2 mills for the sewer separation project now will be levied in the 2026-27 fiscal year — though the city’s operating levy has slightly decreased, which lessens the impact.

“The proposed budget aim for this year is ‘billing for tomorrow, while delivering today,’ because the budget calls for a strong investment in capital improvements,” Finance Director Tim Rowland said.

Highlights of the investments include \$12 million for the pool and bathhouse replacement —

See LEVY, page 8A

City of Grosse Pointe

Home invasion

At some point mid-April, a home invasion in the 700 block of Neff saw three suspects steal multiple credit and debit cards along with a checkbook, which later were used at multiple places.

An investigation is ongoing.

Bike thefts abound

A black Trek bike was stolen from a rear yard in the 800 block of Loraine at 6:03 a.m. Friday, May 15.

A gray and black Trek bike was stolen from a rear yard in the 700 block of Loraine at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

A light blue and yellow Nishiki Pueblo bike was stolen from a rear yard in the 500 block of Rivard at 12:56 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

Lawn equipment

After stealing a trimmer and blower from an open garage in the 700 block of Loraine at 3:05 p.m. Sunday, May 17, a 68-year-old Detroit man was arrested as he fled the area on foot.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Drunken

Hospital security called dispatch for a man seen slumped over the wheel of his car at Jefferson and Cadieux at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

The 39-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Grocery thief

A man stole \$115.29 worth of various grocery items from a store in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 9:45 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

He was seen fleeing in a silver Chevrolet Impala.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Distracted and drunk

A 43-year-old Rochester Hills woman

was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 4:09 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, after initially being pulled over for texting while driving along Kercheval.

The woman said she was leaving her sister’s house, where she had one glass of wine.

Bike thefts

A gray mountain-style bike was stolen out of an open garage on Edgemere during the morning or early afternoon of Saturday, May 16.

A black Trek Precaliber bike was stolen from a side yard on Beverly at some point over the weekend.

Intoxicated

A 39-year-old Farms man was pulled over for speeding 51 mph on Moross while returning home from a bar in St.

Clair Shores at 9:44 p.m. Sunday, May 17.

He admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages and was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

No wheels

A 21-year-old Shores man was arrested for drunken driving around 1:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16.

Officers pulled the man over after receiving calls about a vehicle being driven erratically on southbound Lakeshore. The 2022 Chevy Suburban he was driving, which later was impounded, was missing the front and rear pas-

senger-side tires due to the driver hitting the curb repeatedly.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.13.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Leaf blowers stolen

Shortly after 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, an unknown thief stole a \$400 RedMax leaf blower

from a trailer parked curbside in the 1300 block of Devonshire while its owner worked in a rear yard.

The same thing happened between noon and 12:30 p.m. the next day near the corner of Vernor and Lakepointe.

Larceny from auto

An unidentified man wearing a hood reportedly appeared on surveillance video at 5:50 a.m. Sunday, May 17, entering an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of a house in the 600 block of Pemberton.

Police said \$12 wound up missing from the vehicle.

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



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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Respecting the fallen

With Memorial Day this Monday, please keep in mind the real reason for the holiday. It is about more than just a day off work, a reason to have a barbecue or an excuse to squeeze in another day on the water or the golf course.

As the name states, it is to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

There are several ways to respectfully and appropriately mark the day with reverence and gratitude.

If you plan to fly Old Glory on Monday, the U.S. Flag Code has some very specific instructions. It should be raised vigorously in the morning to the top, then lowered to half-staff until noon, at which time it should be raised back to full-staff. This symbolizes “mourning in the morning” and is a living tribute for the rest of the day.

Another way to mark the day is to thank a veteran, be that a family member, neighbor or colleague. You also might see one or two on the street, identifiable by hats many of them wear indicating the branch of service and in which war they fought. This could be particularly meaningful to Vietnam War veterans, many of whom were treated poorly upon their return. It is common to hear them, upon learning of each other’s service, tell each other, “Welcome home.”

Then there is the National Moment of Remembrance, which asks everyone to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to reflect on its meaning. It can be done in silence or while listening to taps.

Locally, The War Memorial will hold its annual ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday on the lakefront lawn of the Alger House (see story, page 1A). It will include a reading of the names of Grosse Pointers who lost their lives serving their country. While the event is free, registration is required at short url.at/IZD6r.

The keynote speaker will be Capt. Rick Armstrong, commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector Detroit.

A new book, which we told readers about last week, chronicles the lives of 185 Pointers who died in military service going back to the Civil War. “Home of the Brave: Remembering the Grosse Pointes’ Fallen” will be available for purchase on The War Memorial’s online store at shorturl.at/QPIR2 beginning June 1.

Grosse Pointe Woods will host a ceremony that is open to the public at 10 a.m. Monday at its Circle of Honor, at the intersection of Mack and Vernier.

City residents are invited to a day of activities Saturday at Neff Park, culminating with a laser light show, to honor veterans.

Sunday afternoon features the 73rd annual St. Clair Shores Memorial Day. It starts at 1 p.m. and takes place on Harper from just north of Nine Mile Road to 11 Mile Road. Known as the largest such parade in the Midwest, it attracts around 80,000 spectators and features more than 150 entries.

Memorial Day actually started out being called Decoration Day. The first was held May 30, 1868, following an order by Gen. John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor Union soldiers who died during the Civil War. Every Union state adopted the practice by 1890. It was not until 1968, however, that Congress switched the holiday to the last Monday in May and in 1971 officially adopted the name Memorial Day.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Longtime sports fan and longtime crocheter Maureen Carter created this tribute to the Detroit Pistons’ playoff run. The crocheted pups wear a variety of Detroit sports gear. Carter, a crossing guard, hangs her work on the fence at Ferry Elementary School. Past creations have supported Olympian Zach Werenski, “Jeopardy!” standout Jamie Ding, the Detroit Lions and March is Reading Month.

GUEST OPINION By Jeffrey D. Brasie

On this Memorial Day

This Monday, we honor Memorial Day.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are just fewer than 18 million veterans. VA statistics reveal the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq veterans are eclipsing the living Vietnam-era veterans.

As we prepare, I would like to share what I believe are the best movie, book and TV episode honoring those who served.

Movie

For many, the movies “Born on the Fourth of July,” “The Hurt Locker,” “Blackhawk Down” or “Saving Private Ryan” come to mind.

I tend to believe the best is the 1946 Oscar winner “The Best Years of Our Lives.”

The film features Fredric March, Dana Andrews and Harold Russell as three World War II veterans returning to their Midwest hometown. March portrays an Army sergeant who has seen combat, Andrews an Army Air Corps flight captain and Russell a Navy petty officer who lost both of his forearms.

March struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (then known as shell shock) when returning to the family he hasn’t seen for years and his banking profession. Andrews returns to a philandering wife and a third-level job clerking at a local drug store. Finally, Russell has adjusted to his limb loss.

Nevertheless, his mother struggles to manage her son’s challenge, while his next-door neighbor and girlfriend, Wilma, loves him deeply.

It is a terrific motion picture to view, especially with Russell and Wilma’s wedding scene, a blossoming new love for Andrews and March’s family and lifestyle being reunited.

Book

“My Father, My Son” is a biography of Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo “Bud” Zumwalt Jr., co-written with John Pekkanen. The book chronicles Zumwalt’s personal life and military career.

As a young petty officer at the Pentagon on the secretary of the Navy’s public affairs staff, I had the honor of periodically seeing and interacting with the admiral.

Zumwalt, the Navy’s highest-ranking officer, faced dozens of challenges during his CNO tenure. These ranged from the Vietnam warfront, racial tensions, an aging fleet and constantly seeking administration and congressional support. It is relevant to note that

when he was selected as CNO he was chosen over other senior level flag officers. At age 49, he was the youngest CNO ever appointed.

The most poignant chapter in the book is when Zumwalt talks about his Vietnam tour of duty.

During this period, his son, Elmo III, was a Navy lieutenant manning a gun boat on the Mekong River Delta. From the shoreline, American troops were facing severe casualties on the Mekong.

Admiral Zumwalt made the decision to use the defoliant, Agent Orange, to push back each side of the river shoreline by hundreds of yards.

Years later after leaving the Navy and graduating from law school, the junior Zumwalt learned that he contracted non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. He died in 1988, at age 42.

It is believed the admiral’s decision to use Agent Orange, to save numerous troop members, may have caused his son’s death. The admiral’s grandson, Elmo IV, was born with a birth defect that hinders his ability to concentrate.

The admiral at the time was assured by the Pentagon that the defoliant was safe to use. He commented, “I asked the right questions, but got the wrong answers.”

TV

Television has featured numerous military-related series, such as “NCIS,” “Hogan’s Heroes,” “McHale’s Navy” and “JAG.” Perhaps the best was the 11-season run of “M*A*S*H.” The series was filled with a variety of notable characters, hilarious situations and the Korean War’s difficulties and dozens of ethical issues.

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.

Make a choice

To the Editor:

Last week the State Board of Education voted to reject a \$1,700 federal tax credit for families to put toward education. This action will be applauded by many supporters of GPPSS because of their irrational fear of parents having educational choice for their children. Many Grosse Pointers remain under the delusion of our academic prowess in GPPSS even though we are no longer a top 10 district (Public School Review and Niche).

Thirty states have opted into the federal tax credit program. Michigan now ranks 44th in education and falls further every year. GPPSS is like an average team play-

See LETTERS, page 8A

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
May 21 – 27						
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62° 47°	66° 54°	71° 55°	75° 58°	78° 56°	74° 60°	81° 55°
Partly Cloudy	Chance of Rain	Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
0%	50%	50%	30%	30%	20%	20%
SUNRISE 6:04 am	SUNRISE 6:03 am	SUNRISE 6:02 am	SUNRISE 6:01 am	SUNRISE 6:00 am	SUNRISE 5:59 am	SUNRISE 5:58 am
SUNSET 8:53 pm	SUNSET 8:54 pm	SUNSET 8:55 pm	SUNSET 8:56 pm	SUNSET 8:57 pm	SUNSET 8:58 pm	SUNSET 8:59 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Does the NFL even want Sundays anymore?



Most people probably aren't thinking about football very much in May, but there was some big news last week when the NFL announced its schedule for the upcoming season. For Detroit Lions fans, it was a chance for us to get a look at when and where the Lions are playing in 2026, in what should hopefully be a better season than what we got last year.

However, the release of the 2026 NFL schedule also made something that has been slowly developing over the last few years very clear: Greed is ruining the NFL schedule.

One of the biggest joys of the fall and football season is getting to sit down on a Sunday at 1 p.m. and having a plethora of games to watch. While the Lions playing in primetime is fun, something about a 1 p.m. Sunday game just feels right. Sunday afternoon football is still here, but it has become abundantly clear the NFL wants to expand its reach beyond Sundays even further, tightening its hold on the sports world.

There is no doubt the NFL is king in America.

When there are NFL games on television, people are going to watch no matter what and the league knows that. It is why this year we are getting things like Wednesday night football and nine international games played in other countries and continents.

The greed that comes with the expansion of international games is even affecting our Lions this year. The Lions will be headed to Germany in November to take on the New England Patriots. It is a game I am sure many Lions fans, like myself, were hoping would be at Ford Field as one of the better home games the Lions would have this season. Instead, it will be played in Germany and broadcast on national television on a Sunday morning, so the NFL can make sure everyone is locked into their product for an entire day.

Along with the Lions' game in Germany, there are three NFL games in London this season, along with games in Paris, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City and Melbourne. Almost all of those games will be broadcast as standalone games at hours when the league wants its viewers to drop everything else and watch.

The NFL knows it has such a powerful hold on sports fans, myself included, that no matter when or where it decides to play a game, people will watch. That means

the league is making more money and the television networks are making more money. The more people keep watching, the more the NFL and its media partners will go out of their way to schedule games as appointment viewing.

The night before Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve are all days this year when NFL games are being played. It almost feels like the NFL wants it so whenever there is a time when most average Americans are not busy at work, there is NFL football for them to watch.

We might be months away from the season kicking off, but it already feels like we need to cherish every football-filled Sunday afternoon we can. Who knows how many more we will have left before every game is on a weekday night or broadcast from overseas right when we wake up on a weekend morning.

I know I am part of the problem. I love sports. If there is football on TV, I am probably going to choose to watch it. However, every year, with more standalone games being added to the schedule, it feels like the joy of watching football on a Sunday afternoon is being diminished more and more, as if the NFL doesn't even want the day of the week with which it has made itself synonymous anymore.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

The most memorable episode for me appeared in 1980, titled "Death Takes a Holiday." Truly one of the best episodes and a major tearjerker.

The plot has the M*A*S*H 4077 medical unit celebrating Christmas in the dining quarters. As the festivities carry on, a severely wounded soldier, shot by a sniper, arrives at the camp.

Hawkeye (Alan Alda) and B.J. Hunnicutt (Mike Farrell) realize the soldier was most certainly going to die and struggle to keep him alive so his family would not see him pass on Christmas Day. It was a scene filled with love, tense moments and a from-the-heart mission.

The head nurse, Maj. Margaret Houlihan (Loretta Swit), pulled a photo

from the soldier's pocket that showed his wife and children. Inscribed on the photo was "To the best husband and daddy in the world; come home soon."

As the clock ticked toward midnight and Dec. 26, the soldier becomes weaker by the hour. He passes before midnight, but Hawkeye slips over to the nearby clock and moves it to 12:05 a.m. Mission accomplished.

Hand salute to you, my dear brothers and sisters who served and those who gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom.

Jeffrey D. Brasie is a retired health care CEO and a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserve and was on the public affairs staff of the Secretary of the Navy. He grew up in Alpena and resides in Grosse Pointe Woods.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG BLANKENHORN

Dark and dramatic

Like many Grosse Pointers, Craig Blankenhorn saw a rainbow the evening of May 4, from his Grosse Pointe Farms home, near Lakeshore and Warner. He quickly set out toward Lake St. Clair to get a better look. "I wanted to capture the entire rainbow, but as I approached the lake, it was already disappearing," he said. "What was left was something much more dramatic than the full rainbow!"

FLEETWOOD

Collision

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- Best Family-Owned Business _____
- Best Public Place to Hang Out on a Rainy Day _____
- Best Curb-Appeal/Charming GP Storefront _____
- Best Nonprofit Fundraising Event/Party _____
- Best High School Sports Team to Watch (Bonus) _____

HOW TO ENTER:
1. Enter one name for each category with a Grosse Pointe area business you think should be named this year's Best of the Best. We'd love for you to fill in every category, but feel free to enter only the ones you want to write in. Fill in your name and contact info below. You must vote in a minimum of 10 categories for your votes to count.
2. Mail in this completed ballot or hand-deliver it to the Grosse Pointe News offices in the Village. Must be received by deadline. Drop off in person or mail to: Grosse Pointe News
16980 Kercheval Place, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
DEADLINE for voting is midnight on June 4, 2026.
Winners will be announced in the July 16 issue of the Grosse Pointe News. (Ballots will be available in the May 21 and May 28 print editions of the Grosse Pointe News.)

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Call for further information at (313) 882-6900.

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LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

ing in a very weak division (Michigan). Doing education “the way we always have” doesn’t meet the changing needs of families.

Competition and choice have always been at the core of American business and higher education, but for some it’s an unacceptable “threat” to the K-12 district structure.

Support school choice and, if the GPPSS is everything supporters think it is, students will stop leaving the district and it will thrive. You either believe we are an exceptional district that parents will pick when given a choice, or you believe we are too weak to survive such educational freedom. You can’t believe both.

MURRAY SALES
Grosse Pointe

Kudos for the kindness

To the Editor:

Tonight’s (May 18) storm left us dealing with a broken tree branch and after making a quick Facebook post, Charlie Gmeiner of Maple Valley Land Management responded within minutes and offered to help us at no cost.

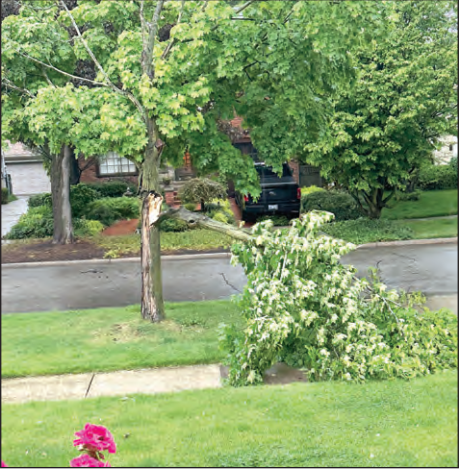
He never asked for payment; he simply showed up and helped because he wanted to.

In a world where we hear so much negative news, I think it’s important to recognize people who quietly do good for others. Charlie’s kindness, professionalism and willingness to help reminded me how much one person can positively impact a community.

Moments like this are a good reminder of why supporting good people and businesses matters.

Thank you again, Charlie. Your kindness did not go unnoticed.

RORY SULLIVAN
Grosse Pointe Farms



Woods doctor convicted of tax evasion

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Dr. Peter Nwoke was convicted last week in federal court of failing to declare and pay taxes on income he earned from illegally selling controlled substance prescriptions and failing to declare and pay taxes on income received from corporations he controlled, according to a press release from the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The charges arose from the operation of his medical practice, Divine Medical Care and Divine Medical Services, which largely involved visiting homebound Medicare patients in Detroit.

In order to avoid paying taxes, Nwoke also incorporated two additional businesses, City Medical and Divine Medical Center, which he placed in the names of others.

Prosecutors said while Nwoke controlled the bank accounts and reaped profits from the businesses, he did not report that income or pay taxes on it.

Evidence showed he charged \$500 a prescription for opioids that were then filled by the purchasers and sold on the

street. When Nwoke deposited cash he received from those sales in some 20 different bank accounts, he failed to declare it as income or pay taxes on it.

The release said Nwoke underreported his taxable income for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 by more than \$2 million and underreported his taxes owed for those years by more than \$725,000.

During the tax years in question, Nwoke prescribed more than 2.8 million doses of opioids and deposited more than \$1.4 million in cash in his collection of bank accounts.

Nwoke is scheduled for sentencing Sept. 10.

He also has three charges of perjury pending against him based on his testimony at a 2022 trial on the tax charges that ended in a mistrial after that jury was unable to agree on a verdict. Prosecutors severed the perjury charges from the tax charges. A trial for the perjury charges will be scheduled at a later date.

—Ted O’Neil

LEVY:

Continued from page 5A

of which \$2 million is donations — \$4.5 million toward road improvements, \$475,000 toward sidewalk repair and \$100,000 set aside for a future firetruck purchase.

“Some big numbers up there, but what an excit-

ing time to live, work or do business in the city of Grosse Pointe Farms, quite frankly,” Mayor John Gillooly said. “We’re working very hard on everyone’s behalf for the sewer separation project that’s going to eliminate, by some estimates, up to 90 percent of basement flooding incidents. The project’s going well.

“... Demolition is going great at Pier Park,” he continued. “I’ve never seen a cleaner demolition process, so to speak, underway. It’s very exciting what’s going to happen down at Pier Park.”

The budget also calls for \$871,000 in vehicle and equipment purchases, which includes two patrol vehicles, body and dash camera replacements, two additional license plate reader cameras, firefighter turnout gear replacements, two Toro workman carts, a sidewalk tractor and the investment toward a

future firetruck.

Additional line items are \$105,000 for new voting machines mandated by the state, \$127,000 for new furniture for the pool and bathhouse, \$125,000 to replace the roof of the Pier Park maintenance building and \$30,000 to resurface the floors in the community building.

“Overall, it’s really just a roughly 2 percent increase in our overall general operations for our general fund for fire, public safety, public works (and) parks and recreation,” City Manager Shane Reeside said.

The balanced budget for fiscal year 2026-27 shows the city’s revenue increasing by \$443,000 — primarily due to increases in property tax — to \$21,007,650.

Planned expenditures are equal at \$21,007,650.

The city’s rainy day fund remains healthy at 26.6 percent of its overall fund balance.

“We have local communities that don’t have the good fortune that we have and local mayors are disappointed in their budgets and are reducing benefits for their employees and reducing some

types of services,” Gillooly said. “And as I told our employees at a function at the end of last year, we have their backs, we’re funded in our pensions, we continue to save money.

“We’re going to continue to deliver what we believe are the best services for those who live, work and come to visit the city of Grosse Pointe Farms.”

City council unanimously approved the millage increase and budget for fiscal year 2026-27 during its monthly meeting Monday, May 14.

SWIM:

Continued from page 4A

board that is transported around to the city hosting the season-ending meet.

“The cities are coming together to raise funds to replace that equipment for our swim finals,” Craig said. “Finals are a big deal, when all the cities come together. It’s the biggest (recreation) program I think all of us have.”

More than 200 Park youth join the team each year.

The Lake Front Swimming Association is

a youth swim league.

“We go back and forth every year about whether it’s a recreational or competitive league,” Craig said. “We just need to call it a semi-competitive league. We give trophies, medals and awards for competition. But it’s also a great developmental program for younger swimmers.”

The St. Clair Shores Golf Club is located at 22185 Masonic Blvd.

To register for the fundraiser, call (586) 445-5270 or email lakefrontswimming@gmail.com.

Registration ends Tuesday, May 26.

CURTAIN:

Continued from page 2A

honored to play a small part of it.”

In theater slang, the financial backers of a play are called angels.

Therefore, in keeping with celestial hierarchy, donors to a performing arts center are archangels. You read it here.

Donors making possible the construction of the Schaap Center exemplify Shakespeare’s description of the broad impact of a good deed: “How far that little candle throws its beams.”

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Mothers' Club awards South senior scholars

Seventy-seven Blue Devils from the Class of 2026 received scholarships for the 94th consecutive year from the Mothers' Club of Grosse Pointe South High School during a ceremony in the school's auditorium Wednesday, May 6.

This year's batch of scholarships totaled \$92,000.

"Our first recorded award came in 1932 — a \$100 scholarship for a student heading to the University of Michigan," Mothers' Club President Erika Page said. "While the Mothers' Club itself funds several scholarships, we are incredibly grateful to the alumni, individual donors and community partners who are responsible for the additional awards we give our scholars each year."

The Mothers' Club was established in 1928, the same year construction was completed for Grosse Pointe High School and when students first attended classes in the new building on the corner of Fisher and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. While "The High" initially had separate fathers' and mothers' clubs, today the organization serves as an independent 501(c)(3), which includes women and men who are parents or guardians of current South students.

Annual membership fees, donations and the Mothers' Club annual fundraising efforts support more than scholarships, Page added. The funding also bolsters two additional pillars for the organization: academic enrichment grants in South's classrooms, which are awarded during two grant cycles during the school year, and preservation efforts, which help uphold the building's historical integrity.

For more information on ways to support the Mothers' Club, visit mothersclubgps.com or find it on Instagram at [@mothersclubgps](https://www.instagram.com/mothersclubgps) or Facebook.

The 2026 Mothers' Club of Grosse Pointe South scholarship recipients include:

◆ American Legion Scholarship — Ben Gordon



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The "Hail to the High" scholarship winner was Ellie Sahutske. Here, Mary Briggs and her sons, Joe and Don, present the scholarship to Sahutske.

◆ American Red Cross All Heart Scholarship — Katie Crane

◆ Alpha Delta Kappa (Alpha Beta Chapter) — Charlotte "Lotty" Gates

◆ Barbara Zastrow Bologna Memorial Scholarships — Morgan Duff, Kalie Page, Joaquin Walker and Caroline Weldon

◆ Blaser Design Group Community Partner "Gold" Scholarship — Anthony Michael Kaminski

◆ Blue Devil Drive Scholarship — Jacob White

◆ Brian A. Fraser Memorial Scholarships — Sydney Hoffman and Joey Reid

◆ Class of 1999's "True Blue Devil" Alumni Scholarship — Alexandra Lupo

◆ Class of 2021 Brian Fraser Scholarship — Isaac Snyder

◆ Class of 2022 Adam Brien Memorial Scholarship — Hattie Curtis

◆ Class of 2022 Jacquelyn Wang Memorial Scholarship — Verona Relan

◆ Community All-Star Scholarship — Betsy Ropke

◆ Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe Community Partner "Silver" Scholarship — Malia Thole

◆ The "Doc" Julie Corbett Memorial Award — Whitney Handwork

◆ Duane Ashley Memorial Scholarship — Heidi Bryan and Delaney Meyers

◆ Excellence Through Leadership Scholarships — Stella Fry and Morgan Mannino

◆ Golden Dental Community Partner "Gold" Scholarship — Elena Martin

◆ Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club

Scholarships — Lily Frey and Andia Nazarko

◆ "Hail to The High" Scholarship — Ellie Sahutske

◆ Jane Bashara True Leader Scholarships — Lorelei Carr and Evelyn Wodzisz

◆ Jeff Nardone Scholarships — Viviana Ostrowski and Alya Augspurger

◆ Jeffrey R. Halso Memorial Scholarships — Sigrid Schwartz and Sage Suson

◆ John and Mary Ellen Blondin "Legacy of Learning" Memorial Scholarship — Hadley Eszes and Molly Kendall

◆ John Nathan Zimmer Scholarship — Matthew Hamilton

◆ Kyleigh Webb Memorial Scholarship — Jack Danielewicz

◆ The Language of Business — Luke Thompson

◆ Mayor John Gillooly GP Farms Merit Scholarships — Talia Patterson and Kaitlyn Strong

◆ Mothers' Club "The Art of Science" Scholarship — Lily Gagnier

◆ Mothers' Club Blue Devil Pride Scholarship — Chase Gordon and Elle Petz

◆ Mothers' Club U of M The Victors Scholarship — Audrey Reynolds, Chloe Slawson and Caroline Ward

◆ Mothers' Club Spartans Will Scholarship — Alexandra Deveroux, Madeline Maks and Ella Schervish

◆ Mothers' Club In the Spotlight Scholarship — Mia Gielniak, Violet Lincicome and Emma Padden

◆ Mothers' Club STEM Stars Scholarship — Sara Johnson, Andrew Strong, Sam Turner,

Claire Wengel, Elizabeth Vassel and Grace Vollmer

◆ Mothers' Club Outstanding Mathlete Scholarship — Elena Huebner and Mackenzie Simon

◆ Mothers' Club Division I Dreams Achieved Scholarship — Dane Lezotte

◆ Mothers' Club South Legacy Scholarship — Ella Brennan and Peter Horst

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◆ Mothers' Club South Principal's Scholarships — Henry Chesterton and Natalie Vassel

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◆ Patricia Lewandowski Scholarship — Anna Vandeputte

◆ Platz Animal Hospital Community Partner "Silver" Scholarship — Adelaide Peabody

◆ Pointers for Academic Excellence (PfAE) Compass Scholarship — Isaac Brenner and Erin Simpson

◆ Renell Perkins Memorial Scholarship — AJ Zieleniewski

◆ Robert R. Rathbun Memorial Art Scholarship — Montana Tiffany

◆ Russell Development Community Partner "Gold" Scholarship — Richard Nelson

◆ Stephen R. Durand Memorial Scholarship — Kolya Resnick



Brian A. Fraser Memorial Scholarships. From left are Mia Fraser, Brian's mom; Sydney Hoffman and Joey Reid, scholarship recipients; and Sean Fraser, Brian's dad.



Left, the Kyleigh Webb Memorial scholarship recipient, Jack Danielewicz. Right, the Stephen R. Durand Memorial Scholarship winner, Kolya Resnick.



Mayor John Gillooly GP Farms Merit Scholarships. From left are Gillooly, Kaitlyn Strong and Talia Patterson.

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STRENGTH AND CLARITY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

Blue Bay market closing

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The point of a garage sale is to sell stuff. While hosting a garage sale at her then-house in the Park in 2003, Diane Finken bought something instead.

And not just a lamp or an old bicycle. She bought a business.

“Nancy (Gutierrez) came to the sale and said she was looking to sell her business, which at the time was called Blue Bay Fish Co.,” Finken said. “She and my husband, Darrell (owner of the former Sparky Herbert’s), knew each other from the local business association and he introduced us.

“I looked at him and he had no interest, so I said I’d buy it,” she laughed. “Funny thing when you pray about something it’ll come right to your door.”

Gutierrez opened the store on lower Kercheval in the Park in 1993, after agreeing to help some Native Americans around Michigan sell their whitefish to local restaurants, but was ready to retire after a decade.

Finken moved the business to its current location, 19531 Mack, in 2010.

“The place on Kercheval was a rental and the old Grosse Pointe Fish Co. on Mack was closing,” Finken said. “It was for sale at a reasonable price.”

She noted the store was being run by second-generation family mem-

bers who were ready to retire.

“There seems to be a pattern there,” Finken noted. “Stick with it until you retire.”

Calling herself “Medicare age,” Finken said she’s now ready to retire, although she doesn’t have any immediate plans.

“After working six, seven days a week for so many years, it’s time to take a deep breath,” she added. “But it went by in the blink of an eye.”

The store will maintain regular business hours through mid-June and will host its last live lobster night Thursday, May 28.

“That was always a big favorite with our customers,” Finken said. “That and our specialty soups.”

Other fond memories include the St. Ambrose

Oysterfest, Kercheval After 6 and hosting cooking classes.

“Our shrimp platters with homemade cocktail sauce were also a big hit,” Finken recalled. “And before Christmas, the line would be out the door and down the block as families bought supplies for their Christmas Eve ‘Feast of the Seven Fishes.’”

Finken said she was hoping to sell the business to someone who would continue to operate it as a fish market.

“I was hoping to pass the baton, but the new owners are planning on an Italian sandwich shop,” she said. “We met so many wonderful people and we thank them for being loyal customers.”

See bluebayfishgp.com for more information.



COURTESY PHOTO

Diane Finken behind the counter at Blue Bay Fish & Seafood Market.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Vice President Mike Golling and President Bill Golling are joined by GM Monique Harwood, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce President Jenny Boettcher, City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine, Chamber Director-at-Large Ted Everingham, Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges and others for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony at Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Grosse Pointe.

Golling celebrates grand opening of ninth dealership

Family, friends and community supporters were on hand for the May 14 grand-opening celebration of Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Grosse Pointe, located at 18001 Mack, Detroit.

The family-owned and operated dealership is the ninth addition to Golling Automotive Group. It serves the Eastside communities of Grosse Pointe, Detroit, St. Clair Shores, Harper Woods, Roseville, Eastpointe and beyond.

“We’re excited to be here on Mack Avenue,” General Manager Monique Harwood said following a ribbon-cutting event with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. “... We’ve worked very hard the last 14 months to get the store up and running.”

Harwood thanked the Golling family — including President Bill Golling and his sons, Vice President Matthew Golling and Vice President Mike Golling — as well as the managers and staff of the new dealership.



Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Grosse Pointe President Bill Golling addresses attendees at the grand opening. Vice President Mike Golling and General Manager Monique Harwood look on.

“Without them, we would not be here today,” she added.

Harwood, Golling Automotive Group’s first female general manager, also thanked the Grosse Pointe communities for their support, including Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges and City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine, who were in attendance.

Photos lining the walls of the spacious showroom detailed the scope of work involved in the dealer-

ship’s transformation since it was purchased in March 2025.

“We painted everything — the walls, the floors, light poles,” Bill Golling said, noting that new lighting and electrical also were added. “We bought all new body shop equipment ... updated all the IT.”

The upgrades align with the Golling slogans of “The Golling difference” and “Always there for you.” Its mission, he added, is to provide quality service to every customer.

“I’m proud of the team Mo has put together here,” Golling said. “I’m excited for the future.”

The building itself has housed a handful of dealerships over the years, beginning with Pointe Dodge.

The opening of Golling CDJR of Grosse Pointe isn’t the only cause for celebration. Golling Automotive Group is celebrating 60 years in business.

“My dad started this in 1966,” Golling said, noting it all started with Bill Golling Volkswagen in Troy. “My dad worked for GM and Chrysler. Now I get the pleasure of working with my two sons.”

Golling CDJR offers new and used vehicles, a courtesy transportation program, a fully equipped service center staffed by certified technicians, financing programs and more.

For more information, visit gollinggrossepointe.com or call (313) 884-7210.



Mike Golling, left, with his father, Bill Golling.



Kaleidoscope

ON CLOVERLY ROAD



A Gala Fundraiser in Support of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Photo courtesy of The Russells.

Friday, June 19, 2026 • 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

This year’s gala fundraiser benefiting the Grosse Pointe Historical Society takes everything we love about the “kaleidoscope” of our community and turns into a memorable evening in the tradition of grand Grosse Pointe events, set against the backdrop of a unique home on Cloverly Road in Grosse Pointe Farms.

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15139 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE PARK

Stick a fork in the rec plan

Pointes to consider funding lobbyist

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The parks and recreation master plan is as close to being a done deal as a nearly done deal can be.

Recreation commissioners approved everything about it except typos in a draft written under the stewardship of consultants at OHM Advisors.

“A lot of work went into this,” Recreation Commission Chairman Michael Hindelang said during the group’s meeting May 13. “We want to make sure it’s done right.”

Members said they’ll schedule a special session soon to clean the text prior to forwarding it to city council for consideration.

“I anticipate it being a very short meeting,” Hindelang said.

When drafting the plan, commissioners and consultants stayed true to their mission of focusing on capital budgeting for the repair, maintenance and improvement of existing amenities at the city’s two municipal parks.

The resulting list of recommended goals ranked projects by priority, starting with fix-its to the main swimming pool at Windmill

Pointe Park costing \$801,000.

Of all recreation assets needing attention, “the pool is the big one,” said Eric Dryer, a planner with OHM.

Pool improvements, consisting largely of maintaining its existing level of function, total \$1,656,000 over the next three years and are in the nuts-and-bolts category.

Examples consist of drain lines, mechanical equipment and deck repair. Among \$405,000 worth of pool improvements labeled “other” are concrete shade structures and new starting blocks for the municipal swim team.

Chad Craig, recreation director, indicated the current inventory of starting blocks is wearing out from heavy usage. He said the more than 200-member swim team uses blocks twice per day for three months of the year.

Listed among high-priority projects at Patterson Park are spending \$3,000 to maintain the putting green and \$10,000 to \$50,000 to reconstruct the gazebo.

Low-priority items are as plentiful as they are costly: installing a new kayak launch at Patterson, \$60,000; replacing splashpad equipment, \$120,000 to \$160,000; and adding amenities to the dog

park, \$30,000.

The commission is an advisory body. Members can only recommend the council and mayor adopt the plan.

“We’re all looking toward the betterment of the community,” Commissioner Terry Ayrault said.

The plan is a vision for the next five years, a roadmap for an evolving landscape.

“Can we change things on the fly?” Ayrault asked Hindelang.

“Absolutely,” Hindelang said. “This is a high-level outline of what we expect to be talking about for the next five years.”

Pickleball isn’t part of the report. City officials took pickleball off the agenda by separately arranging for refurbishment of the city’s three courts and construction of three more.

Also at Patterson, full reconstruction of the lakeside boardwalk, estimated to cost \$2 million, was removed from the five-year prioritization due to need and interest.

Neither did the report mention marina projects. Planning and paying for maintenance and renovations to the marina proper are obligations of renters of wells at the 270-slip facility at Windmill.

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES & HARPER WOODS — As the Pointes continue to face state legislation concerns surrounding Schools of Choice and the preemption of local zoning regulations, the need has been discussed to have a stronger voice at the table with the state and in Washington.

The solution currently being explored is the joint hiring of a lobbyist firm, which would represent the interests of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

“Really, the only way to effectively (have a strong voice before legislators) is to have a professional assisting in that area,” City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine said. “While we all can send letters and make calls, the day-to-day contact is really where the benefit comes from.”

“Having the right people who know the staff members are for all the legislators to initiate and have ongoing conversations on a regular basis, ensuring we’re recognized as initiatives are happening, so we’re not left out of various conversations relating to funding or legislative changes.”

The City of Grosse Pointe set aside \$15,000

in its budget for fiscal year 2026-27 to fund its portion of the effort, should it move forward.

The other five cities likely would commit the same amount of money.

“Right now we’re just trying to put funding in the budget so July 1, we could move forward with having those conversations about who we would want to engage and what that would look like specifically,” Valentine said.

“But (the cities) recognize that having a collective voice for the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods is going to strengthen our ability in many areas of funding opportunities (and) legislative initiatives.

“Having a dedicated voice for this area would really be advantageous and it’s really something we don’t have in a collective form right now.”

It is not uncommon for municipalities to employ lobbyists on their behalf.

“We know some of the other communities in Wayne County do have professional lobbyists, as well as Macomb and Oakland County,” Valentine said. “And being as we’re collectively a decent-sized population, I think the feeling was we need to have that same representation. We’ll know more as we get into the next fiscal year.”

Farms water, sewer rates on the rise

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE FARMES — For water and sewer bills rendered after July 1, Farms residents will see a 3.5 percent increase.

City council last Monday unanimously approved an increase of \$4.10 per 1,000 cubic feet of actual metered water usage, as well as an increase of \$2.21 per bimonthly billing cycle in flat charge for service.

“The flat rate is the cost to get that first drop of water to your house — the water mains, the filtration plant,” Finance Director Tim Rowland explained.

For the average resident who uses approximately 2.4 thousand cubic feet of water on a bimonthly basis, the rate increases will amount to \$12.05 per bimonthly billing cycle or \$72.31 annually.

The new rate encompasses the water commodity rate increasing by \$1.03; the water improvement rate, which is used to pay for capital

Recycling rates

There will be no increase in the \$12 bimonthly recycling rate come the new fiscal year beginning July 1, as the city runs through the end of a five-year contract with Priority Waste.

“The current contract expires at the end of September, so we’ll be able to go out to bid for recycling,” Finance Director Tim Rowland said. “We’re anticipating seeing an increase in that fee.”

improvements, increasing by 52 cents; the sewer improvement rate, which is for a previous bond sale, decreasing by 6 cents; and the sewer rate, which covers the city’s Great Lakes Water Authority charge, increasing by \$2.61.

“The Great Lakes Water Authority passed along a 4.26 percent increase in our sewage charges,” Rowland said. “It was initially over 5.5

percent, but they had so much feedback from local cities that they reduced it down to 4.26 percent.”

The city also has significant capital improvements planned for the upcoming fiscal year, including \$808,000 in water main replacements, \$250,000 in sewer lining, \$300,000 for lead service replacements and catch basin rebuilds and the ongoing major sewer separation project.

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Project documents will be available on or after **Friday, May 15, 2026**, via download from the Wayne County Community College District website: [https://www.wcccd.edu/dept/Request for quotations.htm](https://www.wcccd.edu/dept/Request%20for%20quotations.htm)

The respondent company must agree to comply with the requirements of Wayne County Community College District and Fair Employment Practices.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGE YOUNG

The house at 111 Cloverly is the centerpiece of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s June 19 gala.

Historical society presents ‘Kaleidoscope on Cloverly’
Gala is June 19 in Grosse Pointe Farms

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Russell family of Grosse Pointe Farms is opening its 1924 Tudor Revival home to guests of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s annual gala, “Kaleidoscope on Cloverly,” from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, June 19.

Guests will be shown portions of the home and learn about its history in the Pointes (see sidebar).

Before Gregg and Brittany Russell moved to Michigan, the house at 111 Cloverly served as a rental property, Brittany Russell said, but was structurally sound and needed little updating. “The roof is original, knock on slate,” she added. “We’ve worked on it and kept it up, but it did not need replacement. That was one of the selling points — the



Glimpses inside two of the rooms that made the house a home.

condition of the original roof.”

The couple also noticed the abundance of light. “I’ve been in several Tudors,” she said. “This one has more light than other Tudors. It doesn’t give you that castle feeling.”

The couple elected to

renovate the kitchen during COVID, then completed two bathroom remodels.

“The third-floor bathroom is the only original 1924 room,” Russell said. “The tub and flooring are original. We’ve done plumbing updates, but there’s a massive cast-iron tub. I empathize with the poor guys who had to get that up there, up three floors.”

The home is filled with an eclectic mix of eye-catching artwork, collected by the couple on their vacations.

“We love art and when we travel, we bring home art as a souvenir to ourselves,” Russell said. “We get enjoyment out of watching people try to figure out which ones are collector’s items and which are from a market. Art is in the eye of the beholder. We don’t want them to know if it’s from a fancy gallery in New York City or off the street. We enjoy making it all blend.”

The Russells, who moved to Grosse Pointe from Houston, have three children. Two live in



Texas, while their youngest is a freshman at Grosse Pointe South High School. After the family relocated, both sets of their parents followed them to town.

The Russells have supported the Grosse Pointe Historical Society since moving to the Farms in 2015. Longtime gala attendees, they said they were honored when asked to showcase their

home.

“We thought our home was not of the scale that some of them (gala homes) are,” Russell said. “Usually they’re bigger homes, some of them massive. ... This feels like a family home. It’s not an overwhelming size. The first-floor design flows for a party. It’s open and inviting. Some homes, even if they’re large, you go in and they’re choppy. You get lost. This just has a warm feel.”

The comfort of home extends into the yard, which Russell calls “a retreat within the city.”

“Not a lot of people know it’s back there,” she added. “When you’re here, you cannot believe Kercheval is a half-acre away.

“The pool was a tough decision. We did not want to take away from the grounds, but the contractor did a great job of making it part of the yard. It blends in. We enjoy it very much.”

The history

The story behind the house at 111 Cloverly in Grosse Pointe Farms begins in 1842, with the construction of a house surrounded by an estate — Cloverleigh — which extended to the lake.

It became home to Henry B. Ledyard Jr., his wife Mary and their four children. Ledyard was an American soldier and businessman who served as president of the Michigan Central Railroad and the Union Trust Co. After his death in 1921, the Old Ledyard Homestead was demolished and the property subdivided.

Hugh Ledyard, the youngest son of Henry and Mary, was living in the old homestead and joined the new homeowners on the property by building 111 Cloverly, a project for which he engaged Robert O. Derrick.

Hugh Ledyard was secretary and treasurer of the Art Stove Co., in Detroit. Art Stove manufactured the Laurel stove and range line and offered a money-back guarantee. It held its own against the much larger Peninsular Stove Co., and Detroit Stove Works, finally selling to the latter in 1923.

His father’s death in 1921, the subdivision of the family estate and the sale of Art Stove in 1923 closely precede the building of Hugh Ledyard’s own home on Cloverly in 1924. He lived there until his death in 1951. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

Newspaper clippings and club affiliations suggest he retired at age 38 to a life of leisure and social activities, often entertaining with his sister, the Baroness von Ketteler.

The current homeowners relocated to Michigan from Texas and quickly embraced the Pointes. They undertook extensive home restoration and a spectacular garden makeover.



The kitchen at 111 Cloverly.

See GALA, page 2B

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The dining room at 111 Cloverly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE YOUNG



Pathways through the grounds lead to an outdoor patio and pizza oven.



The pool was added in 2023.

GALA:

Continued from page 1B

Work on the yard began almost as soon as they moved in, she noted. “When we moved here, there were a few things that needed to be done aesthetically, but a yard needs time; you can’t rush a yard.” Russell noted the couple’s appreciation of their neighbors as well. “The community we have on our street, it’s close-knit,” she said. “We’ve made an effort to be there for each other. I hope (guests) will see that and feel that. It highlights what makes Grosse Pointe so special. “We’re so happy to welcome people,” the Louisiana native added. “We entertain a lot, from fancy dinners to boiling shrimp outside. We’re hoping for a fun evening.”

In addition to partial house access, the party includes open bars, hors d’oeuvres, a catered, strolling supper and entertainment by the Dearing Concert Duo, a classical guitar and flute team.

A pre-gala preview



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREGG RUSSELL

The yard includes winding pathways lined by meticulously kept flowers and other flora.

reception for sponsors begins at 6 p.m. Valet parking is available. Proceeds benefit the general operations of the GPHS, which protects historic artifacts, shares local history on its cam-

pus and website and brings history to life through research, programs, lectures, exhibits and activities. “We really support their work, educating the community about the diversity of the architecture,” Russell said. “The society promotes the true history of every home — not the size, but the history. Every home has a story. Even the smaller homes have the greatest architecture and you wouldn’t know it. “Their goal is to bring the community together through our shared history here,” she added. Tickets for the event are open to all, but limited in number. General admission tickets are \$225 each and may be purchased online at gphistorical.org or by calling (313) 884-7010.

Exhibition corresponds with, debuts at gala house

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Historical Society archivist Gina Tecos is curating items to display not only during the society’s annual gala, but for a lengthier exhibition at the Grosse Pointe History Center.

“The gala is at 111 Cloverly; the house was designed by Robert O. Derrick,” Tecos said. “This exhibit is all about his contributions to architecture in Grosse Pointe. He’s most well-known for his Henry Ford Greenfield Village design. He had an affiliation with the Fords and also designed Josephine’s Playhouse at Ford House.”

To shine light on his contributions to the community, GPHS is organizing the exhibit, “Robert O. Derrick, Architect of Dreams,” which will debut Friday, June 19, at the gala fundraiser.

Derrick was a popular homebuilder who designed more than 25 buildings in the Grosse Pointes, including the Farms’ water pumping station on Moross and the Punch and Judy Theatre, which opened in 1930.

A World War I veteran, Derrick began working in Grosse Pointe in 1921, with the firm of Brown, Preston and Derrick, which, by 1922, became Brown and Derrick.

“He married Clara Duffield Hodges, who



PHOTO COURTESY OF GPHS

An exhibit about architect Robert O. Derrick will preview at the gala and then move to the history center. It will include historic items from the Moran Research Center, including this ax from the Art Stove Co., where the original homeowner of 111 Cloverly, Hugh Ledyard, worked.

was from a Grosse Pointe family,” Tecos said. “He did her parents’ family home at 294 Lincoln and he designed his own family home. It was 64 Ridge before the Farms renumbered; now it’s 174 Ridge, at Muir.”

Of Derrick’s more than 25 residential and commercial building designs, those featured in the exhibition include the Punch and Judy Theatre, Richard Elementary and Pierce Middle schools, Detroit University School (now University Liggett School) and the Grosse Pointe Club, a.k.a. The Little Club.

“Later he partnered with Branson Gamber and did Kerby School,” Tecos added.

Derrick also designed several homes in the Pointes, including four on Provençal and three on Cloverly. Other streets

bearing Derrick’s designs include Lincoln, Kenwood, Beverly, Ridge, Woodland Place, Vendome, Tourraine, Bishop, Harvard and Radnor Court.

“His latest was done in 1950 on Irvine,” Tecos said. “One of the earliest ones he did was 1045 Harvard.”

For the exhibition, Tecos is curating photos and print ephemera.

“It won’t just be about architecture,” she added. “It’ll be about his family, too. He had two sons and a daughter. They grew up here as well.”

Tecos will be onsite to answer questions at the gala.

“Architect of Dreams” will continue with additional display items and resources from the Moran Resource Center,

See EXHIBIT, page 3B



Kaleidoscope
ON CLOVERLY ROAD

Behind the scenes

The who, what and why of the GPHS gala

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As Gregg and Brittany Russell open their home to guests of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s annual gala Friday, June 19, one guest in particular is especially looking forward to the event.

Serving as honorary chair of the gala is Pat O’Brien, a past president of the historical society.

“It’s a great honor to be asked to be the honorary chair for the gala,” she said, adding she’s been trying to get the Russells to host the gala for years. “I’m excited to see friends I don’t get to see very often. ... I’m most looking forward to the beautiful party at the gorgeous home of Gregg and Brittany and seeing my friends.”

O’Brien said it takes a lot of work to pull off a successful gala. She should know; she served as GPHS president more than five years and currently serves as secretary, despite living in Naperville, Ill.

“I moved here to be near my sons, but I miss my Grosse Pointe friends,” she said.

Her passion for history continues in her new city, where she was appointed by the mayor and city council to the Naperville Preservation Commission.

“There are more than 350 historic buildings in Naperville, which is Illinois’ fourth-largest city,” she said. “I’ve been a volunteer commissioner going on three years.”

Her commitment to Naperville does not interfere with her commitment to Grosse Pointe or its historical society. She stays plugged in to local goings on via video conferencing.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society was founded in 1945, to preserve and

protect the heritage of all five Grosse Pointes and neighboring communities. It works to make history of the area vital, relevant and accessible. Through programs, facilities and events,

GPHS brings history to life, protects historic artifacts and collects and shares Grosse Pointe-area stories.

Its campus includes the c. 1823 Provençal-Weir House, the c. 1840 log cabin and the Grosse Pointe History Center, which houses exhibition and activities spaces, administrative offices and the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center.

O’Brien was instrumental in the opening of the history center, which she considers the most satisfying accomplishment of her presidency.

“Mason Ferry was one of our financial angels that got that going,” she said. “He and I were onsite with project managers for the building of our history center. We were there every day with the builder, Bob Ross. We called it Brigadoon. Everything magical happened; we came in on time and under budget.”

As president, O’Brien appeared before Grosse Pointe Farms City Council three times before a variance of use was granted.

“They would not change the zoning,” she said. “If we sell it, it had to be able to be converted to a single-family home. You can imagine the challenges, designing something to suit our needs while being able to repurpose it if it’s sold.

“It was something we needed, something the community needed,” she added. “It was no small endeavor to get it done.”

O’Brien credited current society

See SCENES, page 3B

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2025

Book brings to life social history during WWII

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Thomas Donald Berry entered the U.S. Army at age 19, toward the start of World War II. Like many young servicemen, he wrote letters home to his loved ones — his parents, his three siblings and his girlfriend, whom he later married.

Unlike many servicemen, his letters did not wax poetic about missing home or the love he felt for those dear to him.

“My mother used to complain his letters weren’t very romantic,” said Pam Berry, the daughter of the man in question. “His were about all the details he experienced.”

Those experiences are told via excerpts of his letters home in “Sharing a Soldier’s Stories: World War II Letters from a GI,” by Pam Berry.

“I had my dad’s letters, some he wrote to my mother, some he wrote to his family,” Berry said. “I’d gone through most of them. I read them little by little, because I liked keeping the conversation going. I didn’t want to finish it.”

After she retired from her communications post

with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in 2023, Berry had more time to leaf through the cherished handwritten notes.

“I found a lot of wisdom,” the Grosse Pointe Park resident said. “He had an interesting philosophy on life: He loved everybody and everybody, in turn, seemed to love him. He was a positive thinker. ... I was inspired by his letters and I thought others might find them inspiring, too.”

“Don” Berry wrote letters home from training camps, as well as from posts in England, France and Germany.

“He trained at different camps throughout the U.S. for almost two years before he was sent overseas,” Pam Berry said. “... He then went to England where there was no fighting. He did get to Omaha Beach one or two months after the D-Day landing. He fixed up houses and lived there.”

While her dad served in the Battle of the Bulge, a major turning point in the war, his letters rarely provided details of actual battles, likely because of the censors who read every letter or perhaps to



not worry those back home.

“He got the Bronze Star for changing an ambulance tire under enemy fire during the Battle of the Bulge, so he did see action,” Berry noted.

Rather than focusing on the front lines, the book reads like a social

history of the time.

Instead of being laid out chronologically, it’s pieced together according to topic.

“I thought it would be more interesting for people to turn to sections they’re interested in,” Berry said, noting chapters include “Recreation and Leisure,” “Smoking:

That Ubiquitous Pastime of the Forties,” “Making Time for Religion” and “Romance.”

Her father also wrote about care packages and letters from home, the foods he enjoyed, the movies he watched and the radio programs he listened to, including an account of the reactions of the men in his barracks when they got the news that Hitler had died.

His recollections of England, France and Germany read like a travelogue, Berry said.

“It’s interesting to get glimpses of what life was like in the ‘40s,” she added.

The book is enhanced with photos from the GI’s military service, as well as highlighted portions of his actual letters.

“People are used to reading in sound bites, so I tried to do that here,” Berry explained.

The soldier’s sense of humor, despite the ongoing war, shows through in his letters.

“I was struck by how positive an outlook he had,” Berry said. “He really enjoyed himself. He knew how to make

Reviews

“Aside from in-person interviews with World War II veterans, which are harder and harder to come by in 2026, reading letters passed down over time from a World War II veteran is a powerful way for younger generations to gain insight into what life was like for American troops and the camaraderie they experienced during the deadliest conflict in history. Pam Berry has done a nice job of compiling letters from her father — who served in Patton’s Third Army — that are rich in detail. Just because few World War II veterans remain doesn’t mean that their stories have to stop being told, something that ‘Sharing a Soldier’s Stories’ achieves.”

— Alex Szwarc, patriotic programming and communications administrator, The War Memorial

“For those who lived through World War II, the conflict proved the most dramatic period in their lives. In ‘Sharing a Soldier’s Stories,’ author Pam Berry leads us through the letters penned by her Army veteran father Thomas Berry, who served in England, France and Germany during the war. It offers a window into what a young man thought and felt living through this epic period of history.”

— John Gallagher, Detroit journalist and author of “Rust Belt Reporter.”

See BOOK, page 6B

Questers visit Fraternite Notre Dame

The Pear Tree Questers hosted its May outing at Fraternite Notre Dame Church, 13640 Van Dyke,

Detroit, formerly Holy Name Catholic Church. The tour of the restored church was given by Sister Mary of

the Cross. The church was purchased by the religious missionary order in 2018. Restoring it was no simple task, as

robbers and vandals had stolen all the copper, plumbing, roofing, heating and other assets, as well as destroyed the inside of the building. The nuns, friars and priests of Fraternite

Notre Dame used their own talents to complete a total restoration. The religious order runs a weekly food pantry for families in need. At Thanksgiving, turkeys and food boxes are given and at Christmas, presents for children are distributed. Freshly

baked goods, made daily in the church’s kitchen, help raise funds to continue to feed the community.

At the end of the tour, the Questers were treated to cookies and cakes while viewing an inspiring video of the restoration project.

Pictured top row, from left, are Sharon Lutz, Sandy Magreta, Janet Leze, Elizabeth Williamson and Joanne Niederoest; and bottom row, from left, are Pam Barthel, Sister Mary of the Cross, Madeleine Phillips and Kathie Smith.



COURTESY PHOTO

EXHIBIT:

Continued from page 2B

local historians and archives. It will be open the public at the Grosse Pointe History Center through the summer

months.

Anyone with items to contribute to the exhibition should email Tecos at archivist@grossepointehistorical.org.

Items being sought include:

- ◆ vintage photos of

Richard or Pierce, as well as anything featuring school mascots;

- ◆ tickets, flyers or programs from the Punch and Judy Theatre and
- ◆ historical photos or ephemera from The Little Club.

SCENES:

Continued from page 2B

President Stuart Grigg for his efforts to secure a loan so the building could be built.

Current collections include maps, blueprints, documents, bills, contracts, letters, books, catalogs, photographs, videos, prints, drawings, watercolors, scrapbooks, oral histories, albums, real estate records and additional ephemera relating to the history of the Grosse Pointes and neighboring communities, as well as objects, tools, household goods and furniture.

“Since we got the history center, we’re able to store archives properly and climate controlled,” O’Brien said. “It’s so

important we are able to digitize and be a center for research. Being able to use technology so people can use our research without having to be onsite is wonderful.”

O’Brien noted that just as the society serves Grosse Pointe and surrounding areas, membership to the society also is open to anybody.

“You don’t have to live in Grosse Pointe to be a member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society,” she said. “We support the whole general area because things overlap.”

O’Brien said she is looking forward to her return to the area for the society’s biggest fundraiser.

“I’m excited to be there,” she said. “I can’t wait to see everybody.

With Grosse Pointe, you can take it for granted when you’re there, but when you’re not there, it’s a magical place.

“Our galas are always quite successful, but they take a lot of work,” she added. “And it takes the graciousness of the host family to let us use their beautiful house and open it for people to enjoy.”



To learn more about the Grosse Pointe Historical Society or make a donation, scan the QR code.

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4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Philip J. Mutter

Philip J. Mutter, 76, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., passed away Thursday, June 12, 2025, after a years-long struggle with Parkinson’s disease, which he handled with candor, grit and grace. He was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Park.

Philip is survived by his wife, Colleen; brothers, George (Joyce) and Dom (Pat); and sisters, Mary Jo (Bob) and Emily. He was predeceased by his sister, Sylvia (Bill).

Philip graduated from Austin Catholic High School and Western Michigan University. He was a successful medical sales representative and a worthy opponent in bowling and pool.

A memorial service and interment will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 440 E. Washington, Howell. A gathering will immediately follow at American Legion Devereaux Post 141, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell.

Teresa Nehra

Teresa Nehra, 101, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 30, 2026.

She was born Jan. 6, 1925, in a small village north of Beirut, Lebanon, to Antounios and Sayedi Yamouni. Her beloved sister, RoseAnn, was born two years later. Their father died of pneumonia when they were toddlers. Teresa and her sister emigrated to Harrow, Ontario, Canada, at the behest of their paternal grandmother. They were then raised by their uncle, Simon “Sam,” and aunt, Nora. Teresa often recalled seeing Mount Etna erupting from the ship that carried them toward their new life. Teresa’s early life was a testament to resilience and devotion. She thrived in Canada and was educated at Saint Mary’s Academy in Windsor.

In 1946, she married the love of her life, John M. “Monte” Nehra. At their initial meeting, John asked Teresa for her number. She told him, “You can look it up.” They went on to have three children within 24 months: Tony, John and Rose DeAnne. While John completed his residency, Teresa — with the help of Nora and Sam — managed the household with three young children before welcoming their fourth child, Paul, four years later.

A resident of Grosse Pointe for more than 60 years, Teresa was the ultimate homemaker. Whether she was making classic Lebanese dishes or American fare, her kitchen was the heart of the home. Her cousin, Robert, often remarked regarding her cooking, “Teresa, you did it again.” Teresa and RoseAnn were extremely close and raised their families in parallel. They were both known for their love for each other, as well as their avocation for shopping and fashion. They were always impeccably dressed, whether going to church, a school func-

tion or a social engagement. When John retired in 1987, the couple spent half the year in Stuart, Fla. Teresa always put family first. She nourished them with love, kindness, care and compassion.

Teresa was predeceased by her sister, RoseAnn; husband, John; and daughter, Deanne. She is survived by her sons, Tony (Carlene), John (Susan) and Paul (Jane Ann); sister-in-law, Priscilla Nehra; as well as many nieces and nephews. She was blessed with eight grandchildren, Terese, Lauren, Anthony, Katie, Claire, Annie, Mary Elizabeth and Kate; and six great-grandchildren, John, Charlotte, Oliver, Van, Max and Paul.

The family extends their gratitude to Lois Murdock, who was an incredible caregiver and friend to John and Teresa for the past nine years.

Teresa was an incredible beacon of selflessness. She was a woman of faith and believer in the Roman Catholic tradition. She truly lived for others.

A funeral service will be held at noon Sunday, May 24, at St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound, Fla.

Memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph-Detroit, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207, the capuchins.org/donate; or the Henry Ford Liggett Breast Center-Grosse Pointe Woods through the St. John Foundation, henryford.com/development/priorities/st-john-priorities/giving-form.

Jesus Madrid Ocampo

Jesus Madrid Ocampo, 91, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 9, 2026, surrounded by his loving family at home.

Jesus was born June 8, 1934, in Mexico, Pampanga, Philippines. He was the fourth of six children to Carmen (nee Madrid) and Ponciano Ocampo. Jesus had a lively upbringing alongside his siblings and stayed personally close to them throughout their lives, whether near or far, with the siblings eventually spreading out between the U.S. and the Philippines.

From a young age, a zest for learning and discipline was instilled in Jesus. Inspired by healthcare workers in his family, he decided to pursue a career as a physician. He completed his medical degree at the University of Santo Tomas in 1958. He enjoyed a distinguished and prolific career as a radiologist, where he served veterans at the Manila VA Clinic and educated young medical students. He made sure to pass down the lessons and mindset that got him through his training and career. His grandchildren always will fondly recall the “chalk talks” centering around his laws of learning — intensity, recency and repetition — and the advice to never miss the opportu-

nity to take a siesta.

During the early stages of his medical career, Jesus met the love of his life, Manuela Barin, while working at the hospital. What began as a friendship quickly bloomed into love and marriage. The couple delayed Manuela’s departure to the U.S. and began building their family with the birth of their only child, Geraldine Ocampo. In pursuit of their careers, Manuela left for the U.S. Jesus and Geraldine eventually followed Jesus’ “love of his life” to the country. They lived as a family in Minnesota and eventually planted roots in Michigan, where they built the home in which Manuela still lives.

Jesus, also affectionately known as Jess, Susing or Lolo, was a kind-hearted, intelligent, steadfast, faithful and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was a man of faith and a devout member of St. Matthew Catholic Church. His wife, daughter and four grandchildren were the pride and joy of his life. He relished documenting many family milestones on his Camcorder and camera. From family trips to his grandkids’ sporting events and everyday life at home, he captured every moment in between. He enjoyed trips with his love, his family and eventually travel groups. One could find him admiring any scenic view when he was out and about. One of his favorite destinations was Las Vegas, seeing shows, enjoying a buffet and sipping on his favorite, a Seven and Seven. He also enjoyed trips where his grandchildren would get him out of his comfort zone to try new things; one of these favorite family memories is when he rode the Power Tower at Cedar Point at the young age of 75.

One of his favorite pastimes was dancing. He often would quaintly dance to a beat during a car ride, line dance at a family reunion or simply sway and hold his wife while dancing around the kitchen. Music played a large role in his life. He always was quick to respond with a song that fit the conversation, frequently using Frank Sinatra’s “My Way” as an answer. He was not one to shy away from competition, as he showed off in bowling leagues during his younger years and eventually transitioned to winning weekly mahjong games in his later years.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Manuela; daughter, Geraldine Ocampo Gallant; and grandchildren, Jack, Kayla, Bella and Drew Gallant. He was predeceased by his parents, Dr. Ponciano and Carmen Ocampo; and siblings, Dr. Ponciano Jr., Mely, Angelina, Lourdes and Agustin Ocampo.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Matthew Catholic Church, 6021 Whittier, Detroit, MI 48224, stmatthewdetroit.



Philip J. Mutter



Ralph W. Stevens III

com/online-giving, or by calling (313) 884-4470.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Ralph Winthrop Stevens III

Ralph Winthrop Stevens III, 77, passed away Friday, May 15, 2026, in his hometown of Norfolk, Va.

A memorial Mass will be held Friday, July 31, at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Visit stclarem.org closer to the Mass date for a scheduled time.

In lieu of flowers and contributions, the family requests that a prayer is said for Ralph.

Anita Alice Dembeck

Anita Alice Dembeck, 99, a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.

Anita was born Oct. 1, 1926, in Detroit, to Bernard Swantek, a Detroit mounted policeman, and Elsie Swantek, a talented gardener, seamstress, baker and cook. As a young girl, Anita loved riding and caring for her horses, a pastime that brought her great joy throughout her early years.

She attended St. Thomas the Apostle School in Detroit from first through 12th grade, where she also formed many lifelong friendships, including with her cherished “Card Club” girlfriends, with whom she remained close and met monthly throughout her life. After graduating from high school, Anita attended business college, where she studied stenography and typing. Because of her exceptional command of English grammar and professionalism, she began her career as an executive secretary. Later, after raising her children, she spent more than 20 years working part-time in the detective bureau at the Grosse Pointe Woods city offices.

In 1950, Anita married Thomas S. Dembeck. Together, they shared 56 loving years of marriage before Thomas passed away in 2007. The couple met through the Lutnia Singing Society, a well-known Polish-American singing and social orga-



Teresa Nehra



Anita Alice Dembeck

nization in Detroit during the early and mid-1900s. Their love story began when Anita caught a stray pingpong ball from a game Thomas was playing and teasingly refused to give it back. Together, they built a warm and loving home centered on faith, family, friendship and hospitality. Anita was a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother and a cherished friend to many.

Anita’s deep faith in God, which she passed on to her children, was central to her life. She practiced her Catholic faith not only by attending Mass, praying, volunteering and serving others, but also through the kindness and compassion she showed to everyone she met. Gifted with a beautiful soprano voice, Anita sang in the choir at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores for more than 65 years.

In addition, Anita was a remarkable cook who lovingly prepared beautiful meals for her family every day and especially delighted in creating elaborate holiday feasts enjoyed by all. Her many specialties included homemade yeast rolls, golabki (Polish cabbage rolls), kielbasa, meatballs, elegant chicken dishes, chocolate candy and chiffon cakes. She always had a full cookie jar of homemade cookies whenever her grandson visited.

Anita also enjoyed many creative and social pursuits throughout her life. She was a talented artist and took classes in oil painting, china painting and decoupage, and she loved spending time with her many art books and cookbooks. She also was an avid bridge player; she and Thomas enjoyed countless Saturday evenings playing bridge with friends. In later years, they also enjoyed golfing together and Anita proudly achieved the family’s only hole-in-one.

Anita was a truly remarkable woman who made people feel instantly at ease. Friends and family alike described her as loving, sweet, kind and easy to talk to. Above all, her warmth, generosity and gentle spirit touched everyone who knew her.

She was the beloved mother of Thomas J. Dembeck (Terri), Deborah Dembeck, Timothy J. Dembeck, Pamela Dembeck Turk (fiancé Christopher Zott) and Peter Dembeck; proud grandmother of Billy Turk; and a beloved



Jesus Madrid Ocampo



Mary L. Hess

aunt to many nieces and nephews, and great-aunt to many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Anita was predeceased by her beloved husband, Thomas S. Dembeck; and brothers, Hubert Swantek (Irene) and Eugene Swantek (Jeannie).

Visitation was held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home. A funeral Mass was held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores. She was interred at St. Michael Cemetery in Richmond.

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

Anita will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Arrangements entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Mary L. Hess

Mary L. Hess, 83, passed away Monday, April 27, 2026, at home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Mary was born Sept. 16, 1942, in Detroit, to William P. Sheehy and Thelma L. Sheehy, both now deceased.

She attended St. Philip Neri School in Detroit and retired from the Grosse Pointe Public School System. Mary enjoyed genealogy, gardening and knitting. She once toured Europe on a motorcycle during her honeymoon. Mary was proud of her Irish and French heritage and loved to laugh. She always had a twinkle in her eye and acted as chauffeur for her three very active children and their many activities.

Mary was a devout Catholic and a longtime parishioner of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish. She also was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mary is survived by her children, Patrice M. Hess and George J. Hess II; grandchildren, Kylie, Christine, Stephan, Brendan, Alexandria, Asher and William; and great-grandchildren, Cameron Brawn, Heidi Hess, Arlo Hess, Kirra Hess and Kayde Hess.

Mary was interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Phyllis Kozlowski

Phyllis (nee Artman) Kozlowski, 93, died peacefully Tuesday, May 12, 2026, with her children at her side in the home she built with her late husband, Shad.

Phyllis was beyond proud of her family and overjoyed in everything they achieved, especially the accomplishments of her three grandchildren. Throughout her life, she held true to the words she wrote about her parents at age 18: “They show interest in every action, encourage us in every trial and are behind us in all our undertakings.” She leaves behind a timeless legacy of unconditional love.

Phyllis will be remembered by all who knew her as a force of nature. She was a determined, self-driven woman who could motivate others by instilling courage and bravery. She fostered behaviors that resulted in putting one’s best foot forward, defying the odds, enduring fragile moments and, above all, including one’s name in the game. No obstacle was insurmountable. Whether with family, friends or strangers — including gas station and gym attendants — she consistently strove to bring out the best in a person through her own fortitude, emphasizing the importance of lifelong learning and providing boundless encouragement. Knowing she believed in people was one of her God-given talents and caused many to try a little (or a lot) harder and exceed their own expectations.

Phyllis graduated as salutatorian from St. James High School in Ferndale. She then earned a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude from Marygrove College. For the first phase of her professional career, she was a teacher at Dixon Elementary School and led activities with the Detroit Public Schools Community District during the summer months. She also had a WTVS television show that explored different phases of homemaking and was telecast to homes and schools.

At age 42, after serving as president of the Christ Child Society-Detroit and Altar Society at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, and while raising two grade-school children, she fearlessly embarked on pursuing a second career, following in the footsteps of her younger sister, Sharon, and attending law school. She graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 1977, as one of only a few women in her class.

Phyllis was a successful, well-established attorney for more than 33 years, with a practice in the Renaissance Center and her close colleague, Cindy, at her side. She shone brightly during her career and provided sage advice while serving both as an advocate and a counselor. She keenly



Phyllis Kozlowski

knew when families should be kept together versus when it was best to part ways. She often was referred to as the “barracuda” by her opposition. One example of her success was when former opponents faced their next legal kerfuffle, they wanted Phyllis to sit on the same side of the table as them and often retained her to serve as their legal advisor.

Phyllis enjoyed family trips with her sisters and their families, skiing, playing bridge, tennis and golf, attending the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with Shad and entertaining, including baking Christmas cookies for her nieces and nephews, hosting friends on her lawn for Fourth of July fireworks and memorable Christmas Eve dinners. Each event had guests thoughtfully seated with place cards, was well-organized on a yellow legal pad and had meticulously detailed post-event notes for herself, describing how to make the event even better the next year.

Phyllis was a member of the Otsego Club, where she met her husband, Shad, who had been a member since 1953. She also was a member of the Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, Grosse Pointe Farms Zoning Council and Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan at the Bon Secours Nursing Care Center.

In addition to family gatherings, Phyllis enjoyed socializing with friends; she cultivated a close network of friendships throughout her life. Never one to sit at home, she frequently organized dinners and parties with both longtime and newer friends she met through her many charitable, social and recreational pursuits.

She and her late husband, Shad, were married 55 years and raised two children, Julie (Butch) and Mark (Jennifer). “Honey,” as she was fondly known, celebrated the blessings of three wonderful grandchildren, Conrad Schaitberger (Alicia) and Kendall and Jack Kozlowski, whom she loved immeasurably.

Phyllis was predeceased by her husband, Shad; parents, Joseph and Marian Artman; dear sisters, Helen Strek and Sharon Downes; brothers-in-law, Otto Strek and Pat Downes; and more than 100 first cousins.

Phyllis’ family thanks the outstanding team of caregivers, including Helen, Ruby and Vanessa, who assisted with her care and provided her with love, grace and comfort.

Visitation will be held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 29, before a noon funeral



Renee Barbara Rogers

Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Children’s Center, 79 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48201, thechildrenscenter.com/donate/; the University of Detroit Mercy Family Law Center, 651 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48226, law.udmercy.edu/academics/experiential-education/clinics.php; or Christ Child House, 15999 Joy, Detroit, MI 48228, christchildhouse.org/night-of-angels-2020.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Renee Barbara Rogers

Renee Barbara Rogers, 81, passed away Saturday, April 25, 2026, at home in Grosse Pointe.

Renee was born July 16, 1944, in Detroit, to Barbara deHenning and Serge deHenning, both now deceased. After graduating from St. Mary’s Academy in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Renee earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Wayne State University.

Renee started teaching in the Grosse Pointe Public School System in the mid-1970s, where she worked with the alternative education program and was a substitute teacher after the program was disbanded.

In the late 1970s, Renee gained an interest in the motor sports industry. Her career led her to work for AutoWeek as a writer covering various racing events and for Mopar as the head of public relations for its motor sports division, where she covered the Neon Challenge for many years. Renee retired from American Axle as the director of public relations after working there almost 10 years.

Renee spent many years volunteering for the Detroit Institute of Arts and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. She also enjoyed traveling and spending time with her daughter and grandchildren. She loved attending various classes at the Neighborhood Club, including tai chi and chair yoga.

Renee is survived by her daughter, Dawn Mitchell; and grandchildren, Bobby Mitchell III, Makenzie Mitchell and Michael Mitchell. She was predeceased by her parents; and sister, Claire Naumenko, who passed away in 2006.

A memorial service will be held in the future.

Memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 20542 Harper, Harper Woods, MI 48225, gpaas.org/ donate.

Macomb Symphony celebrates nation’s 250th with ‘Journey: From Slavery to Freedom’

May 31 concert at St. Clare of Montefalco

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Macomb Symphony, with the Detroit and Oakland choral societies, brings “Journey: From Slavery to Freedom” to St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31.

The concert, which honors the 250th anniversary of the United States, features compositions by Norah Duncan IV, Duke Ellington and Carlos Simon.

The focal point of the concert is Duncan’s “Journey,” conductor Andrew Neer said.

“His goal was to put together a cantata, which is a small collection of works that usually has religious implications to it,” Neer said. “It’s all based on African American spirituals.

“It is fantastic,” he added. “It’s probably one of the most inspiring pieces I have ever conducted.”

Neer called the piece poignant and said it is a relatable journey from oppression to freedom.

“If you’ve been through loss or torment, if something is holding you back, you can connect to this music,” he said. “It is

so well put together musically.”

Joining the symphony for the cantata are three artists with local ties.

“The headliner is alto Joan Belgrave, Detroit Jazz Queen,” Neer said. “Amber Rogers is a soprano with an amazing, soaring, floating voice and our baritone soloist is Ronald Perkins, who has a fantastic voice.”

This is the second time Macomb Symphony has performed Duncan’s “Journey.” It first was performed last fall at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

“Part of the grant award to perform it a second time was to record it for record release,” Neer said. “That really speaks to the level of musicianship here in Detroit.”

In addition to the cantata, the concert will feature two Duke Ellington spirituals arranged by Ozie Cargile, as well as other pieces arranged by Duncan and Simon. Mezzo-soprano Kendra Beasley will perform a solo in one of Duncan’s arrangements.

“The intent is to celebrate the 250th by featuring fantastic music

performed by all these artists with Michigan connections,” Neer added.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at macombsymphony.org or at the door.

“The church is in its 100th anniversary,” Neer said, “so this is part of that concert series they’re putting on.”

The series included a March performance of Mozart’s “Requiem in D minor,” by the Warren Symphony Orchestra, which Neer also conducts. Nearly 600 people attended, he said.

He expects a great turnout for the May 31 concert as well.

“This has the potential to be one of the most uplifting experiences of the year,” he said. “If you want a pick-me-up, this is it. If you want something that tells a compelling story, this is it. If you want to be entertained and hear great music, this is it. It will touch on all those things at the same time.”

St. Clare of Montefalco is located at 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

For more information, visit macombsymphony.org/go/250-duncan.

Celebrate Pentecost at GP Congregational

Sunday, May 24, is the birth of the global church and Grosse Pointe Congregational Church is celebrating Pentecost with the Acts of the Apostles, reading from Acts 2:1-4.

“This year we will have various languages spoken from speakers who will read this passage aloud,” the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver said, “and at the conclusion of the reading we will see an interpretation acted out as the Hon. Nicole Castka will allow the fire to rest on her tongue.”

Castka will perform fire eating during the 10 a.m. service this Sunday at the church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call (313) 884-3075.



Memorial hosts Telegraph String Quartet May 31

The 2025-26 Music at Memorial concert series closes with pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng, clarinetist Chad Burrow and the Telegraph String Quartet, who will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The ensemble offers works including Mozart’s Clarinet Quintet, as well as Piano Quintet by the late Polish composer Grazyna Bacewicz, who

helped lead a strong female presence in the world of art and music in the mid-20th century.

Members of the ensemble are part of the music faculty of the University of Michigan and are in great demand for concertizing across the globe; it is a rare opportunity to hear these musicians so close to home.

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the deadline to submit an obituary for the May 28 edition is 3 p.m. Friday, May 22. Send obituary submissions to kbazzy@grossepointenews.com.

Locked up, but not locked down

That was the attitude Darryl Woods Sr., the keynote speaker at the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's 40th annual Mayors' Prayer Breakfast last week, had during his 29 years in prison.

Woods had been caught up in a drug deal gone bad in which someone was shot and killed and was sentenced to life in prison without parole after being charged with aiding and abetting for not cooperating with police.

Michigan Reformatory in Ionia, northwest of Lansing, which is home to several state prisons.

"I own ya," Woods laughed, playing on the town's name. "Their whole economy runs on

Woods said he was “confused, bitter and lonely” until he read through the 700 pages of transcripts and found the words his grandmother spoke that day in court.

“She told me not to give up, that God is the only judge and prayer changes things,” he said. “It gave me a message of hope.”

Woods said although he was raised in the

"I was an eighth-grade dropout," he added. "I learned to read in prison by reading the Bible."

He earned his GED, began tutoring other prisoners, became an ordained minister and led church services, all of which helped in his sentence being commuted by then-Gov. Rick Snyder in 2018. It was his third attempt at commutation.

"I was released Feb. 12, 2019," Woods said. "Two/12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday and 212 were the first three numbers of my prisoner number. I tell people I was emancipated."

Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison, who introduced Woods at the breakfast, called him, "an amazing individual and a blessing from our Lord."

The two met in the early 2000s while Woods was running a program

"They were not being scared straight, they were being cared straight," Bettison said. "I thought how he needed to be able to have a great impact."

After returning to Detroit, Woods began working with anti-violence and youth initiatives. Bettison eventually convinced him to accept an appointment to the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners.

“When I was deputy mayor, Mayor (Mike) Duggan asked me if I wanted to apply to be police chief when the position came open,” he added with a laugh. “Darryl was one of the people who interviewed me.”

Woods closed by saying God can help people who might feel like they're in a prison of their own without being behind bars.

"I beseech you to allow God to have a place in your hearts, your minds and your souls."

BOOK:

friends with officers and fellow soldiers. ... People were good to him, I think because he was good to them. I found that inspiring. He made friends wherever he went."

Providing context to the letters, Berry shares her father's background — he was born in Quebec and became a U.S. citizen in 1944 — in the opening chapter and concludes the book with snippets about his life after the war, including

hardships he faced finding employment.

He found joy, however, when he and his sweetheart, Helen, married in 1948.

"They lived in Grosse Pointe Park a couple of years," Berry said, "then moved out west to Montana and then back to Detroit."

Berry, who volunteers with The Helm, American House Grosse Pointe, Henry Ford Hospice and Hope House Detroit, said she had military veterans and history buffs in mind when piecing together the book.

"I've also found that a lot of people who weren't in the Army or didn't have an Army background have enjoyed it," she said. "Anybody who enjoys social history or the history of that era will enjoy it."

"Sharing a Soldier's Stories" is available on Amazon and barnesandnoble.com.

Copies of the book also will be available at a book launch from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society Museum, 16600 Stephens, Eastpointe.

ITC to conduct aerial patrols

ITC will conduct aerial patrols of high-voltage transmission structures, lines and equipment in Michigan from May 27 to June 30, weather permitting.

It is anticipated to cover Wayne County and surrounding counties between Wednesday, May 27, and Saturday, May 30.

The helicopter patrols are conducted to provide an overall status of the overhead transmission system operated by ITC's Michigan operating entities, ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC.

Through June 30, the aerial inspections will cover nearly all of the Lower Peninsula. Patrols are a North

American Electrical Reliability Corp. requirement for ITC's vegetation management program, support proactive maintenance objectives and are in line with the company's model for operational excellence.

Crews check for damaged or worn equipment and vegetation hazards. The inspection flights often are conducted at low altitudes to allow accurate visual inspection of equipment for lightning damage, wear or other potential problems.

This is normal procedure, so there is no cause for alarm if a low-flying helicopter is sighted near transmission lines.

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Partnership promotes ‘Community of Kindness’ May 30 event welcomes all ages to spread kindness through art

A collaborative partnership between Grosse Pointe Theatre, Posterity Gallery and Main Street Grosse Pointe invites all ages to join a creative art experience that encourages everyone to spread kindness.

The event, Color a Community of Kindness, takes place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30, in The Village.

“Grosse Pointe Theatre is honored to be partnering with Posterity Gallery and Main Street Grosse Pointe for this exciting event encouraging kindness,” said Linda Zublick, executive director of Grosse Pointe Theatre. “For 78 years, we have strived to provide high-quality theater experiences and performing arts education, as well as community engagement opportunities that connect, create and inspire communities through theater. This special May 30 event is a great example of engaging the community around the powerful message of kindness.”

Grosse Pointe Theatre member Patricia Ellis came up with the initial idea as the theater group prepares for its production of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “Cinderella,” which takes the stage June 5 to 21, at the Schaap Center.

According to Ellis, the theme was inspired by Cinderella, whose courage, hope, determination and kindness demon-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIA ELLIS

Michelle Boggess-Nunley, owner of Posterity Gallery, who designed the mural for the Color a Community of Kindness event, holds up two of the 150 small panel tiles that participants will color as part of the mural.

strate that everyone has the power to make a difference by being kind.

“Sometimes the simplest gesture can have the biggest impact and touch someone’s life for the better in ways we never realize,” Ellis said. “I thought it would be wonderful if we could bring the community together for a fun and meaningful event, encouraging and celebrating kindness and providing opportunities for each participant to share their acts of kindness to bring a little joy and magic to others. I am incredibly grateful for Michelle Boggess-Nunley of Posterity Gallery and Cindy Willcock of Main Street Grosse Pointe, who embraced the oppor-

tunity to work with us to create this special ‘spread kindness’ experience.”

Boggess-Nunley, an artist and the owner of Posterity Gallery, designed a mural illustrating images related to “Cinderella.” The 10-by-5-foot mural will include 150 6-by-8-inch tile sections that will be colored by 150 registered participants.

In addition to the mural, there will be areas on Kercheval where participants can create kindness cards that will be shared with Make-A-Wish Michigan to give to children battling serious illnesses. There also will be mini kindness “pass-it-on” cards on which kids and others can add a brief

message of kindness to share with someone they know.

Participants must sign up for a time slot to color one of the 150 mural tiles in order to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win four tickets to an evening performance of “Cinderella.” Families are encouraged to sign up together to make it a shared experience.

To register and reserve a time slot for the Color a Community of Kindness mural project, visit gpt.org.

“This mural is more than just art,” Boggess-Nunley said. “It is a shared experience and a reminder that even the smallest acts of creativity and kindness can brighten an entire community.”

“Like Cinderella’s story, it speaks to trans-

formation, hope and the magic that happens when people come together,” she added. “Every simple act of kindness has a ripple effect that inspires others to share, connect and create. Through the universal language of art, we are not just creating a picture, we are creating many meaningful pieces that come together to show what we can achieve when we work together.”

Participants are encouraged to dress up in their favorite “Cinderella” character. The finished mural will be displayed in The Village.

Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, said she is thrilled to involve The Village in the event.

“Color a Community of Kindness is everything Main Street stands for — bringing people together, celebrating creativity and strengthening the heart of The Village,” Willcock said. “Partnering with Grosse Pointe Theatre, Posterity Gallery and our merchants makes this project even more powerful, because it shows what happens when our community comes together with a shared purpose.”

“Together, we are raising awareness, inviting people into The Village and celebrating the simple but essential act of choosing kindness,” she added. “When the finished mural is showcased in The Village, it will stand as a joyful reminder of what we can build when we lead with compassion — and how timely that message truly is.”

For more information and inspiration, visit the following sites:

Grosse Pointe Theatre: gpt.org

Posterity Gallery: posterityartgallery.com

The Village Main Street: thevillagegrossepointe.org



Boggess-Nunley outlines each of the 150 tiles that participants will color for the mural.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Christine Hilton, LMSW

Be someone’s why during Mental Health Awareness Month

In my years of practicing as a therapist in hospital and outpatient treatment settings, I have met many who have contemplated suicide, have survived their own attempt or are affected by someone else’s suicide. For those struggling with thoughts about ending their life, we begin the important work of understanding their pain and finding hope and reasons to go on living.

Tragically, some having a crisis see their problem as inescapable and feel a loss of control. They may experience overwhelming pain, hopelessness or mental health struggles. Reasons for suicide are complex and never due to a single cause. Suicide is a public health crisis affecting every community.

Preventing suicide requires addressing the underlying feelings of profound loneliness, being a burden to others and hopelessness. To combat a lack of belonging, we need to connect with people in a genuine way, reducing isolation and reminding others they are part of a community. To fight perceived burdensomeness, we can reach out and remind those struggling that they are loved and needed. When people feel hopeless, it’s important to listen actively without trying to “fix” them, validate without judgment and encourage them to get professional help.

If someone has thoughts of wanting to end their life, we need to do what we can to make them safe. Suicide prevention experts recommend removing any possible access to firearms and locking up excess medications (including over-the-counter medication) until the risk of acting on suicidal thoughts has been eliminated.

Don’t be afraid to ask someone if they have thoughts of ending their life. It is a myth that asking about it puts the

idea in their mind. Having it out in the open actually can be a relief and motivate them to get the help they need. Encourage them to reach out to people they trust for help — a parent, teacher, coach, partner, friend, faith community, support group, employer’s employee assistance program, doctor or therapist, or call or text 988 to immediately connect with a trained mental health volunteer.

Therapists can reduce or eliminate suicidal thoughts by teaching tools and coping skills and help individuals build a life they see as worth living, but suicide prevention is everyone’s job. Be aware of your community’s resources and take a moment to care and connect.

World-renowned psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl wrote, “Those who have a ‘why’ to live can bear with almost any ‘how.’” Humans thrive with connection. Small connections matter — a smile, greeting, compliment, conversation, invitation or simply allowing someone to be heard — make us feel we are part of something greater and ultimately less alone. The community you offer might just be the “why” that makes someone stay.

Christine Hilton, LMSW, works in private practice and is employed with Henry Ford Health’s Employee Assistance Program. She is passionate about mental health awareness, has presented at suicide prevention conferences and is an instructor of Mental Health First Aid. For more information, visit hiltonwellness.org.

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



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Dear Gabby: My neighbor and I have always gotten along fine, but every summer he becomes obsessed with his lawn. If even one dandelion appears in my yard, he somehow materializes outside five minutes later, mowing aggressively in my direction.

Last week he actually measured the height of my grass while we were

chatting and commented that I needed a “number 4 blade.”

I enjoy a tidy yard, but I also don’t believe my lawn should resemble a professional golf course. How do I handle this without causing a feud on our block? — Annoyed in the Shores

Dear Annoyed: For some people, lawn care is less a hobby and more

a competitive sport. Your neighbor’s immaculate grass likely gives him pride and purpose, but that doesn’t mean you are required to adopt championship-level landscaping standards.

As long as your yard is reasonably maintained and not violating local ordinances, you are under no obligation to fertilize and mani-

cure like Augusta National.

And whatever you do, don’t start measuring his hedge height in retaliation. That’s how neighborhood cold wars begin.

— Gabby

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



Honoring sacrifice beyond the long weekend

By Annie Lane
Columnist Writer

Memorial Day arrives each year wrapped in red, white and blue, but at its heart, it is a day of quiet gratitude.

It is the unofficial beginning of summer, yes. There will be hamburgers on grills, children running barefoot through backyards, flags waving from porches and maybe a little potato salad that sat out longer than anyone wants to admit. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the day. In fact, joy is one of the freedoms so many brave men and women fought to protect.

But before we rush into summer, let us pause.

Memorial Day is not simply a long weekend. It is a day to remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. They were sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, friends and neighbors. They had favorite

songs, inside jokes, childhood dreams and people waiting for them at home. Their sacrifice was not abstract. It was deeply personal.

The best way to honor them is not only with words, though words matter. It is with the way we live.

We honor them when we treat one another with decency. We honor them when we look out for an elderly neighbor, thank a veteran, teach our children what the holiday means, visit a cemetery, fly the flag with respect or simply take one quiet moment

to say, “I remember.”

We also honor them by appreciating the ordinary blessings that are easy to overlook: the family gathered around the table, the friend who calls just to check in, the freedom to worship or not worship, to speak, to vote, to disagree and still share a meal.

In a world that can feel divided, Memorial Day reminds us that love of country does not belong to one political party, one generation or one kind of person. Gratitude is something we can all practice. Kindness is something we can all offer. Service is something we can all do.

So this Memorial Day, enjoy the sunshine if you have it. Hug your loved ones if they are nearby. Call them if they are not. Put flowers on a grave. Wave at the neighbor. Let the small annoyances go. The traffic, the burnt hot dog, the relative who tells the same story every year -- these are not problems; they are signs of life.

And life, as those we remember today teach us, is precious.

To the families who have lost someone in service to this country, we see you. We thank you. Your loved one’s courage lives on not only in history books and monuments but in every peaceful morning, every safe homecoming and every child who grows up free.

May this Memorial Day bring comfort to the grieving, gratitude to the busy, unity to the divided and peace to every heart that needs it.

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When a rock becomes sand

DEAR ANNIE: My husband of five years has dementia. We’ve known about it for two or three years. He retired last year, and I work full time.

It’s getting harder. He argues every point, doesn’t want me to go anywhere without him and repeats himself. He says he will just “wait for me” when I ask for things to be done or when I try to get someone to help him with things. I financially can’t stop working yet. To make it harder? Almost everyone has ghosted us.

He’s home by himself most of the day. His family doesn’t call or come by. Some of my family and a couple of my friends do come to help me, but it will reach a point where I’m going to need more help with him. He has three sisters and many cousins close by who have all gone no-contact. His kids barely check in.

I can’t do this alone indefinitely. I can’t afford care when the time comes unless it’s a nursing home. I’m tired and frustrated. I get it — it’s hard dealing with dementia and all that encompasses. When your rock becomes sand, it’s rough. Maybe it would be easier if we had been together for 10, 20, 30 years, but we were barely married when

things went sideways.

I don’t know how things are going to go, but maybe you can ask your readers to remember that we caregivers need a break, a friend, an ear and inclusion. — Caregiver’s Plea

DEAR CAREGIVER: What you’re carrying is heavy, and it’s no wonder you feel overwhelmed. Caring for a spouse with dementia while working full time is more than one person should have to manage alone.

You’re right that you can’t do this indefinitely, and it’s OK to ask for help. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging or an Alzheimer’s support organization, which can connect you with respite care, support groups and guidance as your husband’s needs change.

As for the people who’ve drifted away, perhaps they haven’t stepped up not because they don’t want to but because they don’t know how. Be specific about support, whether it’s a weekly visit, a meal they can bring or an hour they can spend with your husband so you can step out.

To my readers: “Caregiver” is right. If someone in your life carries a similar burden, please don’t leave them to carry it alone.

DEAR ANNIE: We have a co-worker who has a distinct odor for a few days a month. We work in patient care and feel bad that her time-of-the-month odor may be giving people the idea that she’s generally unclean.

How can we politely tell her that others are noticing and prevent her from being embarrassed? — Trying to Be Tactful

DEAR TACTFUL: This is a sensitive situation, and your instinct to spare this woman embarrassment is the right one.

If something must be said, it should come from a supervisor or HR, not a group of co-workers. In a patient care setting, hygiene concerns should be addressed professionally and privately, without speculating or singling her out.

Tread carefully. Kindness here means discretion — and letting the right person handle it.

DEAR ANNIE: My soon-to-be fiancée has had an incredibly hard year. She had ankle surgery and a difficult recovery. She worked hard to get her mental health back on track. She gave up drinking for me. She also went through serious family drama after being kicked out of her aunt’s

house, and she had to sue to get out of the situation. She won.

For most of her life, her family had a lot of control over her. After more than 50 years, she finally stood up for herself and told them how she felt. I am so proud of her. Right now, I feel like her biggest cheerleader.

We have known each other for 30 years as friends, and now we are dating. She already “proposed” to me online, but she has no idea that I am planning to propose to her in person on her birthday at her favorite restaurant. She has her ring picked out, her gown chosen and even has thoughts about the honeymoon. We are keeping the engagement quiet because she is a very private person.

The only problem is that she is not always great at communicating. She also has very few friends she can truly trust. I am one of the only people in her life, besides one other friend, who really looks out for her.

I love her deeply and want to support her without overwhelming her or saying the wrong thing. Do you have any advice on how I can talk to her, reassure her and help her feel safe as we begin this next chapter? — Her Biggest Cheerleader



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR CHEERLEADER: Lead with love, not fixing. Tell her simply, “I’m proud of you, I love you, and I want us to build a peaceful life together.”

Then listen more than you talk. After the year she has had, safety will mean consistency, patience and no pressure. You do not have to say the perfect thing. Just be steady, kind and honest.

DEAR ANNIE: My adult son is a good man, and I know he loves me, but lately I feel as if I only hear from him when something has gone wrong. If his car makes a strange noise, he calls. If he needs help figuring out insurance, he calls. If he is short on money or having trouble with his girlfriend, suddenly Mom is the first person on speed dial.

But when I call just to chat, ask about his day or invite him over for Sunday dinner, he is always “swamped” and says he will call me back. Most of the time, he doesn’t. I find myself staring at the phone, feeling foolish for missing some-

one who only seems to remember me when life gets inconvenient.

I don’t want to guilt him or push him away. I just miss being part of his everyday life, not only his emergency contact. How do I tell him that without sounding needy? — More Than Mom’s Help Line

DEAR MORE THAN MOM’S HELP LINE: You can love your son dearly and still refuse to be treated like roadside assistance with a casserole dish. Tell him warmly and directly, “I’m always glad to help you, but I miss hearing from you when nothing is wrong.” Then stop rewarding only the crisis calls with your full attention and invite him into ordinary connection instead. A weekly dinner or Sunday phone call may not fix everything, but it is a good place to remind him that mothers are people, not just emergency contacts.

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

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

The at-home lash lift that’s actually worth it

The Clione Prime Eyelash Lift Kit from Amazon came into the mix at a very predictable time. My best friend and I currently are on a spending freeze, but also trying to get ourselves a little more pulled together for summer. Saving money while attempting a subtle glow-up is nothing new.

Instead of booking lash lift appointments that can easily cost \$200 or more, we ordered this kit for \$29.99 and decided to try it at home. I went first and did the full process on her, expecting it to be complicated or at least slightly



chaotic, but it was surprisingly straightforward.

The kit includes everything you need and the instructions walk you through each step clearly. You start by cleaning the lashes, then apply a silicone shield to the eyelid and use the adhesive to shape the lashes upward. From there, you work through the lifting solution, setting solution and conditioning treatment, each with its own timing.

The tools are well-designed and actually make the process easier, which helps when you’re working so close to the eye. The

whole thing took about an hour from start to finish.

The result is what makes it worth repeating. Lashes look lifted and defined in a way that reads polished without looking overdone. It gives that slightly more awake look right away, almost like you have a light coat of mascara and a lash curl already in place. There’s no daily effort required.

It lasts about six weeks, which makes the price feel even more reasonable. Being able to do it at home, on your own time, without sacrificing the result, is a win.

If you’re trying to simplify your routine a bit heading into summer, this is an easy one to add in.

Rating: 5 out of 5 alligators (from both of us). You can find it here: <https://amzn.to/4a0aPvj>

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

Deviled eggs meet potato salad

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Finally a dish that combines two of my favorite picnic foods, potato salad and deviled eggs. My daughter and I saw it on a menu while eating at a California-inspired restaurant in Chicago. I thought it was brilliant. It tasted like one bite of the best potato salad I’d ever eaten but lighter because it was in an egg white cup. So I put the idea in my back pocket to re-create it for when the weather started to turn warm.

With Memorial Day right around the corner, it’s the perfect time to make these.

These deviled eggs have all of the classic potato salad ingredients like onion, celery, yellow mustard and pickle relish. The vegetables are chopped very finely and the potatoes are gently mashed with a fork. Using a fork helps you to be able to control the filling texture. I left

some small bits of potato so everyone knew what they were eating. Though, you’ll want it almost like a mashed potato filling because it’s easier to pipe into the eggs. And since nobody wants chunks of potatoes falling out when taking a bite, it makes for cleaner eating.

The potatoes and eggs cook together in a pot which makes it easy to pull together in 20 minutes. You will most likely have extra filling. And I wasn’t ashamed to spread it on toast for a late-afternoon snack. It was delicious. I finished them with fresh chopped chives from the garden.

One trick that I always use when making deviled eggs is scooping the filling into a sandwich bag and cutting the corner for piping. It’s less messy and much easier to neatly get the filling into the right spot.

An eggy potato salad is either loved or loathed. Or at least that’s the case in my family. Half of us can do without the egg-and-mayo combination, while the other half, myself included, can’t get enough of it. For those of us in the second camp, these were right up our alley. The flavors are familiar, the textures are comforting and judging by the reactions, everyone was quite pleased.

These little bites are perfect as a side dish, snack or appetizer for any gathering. In my experience, deviled eggs are always the first to go.

These also have that “wow” factor that makes people think you spent far more time on them than you actually did. Familiar, nostalgic and just a little unexpected, they’re always a crowd-pleaser.

Cheers, Mombeau

- Potato Salad Deviled Eggs
- 12 large eggs
 - 1 medium baking potato
 - 2 tbsp finely chopped onion
 - 2 tbsp finely chopped celery
 - 4 tbsp mayonnaise
 - 2 tbsp yellow mustard
 - 2 tbsp sweet pickle relish
 - 2 tbsp chopped chives
 - ½ tsp salt

Peel and dice the potato into one-inch chunks and place in a pot of cold water along with the eggs. Bring the pot to a boil and cook for five minutes. Turn the heat off and let the eggs and potatoes sit, covered, for about 10 minutes or until the potatoes are very soft.

Drain and remove the potatoes to a bowl. Cool the eggs down in an ice



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

bath before peeling.

Gently mash the potatoes with a fork. Once the eggs are cooled, peel them, cut them in half and remove the yolks.

Place the yolks in with the potatoes along with

the mayonnaise, mustard, relish and salt. Mix to combine. Add the filling to a resealable bag and smoosh it down to the bottom.

Garnish with fresh chopped chives.



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Cabernet Franc

Despite the fact that it’s an unlikely grape to be so well-liked, cabernet sauvignon has been the most popular red wine in the United States for the last 40 years. It is a superb grape variety that has a few attributes that allow it to produce remarkably long-lived red wines that patient people expect will deliver extraordinary charms and can be among the finest older red wines ever made.

Included in this category are the great wines of Bordeaux, many of which are produced from cabernet sauvignon as well as its cousin varieties that add complexity.

One reason is that the variety’s wines have high levels of tannin, an astringency that gives the wine

such harshness when it is young that it typically is like trying to drink a liquid with alum added.

People have described it as licking sandpaper. And there are plenty of people who find virtually any cabernet to be so off-putting that they won’t drink it.

And I imagine that some cabernet buyers really don’t like it much because of its structure and raspy mouthfeel, but who buy it because they love the flavors and enjoy it as long as it is paired with protein foods that reduce the astringency.

(Cheaper versions of cabernet may not be as astringent, but in most cases the winery “manufactured” the wine to remove the tannins,

along with some acidity, thus softening and even sweetening it.)

I have always believed that the alternatives to cabernet have rarely been exposed to buyers, so it continues to be a love/hate experience for many.

The alternative for decades was merlot — a wonderful substitute because it is part of the so-called Bordeaux family of grapes. It is similar to cabernet, offering aromatics that can be like the primary variety, but with lower tannins.

But cabernet lovers who are looking for a unique experience have another alternative that few people know much about. It is one of the parents of cabernet sauvignon (the other is sauvignon blanc) and it is becoming far more popular today in the upper echelons of wine consumption.

Cabernet franc is its name. It’s quite similar to cabernet sauvignon with several additional traits that make it much more approachable. For one thing, it’s less tannic. It

can also be a bit more exotic, while offering imported versions that are well-priced, interesting and perfect for pairing with a wider variety of foods.

It is extremely popular as a red wine in France’s Loire Valley, where it is the primary red wine grape. Almost no cabernet sauvignon grows there. But most Americans don’t know much about Loire Valley reds, preferring the whites.

Loire wine districts with names like Chinon (shee-nown), Bourgueil (bore gay), Saumur (sow moor) and Anjou (ahn-zhoo) all make red wine from cabernet franc. They may be identified by the names of the districts listed here; some producers may not use “cabernet franc” anywhere on the label.

I adore many of these wines with grilled salmon and other medium-weight dishes that might

be obliterated by many cabernet sauvignons.

In an upcoming column, I’ll mention the resurgence of this variety in California and how some local wineries are getting really excited about it.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CIRCLE MANAGEMENT + PRODUCTION, CIRCLE OF CONFUSION AND CONCOURSE MEDIA.

Left to right, Rainn Wilson as Randy, Aimee Carrero as Jessica and Lil Rel Howery as Mike in the 2025 movie “Code 3,” written by Christopher Leone and Patrick Pianezza and directed by Leone.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Code 3”
2025 - Rated R
1 hr 44 min
★★★★☆

If someone came up to me and suggested I review a movie about a day in the life of a paramedic, I’d probably politely thank them, tell them I’ll put it in my queue, then forget the whole matter. However, based on algorithms, Hulu suggested I’d like the EMS-focused film “Code 3,” so it appeared in my queue. And guess what? They were right! I quite enjoyed this under-the-radar little indie gem.

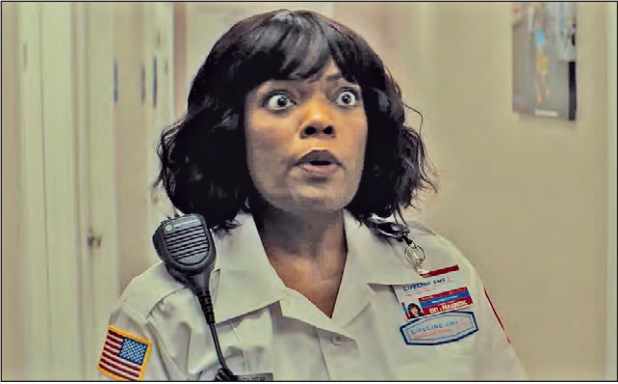
The movie is aided by a strong performance of its leads Rainn Wilson (“The Office,” “Ezra,” “Juno”), Lil Rel Howery (“Get Out”), and Aimee Carrero (“The Menu”). It’s directed by Christopher Leone, who’s best known for “Parallels” and “The Lost Room.” He co-wrote it with Patrick Pianezza, and the story is based on Pianezza’s real-life experiences as a paramedic. The film will definitely give you a greater appreciation for all that these people do to save lives. While it’s listed as a comedy, I’d describe it as a drama with a few lighter moments.

Code 3 is a term that describes an emergency situation that allows the driver of an EMS unit to use the vehicle’s flashing lights. In this case, it could also describe the feelings of Randy (Wilson) as he goes about his typical workday. The difference being this is Randy’s last day on the job. I’ve read

that the average career for a paramedic is around three to four years. Randy has been at it for 18 years, and it’s really taken its toll on him. He has almost no social life, is physically and emotionally drained and can just barely find time to wolf down a meal. So near the beginning of the movie, he interviews for a desk job in the insurance business. It’s an awkward interview, but he gets a call a bit later informing him he got the job. He’s absolutely elated, and when he decides to quit on the spot, his understanding boss Shanice (Yvette Nicole Brown, “He Wasn’t Man Enough,” “The Upshaws”) talks him into working one last day.

Then we follow him along with his driver/partner Mike (Howery). You can tell they’ve worked together for quite a while, and they have an easy friendship. Mike is the perfect foil for Randy — he knows just the right thing to say when Randy’s about to explode in anger. And he adds a bit of levity to the film. For his last day, they’re given a special task. The dynamic duo has to take a rookie along for the ride to observe them and, where needed, to offer assistance. Aimee Carrero plays the novice Jessica perfectly. You figure she’s going to be an annoying know-it-all, but she’s never reduced to that. She’s a professional presence and stays mostly on the sidelines.

As you’d expect, the three of them encounter quite a wide variety of



Supervisor Shanice (Yvette Nicole Brown).

situations. They range from a dead woman in a nursing home to a grisly traffic accident to a crazy person walking the streets naked. It certainly helps that this is their turf and they know several of the characters they deal with.

A telling and tense scene is when they get a call to help a man who’s off his meds. It’s



explained that he’s usually pretty normal while taking his pills. But the system doesn’t allot him enough for the entire month, so he’s a bit scatterbrained for a couple of days. When they

arrive, he’s yelling, “I’m the president of the United States!” They calmly talk him down and carefully lead him to their truck. However, the police arrive and assume he’s dangerous and quickly draw their weapons on him. It takes some careful negotiating to convince the cops that they have the situation under control and they can stand down. It’s just one of several suspenseful situations they deal with in the course of their 24-hour shift.

As if their work isn’t difficult enough, when they get to the emergency room at the hospi-

movie is when Randy faces the camera and talks directly to us. I don’t mind hearing his observations in a voice-over, but I have a prejudice against direct-to-camera interactions — I find them a bit awkward and unnecessary. Aside from that, I thoroughly enjoyed “Code 3” and think you will too!

Note to parents: The film is rated “R” due mainly to crude language and some gory scenes. Currently streaming on Hulu and Disney+, and to rent on Apple TV, Prime, Plex, and Fandango.

My rating system:

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

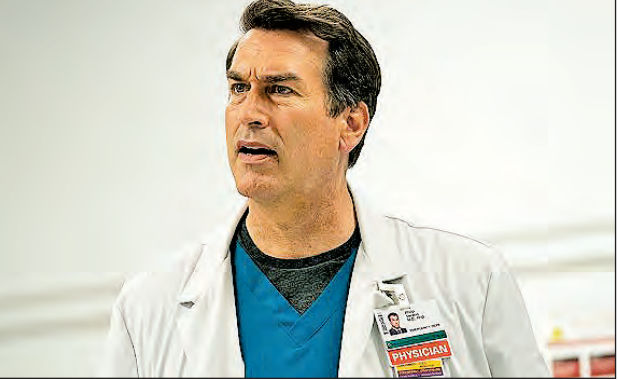
★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

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

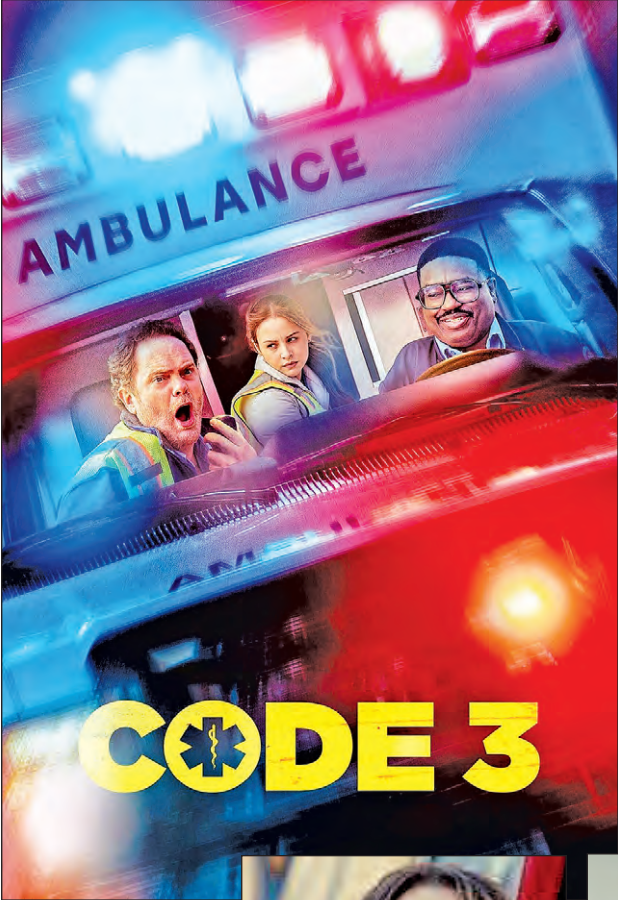
★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually buy it!

If you have any movie suggestions, feel free to email me at: domin-mark@yahoo.com. Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Dr. Serano (Rob Riggle).



Poster.



Ready for action.



In the ER.



Jessica (Aimee Carrero).



Randy (Rainn Wilson).



Mike (Lil Rel Howery).



The scene of a terrible accident.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution								
7	9	5	6	8	4	3	2	1
8	6	2	9	1	3	4	5	7
1	3	4	7	5	2	6	9	8
5	7	1	8	6	9	2	4	3
6	4	3	5	2	7	8	1	9
9	2	8	4	3	1	7	6	5
2	8	7	1	9	6	5	3	4
4	1	6	3	7	5	9	8	2
3	5	9	2	4	8	1	7	6

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5/7 Solution No Puzzle on 05-14-26

Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below.

CEMETERY
FLAGS
FLOWER
GRAVES
HONOR
LOST
OBSERVING
RESPECT
RESTING
SERVES
TOMB

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

Contract Bridge

ELIMINATING IMPEDIMENTS

East dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 5
♥ 9 7 2
♦ K 7 4 2
♣ A 5 3 2

WEST

♠ 9 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10 4 3
♦ 10 3
♣ 9 6

EAST

♠ K 10 7 4
♥ 8 6 5
♦ Q 9 5
♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q J
♥ A K
♦ A J 8 6
♣ K J 7 4

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Opening lead — queen of hearts.			

The problem of insufficient entries can occasionally be solved by extremely careful manipulation of the cards.

In this deal, for example, South can make all 13 tricks if he plays properly. This might not be a vital matter, since the contract is only three notrump, but anyone who makes all of the tricks on this deal can be said to be well versed in the art of manufacturing entries.

West leads a heart, and South sees

that there are four finesses --two in spades, one in diamonds and one in clubs — that can be taken.

The problem is that there are only two apparent entries to dummy for the purpose of taking the four finesses. Nevertheless, all the finesses can be accomplished by making judicious use of the spot cards.

South wins the heart and leads the seven of clubs to the ace. He then returns a low club to the jack and cashes the king, leaving his four of clubs as an entry to dummy's five.

Declarer performs a similar feat in diamonds. He leads the eight to the king, finesses the jack on the return and cashes the ace. That leaves the six in his hand as an entry to dummy's seven.

South next crosses to the five of clubs to take his first finesse in spades and then leads the six of diamonds to the seven for the second finesse. His work done, he then claims 13 tricks.

It can be seen that declarer can easily spare the seven of clubs and eight of diamonds when he leads them to dummy initially. They are not at all significant as high cards, but they must be gotten out of the way if declarer is to score the maximum number of tricks.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by Anna Gundlach May 21, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 From square one
5 ___ fall (team-building activity)
10 Pre-A.D.
13 PBS science show
14 Hall & ___
15 Iowa crop
16 Absolute disaster (In this answer, note the first three letters + the last two letters)
18 Talk like a lion
19 Part of a skin-care routine
20 Insurer named for a volcano
21 Walk like a lion
24 Object hanging over a swimming hole (... first two letters + the last four letters)
27 Piece of hiking headwear
29 Secondary social media account
30 Hole in a needle
31 "The Menu" actress
32 Venue that sells oysters
35 Daredevil's diversions, or a theme hint
40 Is
41 "Moby-Dick" captain
43 UV-blocking stat
46 Cribbage piece
47 Intertwine
49 Grand finale, perhaps? (... first letter + the last three letters)
53 Similar
54 Fjord or cove
55 "If you ask me ..."
57 Mexican food cart food
58 Biblical symbol of idolatry (... first three letters + the last letter)
63 English boarding school
64 Nocturnal baby bird
65 Zealous
66 Japanese honorific
67 Stouts and porters
68 Dad
DOWN
1 Member of a small colony?
2 Neither's partner
3 "Hometown" actress
4 "Hold up ... you serious?"
5 "Get out of ___!" ("Be serious!")
6 Less common
7 In ___ (prenatal)
8 Jiffy
9 Disapproving noise

ACROSS

- 10 Baby shoe
11 Nook's ___ (Animal Crossing shop)
12 Madden
15 Posse
17 "The Big Easy"
20 Prefix for "physics"
21 "Only you can prevent forest fires" ad, e.g.
22 Ancient letter
23 Black gem
25 The "P" in PBR
26 Pass, as time
28 "Jurassic Park" dinos
33 Friend, in Spanish
34 Director
36 Transplant a plant
37 Inside-out hat worn to support a losing team
38 Pad see ew cuisine
39 Fire
42 Flower visitor
43 Treats
44 It's a hit at birthday parties
45 Big bird of prey
48 Bread with palak paneer
50 Gas in an "OPEN" sign
51 City in northern France
52 More peculiar
56 Volleyball actions before spikes
58 Slimy lump
59 Be in debt
60 Director
61 DuVernay
62 Sass
62 Med regulator

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

K	U	A	L	A		G	E	M	S		E	B	B
I	N	L	O	V	E		O	R	E	O		S	O
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Endgame by Hannah Binney

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Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping and important decisions after 5:30 p.m. EDT today (2:30 p.m. PDT). The Moon is in LEO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, May 21, 2026: You are totally committed to whatever excites you. You have tremendous physical and intellectual energy. You're attentive and caring. This is the final year of a nine-year cycle. Let go of people, places and things that have held you back. It's time to do some internal and external housecleaning.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

This is a powerful week and you have another great day! This is why you get things done, especially by working with others or in conjunction with groups, is superb. Go after what you want. Doors will open. Tonight: This is your hour!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

A clash of egos with parents and authority figures are classic today. In fact, family disputes will be tough to avoid. Nevertheless, there are other lovely influences at play for you today that encourage warm socializing and behind-the-scenes planning. Tonight: Relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Avoid getting caught up in squabbles with siblings, relatives and daily contacts today, which frankly are just power struggles. Instead, your sympathy and assistance to an older friend will give you a more rewarding experience. Tonight: A gentle conversation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Money squabbles are hard to avoid today, especially if you're dealing with a friend or a member of a group or a team. Don't take the bait if someone challenges you. Tonight: Check your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with both Pluto and Mars. You might find yourself at odds with parents, bosses, authority figures and the police. Even partners and spouses will challenge you. Tonight: You're strong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

With the Sun at the top of your chart now, you make a fabulous impression on others. Why blow it by getting caught up in controversial arguments. Whatever the case, don't get involved. Take the high road (the view is better). Tonight: Peace and quiet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Parents will have to be patient with their kids today. Romantic partners have to be patient with each other to avoid arguments about expenses, shared possessions, friends and social occasions. Tonight: Be friendly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Avoid controversy and arguments with parents and bosses today. Likewise, avoid disputes with partners, spouses and close friends, because this will ruin your day. Get outside and explore something new. New horizons. Tonight: Be modest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is challenging in that you might encounter arguments with siblings, relatives and neighbors. You might even feel challenged at work because of disputes or angry energy. Spouses, partners and close friends are supportive. Tonight: Explore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a tough day for romance as well as dealing with your kids. Even social outings will be challenged, because in some aspects of your life, arguments are waiting for you. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Tread carefully today. Those who are closest to you, including family members, might be looking for a fight. Step aside. You don't have to get involved. Social occasions and fun times with kids will be a wonderful escape. Tonight: Listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Focus on home, family, fun outings, sports and good times with your kids today. Meanwhile, be aware that interactions with siblings, relatives and daily contacts might lead to power struggles and nasty disputes. Tonight: Work.

BORN TODAY
Writer, producer, director, actor Taylor Sheridan (1970), actress Fairuza Balk (1974), actor Judge Reinhold (1957).

Fundraiser for the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education hosted its annual fundraising event April 29. The auction and paddle raise garnered close to \$50,000, bringing the overall total raised to more than \$120,000, which included ticket sales, sponsorships, the honorary host committee and other donations. This year’s paddle raise supported the purchase of supplementary materials for GPPSS K-5 teachers as they begin a new math curriculum next year. The goal is to provide a “Centers Kit” for each K-5 math teacher.

From left, Emme Stanley, Lucy Vernier, Baileigh Marshall, Lauren Dirkse and Julianne Stencel get assistance from Allie Betcher, a member of the all-girls high school FIRST Robotics team, Botmasterz, who explained how the robot works and how to load the yellow balls. Maire Elementary School second-grade teacher Sarah Neely watched the action.



Guests to the foundation’s fundraiser were greeted by Randy Rokicki, a social worker at Barnes, and her therapy dog, Charlie, as well as Marc Weaver and his therapy dog, Birdie, who works at Pierce Middle School.



Marie Reinman served as auctioneer for the evening.



From left, Latoya Bishop; Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent of educational services; GPPSS Superintendent Andrea Tuttle; and Sara Delgado, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning.

Patrick and Mary Anne Burke take a selfie at the event to share with their children.



From left, GPFPE board President Cynthia Sohn, GPFPE board member Maria Quint and GPFPE administrator Katie Stanley.



From left, Grosse Pointe South High School Principal Cindy Parravano, Kerby Elementary School Principal Katy Vernier and Pierce Middle School Principal Sara Dirkse.



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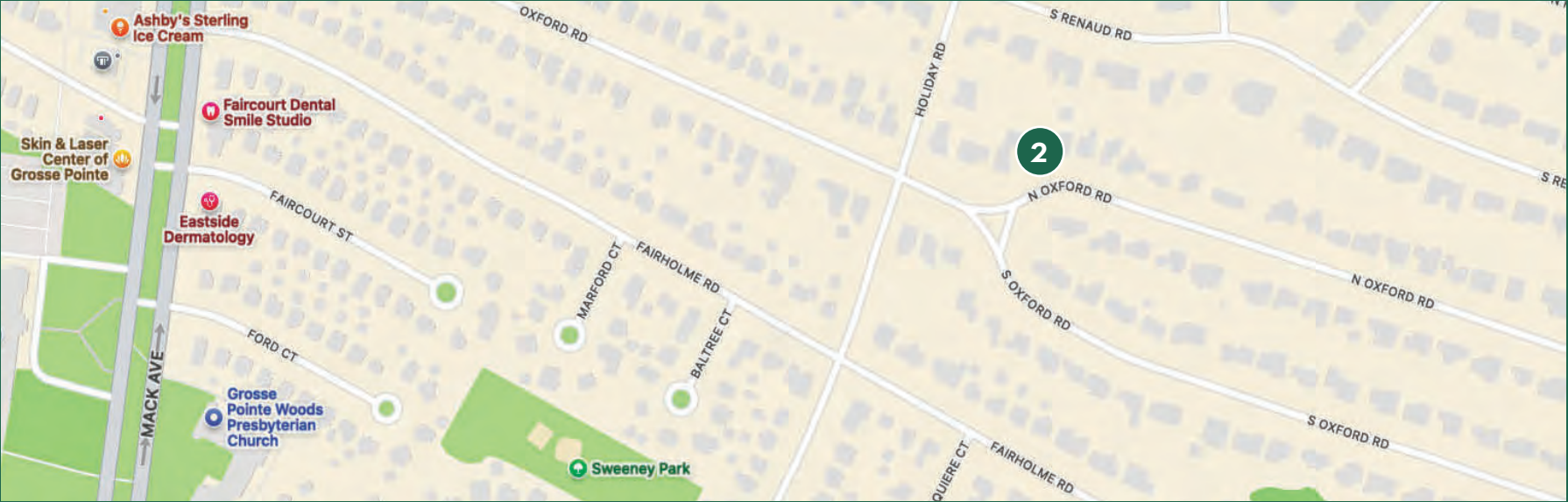
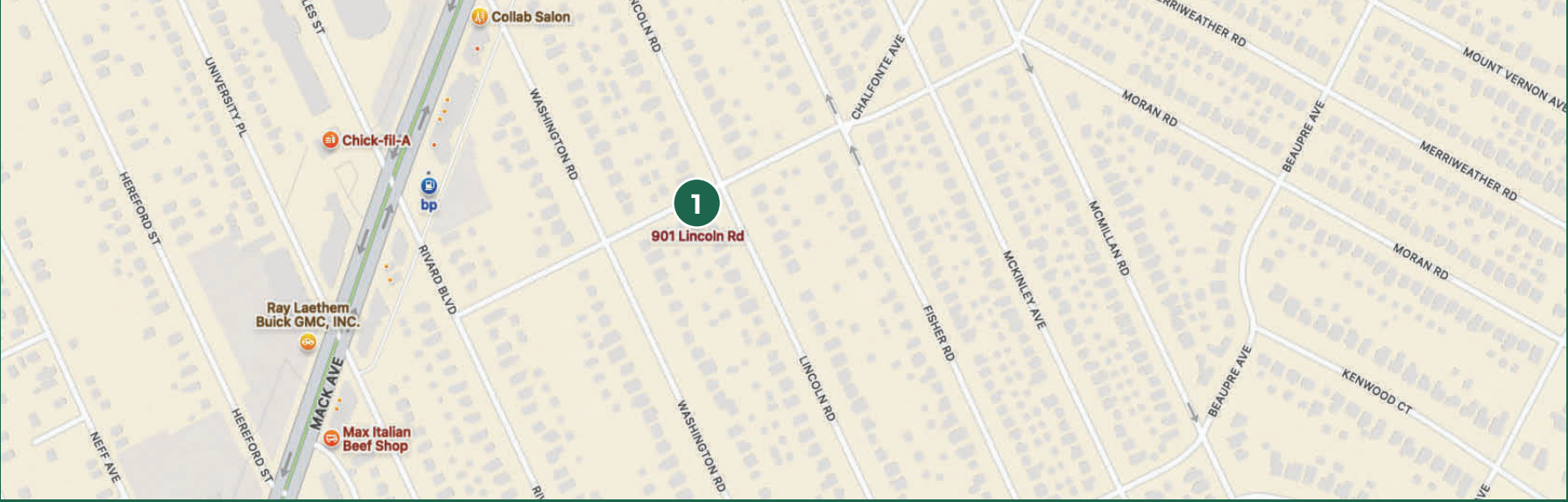


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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. 901 Lincoln Rd., GPC
2. 1340, 1350, 1360 N. Oxford, GPW

 = YARD SALE

 = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details



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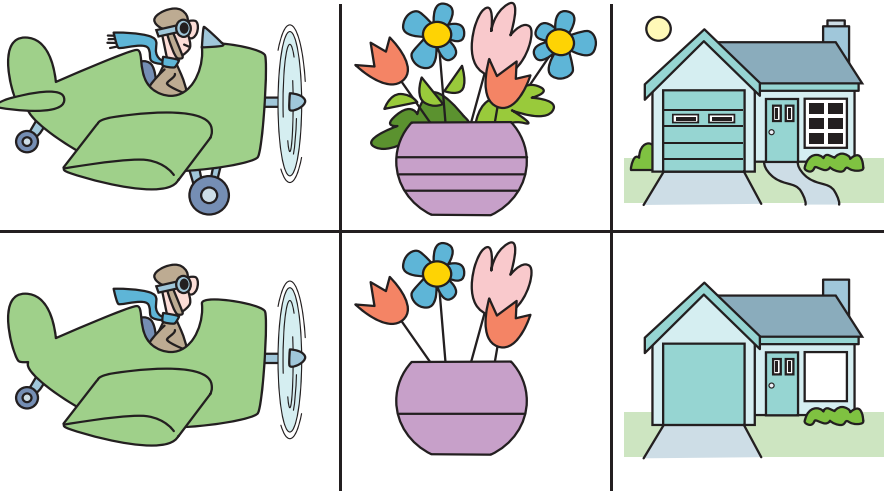
Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at www.kidscoop.com

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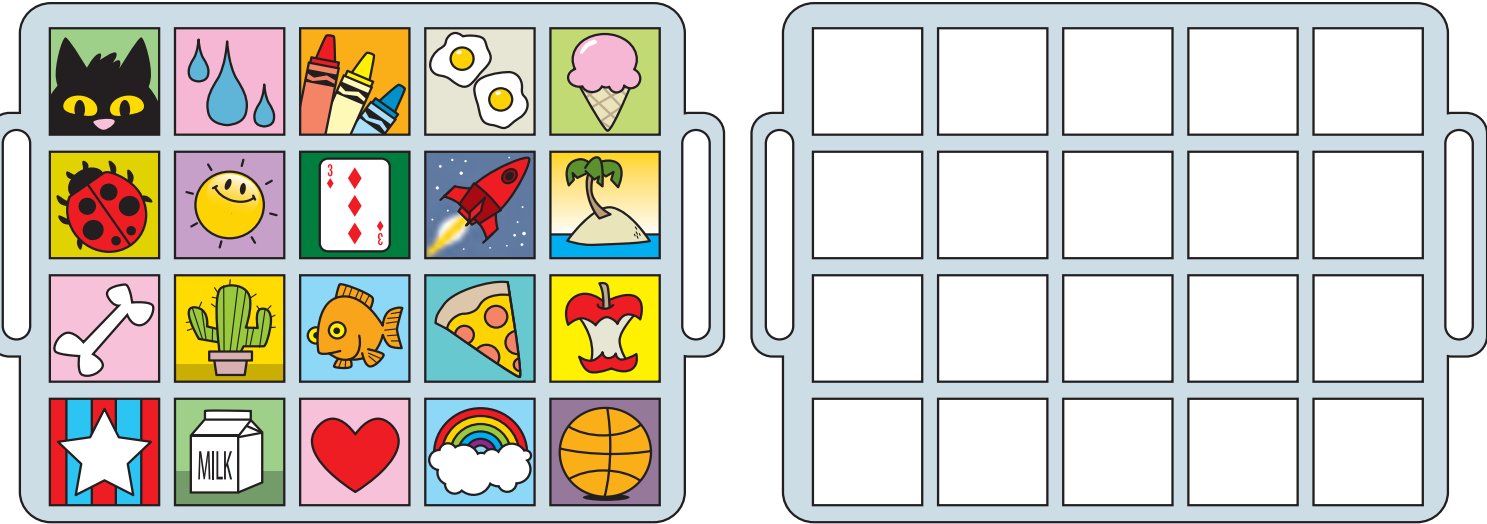
MEMORY GAMES

Are you good at remembering things? Try the games on this page to test and help improve your memory and concentration skills!

WHAT’S MISSING: Look closely at each top picture. Cover it. Then try to draw what’s missing on the one below it.



DRAW A WORD: One player uses their finger to ‘write’ a word on the back of the second player. The second player tries to identify the word. Players switch positions and take turns being the ‘writer’ and guesser.



Tray Memory Game

Look at the objects on the tray. Then cover the tray with a piece of paper and draw the objects you can remember on the tray on the right.

- Variation: Play at Home With Real Objects**
- Place several small items on a tray at home and have a friend or family member say the name of each object out loud to remember it.
 - Cover the tray and ask the person to try to name all the objects on the tray.
 - Start with just a few objects. Then if the person remembers them all, keep adding more and playing again.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is a day to remember the people who have lost their lives to keep our country safe while serving in the military. Many businesses close on this holiday so that people can spend time remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Do you have a family member who was a veteran you like to remember?

(Name) _____

was my _____. I like to remember him/her because _____

I remember the time we _____

Draw a picture of the person you like to think about and remember here.



Kid Scoop Together

Memory Concentration

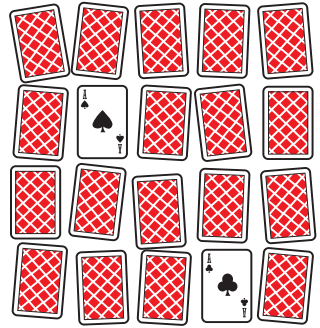
Play with a deck of 52 playing cards.

Shuffle and spread all of the cards out on a flat surface, face down.

Players take turns choosing any two cards. (A match is two cards with the same number or face card. For example, a two of hearts and a two of clubs is a match. Two Jacks are a match.)

If the cards match, then the player keeps the cards and goes again. If the cards don’t match, turn the cards back over and leave them in the same place.

Play until all the cards have been picked up. The winner is the person with the most pairs.



Classic “I Went to the Store...” Game

Long car rides are a great time to play memory games. A classic memory game is “I Went to the Store...”

Each person in the car takes turns adding grocery items in alphabetical order.

The first player says, “I went to the store and I bought APPLES.”

The next player says, “I went to the store and I bought apples and BANANAS.”

Each player must repeat every item on the list before adding an item starting with the next letter of the alphabet. It’s gets tricky!

“I went to the store and bought apples, bananas, carrots, dog food, eggs, fish...”

Can your family make it all the way to the letter Z?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Memory Builder

Read the word list a few times aloud. Then cover the list and see how many of the words you can write down in column 1. Look at the words again, cover them, and see how many you can write in column 2. Can you remember them all by column 3?

WORD LIST	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
BANANA			
PENCIL			
ONION			
SNEAKERS			
DINOSAUR			
RAISIN			
FRANCE			
BIRTHDAY			
HAMMER			
CAMPING			

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

Double Double Word Search

MEMORIAL
REMEMBER
OBJECTS
IMPROVE
WINNER
CARDS
MATCH
GAMES
COVER
PLACE
PLAY
FACE
TRAY
FLAT
LOUD

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Always Remembered

Look through the newspaper for a person that you think people should always remember. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper explaining why this person should be remembered.

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



Why was the wizard kicked out of school?

ANSWER: Because he forgot how to spell!

Write On!

Remembering the School Year

Write a paragraph about what you will remember most about this school year.



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South boys track wins regional title, more athletes punch tickets to states

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week brought one of the biggest days of the spring track and field season as the varsity girls and boys teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School competed in their respective regional championship meets. Several athletes from all three schools performed well enough to earn spots at the state finals and the day was highlighted by South's boys team taking home the regional championship trophy.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils' boys team had a banner day at the Division 1 regional meet Friday, May 15, finishing first overall in the team standings to win the regional title. South ended the day with 132 points, giving it a 40-point win over second-place De La Salle Collegiate.

"The team showed heart, conviction and dedication on what was the biggest event of the year," South boys track and field head coach



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys track and field team celebrates winning the Division 1 regional championship, finishing the meet with 132 points Friday, May 15.

Mark Sonnenberg said. "It was impressive. Congratulations to all our boys."

The South boys team earned points in 15 of 17 events throughout the day. Some of the biggest performances that

helped propel the team to a regional title win came in the relays.

The 4x100 relay team of Ricky Rogers, Ethan Wilson, Jayden Jelinski and Zachary Wilson finished in first place. Tristan Wininger, Ethan

Wilson, Zachary Wilson and Nathan Tyler earned another first-place finish for the Blue Devils in the 4x200 relay. More big points were earned when Tyler, Wininger, Grayson Wodzis and Daschel Hanneman finished sec-

ond in the 4x400 relay. Wininger also brought in another first-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles.

In the field events, Joseph Agnone earned a state-qualifying spot by finishing first in shot put. Teammate Lance Lynch

was right behind in second place, also earning a trip to states. Liam O'Donoghue also gave South another win with his first-place finish in pole vault.

It also was a strong day for South's girls team, which finished in second place overall in the regional standings. The Blue Devils finished with 115 points, marking the 38th consecutive season in which South's girls track and field program finished in the top two at regionals.

"Our team never once let up," South girls track and field head coach Steve Zaranek said. "The efforts were extraordinary and the performances were at a new level."

South's girls team thrived in the distance events that day. The 4x800 relay team of Eleanor Pilsner, Olivia Colt, Rylee Piornack and Morgan Costello had their best performance of the season, finishing at 10:06 and taking first place.

Pilsner earned big points for South by finishing first in both the

See TRACK, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Gray plays big role in Liggett baseball's championship dreams

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After making it back to the Division 3 state final four last season, the University Liggett School varsity boys baseball team has its sights set on winning a state championship this spring. Senior Javion Gray was part of the team that lost last year's state semifinal. Playing key roles as a leadoff hitter, shortstop and pitcher for the Knights, Gray is doing everything he can to make sure his team's championship dreams become a reality.

"No matter how I do, I just want to make sure

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Javion Gray

School: University Liggett
Sport: Baseball

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

we can get to a state championship," he said.

"Last year was a feeling that I'll never forget and it wasn't the best feeling. This year, I just want to win with my guys. It's not really about personal stats. It's about getting the big hardware this year."

If the Knights want to do big things, Gray is

going to play a big part in getting them there. The senior captain is one of the team's biggest leaders in the dugout and on the field. The shortstop is known as the "captain of the infield" and Gray takes the position seriously.

Gray's solid defense makes him a leader on the field, but some of his biggest contributions come at the plate. He loves being in the lead-off spot for Liggett and it shows in his performance. He has eight doubles, two triples and two home runs this season, along with 24 RBIs and 16 stolen bases, giving the Knights a spark on offense right away in most games.

"I love being the guy to get the dugout pumped up," Gray said, "and setting the tone early is what really helps us get our wins."

Gray contributes to Liggett's wins with big



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Javion Gray jogs toward home plate after hitting a home run in a game against Grosse Pointe North May 6.

plays at the plate and in the field, but some of his best work also comes on the mound. He has turned himself into a strong two-way player,

able to start games or come in and pitch solid innings of relief when needed. So far this

See ATHLETE, page 2D



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South girls tennis wins regional title, North and Liggett headed to states

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

For yet another year, Grosse Pointe will be well-represented at the girls tennis state finals. The teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all qualified for their respective state championships during regional tournaments, with the Blue Devils

emerging with a close regional championship victory.

South-North
South and North competed in the Division 2 regional tournament Wednesday, May 13, hosted by South. The Blue Devils finished the day with 25 points in the team standings, winning the region by just one point over Port Huron Northern, while



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe North junior Laila Aslam won the Division 2 No. 1 singles regional title Wednesday, May 13.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls tennis hoists the Division 2 regional championship trophy Wednesday, May 13.

North earned a spot in the state finals by finishing in third with 22 points. The Blue Devils' regional victory was decided in the final match of the day. Freshman Lillian Novack was the hero for South by winning the No. 4 singles final in two close 7-6 sets over top-seeded Payton Barnett from Port Huron Northern. "I've been coaching for 44 years and it was one of the biggest upsets I've seen happen," South girls tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski said. "(Lillian) just played out of her mind and all

the girls mobbed her after because that won it all." Novack's No. 4 singles victory was the only singles flight South won during the tournament. The No. 1 and No. 2 singles brackets both were won by Norsemen, with Laila Aslam taking home the win in No. 1 singles and Aakansha Nagori winning North a regional title in No. 2 singles. Many of South's biggest points were earned in doubles play. Grace Vollmer and Andia Nazarko won the regional title in No. 1 doubles. The No. 2 doubles team of Charlotte Kowal and Aubrey

Lindow won their flight as well. Eleanor Brennan and Francesca Swikoski were the runners-up in No. 3 doubles. Helena Tabaczuk and Leah Dobrovolschi earned another regional win for the Blue Devils in No. 4 doubles. Both South and North will compete in the Division 2 state finals beginning June 3, at the Midland Tennis Center. **Liggett**
The Knights punched their ticket to the Division 4 state finals by finishing second in their regional tournament Thursday, May 14. Liggett finished with 14 points, tied with Everest

Collegiate and five points behind regional winner Notre Dame Prep. Sonya Jayakar earned a big victory for the Knights by winning No. 1 singles. Nina Shanidze also finished at the top of the No. 3 singles bracket, while Olivia Boggs brought Liggett a regional victory in No. 4 singles. The Knights' best finish in doubles play came in No. 4 doubles, with Amelie Duhaime and Gisele El Etreby making it to the regional final. Liggett will head to the Division 4 state finals, which are set to begin May 27, at the Midland Tennis Center.

Liggett baseball gets wake-up call, Blue Devils battle in close games

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Playoffs are right around the corner for high school baseball and the varsity teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School are making sure they are playing their best baseball as some of the biggest games of the year approach. Last week saw exciting action in one of the final weeks of the regular season, with Liggett's winning streak coming to an end, the Blue Devils finding themselves in close battles and the Norsemen trying to get back in the win column.

University Liggett
The Knights' winning streak that began in late April was snapped last week. Liggett went on the road to face Detroit Country Day Tuesday, May 12, and suffered its first loss in three weeks by falling 4-1 against the Yellow Jackets. Liggett had six hits in the loss, including two by Sam Van Culin, but the offense struggled to fight back after the Knights found themselves trailing Country Day early on. While losing is never something teams enjoy, the first loss in nearly a month provided Liggett with a healthy reminder of what it needs to do better with crucial games and the postseason quickly approaching.

"A little bit of a light bulb went off in our minds and the kids' minds about how we deal with this type of adversity because we haven't had it in a month or three weeks," Liggett baseball head coach Jay Ricci said. "... If we play our game physically and just button the mental stuff up a bit, I think we'll be in a good spot." Liggett was able to bounce back on its home field the next day, Wednesday, May 13, sweeping a doubleheader against U of D Jesuit. The Knights won the first game 10-3, led by a three-RBI performance from Kanaan Taylor. Dom Djurasaj pitched all seven innings, earning the win with 10 strikeouts and six hits allowed. The Knights won game two of the doubleheader 2-0 in a short game. Taylor and Alex Durham each had RBIs to help put Liggett ahead. The momentum from sweeping the doubleheader did not last into the weekend, however. The Knights went on the road to face Divine Child in the Catholic League AA division semifinals and suffered their second loss of the week, 11-1. Miles Quinn drove in the Knights' only run of the game, an RBI single in the top of the second inning that gave Liggett an early lead before the Falcons scored 11 unanswered runs. The Knights' game

Monday, May 18, on the road at Stevenson was cut short due to weather. However, Liggett took the win 1-0 in just three innings. The lone run was brought in by Ravi Hines in the first inning. The Knights host Fraser at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21. They are at home again for a weekend doubleheader Saturday, May 23, against Lakeview beginning at 10 a.m. **Grosse Pointe South**
After a bit of a rough stretch to start the month, the Blue Devils picked up some much-needed wins last week. South defeated Utica Tuesday, May 12, in a high-scoring 8-7 battle. Brady Magee helped power the Blue Devils with three RBIs in the win, including a two-run home run in the fifth inning. Dane Lezotte also finished the game with a pair of RBIs while going 2-for-3 at the plate. The next game between South and Utica Thursday, May 14, was close again, but with less explosive offense. South earned the win at home 2-1, with Brody Vinyard's arm helping lead the way. The junior pitched all seven innings, striking out eight Chieftain hitters and allowing six hits and one run. Drew Hess brought in both of South's runs with a two-RBI double in the bottom of the fifth inning. After two close wins,

the Blue Devils suffered a pair of close losses during a road trip Saturday, May 16. The first was a 7-6 loss to Mt. Pleasant. The Oilers jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the third inning, but South rallied to tie things up in the top of the fourth. Trey Grabowski brought in two of his three RBIs during that rally with a two-run triple, giving him one of the biggest performances of the game for South. The Blue Devils eventually earned a 6-5 lead, but Mt. Pleasant stormed back in the bottom of the seventh inning

to score a pair of runs to win the game. Like earlier in the week, South's second game last Saturday was another close but low-scoring game. The second game of the Blue Devils' road trip saw them taking on Grand Ledge, suffering another loss in a tight game, 2-1. South's only run of the game came in the fourth inning when Nick Ogden scored due to a Grand Ledge error. South was able to build a 4-3 lead against Rochester Adams through three innings

Monday, May 18, before the game was postponed for weather. The team hosts Brother Rice at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21. The Blue Devils are home for a weekend doubleheader Saturday, May 23, taking on Rochester beginning at 11 a.m. **Grosse Pointe North**
The Norsemen have struggled to find wins throughout May and last week continued that trend. North lost both games of a doubleheader at home to Anchor Bay

See BASEBALL, page 6D

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THURSDAY

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Charles M. Schulz

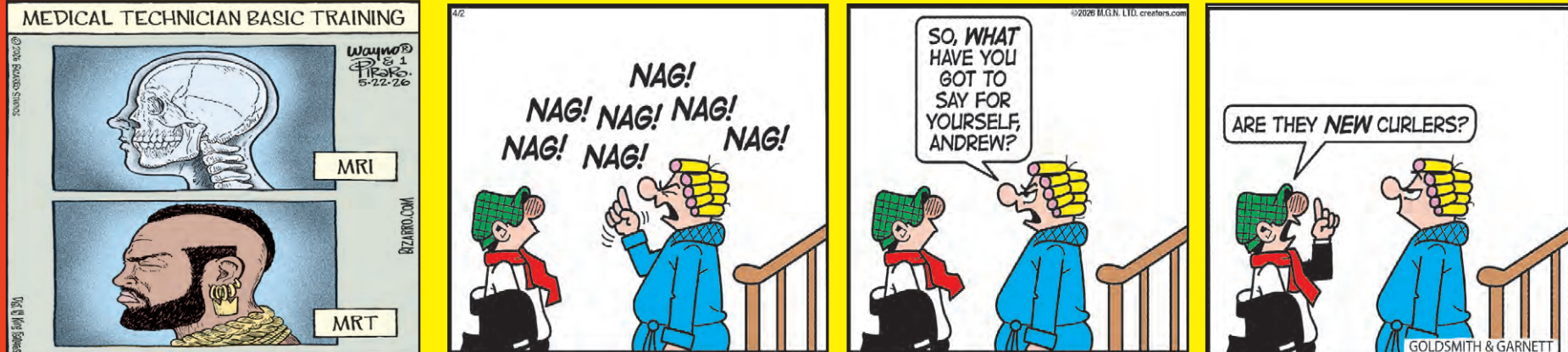


Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno

Andy Capp

Reg Smythe

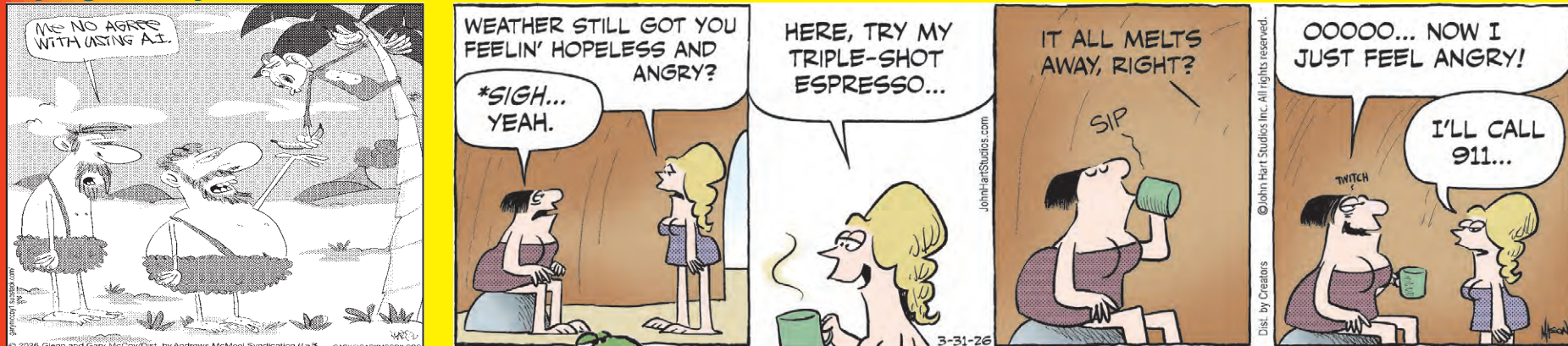


Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

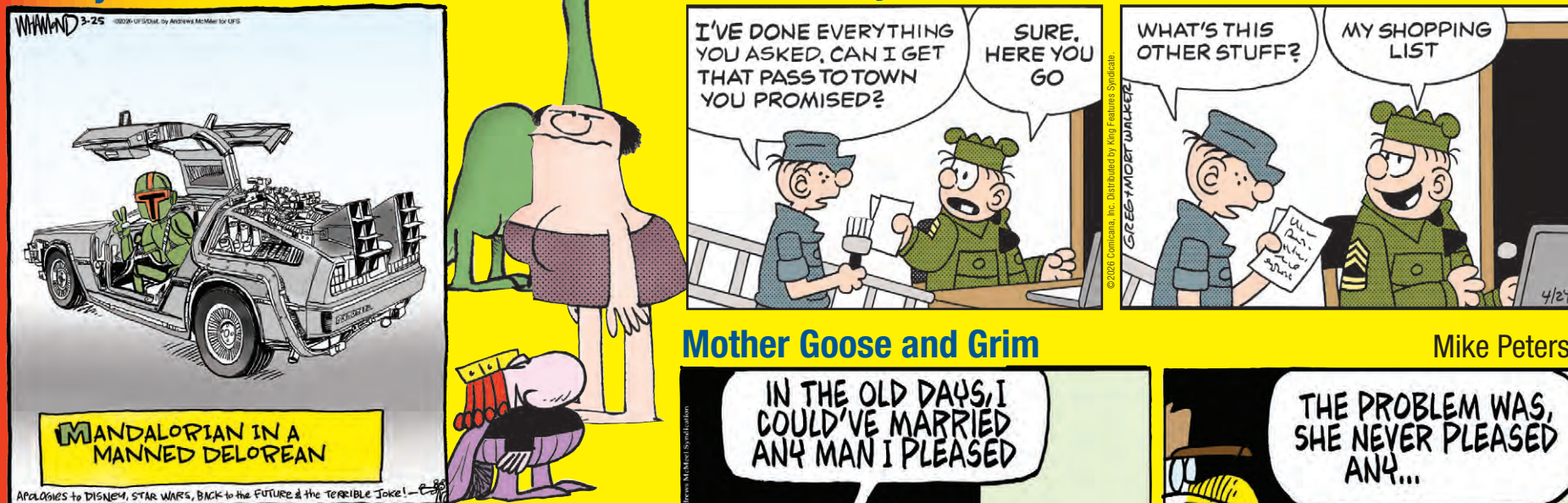


Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

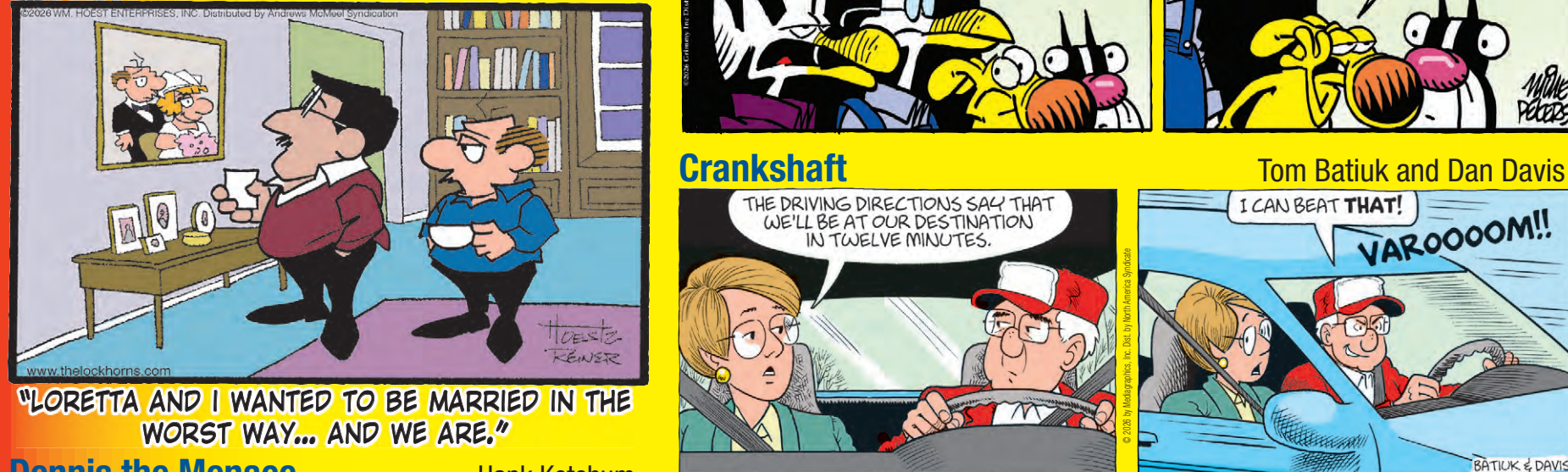


The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters

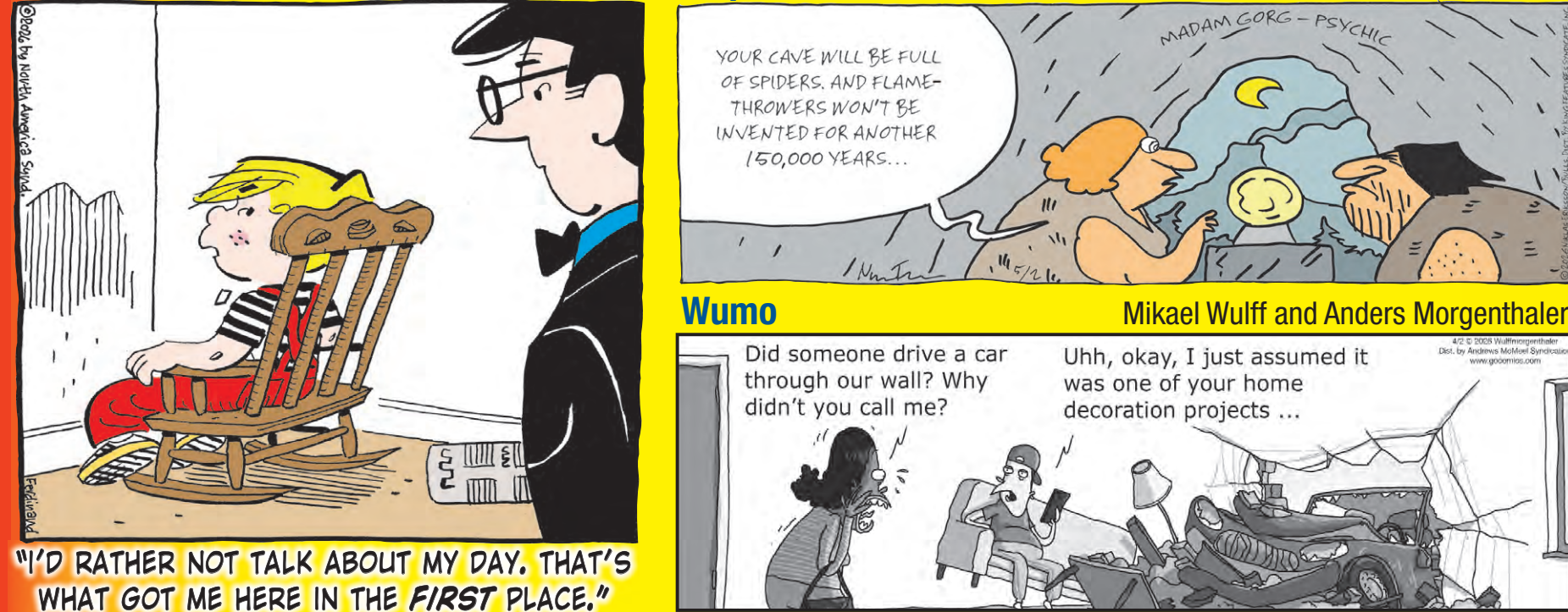


Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton

Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

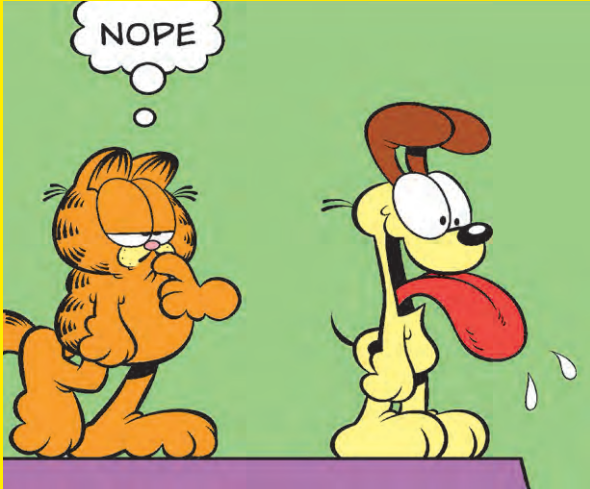


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THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



Hagar The Horrible

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



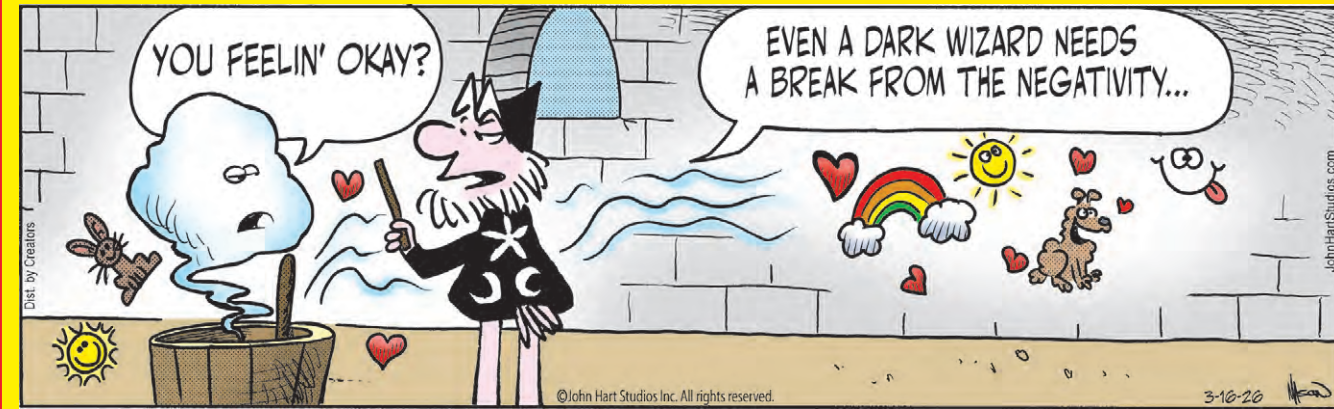
Close To Home

John McPherson



Wizard of Id

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



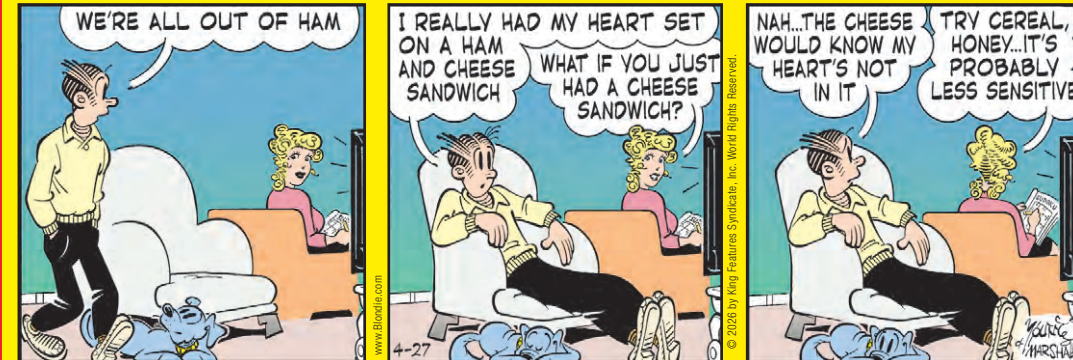
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



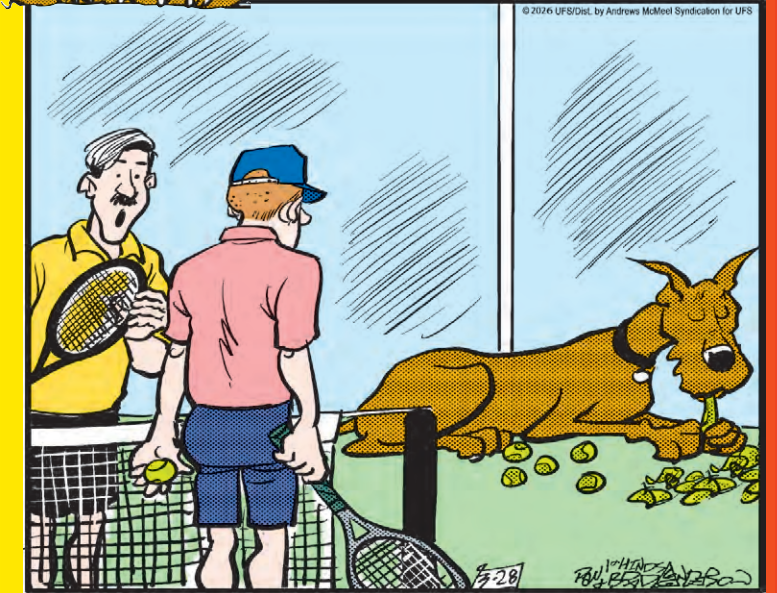
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



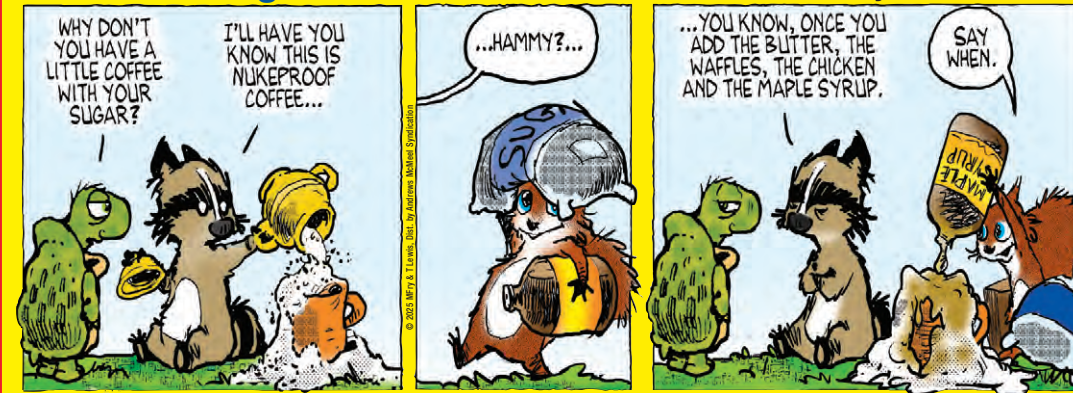
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



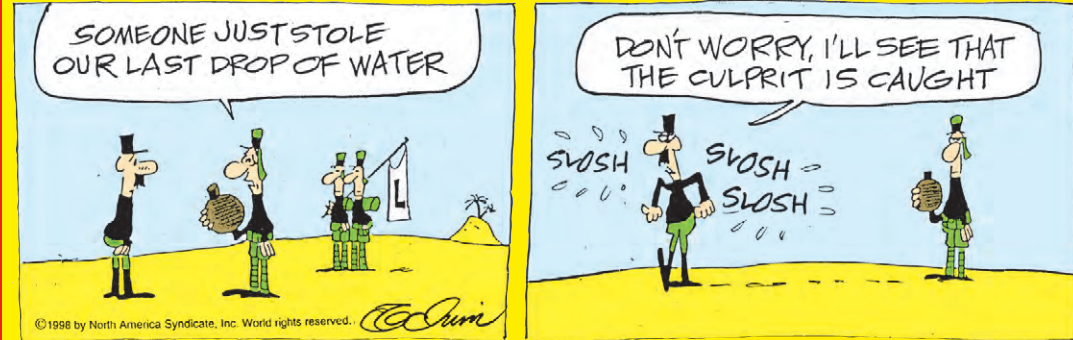
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



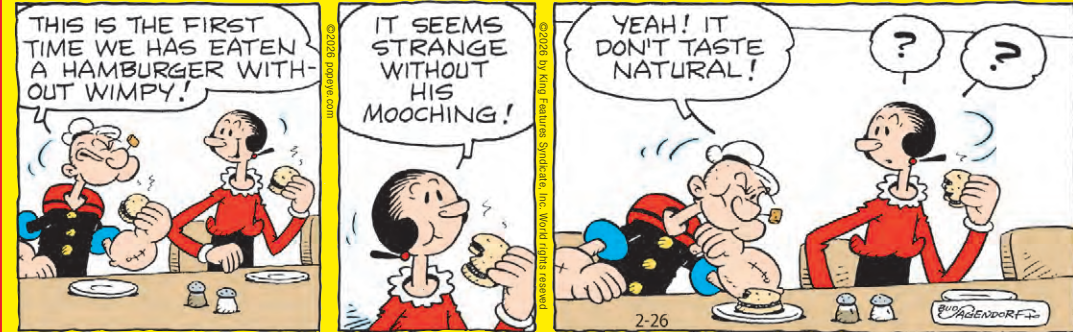
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo

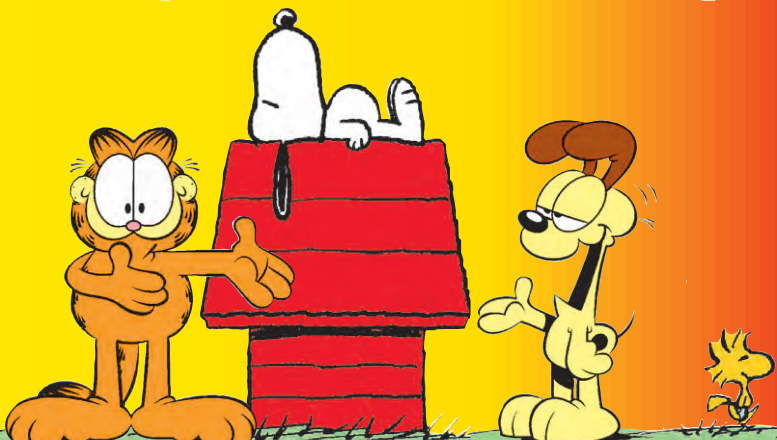


Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"I used too much bubble bath, Mommy. Could you vacuum some off the top?"



6D | SPORTS

TRACK:

Continued from page 1D

1600 and 3200 races. Lydia Thomason-Redus also earned a spot at the state finals by finishing second in the 3200. Costello took second place in the 800, with Piornack right behind in third place.

Colt, Ciara Pongratz, Calisse Budek and Morgan Duff gave South a second-place finish in the 4x400 relay. Duff had South's best performance in the field events, taking first place in the long jump.

South's boys and girls teams hope for more big performances at the Wayne County Championships Friday, May 22, at Divine Child. The teams then will com-

pete in the Division 1 state finals Saturday, May 30, at Rockford High School.

Grosse Pointe North

North's boys and girls teams headed to Oakland University Friday, May 15, for the Division 2 regional meet. Both squads ended the day in second place, each finishing behind Detroit Country Day, but the Norsemen will send a total of 22 athletes to the state finals based on their performances.

Four of those state qualifiers come from North's girls 4x200 relay team. Kimora Laster-Walker, Maliyah Jones, Quinn Notebaert and Kayli Johnson combined to finish first. Notebaert had another first-place finish for the Norsemen

in the 300 hurdles. Laster-Walker also earned a spot at states in the 400 by finishing second.

North's girls team had more athletes earn state-qualifying spots in field events. Liliana Ivanaj and Harper Dallaire both qualified in high jump after tying for second place, both jumping 4 feet, 6 inches. Jessica Atchison took first place in pole vault, with teammate Erin Doolittle coming in second. Lauren Loper brought North another win by finishing first in discus.

For North's boys squad, Paul Stephens and Dylan Phillips finished first and second, respectively, in the 800. Stephens and Phillips both were part of North's 4x800 relay team, along

with Neil Orłowski and Sam Parish, which finished second in its race.

Phil Prost, Parker Persyn, Lamar Smith and Shawn Davis brought North a second-place finish in the 4x200 relay. Prost, Smith, Persyn and Theo Pratt were third in the 4x100 relay.

Like the girls, North's boys team made a lot of noise in the field events. Ashton Christie took first place in shot put, with Javier Santos-Jones finishing second for North. Finn Ryan earned a victory in discus and Russell Warner took first in pole vault. Tim Lawson also earned a spot at states with his second-place finish in high jump.

North's teams also are set to compete in the Wayne County Championships at Divine

Child Friday, May 22. After that, the Norsemen head to the Division 2 state finals at Hamilton High School Saturday, May 30.

University Liggett

The Knights battled in the Division 3 regional meet Saturday, May 16. Liggett's girls team finished the day in second place, while the boys ended up tied for seventh.

Sekou Manneh had one of the best days for Liggett's boys squad. The sophomore finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.41 seconds. He also was part of the Knights' second-place 4x100 relay team, along with Isaiah Cleaves, Israel Cleaves and Pierre Walker II. Liggett earned another

second-place relay finish in the 4x800 relay with the team of Clay Gady, Andrew Kubitz, John Lubera and Tony Smith.

Colette Peabody had a huge day for Liggett's girls team. She finished first in the 100-meter dash at 13.04, with teammate Phalyn Walker close behind in second place. Peabody also was second in the 200-meter race.

Peabody, Walker, Mychala Penn and Aline Rahaim combined to win the 4x100 relay and the 4x200 relay. Penn also brought the Knights a first-place finish in discus and was second in shot put.

The Knights are set to compete in the Division 3 state championships Saturday, May 30, at Kent City High School.

BASEBALL:

Continued from page 3D

Wednesday, May 13. The first game was a 13-0 loss, while North fell in

the second game 9-1, with Peter Rheume driving in the only run while going 2-for-3 at the plate.

North traveled to face Anchor Bay on the road

Thursday, May 14, and lost again 3-2. Anchor Bay jumped out to an early two-run lead, but North battled back to tie the game. Caleb Butler got North on the board

with a solo home run in the fifth inning and Luke Bruveris tied things up by scoring on a wild pitch in the sixth inning.

However, the Tars came back in the bottom

of the seventh to win by walk-off.

North's scheduled game against De La Salle Collegiate Monday, May 18, was called off for weather. The Norsemen

visit Lutheran Northwest at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 22. The team is on the road again Saturday, May 23, going to Marysville for a double-header starting at 10 a.m.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

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

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Grosse Pointe North senior Sam Parish was joined by his family as he signed his letter to join the men's track and field and cross country programs at Wheaton College in Illinois last Wednesday, May 13.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

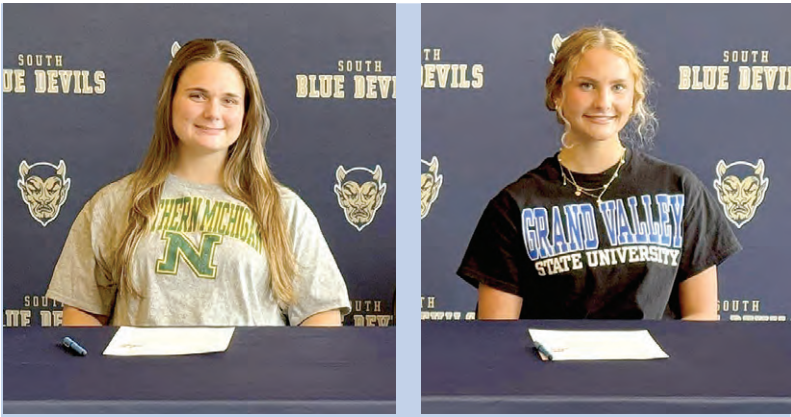


PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

South seniors Emma Jarvis, left, and Ana Zieleniewski signed their college letters earlier this month. Jarvis will join the cheerleading program at Northern Michigan, and Zieleniewski will play women's hockey at Grand Valley State.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

North senior volleyball, basketball and softball standout Eva Borowski made her college hoops future official by signing her letter to play basketball at Albion College Monday, May 18.

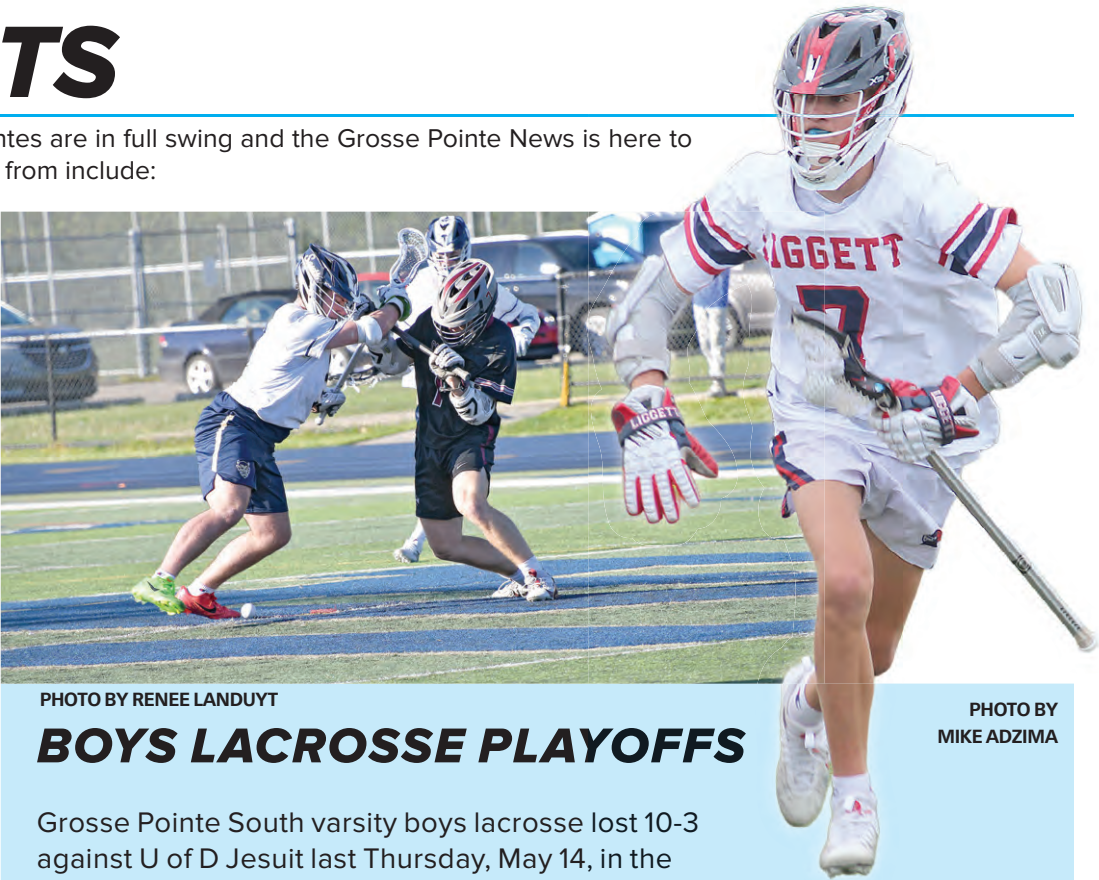


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

BOYS LACROSSE PLAYOFFS

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys lacrosse lost 10-3 against U of D Jesuit last Thursday, May 14, in the opening round of the Division 2 regional playoff tournament. Jackson Keane scored twice for the Blue Devils, while Jack Cotton added a third goal in the final game of the season for the Blue Devils.

University Liggett School varsity boys lacrosse was dominant in a 21-0 victory over Grosse Pointe North last Friday, May 15, in the opening round of the Division 2 regional playoffs. The Knights faced De La Salle Collegiate in the regional semifinal round after press time Wednesday, May 20.



Lakeside Phillies

Lakeside Bobbers

COURTESY PHOTOS

LITTLE LEAGUE MOTHER'S DAY TOURNAMENT CHAMPS

The Lakeside Phillies were the 11U division champions of the 2026 Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League Mother's Day Classic. The team's roster included: James Dzubak, Andrew Krall, Ethan Arnold, Henry Miller, Henry Nix, James Mason, Liam Dewitt, Parker Crandall and Ray Temkin.

The Lakeside Bobbers were victorious as 12U champions of the 2026 Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League Mother's Day Classic. The team included: Rainier Goddard, Jackson Mitchell, Teddy Harber, Gavin Ahee, Grayson Ahee, Michael Komasaara, Wesley Marchal, Ben Faust, Connor Steiner, Jack Mulvaney, Grayson Farrell and Ben Damman.