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More accolades roll in for GP News

THE GROSSE POINTES — On the heels of being named the Michigan Press Association's Newspaper of the Year in its class for the fifth consecutive year last month, several editorial staff members were recognized with awards last week in the Society of Professional Journalists, Detroit Chapter's Excellence in Journalism contest, including four first-place awards.

"These honors from the Society of Professional Journalists reflect the extraordinary talent behind every edition of the Grosse Pointe News," Publisher Anne

See MORE, page 2A

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

In honor and memory

The War Memorial hosted its annual Memorial Day event Monday, May 25, under blue skies on the lakefront lawn. The morning included music by the Motor City Brass Band; the national anthem sung by Alison Ristovski; and a keynote address from Capt. Rick Armstrong, commander of United States Coast Guard Sector Detroit. Attendees bowed their heads as the names were read of the 170 Gold Star Honor Roll servicemen and women from Grosse Pointe who died during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, War in Afghanistan and Iraq War. Mary Beth Nicholson closed the ceremony playing "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. Find more photos from the event on page 3A.

Farms council starts student recognition program

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Following the implementation earlier this year of its employee recognition program, Farms city council led by first-term Mayor John Gillooly this month kicked off a similar sentiment for students of both private and public schools in the Grosse Pointes.

"We want to do everything in our power to assist those who educate our great students," Gillooly said. "And as the first of its kind in any of the Grosse Pointes, we thought it would be very beneficial to recognize some students who have gone, quite frankly, above and beyond what's taking place in their ordinary academic lives."

The first honorees recognized before city council Monday, May 11, were Jocelyn Sime from Kerby Elementary School and Audrey Darke, Sloane Shurafa and Julian Wade from The Grosse Pointe Academy — though Wade was unable to attend and will be recognized at a future meeting.

Sime, a fourth grader, was nominated by Kerby Principal Katy Vernier for her leadership and service to the school community, strong work ethic and academic prowess.

"What truly sets Jocelyn apart, however, is her genuine kindness and constant awareness of others," Gillooly read.

Sime serves as a peer pal, working with students with autism and showing patience, empathy and respect. She also is a member of the safety service, leading by example.

"Jocelyn has a remarkable ability to notice when help is needed and steps in without being asked," Gillooly added.

See STUDENT, page 2A

PHOTOS BY LAUREL KRAUS

Mayor John Gillooly presents a student recognition to Kerby Elementary School fourth grader Jocelyn Sime.

Installation costs to rise

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Because the City overhauled its programming and building fees to better cover costs in 2024, there wasn't much that needed to be updated as city administrators conducted the annual review of the cost of city services in conjunction with building out the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The few adjustments approved by council last Monday include increasing the fence permit fee from $65 to $100 to more appropriately align with what other communities charge, as well as increasing water meter installation charges to better reflect the city's actual costs of purchasing the water meters.

The increase amount is determined by the size of the meter:

- 3/4-inch meters will increase by $125 per meter to $440,
- 1-inch meters will increase by $110 per meter to $555,
- 1 1/2-inch meters will increase by $455 per meter to $1,000,
- and 2-inch meters will increase by $580 per meter to $1,240.

"We realized the charges we had for purchasing water meters was substantially low from what the actual cost is," City Manager Joe Valentine said. "So we're reflecting a change here based on the size of the meter to reflect the actual cost of purchasing that meter so that we're not subsidizing by charging a lesser amount."

Several zoning fees also are being adjusted as a result of the city partnering with a new planning firm, Giffels Webster.

"We were pretty impressed throughout the interview process with their qualifications and their expertise in the area of not only planning but economic development and some of the other initiatives that we'll

See COSTS, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST

Sandra Svoboda
Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Sailing aficionado, current Bayview commodore

See story, page 4A

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Woods crime down

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Overall crime fell 8 percent in 2025, compared to 2024, according to the public safety department's annual report.

Larceny was up 8 percent, although auto thefts fell 39 percent, from 59 to 36.

"Although we work to the best of our ability to fight crime, I cannot stress enough how the public needs to do their part as well," Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "A simple thing like remembering to lock a car door is essential in today's world."

The department has been reminding residents through social media to do a "9 p.m. routine" by making sure each night they lock their car doors and remove the key fob, garage door opener and other valuables.

Officers responded to 9,727 calls for service last year, 230 more than 2024 and 683 above the five-year average.

There were 230 Index Crimes in 2025, five fewer than the previous year. Index Crimes are what the FBI considers the most serious, including things like burglary, criminal sexual conduct and arson.

Non-Index Crimes, which includes property damage, drunken driving and fraud, fell from 276 to 257. That included a sharp decrease in fraud cases, which fell from 111 in 2024 to 67 in 2025.

Total ambulance runs increased 10 percent, from 1,258 to 1,390. The number of runs requiring advanced life support increased substantially, from 106 to 626. Kolby Miller, chief executive officer of MedStar, said the average emergency response time was just over five minutes.

Total fire runs increased by 44, up to 287. Although actual fires went up by five, to 16, losses in 2025 totaled $127,625, down from $356,000 in 2024.

The detective bureau handled 774 cases last year, closing 98 percent.

Parking meter violations were down 1,400, topping out at 5,478. The city last spring retrofitted its parking meters so people can pay via an app on their phone, although the meters continue to accept coins.

Moving violations

See CRIME, page 3A

COURTESY PHOTO

100 Women Grosse Pointe makes third donation

From left, Jeanne Lizza, Holli Schwartz and Christie Scoggin — members of 100 Women Grosse Pointe — hold a check for $12,000 the group presented in March to the Pure Heart Foundation. Based in Detroit, Pure Heart works with children of incarcerated parents to help them break the cycle of generational involvement with the criminal justice system.
100 Women meets quarterly to hear pitches from charitable organizations, with each member promising to donate $100 to the winner. The group reformed last fall with 75 members and reached 100 by the end of the year. It was at 120 members in March and now numbers 125. Its next meeting is 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, at Atwater in the Park, 1175 Lakepointe, Grosse Pointe Park.

City brings in finance team to craft budget

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City of Grosse Pointe recently replaced its finance director with a financial management team, as it seeks to rescue itself from the bleak budget outlook that comes with years of rising inflation and decreasing property tax revenue, which is capped and rolled back each year by the state.

The team from Maner Costerian spent the last 30 days, City Manager Joe Valentine said ear-

See BUDGET, page 5A

Settlement reached in KKK flag lawsuit

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A settlement has been reached in a federal civil rights case filed by two Woods women in 2023 over a KKK flag their neighbor displayed in 2021, when they were living on Wayburn in the Park.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but it came after a federal judge dismissed a motion by the defendant to have the case dismissed.

Je Donna Dinges and her daughter, India, filed the suit claiming actions by Ryan Wilde violated Michigan's Ethnic Intimidation Act and a Reconstruction-era law aimed at protecting the property rights of black landowners.

Dinges, who is black, said issues arose with Wilde, who is white, soon after he moved next door in 2017, their houses separated by a five-foot walkway. The suit alleged Wilde fired multiple shots from a handgun into the air from his back porch one evening in December

See FLAG, page 3A

STUDENT:

Continued from page 1A

"Whether checking in on absent classmates or offering support whenever it's needed, she constantly puts others first.

"Jocelyn's selflessness is not only consistent but deeply authentic. She leads with heart, making Kerby a better place each day through her compassion, initiative and quiet strengths."

Gillooly recently met Darke and Shurafa through Grosse Pointe Academy's third annual Amazing Shake, which rotates middle school students through 20 rapid-fire challenge stations.

The Farms mayor was invited to head one of the stations, at which students debated whether there should be a bike lane on Grosse Pointe Boulevard and included benefits, concerns and the balancing of traffic and safety needs.

"To do it on the fly, these young ladies were absolutely fantastic," Gillooly said. "When I sat there and heard their dialogue for just two minutes, they really set themselves apart from many other students.

"… Both of these young ladies, they're also extremely, extremely talented, not only in terms of their academic success, but in their athletic success," he added. "Both go above and beyond the call of other students of The Grosse Pointe Academy."

PHOTOS BY LAURELL KRAUS

Left, Mayor John Gillooly presents a student recognition to Grosse Pointe Academy student Sloane Shurafa. Right, Gillooly presents a student recognition to Grosse Pointe Academy student Audrey Darke.

MORE:

Continued from page 1A

Gryzenia said. "This recognition is a testament to the passion, professionalism and pride our staff brings to local journalism every day. We are also deeply grateful to Sean Cotton and the Cotton family, whose unwavering support of community journalism makes achievements like this possible."

Here are the awards:

Informational Graphics (editorial cartoon)

1st place — Ken Schop — I'll show you my database if you show me yours

Sports Page Design

1st place — Mike Adzima, John Pigott, GP News Production Team, GP News Sales Team — Kickoff! Guide to the Gridiron

News Photography

1st Place — Renee Landuyt — Burn baby burn

2nd Place — Renee Landuyt — AirTag saves cat in house fire

Feature Photography

3rd Place — Renee Landuyt — Pure Grosse Pointe: Doggles

Breaking/Spot News

1st Place — Brad Lindberg — A life saved

Headline Writing

2nd Place — Brad Lindberg — Headlines R Us

Sports Reporting

2nd Place — Mike Adzima — A win for the ages

4th Place — Mike Adzima — 'It's been a wonderful ride': Longtime youth football coach bids gridiron farewell

Consumer/Watchdog Reporting

2nd Place — Laurel Kraus — Egregious odor persists at Chalfonte pump station

Environment Reporting

2nd Place — Laurel Kraus — Raccoon distemper spreads in Pointes

Education Reporting

2nd Place — Ted O'Neil — GPPSS spent $50K to send student to private school

Open-Government Reporting

2nd Place — Ted O'Neil — BoE trustee faces scrutiny over tax forms

3rd Place — Ted O'Neil — School board may have broken state law

4th Place — Staff — Our View: No creativity allowed

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

In perfect step, Marine Aircraft Group 41 retires the colors.

Left, keynote speaker Capt. Rick Armstrong salutes the flag. Right, Ivy MacPhee and her sister, Kate, enjoyed the Memorial Day ceremony and got an early start on America's 250th birthday by wearing red, white and blue. Ivy will celebrate her second birthday a couple days before America celebrates its 250th and she is having a "Red, White and Two" themed birthday party.

Budget has surplus and water increase

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Municipal leaders are mindful of the vicissitudes of fortune lording over a surplus annual budget cushioned by a one-time gift from Uncle Sam.

During city council's annual workshop May 21 on the upcoming fiscal year budget, members tempered their projection of a $30,700 surplus by reminding each other what made it possible — a $900,000 injection from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover cleanup costs of storm and sewer water flooding a few years ago.

That injection not only allowed for a surplus, but also helped fuel $4.8 million worth of infrastructure projects scheduled for the coming fiscal year.

"If we didn't get that $900,000, what would we be doing?" Councilman and Finance Committee Chairman Tom Caulfield asked City Manager Nick Sizeland.

"Cutting," Sizeland said.

"We always need a prudent mindset and to respect every dollar and penny," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "Even when you're flush with cash, when you're dealing with taxpayer dollars you can never get lethargic with that."

The council votes to pass or reject the budget during its next meeting, 7 p.m. Monday, June 8.

Water rates

As council members forecast many times this year, the proposed budget includes higher water and sewer rates in response to higher fees from the city's provider of drinking water and sewer services.

"Just like a grocery store has to raise prices when its suppliers raise prices, the city has to raise water and sewer rates when (its supplier) the Great Lakes Water Authority, does," Sizeland said.

Starting July 10, water

See SURPLUS, page 9A

CRIME:

Continued from page 2A

were down 198, to 2,091.

The department also welcomed K-9 Officer Arcos in 2025, whose handler is Officer Duncan Gill.

"Our department members work hard each day to keep the residents and businesses of this community safe," Kosanke said. "That will continue to be my top priority."

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JUNE 1

- Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission Summer Sendoff, 6:30 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon.

FLAG:

Continued from page 2A

2017. It went on to say Wilde the following day was pacing up and down the walkway, staring at Dinges and blocking her entry to her home's side door after she returned from shopping.

The suit also said Wilde in January 2021 placed a full can of gas in Dinges' recycling bin.

"We felt terrorized in our own house and feared for our lives," Dinges said in a prepared statement at the time. "I thought the days of the KKK forcing black families out of white neighborhoods and threatening to burn down black homes was a thing of the past."

Police at the time advised Dinges to install a security camera, which she did. Wilde complained to police the camera was aimed at his dining room and was told to put up curtains. In February 2021, he hung a KKK flag in the window facing Dinges' house that was not visible from the street.

Dinges, who ran for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in 2022, moved to the Woods in December 2021. She was represented by the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative at the University of Michigan Law School.

"During COVID, when the public was advised to stay inside, I could not find comfort in my own home," added India Dinges.

COSTS:

Continued from page 1A

be looking at in the future here," said Valentine, adding the city now will be served by a team of planners as opposed to one individual. "As part of that review process, we were pleased to make the selection to engage with them as our planning consultants going forward.

"They've hit the ground running," he continued. "They've been very active in making sure things would continue during this transition."

While fees for some zoning issues, such as dimensional use variances, will decrease, others are increasing to align with Giffels Webster's rates. Namely, site plan application review is increasing by $75 and rezoning is increasing by a $175 flat rate and $38 per acre.

Coming off the back of last year's 5 percent raise in the cost of marina rentals and the new $50-per-well service fee, council also voted to increase marina well rental another 3 percent.

"I do want to acknowledge, while it's not made here, we do anticipate following further study that we will be bringing forward some recommendations on the parking fees," Valentine added, "as we finish that analysis against our long-term liabilities and capital needs within the parking system to look at what that does for the rate adjustment that would be needed."

City council approved the fee adjustments 6-0, with Councilman Terence Thomas absent, Monday, May 18.

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City resident is crazy about sailing

Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

When Sandra Svoboda moved to southeast Michigan in 1990, she didn't plan on sticking around long.

"I was working for the AP and was supposed to be here for nine months," she said. "That was 36 years ago. Where did that go?"

She added one reason she wanted to stay was because of the sailing community.

"I grew up outside of Chicago and my dad started sailing in the 1950s," she said. "We did everything from racing to family vacations on the boat. Being on Lake Michigan and seeing the Chicago skyline is amazing."

COURTESY PHOTOS

Sandra Svoboda and her dog, Cal, out for a sail.

Aside from the Associated Press, Svoboda is an award-winning journalist who also has worked at WDET, Detroit PBS and the Toledo Blade. She currently is media relations manager at The Nature Conservancy. She also got to go to New Zealand to cover the America's Cup in the early 2000s for the AP.

"I knew some people from Grosse Pointe when I was in undergrad at Indiana University, so I was familiar with the Bayview Yacht Club. I joined in 1997."

Svoboda has a 25-foot sailboat made by Cal, which also is the name of her dog.

"There are so many aspects to sailing, whether you want to do it competitively or just for the camaraderie," she said. "It can be an outdoor challenge or a peaceful hobby because there's such a range of activities, the technical aspect, the weather, the landscape, the equipment and the people."

Svoboda was a member of the 2013 national champion team in the Women's International Match Racing Association and has done the Bayview Mackinac Race every year since 2016.

"I'm not doing it this year because I'm the Bayview commodore right now so I'll have a lot of other duties," she said. "I love what it offers and what it means to people from all over the country."

Svoboda is just the second female commodore at Bayview.

"The first wasn't married, so that makes my husband the first, first gentleman," she laughed. "As such, he has to put on the ladies fashion show as the traditional duties go for commodore spouses. It's going to be a bash."

Her husband, Brent Ross, is a retired Waterford Township police lieutenant.

Bayview has arranged for FOX 2 Detroit to provide expanded race coverage this year.

"That will bring it to a broad audience and hopefully get more people interested in sailing," Svoboda said. "About 40 percent of our membership lives in the Pointes and St. Clair Shores, so we know what the sport means to our community."

Svoboda also enjoys reading, cooking, traveling and camping.

"Brent doesn't sail, but one year after the race he picked me up in St. Ignace and we did a two-week lap of Lake Superior camping and seeing the sights," she said. "Living in Michigan really gives you an appreciation for the Great Lakes and how we interact with them."

Svoboda said it's a bit ironic she ended up living in the Pointes.

"'The Preppy Handbook' came out when I was in junior high and it was so Grosse Pointe!" she recalled. "My friends and I loved that book."

She's also learned how far-reaching the Pointes are.

"We were visiting my parents in Utah once and went to the local library's film festival," she said. "We were standing in line for popcorn and the couple in front of us asked the woman behind the counter how her trip to Michigan was. We started talking and it turned out she grew up in the house across the street from where we live in the City.

"I take pictures of her house when the seasons change and send them to her," she continued. "Another time we were in Utah, she was here visiting so she took a picture of our house and sent it to me."

Sandra Svoboda, current commodore of Bayview Yacht Club, at the 2024 unveiling of an exhibit at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum marking the 100th anniversary of the Bayview Mackinac Race.

Mostly, Svoboda said she enjoys this area's easy access to outdoor recreation.

"We like to ride our bikes to Belle Isle and I think most people, like me, sometimes take the long way home to get a peek at the water," she said. "You never know what you'll see, be it people sailing, anchored and enjoying the weather or a passing freighter."

Shores passes budget, sets millage rates

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — City council unanimously passed the 2026-27 fiscal year budget at its May meeting that includes $8.5 million in spending and a slight increase in the general fund operating millage.

"General fund spending is up less than 2 percent," Finance Director Dale Krajniak told council. "It's up from $8.4 million, so we're at the same spending level, effectively."

The general operating millage will increase from 13.05 mills to 13.25. A mill is $1 in taxes for every $1,000 in taxable value on a property.

The budget resolution sets the city's overall taxable value at close to $399 million. Due to expected increases in property values, income from property taxes will increase from $6.5 million this fiscal year to $6.9 million in the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Krajniak said 28 percent of the legally allowable operating millage the city could levy remains.

"There's another 5.05 mills available, which would bring in an extra $2 million, but we try to run as effectively as possible to keep it down."

The city's general fund reserves stand at $3.1 million, up from $2.6 million three years ago.

"Council's policy is to have fund equity not drop below 25 percent," Krajniak added. "We're at 30 percent."

The city also made a conscious effort to increase contributions to its unfunded liabilities this year.

"Our pension fund is at 86 percent," Kranjiak said. "Retiree health care is at 16 percent and we expect that to be up to 25 percent in two years."

Due to rate increases from both the Great Lakes Water Authority and the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District, residents will see a slight increase in those bills. Prices will go from $14.04 per unit to $14.75. A unit is equal to 749 gallons. A flat fee for sewer service will go from $79 to $130 per billing cycle, plus $106 for debt service.

The overall millage rate will be 17.3, which includes 2.5 for refuse collection and 1.5 for pension purposes.

"We provide a full range of services, including public safety, public works and general administration," Krajniak said. "We have the fewest number of residents and one of the lowest millages of the Pointes, which speaks well to our administration."

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Farms

Cat fight

A resident on Manor last Monday reported his neighbor's cat ripped open the screen of his window, entered the home and began fighting with his cat.

The two cats ended up on the front lawn fighting and the complainant said his cat would need surgery on its legs and chest.

Lurking

A 29-year-old Park man was removed from the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch at 4:44 p.m. Monday, May 18, after being reported for uncomfortably staring at two girls doing homework.

Upon arrival, officers recognized him from outstanding warrants, for which he was arrested.

Suspicious circumstances

Homeowners on Waverly Lane called 911 at 1:31 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, after hearing three loud bangs near the rear of the residence and finding visible footprints in the backyard.

Officers found a window adjacent to the back door shattered, with a misplaced rock below.

Speeding

For speeding 47 mph along Moross at 10:14 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, a 24-year-old Detroit man was pulled over and arrested for driving with a suspended license.

Drunk

A 46-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 12:22 a.m. Friday, May 22, after she activated her hazard lights, sped up to 50 mph and nearly collided with another vehicle on Lakeshore near Moross.

— Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Warrants

A 33-year-old Detroit woman, stopped at Jefferson and Neff for speeding 48 mph at 3:25 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, not only gave officers false identification, but also was found to have a suspended driver's license and outstanding warrants.

She was arrested and turned over to the Michigan State Police.

Stolen & recovered

A 2022 Buick Envision was stolen from the 500 block of St. Clair between 12:30 and 8 a.m. Thursday, May 21.

It was recovered on Ashland in Detroit hours later.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Car hopping

A 2010 Lincoln MKS, stolen around 1:30 a.m. Thursday, May 21, in the 700 block of Lakepointe, was recovered in the 400 block of St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe.

"A Buick was taken from that location and recovered in Detroit," according to Park police.

Mower recovered

Police arrested a 68-year-old man of unlisted address Thursday, May 21, for stealing a $250 lawn mower in the 1200 block of Maryland.

"The victim finished cutting the lawn and left the lawn mower next to the garage near the alley while finishing yard work," police said. "Surveillance video showed a black van with black male driver take the mower. The mower was located."

Failed theft

The sound of screeching tires at 4 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, alerted a homeowner in the 1400 block of Bishop to an auto theft in progress.

"Upon checking, (the witness) observed a 2019 Dodge Ram truck parked in front of the home with a broken-out window," police said. "The Ram had been taken from (a nearby residence) and was being pushed down the street by an unknown sedan, which fled the area prior to police arrival."

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

South grad sworn in as Farms officer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Freshly graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2025, Paul Lyke was sworn in as the Farms' newest public safety recruit Wednesday, May 20.

"I grew up in the Farms on Fisher and I moved a couple years ago to Moross, still in the Farms," Lyke said. "I know the area pretty well. I couldn't see myself anywhere else."

The young officer's badge was pinned by South School Resource Officer Jim LaBeau, who also is a member of the Farms department, served as a mentor and got Lyke an interview with the department.

"Paul came to me probably his junior year interested in law enforcement," LaBeau said. "… The days of having to go get a four-year degree, those days are kind of done.

"If you really want to start in the police service, because we're public safety, send yourself through the fire academy. Once you send yourself through the fire academy, you can apply."

Lyke now has completed both the police and fire academies and is donning the uniform.

"I've always wanted to be in some sort of uniform. Of course, Mom wouldn't let me go into the military like I wanted to," he joked.

PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

South School Resource Officer Jim LaBeau, right, after pinning Officer Paul Lyke's badge.

LaBeau added Lyke has the right personality traits for the career, with his respectful nature and even the way he carries himself.

"At some point, I'd like to rise through the ranks here and hopefully give the opportunity like Jim gave to me for someone else or even more people," Lyke said.

— Laurel Kraus

BUDGET:

Continued from page 2A

lier this month, lending fresh perspective and insight to the development of the fiscal year 2026-27 budget, which city administrators managed to balance by the skin of their teeth the last couple years.

"This has resulted in the elimination of normal tricks to balancing our budget and instituting some sound changes in the short term," Valentine said as he presented the proposed budget to city council Monday, May 4.

Namely, bifurcating the road fund into major and local street funds to better identify respective budgetary costs; adjusting the water and sewer fund's debt service capture to better reflect actual costs correlating to capital improvements; and establishing an amortization schedule for retiree healthcare to normalize the city's contributions going forward.

Retiree healthcare costs, not unlike myriad other Michigan municipalities, long have been a sharp thorn in the city's budget.

For years the city has used a pay-as-you-go approach, setting aside $400,000 to $500,000 annually to cover the net present value of that year.

The Maner Costerian team found that if the city instead normalized its cost over the next 50 years, it can change its contribution to about $210,000 annually for the next 20 years, then further decrease it to $135,000 and continue modifying accordingly until it hits zero.

"What you don't want to happen is to pre-fund it too much so that you have money left in this account, because you can't take it out," Valentine explained. "It's for retiree healthcare expenses only and, as a closed plan, it gets stuck in there. You can't pull it.

"So managing it this way fixes your costs going forward and ensures that by the end of the run out of the program, you've met your last-hour obligation."

The proposed budget was passed by city council Monday night, also detailing a slight 0.0324-mill decrease in residents' taxes come July 1 — from 16.8472 mills to 16.8148 mills — due to state Headlee rollbacks.

"We do have the millage rate in here for the coming year, which is in fact lower than it was last year," Valentine said. "But again, that was really driven from the rollbacks with the state tax law that allow us to collect less, unfortunately."

However, water and sewer bills will increase by 5.81 percent.

"When we worked with Maner Costerian, there was some uncertainty in the calculation of the debt service charge for the water and sewer department, so they revisited that and looked at that a little closer," Valentine said, referring to the bill line item that pays back debt on bonds issued for water and sewer projects. "And actually, we were underfunding our debt service on our water and sewer charges, so we've had to adjust that accordingly."

When it comes to expenditures for the next fiscal year, the approved budget calls for the city to spend $700,000 for replacement of lead water lines, which is a state mandate and which city administration hopes to offset with grant funding; $50,000 for sidewalk repair and replacement; and $138,500 for tree maintenance, removal and replacement.

It also earmarks $1 million for street improvements, which largely is funded by the road millage; $1.85 million in water and sewer system improvements, primarily funded by a water and sewer bond; $293,000 in repairs to the finger docks in the marina; and $294,500 in vehicle and equipment replacement.

These span a new police vehicle, Toro utility vehicle and lawnmower, as well as Taser replacements, prep radios and bunker gear for the public safety department.

City council voted to approve the fiscal year 2026-27 budget, tax rate and water and sewer rates Monday, May 18.

POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE I GROSSE POINTE WOODS I GROSSE POINTE PARK I GROSSE POINTE SHORES I GROSSE POINTE FARMS

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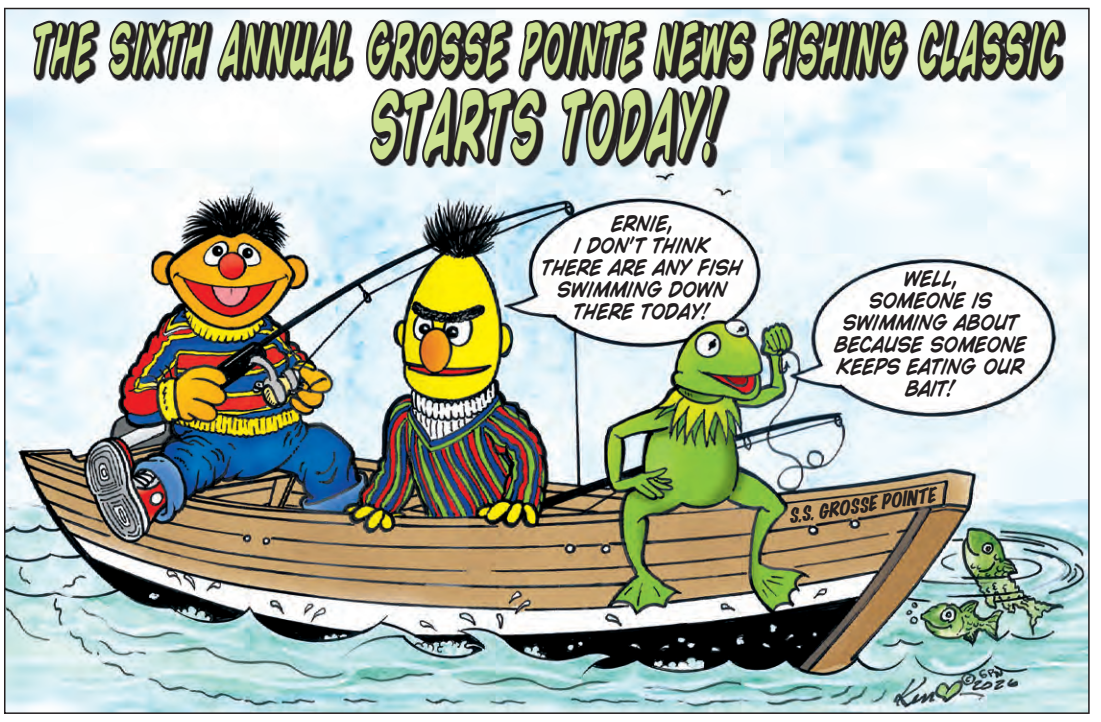


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

OUR VIEW

Romance and voting

Those certainly are not words one would expect to see together. But a recent survey that came across our desk did just that.

ACE.com, an online gaming platform, surveyed 3,024 Michiganders to uncover the most unexpectedly romantic places in the Great Lakes State, the everyday locations where people are most likely to roll the dice and hit it off with someone new.

The Belle Isle Aquarium, right in our own backyard, was the top vote-getter. Also close to home, Eastern Market came in fourth. Second was the Mackinac Island ferry and third was Meijer — specifically at 9 p.m.

The survey suggests people are becoming more open to lower-pressure, lower-cost moments where chemistry can happen naturally, whether that is in a grocery aisle, a coffee line or while killing time during a delay.

Respondents also were asked what they found attractive about spotting someone in public. That is known in today's dating parlance as a "green flag." Answers included:

◆ Being nice to service workers (18 percent),

◆ helping someone with bags, directions or a photo (15 percent),

◆ returning their shopping cart (14 percent) and

◆ being good with kids or dogs (11 percent).

On the flip side, "red flags" included being rude to staff, cutting in line, aggressive parking and talking loudly on speakerphone.

Naturally, this prompted us to ask our readers where they think the most unexpectedly romantic spot in the Pointes is (below).

By a slim margin, the Grosse Pointe News paperbox at Jerry's Club Party Store was tops among respondents with 35 percent. Someone enjoying a frozen Coke and buying an award-winning newspaper would certainly catch our eye!

In second place, with 33 percent, was the waiting room at Mr. C's Car Wash. Keeping your "whip" (as the kids say) clean is uber attractive. Pun intended.

Tied at 16 percent was the winebar at the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and being in line at the post office. Now that it is open, the Schaap Center definitely will be the new place to see and be seen for years to come. As for the post office, while many visits are probably few and far between, it could just be the place to put a stamp on a new relationship.

But this also reminded us of the importance of voting, especially when showing local support (see: Belle Isle and Eastern Market).

Hence this reminder to be sure to cast your vote in our sixth annual Best of the Best contest that started last week. Among this year's 40 categories are several new options, as well as returning favorites.

Feel like your barber or dermatologist deserves some extra attention? Nominate them.

Does your go-to smoothie place or coffee joint go the extra mile? Nominate them.

If your trusted pet groomer, brilliant Realtor or friendly florist is someone you often recommend to friends, give them a nomination too. We want to shine a light on, well, the name says it all — the Best of the Best — our community has to offer.

Because we know life extends beyond "the bubble," our contest again is extending its reach as well. What's your favorite Michigan ski resort? How about your favorite Michigan campground? Let us know with your nomination.

Foodies, take note: We want to know your favorite family-friendly and all-around restaurants, but we also want to know about the food. New categories this year ask where you go for the best onion rings, subs, breakfast sandwiches, ice cream sodas and more.

We also are asking about family-owned businesses, the most charming local storefronts and 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 page 7A. Clip it, fill it out and mail it in — or drop it to our office, 16980 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

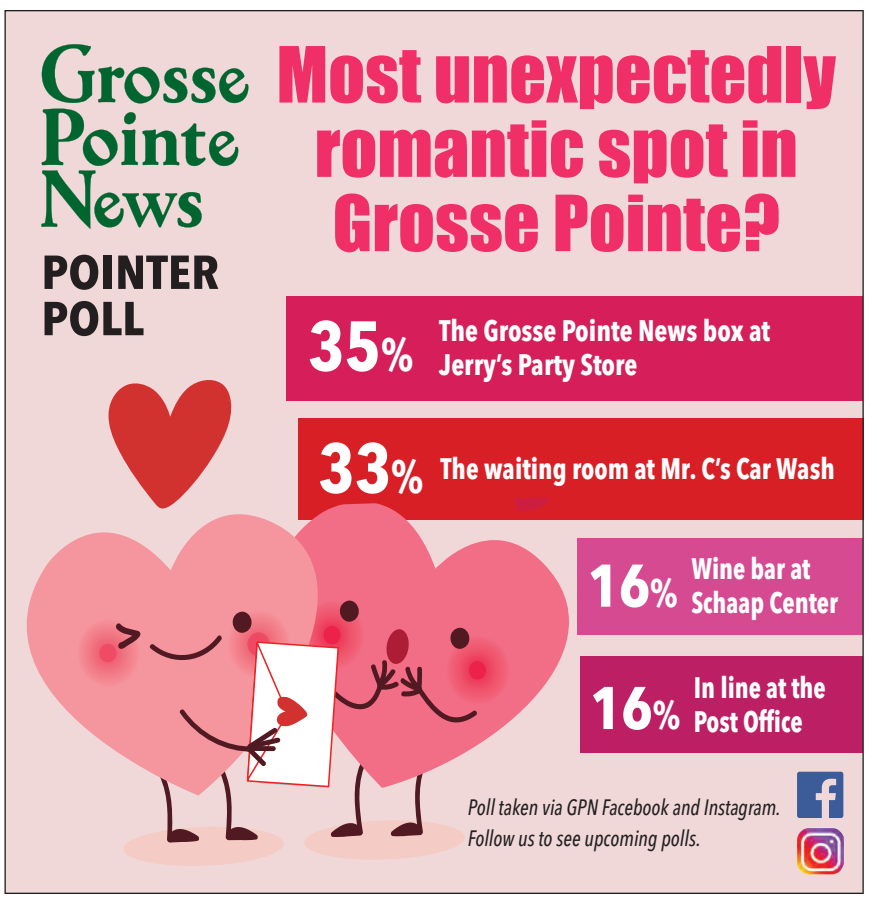
If you prefer the electronic method, online voting can be found at grossepointenews.com/best. One vote per 24 hours from a valid email address is allowed.

With either method, you have to vote in a minimum of 10 categories for your ballot to count.

"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. You have probably seen those stickers on the front doors of several establishments around town — a good sign to look for if you have never tried a particular business before.

So, as the saying goes in Chicago politics, vote early and vote often!



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.

Much appreciated

To the Editor:

AMVETS Richard S. Hayes-Post 57 in Harper Woods would like to thank Steve Najjar, owner of Farms Fresh Market, for the unexpected gift of eight large pizzas on Memorial Day.

Steve has no connection to Post 57 and was driving to work on Memorial Day thinking how he could offer his thanks to the veterans, and their families, that paid the ultimate price so America can be the great nation it is.

Unfortunately, he was deep in thought thinking how he can contact a veterans group and missed his exit.

Fortunately, approximately 60 Post 57 veterans were holding a Memorial Day service in the parking lot near the flag pole. Steve immediately called his staff and asked them to bake and deliver his finest pies to the group.

You should have seen the eyes light up on the veterans. Not only were they delighted with the pizzas, but amazed that a stranger paid homage to the sacrifice veterans and their families have endured as far back as World War I.

Steve, thank you for your expression of appreciation.

AMVETS POST 57

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST May 28 – June 3 — LOCAL 4 Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
74° / 51°	77° / 52°	73° / 54°	75° / 55°	77° / 53°	77° / 55°	77° / 60°
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Clear	Cloudy
0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 5:58 am SUNSET 9:00 pm	SUNRISE 5:57 am SUNSET 9:00 pm	SUNRISE 5:56 am SUNSET 9:01 pm	SUNRISE 5:56 am SUNSET 9:02 pm	SUNRISE 5:55 am SUNSET 9:03 pm	SUNRISE 5:54 am SUNSET 9:03 pm	SUNRISE 5:54 am SUNSET 9:04 pm

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia

An absolute honor

I love it when my turn for an "I Say" comes around and I actually have something good to say.

This week, I'm thrilled to brag about the team here at the Grosse Pointe News, which won 15 Society of Professional Journalists Detroit Excellence in Journalism awards at this year's annual competition. Our staff brought home more awards than any other newspaper in our class.

Of special note, local cartoonist Ken Schop won first place in the informational graphics category. Not many local newspapers can say they still have an actual cartoonist on staff anymore and it's just one of many reasons the Grosse Pointe News remains such a special publication.

Our team works day in and day out to produce the very best newspaper possible every single week and I absolutely love seeing them recognized for their hard work and talent.

While some newsrooms are being gutted and AI continues to reshape the industry, our team of remarkable humans is intact, innovating and thriving.

Just a few of the exciting things happening right now include our annual Best of the Best contest, the Fishing Classic and our award-winning Grosse Pointe Home supplement.

Thank you to our loyal subscribers for helping us remain a leader in local journalism. Thank you to our incredible advertisers, whose support helps keep this community connected and thriving. And thank you to the Cotton family, who swooped in and saved the Grosse Pointe News when it needed it most.

We look forward to many more awards in the future, but the greatest reward of all is the continued support of this remarkable community.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1951
75 years ago this week

POINTE GIVEN CENTRAL LIBRARY: Announcement of the gift to the Grosse Pointe community of a beautiful new central public library was made at a special meeting in the Board of Education building, attended by the full Board of Education; Hawkins Ferry, son of one of the donors; Robert M. Orr, director of public libraries; Marion Kellogg, president of the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Library; Charles Parcells and the local press. This building is made possible by the gifts of two local citizens who visualized Grosse Pointe's lack of adequate public library facilities and took action towards remedying this need. The building will be known as the Ferry-Sales Central Library, in honor of the two men whose generosity made it possible.

CALL APATHY BIGGEST THREAT CONFRONTING GROSSE POINTE'S CIVILIAN DEFENSE PROGRAM: Citizen apathy, which increases with each favorable news release from Korea, is the greatest threat to the progress of the civilian defense program. Grosse Pointe is as well prepared as any other locality in event of atomic bombing, reports George Elworthy, OCD director for three of the Pointes municipalities and Gratiot Township.

1976
50 years ago this week

SWIM TEAMS GRANTED USE OF NEW WOODS POOL: A request from the Fitzgerald Swim Club for the use of the new 50-meter competitive pool at the Lake Front Park for training was approved by the Woods Council via a 4-3 vote at a special meeting May 20. Action on the plea was tabled May 13, so the Citizens Recreation Commission could meet to explore the matter and give the council its recommendation.

PARK VIEWS COST HIKES IN 2 AREAS: The Park will have to come up with an extra $2,500 a year to pay its street lighting bill because of a court order which allowed the Detroit Edison Co. to raise its rates another $13.8 million. Added to this, the city's water consumers will have to pay 60 cents more per 1,000 cubic feet of water because Detroit raised its water rate cost 39 percent to all its customers.

2001
25 years ago this week

EASTLAND MALL ANNOUNCES A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION: On Monday, a press conference was held in the Grand Court of Eastland to announce that the mall and the National Action Network, a civil rights organization, have formed a partnership to support the mission of "providing a comfortable environment for its patrons." The partnership grew out of a concern raised by the Rev. Horace L. Sheffield III, president of the Michigan chapter of the National Action Network and pastor of the New Galilee Baptist Church. He told the group of reporters that he had received several complaints from members of his congregation about safety concerns at the mall.

SUNSHINE STREET TO SHINE ON BARNES: Barnes Early Childhood Center and a local private preschool have worked out what can be a very cooperative effort. Sunshine Street Preschool will offer a preschool program for no more than 15 3- and 4-year-olds in a room at Barnes three days a week. The Grosse Pointe Board of Education approved a one-year lease at the rate of $200 a month. Barnes principal Sue Banner called the inclusion of Sunshine Street, "a match made in heaven."

2016
10 years ago this week

BOARD CHANGES POLICY, 5-2: Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Gary Niehaus opened the superintendent's report at the Board of Education regular meeting Monday, May 23, with "a little bit of levity." Addressing a filled auditorium at Brownell Middle School, he said, "I just want to thank everybody for coming tonight for my first anniversary as superintendent of schools for Grosse Pointe." The comment set a cordial tone to an emotionally charged evening. The community had come to speak on a number of hotly debated issues on the agenda. Top among these was Policy 5111, "Enrollment Eligibility of Students."

HEARING ENDS: Circuit Judge Vonda Evans set July 14 for closing arguments in the six-month-long hearing to determine if Bob Bashara's murder conviction for the death of his wife will be overturned. Evans set the date Tuesday after both the prosecution and Bashara's attorney, Ronald Ambrose, rested their cases.

OFFICIAL 2026 BALLOT

Grosse Pointe News BEST of the BEST 2026

FOOD & DRINKS

Best All-Around Restaurant _____

Best Waterfront Restaurant _____

Best Sports Restaurant/Bar _____

Best Caterer _____

Best Family-Friendly Restaurant _____

Best Mac & Cheese _____

Best Onion Rings _____

Best Submarine Sandwich _____

Best Salad _____

Best Ice Cream Soda _____

Best Breakfast Sandwich _____

Best Cake _____

Best Coffee _____

Best Smoothie _____

RETAIL & SERVICES

Best Customer Service _____

Best Sports-Recovery Facility _____

Best Dermatologist _____

Best Manicure _____

Best Barber _____

Best Urgent Care Center _____

Best Pet Grooming Service _____

Best HVAC Company _____

Best Ski Resort in Michigan _____

Best Campground in Michigan _____

Best Specialty Food/Beverage Market _____

Best Produce _____

Best Store to Buy a Vacuum _____

Best Store to Buy Party Supplies _____

Best Antiques Store _____

Best Place to Buy Make-Up _____

Best Store to Buy a Wedding Gift _____

Best Florist _____

Best High-End Fashion _____

Best Trendy Fashion _____

Best Classic Women's Fashion _____

Best Real Estate Agency _____

Best Family-Owned Business _____

Best Public Place to Hang Out on a Rainy Day _____

Best Curb-Appeal/Charming GP Storefront _____

Best Non-Profit 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.)

TO VOTE ONLINE OR SEE CONTEST RULES:

Visit grossepointenews.com/best (one ballot per day per email.) Call for further information at (313) 882-6900.

Your name _____

Address _____ City/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA GATT FROM GRABS BY GATT

PfAE awards scholarships

Nine graduating seniors from the Grosse Pointe Public School System received $5,000 Compass Scholarships from Pointers for Academic Excellence for "their leadership, academics, service, athletics, arts and commitment to making the most of every opportunity during their time in our schools," according to a post on the group's social media.

From left, with their high school and college choice, are Erin Simpson, Grosse Pointe South High School, University of Michigan; Victoria Herd, Grosse Pointe North High School, Spelman College; Liliana Ivanaj, Grosse Pointe North, Pepperdine University; Eva Borowski, Grosse Pointe North, Albion College; Alessia Morreale, Grosse Pointe North, University of Michigan; Lauren Loper, Grosse Pointe North, Michigan State University; Oliver Bomgaars, Grosse Pointe North, Wayne State University; Alejandro Delgado, Grosse Pointe North, University of Notre Dame; and Isaac Brenner, Grosse Pointe South, University of Michigan.

The ceremony also included a video message from Jamie Ding, 31-game "Jeopardy!" winner and Grosse Pointe North graduate, in which he congratulated the winners and told them to "climb the challenge, stay curious and have fun."

Meaningful Market Day

Ferry Elementary School third- and fourth-grade students turned compassion into action through their Market Day project.

The students created and operated businesses while learning about entrepreneurship, teamwork and giving back to others.

Knowing one of their classroom families is preparing for a living kidney donation made this Market Day experience deeply personal for students, who proudly raised more than $3,000 for Donate for Life America.

The donation will be made in honor of their room mom, Lisa Jaeger-Karalla, who is preparing to donate a kidney to her friend, Paul Stencel.

Read the full donation story on page 1B.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

One of the businesses was Pasta Palace, run by Wesley Roberson, left, and William Jaeger-Karalla, Lisa Jaeger-Karalla's son.

A&E Summer Supplies business was run by Elyse Jaeger-Karalla, left, and Avery Vormelker.

Selling handmade, colorful potholders at the Spring Fling Shop were Josie McElhinny, left, and Eva Calvin.

Paul Stencel, the living kidney recipient, with his longtime friend, Lisa Jaeger-Karalla, who is donating one of her kidneys to Stencel.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Grosse Pointe Park student **Cameron Thompson** presented the original research project, "Architects of Action: How Contemporary Agent-Causal Accounts Solve the Paradox of Free Will," during Albion College's 2026 Elkin R. Isaac Student Research Symposium. Thompson is majoring in psychology with a minor in philosophy and is a member of the Center for Sustainability and the Environment and the Lisa and James Wilson Institute for Medicine. He is a graduate of De La Salle Collegiate High School.

◆◆◆

Dylan Miller of Grosse Pointe Farms presented his "TripSync Capstone Project" at Lebanon Valley College's annual Inquiry symposium. Miller is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in digital communications and is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School.

◆◆◆

Grosse Pointe Farms resident **Jack Restum**, a National Merit Scholar and 2022 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, earned University Honors and was named to the Dean's List each semester at the

Jack Restum

University of Michigan. He graduated in May with dual degrees in mechanical engineering and chemistry.

◆◆◆

See PRIDES, page 9A

Grosse Pointe News

THE NOSH

WHAT DELICIOUS TASTY GROSSE POINTE TREATS ARE YOU CRAVING THIS WEEK?

Go for a meal out on the town...So much to enjoy in your own neighborhood!

SAVOR TO-GO CHARCUTERIE
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TO ADVERTISE, CALL (313) 882-6900

308630

Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative to meet June 2 at Central Library

The Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative invites residents of all ages to a community meeting from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, to learn about, participate in and help shape ongoing efforts to understand and protect the urban tree canopy across the Grosse Pointes.

The Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative is a community-based initiative of the Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative, bringing together residents, educators, students, artists and local partners to explore the ecological, historical and cultural importance of trees in the Grosse Pointes. The initiative seeks to strengthen awareness of the local tree canopy, foster environmental stewardship and engage residents in documenting and celebrating the community's natural heritage.

Residents are encouraged to attend, participate in discussions and learn how they can contribute to mapping, documenting and celebrating Grosse Pointe's tree canopy. The program emphasizes intergenerational participation, inviting residents of all ages and backgrounds to take part in hands-on community science and creative projects.

More information may be found at gplearns.uls.org/trees.

PRIDES:

Continued from page 8A

Annalise Casey Reed recently graduated from the University of Georgia with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

◆◆◆

Braeden Roberts of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the Dean's List for the 2026 spring semester at the Michigan State University Eli Broad College of Business.

SURPLUS:

Continued from page 3A

and sewer bills will show increases of 5.1 percent and 4.45 percent, respectively.

"We just pass along what GLWA charges us," Sizeland said. "The city doesn't add anything on top."

Onward & upward

The council's Sword of Damocles-style trepidation didn't dull members' expectations of the city's continued prosperity.

Councilman Tim Kolar, also on the finance committee, said the proposed budget shows the city headed in the right direction.

"Up and to the right," he said, referring to how a path of growth and improvement is charted on a graph. "It's because of an accumulation of decisions this body made over the last 12 and 48 months that put us in a position to go up and to the right."

"The city is on solid financial footing," said Ethan Haan, city treasurer.

Rollback

The millage rate next fiscal year is budgeted at 18.8761 mills, down from the current 19.0230. The cut is due to the Headlee Amendment rollback requirement that Michigan voters approved in 1978.

"In a nutshell, Headlee requires a local unit of government to reduce its millage when annual growth on existing property is greater than the rate of inflation," according to the Michigan Municipal League.

Strong economy

Sizeland credited the city's improving financial status to factors inside and out of the city.

"The overall economy has helped," he said. "Taxable value went up over 6 percent. That was not projected. We've had a couple business improvements that helped from a standpoint of taxable value. One of the smartest things we did was start investing in income funds. We were able to get new revenue that we weren't generating before."

In 2022, city officials had to withdraw money from fund balance, the technical name for savings, to cover a $1.1 million deficit in the coming fiscal year budget.

During this year's budget workshop May 21, revenues in the general fund — the operating fund for the city — totaled $15,219,500. The figure topped expenses by $30,700. As a result of that and more, the current budget's $3,129,809 fund balance is forecast to increase by 32 percent to $4,158,284 in the coming year.

Revenue-expenses

Property taxes funded 72.7 percent of the upcoming year's general fund revenue. The percentage is typical.

Also, as usual, the vast majority of projected spending is for public safety, 60.7 percent. Second is parks and recreation, 15.2 percent. Third is general government operations combined with operating buildings and grounds totaling 7.3 percent.

The budget is strong enough to fund more than $4.8 million in infrastructure projects.

They include but are not limited to the Charlevoix streetscape renovation, $800,000; sidewalk repair, $750,000 and; water main improvements, $1,725,000.

A full-time public works employee is slated to be hired, which is intended to cut down overtime costs for the department as a whole. A part-time ordinance officer will join the ranks to carry out blight enforcement.

"We've achieved all our milestones and are continuing in that direction," Hodges said. "We've gone from significant deficit spending to significant fund balance. That's very empowering for a community. We still have challenges."

Employee retirement and healthcare, for instance.

Haan said, "We have headwinds to deal with, like everybody else, when it comes to capital improvements and controlling our legacy pension and healthcare costs."

"We're going to continue to tackle them," Hodges said.

"We've done a great job at controlling expenses," Caulfield said. "The challenge is we need to look forward because we relied in past years on injections like the sale of property and, this year, the FEMA response. Where's the $900,000 coming from next year?"

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'Cinderella' slated June 5-21

Production opens Schaap Center, closes season for GPT

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The wait is over in more ways than one as Grosse Pointe Theatre closes out its 78th season with Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

Eleven performances take place throughout June at the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, which celebrated its grand opening May 16 and 17. Originally scheduled to open last fall — and anticipated to host the entire GPT season — construction delays pushed the building's opening to spring.

Similarly, the onset of the pandemic pushed director Tim Higgins' bid to perform "Cinderella" from 2021 to 2026.

"Although we had to table working on this production until mid-2025, we quickly picked up where we left off," Higgins said.

In the weeks leading up to opening night, Higgins summed up the pre-production schedule by saying, "These are our most hectic but most exciting days.

"This is one of the biggest sets in GPT history," he added. "But we've got the right people around the organization who know what to do, how to do it and how to focus on solving any issues."

This production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic includes the original score, but with a book by Douglas Carter Beane that's been updated to modernize the fairytale.

"Audiences will hear all the beloved songs that generations have come to love with lush orchestral arrangements," Higgins noted. "Combined with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane, the storyline blends classic and modern attributes."

The modern adaptation introduces hilarious moments, new characters and surprising twists, yet remains the tale of a resilient, caring and smart woman who falls in love with her prince. Higgins fell in love with the show after seeing it on Broadway in 2014.

"Cinderella is not a damsel in distress in this story," he said. "She has the courage to speak her mind, to let the prince know what's going on in his kingdom. We see her blossom into a confident woman."

Portraying Cinderella — or Ella in this version — is Britta Peele-Spitzer, a GPT member since 2023.

"I wanted to be in 'Cinderella' because I wanted to make my inner child happy and give myself the opportunity to believe in myself," she said. "I wanted to do something intimidating for me — to give my all and see what happens."

Peele-Spitzer said she can relate to her character, though not so much through her external struggles.

"I relate to her internal struggles of self-doubt," Peele-Spitzer said. "… This is not a rags-to-riches story; it's about overcoming self-doubt. It's about having the courage to change life, even in difficult circumstances, and having the courage to believe in yourself.

"… I'd like audiences to walk away remembering that they can hold strong convictions while still leading with kindness," she added, "that forgiveness is powerful and, lastly, to allow themselves the magic of believing in themselves."

Joining her onstage is castmate Alex Quinlan, in the role of Prince Topher. A GPT member since 2023, he auditioned after listening to a recording of the Broadway show and finding the role was within his vocal range.

"I certainly don't feel like I fit the role of a typical prince, but Topher is a bit of a humble and quirky take on royalty, so it's fun to be able to wear the crown but not feel entirely too serious," he said. "Topher is a character who's kind of lost, who doesn't know what to do with his life, but he's got a good heart. I think people can relate to having something or someone come into their life to help them realize a goal, what they're meant to do. For Topher, that's Ella."

Added Higgins, "It's still a fairytale. We keep some of that magic, but keep it relatable."

Higgins said he's thrilled not only with his actors, but every facet of the play — the dancing, the singing, the lush musical arrangements, the impressive set.

Peele-Spitzer touted the ensembles.

"I don't think I've ever been in a show where everyone locked in the music so quickly," she said. "It's amazing how great everyone sounds.

"And the costumes," she continued. "Jackie (Manczyk) has been working her fingers to the bone. The costumes

See GPT, page 8B

The details

What: Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella," presented by Grosse Pointe Theatre

When: Eleven performances June 5 to 21. Evening performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Where: Schaap Center for the Performing Arts, 15001 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

Tickets: Purchase tickets at gpt.org/cinderella or by calling (313) 881-4004. Tickets start at $29, including all fees. Special rates are available for groups of 10 or more.

Valet parking will be available for a fee.

Left, Britta Peele-Spitzer stars as Cinderella. Below, Peele-Spitzer as Cinderella and Alex Quinlan as Prince Topher.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONI VALENTINI/GROSSE POINTE THEATRE

Above, tech director Gordon Richardson. Left, co-set designer Kathy Conlon. Crew members work tirelessly behind the scenes prepping for the performances.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIA ELLIS

Above, the "Cinderella" ensemble rehearses a dance. Left, from left, accompanist Olivia Ferguson and vocal/music director Marie Boyle Reinman go over music with actor Pam Montgomery.

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Pewabic's House & Garden Show set June 4-7

Pewabic's largest fundraiser of the year, its House & Garden Show, returns for the 36th year with a ticketed party Thursday, June 4, and a public open house Friday through Sunday, June 5 to 7.

The celebration begins 6 to 9:30 p.m. June 4, with the Garden Party, which offers first access to Pewabic's new designs and ceramic work from artists across the country. Guests will be treated to drinks and a strolling supper, highlighted by live music under the tent.

Tickets for the Garden Party are $200 and $250, and include complimentary valet parking.

The rest of the weekend, Pewabic hosts its annual House & Garden Show, during which guests are free to explore the National Historic Landmark pottery with strolling tours, shop ceramic art, learn about Pewabic's history in Detroit and enjoy the weekend biergarten in the courtyard.

Highlights from the weekend include:

◆ Friday, June 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Wheel-throwing demonstrations throughout the day and demonstrations by visiting artist Jeri Hollister from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

◆ Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Biergarten from noon to 4 p.m.; art demonstrations by Hollister, wheel-throwing demonstrations and live music by Stereobabe from noon to 5 p.m.; and food truck guests Nu Deli Food Truck from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Biergarten from noon to 4 p.m.; demonstrations by Hollister, wheel-throwing demonstrations and live music by Pinter Whitnick from noon to 4 p.m.; and food truck guests Detroit BBQ Co. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special workshops will be available throughout the weekend as well. During one-hour, hands-on, adult workshops for ages 16 and older, participants will choose one of four designs and learn how to bulb glaze just like the Pewabic fabrication team.

Workshops cost $60 per person and take place:

◆ Friday, June 5, at noon and 2 p.m.;

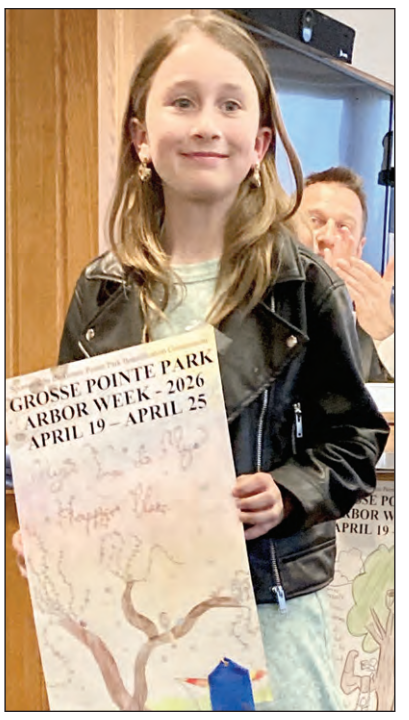
◆ Saturday, June 6, at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; and

◆ Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the Pewabic House & Garden Show provide critical support to ensure Pewabic continues to thrive.

Those unable to attend the event but who make a donation of $100 or more will receive a 2026 commemorative ceramic pin for their donation.

For more information, tickets or to donate, visit pewabic.org/pages/garden-party.



PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

From left, runner-up Eleanor Larson, Amelia Depcinski with her blue-ribbon winning entry and runner-up Josephine Insisiengmay.

Maire students sweep Arbor Day contest

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Maire Elementary School ran the table in this year's Arbor Day poster contest.

The winner and both runners-up attend Maire.

All were announced during the May 11 city council meeting.

Amelia Depcinski, a student in Caitlin Micks' class, won first prize and $50.

"Her joyful poster features a girl reading a book while on the branch of a stylized tree covered with delicate leaves and flowers," said Pat Deck, a member of the beautification commission and contest organizer.

Depcinski's poster featured the slogan, "My tree is my happy place."

"Amelia has drawn her illustration from personal experience," Deck said. "She has a tree in her backyard that she sits in and reads."

The contest was among fourth-grade students.

"Once again, their efforts were outstanding and inspiring," Deck said.

Of 154 eligible students in seven classrooms at three schools (Maire, Defer Elementary School and St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School), 147 submitted entries.

"That's a 95 percent participation rate," Deck said.

One of the runners-up, Josephine Insisiengmay, also is in Micks' class.

"Her poster compared a tree to a bodybuilder," Deck said. "Branches with strong muscles supported a tree swing, a child reading, a bird's nest and tree house. There was a message that read, 'Trees represent resilience and endurance, with deep roots that allow it to withstand storms, making it a powerful symbol of inner strength.'"

Deck added, "That's deep thinking for a fourth grader."

Runner-up Eleanor Larson is taught by Karen Frakes.

"(Larson's) poster had an adorable squirrel caricature holding a small smiling tree with an acorn falling from a larger tree nearby," Deck said. "Her poster read, 'I'm nuts about trees.'"

This was the 43rd year of holding the contest in the Park and, not coincidentally, the municipality being named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"This is a prestigious award," Deck said.

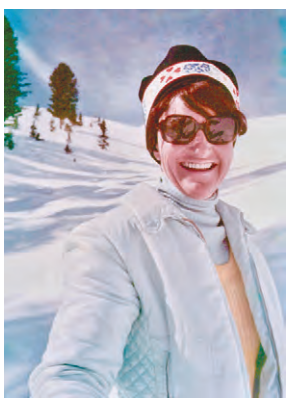
"Arbor Day is a national celebration of trees," said Lisa Kyle, beautification chairwoman. "One of the most recognized initiatives in the Arbor Day Foundation is Tree City USA. That program encourages communities to increase their tree canopy and nurture the urban forest of which they are a steward."

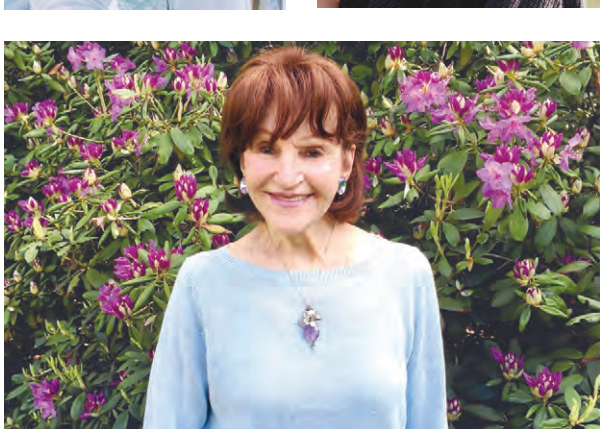
A city has to do four things to be a Tree City USA: maintain a tree board or forestry department, adopt a tree ordinance, invest in urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day.

"Our fourth-grade Arbor Day poster contest is the beautification commission's way of celebrating this," Kyle said.

Katharine McClaren Jones

December 21, 1931 - February 28, 2026





Dear Mom ~ Nana ~ Kaka

We, your family,
are forever grateful
for your boundless love for us,
for your arms-open-wide
love of this life,
for your love
of the smallest things in it.
The gratitude we feel
for what you taught us
will never diminish.

You are in our hearts
and you will be, always

Marilyn & Mitchell
Ben & Kim, Christopher & Audrey, Zak & Andy
Karen & Tom
Aymie & Pierre-Yves, Lucie & Keelan,
Félix & Noa, Mathilde & Jana

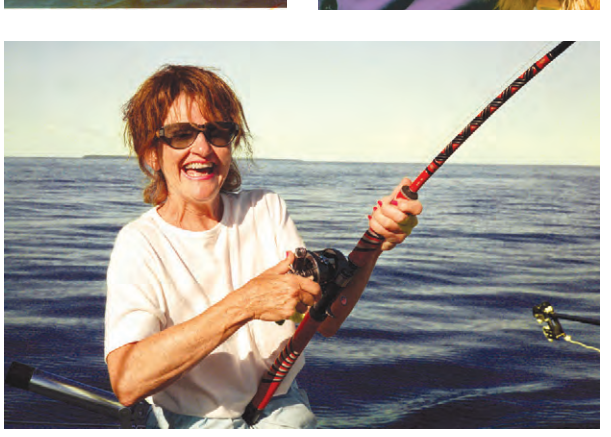


Photo below: Dr. G. Richard Jones, Katharine's beloved husband of 57 years

Friends to build closer bonds through living organ donation

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Stencel and Jaeger-Karalla kids, during a road trip to the Toledo Zoo.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA JAEGER

Lisa Jaeger soon will donate one of her kidneys to her close friend, Paul Stencel.

There's a kinship between two Grosse Pointe Woods families that is about to grow stronger.

The Jaeger-Karallas and Stencels first met eight years ago when their oldest children were in the Young 5's program at Mason Elementary School. Through their children's friendship, the parents got to know each other and in the ensuing years grew close through attending swim meets and T-ball games, going on camping trips and sharing meals.

On Wednesday, June 3, the families are scheduled to grow even closer as Lisa Jaeger has been approved to donate one of her kidneys to Paul Stencel.

"Never in a million years would I have thought I'd be a match," said Jaeger, who with her wife, Lynda Karalla, have three children — Andrew, 12, and 10-year-old twins, William and Elyse.

"… I'm not scared," she added. "I just want Paul to have time with his family. He's missed things. The kids don't have the dad they've always had."

Early days

Stencel — who with his wife, Laura, also has three children, Cece, 12; Joey, 10; and Julianna, 9 — has battled kidney disease much of his life. When he was in elementary school, his mother had a kidney biopsy, after which her doctors suggested the whole family get tested.

"At 15, I started getting blood drawn," he said. "They saw that my numbers were elevated, so I saw a nephrologist."

By age 22, he was put on hemodialysis, which lasted two years until he received his first kidney transplant in 2006.

"I got really good use out of it," he said. "It's five to 10 years (of use) for a deceased donor and I got 16 out of mine."

However, once it started to lose function, Stencel was put on peritoneal dialysis, which he's endured since December 2022.

"I still had some kidney function when I first started … but now I can't miss more than one day (of dialysis) every two weeks," he said, noting he receives dialysis via a tube nine hours a day.

While it has taken a toll on him physically, dialysis hasn't stopped him from participating in life.

"After three years of being on dialysis, I'm worn out," he said. "I feel like a shell of myself. Dialysis has taken a toll on me, but I'm grateful for it; it's kept me alive 3 1/2 years. I'm very fortunate."

Cece Stencel, Andrew Jaeger-Karalla and Joey Stencel gather for a last-day-of-school photo.

The connection

With their children first in a shared classroom, then on the same sports teams, the two families became fast friends.

"That was before COVID and we kept in touch," Stencel said. "During COVID, Laura and I talked about going camping, just to get out of the house and get some air. Lisa invited us over and there was a camper in their yard."

"It was just delivered that day," Jaeger added. "During COVID everybody needed to get out — and we knew they were a safe family for our family."

As their closeness grew, so did the evidence of Stencel's fading health. Not one to stand idly by, Jaeger regularly asked if there was something she could do.

Her persistence paid off.

"I kept asking, 'How can I help you?'" she said. "… We were playing cards one night and I asked, 'What can I do?' He finally said, 'Here's the website for Henry Ford Health. Fill out the form and leave it up to them.'"

She did and, once the forms were submitted, she became so determined to donate a kidney, she decided to do it regardless of whether or not she and Stencel were a match.

"I decided that something's going to happen either way," she said. "I told him, 'I'm donating my kidney, either to you or someone else. Are you ready?'"

Her next step was to attend an all-day meeting at Henry Ford Hospital downtown.

"The team sets up in a room," she said. "They bring all the doctors to you — the transplant team, nurses, patient advocates, a dietician, psychologist, nephrologist."

Tests of her kidney function and other tests were taken during the October 2024 meeting and, while it got the ball rolling, her candidacy was only good for one year.

"Paul wasn't healthy enough to receive the kidney within the first year," she said, adding that she was quick to re-up her status. "I don't want to be the delay when he's healthy, so I met with all the people again and said yes, I still want to do it."

The process

In preparation for the surgery, Jaeger is learning as much as she can. She joined a living kidney donation group, where she met nephrology nurse Glenna Frey, also a living kidney donor.

Frey wrote the book "Understanding Living Kidney Donation," written in laymen's terms, which has been a big help to Jaeger.

"At this point, I'm excited," Jaeger said. "I'm ready. I want this piece of the journey to have its ending. I want the old Paul back."

There was a moment of concern between the two parties that Jaeger's kidney may not be large enough to support Stencel's body. She's 5 feet tall; he's 6 feet, 3 inches.

"At the end of the day, with a living donor kidney, even if it's smaller it will last longer than a deceased donor's kidney," Stencel said. "It should last 10 to 15 years."

A healthy lifestyle plays into the longevity of a donated organ. Stencel said after his first transplant, he was compliant with what was asked of him.

"For me, getting longevity out of this first one has helped me get this second one," he said. "It's a gift, this ability to have new life."

Each of them has a separate transplant team and while Stencel knows what to expect from the process, it's been 20 years since his first transplant. He has been to myriad appointments the last few months in preparation for the surgery.

"Their goal is to make sure this kidney lives and works for the recipient as long as it can," he said, adding that he's impressed with the team at Henry Ford. "… They care about me. I felt like I was not just another person coming through. They're very friendly; they're invested. The care I've gotten from the Henry Ford kidney team has been amazing."

"Surgery is different for him and for me," Jaeger noted. "He'll go back first; they'll get him opened up and prepped. Then they'll take me back, take my kidney out, transport it down the hall and give it to Paul."

She hopes they both recover on the transplant floor at Henry Ford Hospital. She's anticipating the pain involved, "but that doesn't bother me," and she understands there's a chance of rejection, "but I'll take that chance," she said.

"I'll only spend overnight or two nights in hospital, then go home," she added. "Depending on his kidney function, he'll be there maybe a week before he comes home. My recovery will be two weeks off work; two weeks of 24-hour care."

With a working wife and three young children, Jaeger, a part-time graphic designer, has enlisted the help of a neighbor.

"That's when the village of Grosse Pointe helps," she said, noting several friends have offered meals and other means of support during her recovery. "… You've got to have that community. That's why Lynda and I moved here to begin with. It's been nice to be able to feel that."

Jaeger said if the kidney donation goes well, she's interested in donating a portion of her liver, which regenerates after donation.

Brighter days

After his first transplant, Stencel was back to work as a sportsbook manager — he's worked at Greektown and Motor City casinos — in 10 weeks. He currently is not employed.

"This is a good opportunity for me to be home, to help out with the house, spend time with the kids," he said. "Laura is the secretary at Kerby (Elementary School). Now my wife's carrying all the weight.

"I'll look for something

See KIDNEY, page 6B

GP Sunrise Rotary launches fundraising initiative to help eradicate polio worldwide

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club recently announced the launch of a community-wide fundraising initiative aimed at supporting Rotary International's global effort to eradicate polio. The goal of "Pointe the Way to Zero" is to assist in the complete elimination of polio cases worldwide and to ensure zero cases. The club has set a goal of raising $10,000 locally, with $5,000 already pledged by early supporters.

Polio eradication has been Rotary's signature cause for more than three decades, contributing to a 99.9 percent reduction in global cases. Funds raised through this initiative will support vaccination campaigns, surveillance efforts and critical infrastructure in the remaining regions where the virus persists.

"Our community has always stepped up when it matters most," said Mark J. Heppner, president of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club. "We're asking our neighbors to join us in finishing a fight that Rotary helped start — ensuring that no child, anywhere in the world, suffers from polio again."

The initiative is the brainchild of Rotarian Sherrie Jones, who stepped up with an initial financial commitment, as well as got others onboard for a starting pledge of $5,000. "Until we reach every child and vaccinate them against polio, no child is truly safe anywhere," Jones said. "We have the tools and the knowledge to end polio for good; we just need the sustained commitment to finish the job."

The club will engage residents, businesses,

See POLIO, page 6B

BANNER YEARS

Birthdays, showers and more get a creative touch!

By Olivia Monette
and Donna Zetterlund
Special Writers

Part of the fun of any party is the atmosphere. From streamers to balloons, flowers to banners, party decor certainly does its part to get everyone into a festive party mood.

Have you ever wished you could get a great custom banner designed locally for a special event — but weren't sure where to begin looking? Seek no more.

Brush To Banner is a hand-painted banner business founded by Grosse Pointe mom and speech-language pathologist Jenny Cameron. After spotting a viral social media post, she was inspired to try banner painting as a creative side hustle. What started as a fun idea quickly grew into a thriving small business. Since launching in June 2025, she has completed over 200 custom banners for local celebrations.

From her home studio filled with paint, brushes and paper, Cameron begins each project with a digital mockup before carefully bringing her customers' visions to life. She loves the collaborative process and finds joy in knowing her work becomes part of life's most meaningful moments. Seeing her banners proudly displayed at bridal showers, baby showers, birthdays, graduations and retirements is one of her favorite rewards.

Add beauty, cuteness and color to your next family or group celebration while putting the "special" in your special occasion. Give Brush to Banner a call.

For more information or to place an order, follow @BrushToBanner on Instagram or email brushtobanner@gmail.com.

A wild time
Little Emmie, far right, shares her two-year milestone with family and friends — and a cute jungle-themed animal birthday banner.

THIS ARTIST CAN ELEVATE ANY PARTY

CUSTOM BANNERS LEND COLOR AND PERSONALITY

Bumper crop
An adorable banner in a baby veggie garden theme, far left on opposite page, was created to honor the new arrival coming to the Miller family.

Under the sea
Two-year-old Juliet enjoyed a deep sea themed birthday party with a cute banner featuring jellyfish, a puffer fish, coral and a pearl on the half shell. Colorful fabric streamed above the banner added even more of a sea vibe!

Bride's BFF's
A best friends' banner is the centerpiece of this pretty pink and red gathering of bridesmaids, top right. It's just one example of how a custom banner can set the whole tone of an event, as it ties together all the decor.

A spritz of love
This playful banner, above right, adds effervescence to a party ramping up to the nuptials of Emily and Brandon.

Disco baby
Annie boogied the day away at her one-year birthday celebration, where the banner, above right, kept it all in tune.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Lucy goosey
Little Lucy's birthday banner, left, captures all the cuteness of her big landmark party. Painted in the color theme of the baby's bash, Brushes to Banners works its magic again!

Class act
The flowery graduation banner, right, gives the celebration a colorful and feminine look for new grad Johanna.

Meet the artist
Jenny Cameron, of Grosse Pointe, left, opened her home business — Brush to Banner, after seeing a viral post on social media. The idea light bulb flashed on, she began to dabble, then soon had a bonafide artistic business well underway!

POLIO:

Continued from page 3B

civic partners and fellow Rotarians in the coming weeks to close the remaining fundraising gap. Donations of any amount will support Rotary's global "End Polio Now" campaign and will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"This is a moment for Grosse Pointe to show what community leadership looks like," Heppner added. "Every dollar brings us closer to a world where polio is not just rare, but gone forever."

Community members interested in contributing or learning more about the initiative can contact the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club at (313) 969-7650 or visit grossepointesunriserotary.org.

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club is committed to service above self, supporting local and global initiatives that strengthen communities, promote education and improve quality of life. The club meets 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, and welcomes new members.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA JAEGER

The Stencel and Jaeger-Karalla kids — soon to be "Kidney Cousins" — following a Youth on Stage performance of "The Wizard of Oz."

KIDNEY:

Continued from page 3B

so I can be home more; I'd love a remote job," he continued. "… This is an opportunity for a new life with this kidney, but also an opportunity to find something that fits my lifestyle with my family."

The Stencel and Jaeger-Karalla children are having a fun anticipating the transplant and plan to call each other "kidney cousins" when all is said and done. "Kidney Cousins" T-shirts have been ordered.

"Our families are already connected," Stencel said. "This is as close to marriage — a kidney marriage — as we can get right now. If Lisa's kidney will work for me, let's do it.

"… I'm excited about not having to be on a machine," he added. "One of the things I miss is just going to bed. … I'm looking forward to going to bed with out having this connection. And having adventures with family. They're going to mean so much more. I'm excited to look at what we can do because of this gift and it's great for the kids to see it too."

Stencel, whose mother also received a kidney transplant via chain donation in 2014, said he's nervous but excited for the procedure.

"Recovery is going to be tough," he said, "but I look forward to camping again, going on vacation. I always wanted to take the kids to the Bahamas."

Making a difference

More than 100,000 people in the United States are in need of a kidney. For Jaeger, the math just makes sense.

"We all have two and we can function with one," she said. "Everyone on the list could get one if everyone chips in. It's an easy process for the donor — you need testing, but it's not very invasive. More people need to know it's an option. There needs to be more awareness so more people do it."

Stencel's insurance will cover Jaeger's procedure, "which incentivizes people to give a living organ," she said. "Being a living donor is something viable, that we're able to do, that should happen. You're helping someone like Paul live a longer life."

Added Stencel, "You don't need to have someone to donate to to go in and say you want to give. They'll find someone for you. There's enough people in Michigan to give everyone on the list a kidney. … With living donors, this is how easy it is to change someone's life. You're giving someone the gift of life.

"We want to push the fact that a living donation gives the best outcomes for recipients, regardless of height or weight or size," he added. "Anyone can donate fairly easily."

Additionally, Michigan residents who donate a kidney or a portion of their liver can claim a one-time state income tax credit of up to $10,000 to help cover out-of-pocket expenses. This new credit — appearing as line 20 on the 2025 MI-1040 tax form — took effect Jan. 1, 2025. It is designed to reimburse living donors for costs not covered by insurance, such as travel, lodging, lost wages and child care related to the donation.

"There are a lot of people out there suffering and who need a donation," Stencel said. "If people understood the process, maybe they'd be more willing to donate."

A donation affects more than just the lives of the donor and recipient, he added.

"Some days I get up exhausted," Stencel said. "I have good days and bad days, but this affects everyone — the whole family. Lisa's not just helping me; she's changing the life of my wife, my kids. I'm excited for my family as well."

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2026

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED
1) to receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held May 4, 2026.
2) to open the Public Hearing on the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to increase the hours of operation for cannabis retail establishments in the City.
3) to Close the Public Hearing.
4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers135130 through 135214 in the amount of $814,459.71 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of $10,049.00 for contractual lawn cutting, weed maintenance/fertilization, spring clean up and trash pick-up in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks. (3) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of $48,274.00 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of April 2026, and also $29,971.31 for the building permit issued for the Community Center Dome Project, for a total of $78,245.31. (4) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of $10,400.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs and stump removals. (5) approve payment to Royal Roofing Company Inc. in the amount of $6,300.00 for repairs to the DPW Vehicle Shelter. This was turned over to our insurance carrier for reimbursement. (6) approve payment to EJ USA Inc. in the amount of $13,335.00 for the purchase of catch basin frames and covers that will be used for the 2026 Storm System Rehabilitation project. (7) approve payment to Intrado Life and Safety Solutions Corporation in the amount of $14,841.31 for the renewal of annual maintenance plan for the 911 dispatch call-taking console. (8) approve payment to Yeo & Yeo in the amount of $31,000.00 for the City's annual audit of financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2025. (9) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of $6,158.59 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of May and for IT support services for all departments. (10) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of $6,703.33 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of June 2026. (11) appoint Reginald Tabron to the Beautification Commission for an unexpired term ending in January of 2030.
2) to amend Section 6.15 Marijuana Establishments (c) Hours of Operation, as follows: All marijuana establishments must provide the City of Harper Woods administration and Chief of Police with the hours of operation of the facility, must provide revised hours if adjusted within forty-eight (48) hours of a change and must provide such information if requested by the City of Harper Woods. No marijuana retail establishments shall be open to the public between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. Monday through Wednesday, or between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Thursday through Sunday.
3) to postpone the request to amend the Zoning Map and to re-zone the property at 19616 Kelly Road and further to refer this matter back to the Planning Commission for further review.
4) to approve the purchase of a 2026 Ford Police Responder F-150 in the amount of $58,502.07, payable in three (3) annual payments of $19,500.69, and further that an additional $37,401.60 be approved for the complete outfitting of the vehicle, for a total of $95,903.67 with $51,967.10 of the CIT grant funds being used to offset the payments.
5) to approve the proposed budget for the 2026 Juneteenth Festival in the amount of $23,033.00, with the City's contribution of $15,283.00.
6) to adopt the Resolution in Support of Declaring the First Friday in June, June 5, 2026 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, May 28, 2026

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Helm

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

◆ Field trip to Orchestra Hall for "Songs of America," 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 29. Cost is $55 for transportation and the show.

◆ Lunch & Learn: A Visit to Argentine and Morocco, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, with facilitator Jim Creighton. Cost is $10.

◆ Lifestyle Series Chapter One: Get Rooted, Live Well with Dr. Gupta, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 4.

◆ Bocce Club, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, beginning June 4.

◆ Sundaes & Stand Up, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 11, with Kathy Ryan and Ed Hunter. Cost is $10.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Code as Craft: Free Community Meetup, 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 29.

◆ Beginner Sewing: Drawstring Bags, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30. Cost is $75.

◆ Intro to Zine Making with Melissa Dettloff, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30. Cost is $75.

◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Bag Charms, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 30. Cost is $55.

◆ Ceramics: Critter Dish Trinket Trays, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Cost is $60.

◆ Requiem: A Therapeutic Art & Writing Workshop Focused on Grief & Loss, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Cost is $75.

◆ Hand Lettering: Intro to Artful Chalkboards, 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Cost is $100.

Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ High School Exam Study, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 6.

◆ Saturday Drop-In Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Teddy Bear Clinic with MSU, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30.

◆ Gettin' Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 1.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

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

◆ Therapy Horse Program, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3.

◆ Teen Anime & Manga Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 3.

◆ Pop-In Playtimes, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 4.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 6.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, June 1, Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 12:45 to 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, June 8, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

The War Memorial

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

◆ An Evening with David Syme, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 2. Tickets are $20 general admission, $10 for students and veterans.

◆ An Evening with Author Ruta Sepetys, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 3. General admission tickets range from $15 to

See EVENTS, page 8B

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

Overseeing EyesOn Design

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Past President Sandra Cobb, right, welcomed Rotarian Kathy Lightbody to the April 21 Rotary breakfast meeting at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.
For more than two decades, Lightbody has helped shape EyesOn Design into one of the region's most celebrated automotive events. As general chairman and media relations leader, she is preparing for the 39th annual show, which takes place at Ford House June 21. Her own journey began growing up in Harper Woods and continued with a 21-year career at Crain Communications as director of marketing. She also continues to serve her community through Rotary leadership.
Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomes residents to its Tuesday morning breakfast and presentations at Ford House. For more information, contact the club at dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

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.

Letitia Clark

Letitia Clark

Letitia Clark, 84, died peacefully Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in Grosse Pointe, surrounded by her loving family.

She was the beloved wife of George Clark for 64 incredible years.

Letitia was the amazing mother of Mark (Tracey), Craig Enrico (Reham Alexander), Jeff (Laura) and Kasey Malley (Matt); and the "best-in-the-world Grandma Ta" to Bradley, Andrew, Charlie, Ben, Annie, Mitchel, Echo, Lindsey, Kaitlin, Fielding, Apollo and Bridget.

She was born July 1, 1941, in Detroit, to Pierina and Henry Petrucci. She married George in 1962. They raised their family of four children in Detroit and Grosse Pointe, where Letitia balanced a busy life with her family and many meaningful volunteer endeavors. She loved her family fiercely, including many dogs and granddogs.

She carried herself with simple elegance and a smile so welcoming that it touched every person she met. In every town and place she lived, she became a treasured friend and neighbor. She is deeply loved and missed by all who knew her.

Those lucky enough to know her understood how special she was. The final few days of her life were filled with family visits, story sharing and memories of a life well-lived. She will be dearly missed by her family and the many communities of friends and neighbors she grew to love throughout her life.

A celebration of life will take place later this summer in Port Sanilac, a place she loved very much.

Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph, Ste. 150, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, bit.ly/4nJRrsJ.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Alexander Grimm

Alexander Grimm

Alexander "Alex" Grimm, 28, passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in Cape Coral, Fla. He was a beloved son and brother and his family will forever cherish the many special memories they shared.

Alex always brightened a room with his big personality and sense of humor. He was born in Middletown, Conn., and grew up in Grosse Pointe. He graduated from University Liggett School in 2016, where he played hockey and golf. He then graduated from Lake Forest College in Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance.

Alex had a lively personality and was a bright student and gifted athlete. His main sporting activities included a 10-year goalie career with the St. Clair Shores Saints, Grosse Pointe Bulldogs and Honeybaked Hockey Club, as well as the hockey team at University Liggett School. He took pride in playing with such great teammates and relished being on the ice during close games while protecting the net. He became an avid runner the past few years, completing two half-marathons and numerous 5Ks and 10Ks.

Alex also was a competitive swimmer and reached state-qualifying times with the Grosse Pointe Gators. He spent summers swimming at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for many years, where he was active in the team's camaraderie. Alex also played golf and enjoyed many rounds with family and friends alike in Michigan, South Carolina and Florida.

Upon graduating college, Alex moved to Florida, where he embarked on a career in healthcare. Alex worked for various ophthalmology practices in the Fort Myers area and enjoyed engaging with patients from all walks of life. His infectious humor and kindness were his calling cards. Alex will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Alex leaves behind a loving extended family, including his parents, Linette Knoche (Ron) of Grosse Pointe and Douglas Grimm (Sharon) of Naples, Fla.; sister, Julia Grimm of Chicago; grandparents, Sheila Schebil (Carmen) of Grosse Pointe, Tom Knoche (Delores) of Port St. Joe, Fla., and Carol Grimm of Youngstown, Ohio; and aunts and uncles, Dr. Richard Grimm (Lisa) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Kimberly Pavlovich of Grosse Pointe, Michelle Kanar (Dr. Christopher) of Kalamazoo and Kevin Knoche (Shelley) of Clinton Township.

A private Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Providence Farm Community Foundation, 1620 Sunset Ridge, Northbrook, IL 60062, bit.ly/3Rn8W5V; or Voyage Recovery Center, 850 Parkway, Jupiter, FL 33477, voyagefoundation.org.

Opera de Metro returns for 'Marriage of Figaro' May 30-31

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

COURTESY PHOTO

A scene from last year's Opera de Metro performance of "The Magic Flute."

Following a successful inaugural season that featured a well-received "The Magic Flute," Opera de Metro returns to Grosse Pointe to present "The Marriage of Figaro," a comic opera by Mozart, Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31.

In its return to Grosse Pointe, ODM's "Figaro" will be directed by Patrick McNally, an assistant professor of voice and director of opera at East Texas A&M University, who joined the company after seeing one of its productions last season.

"'The Marriage of Figaro' is one of the greatest works of Mozart, adapted to English, so the audience understands the comedy," McNally said. "I think it's going to be laughing-good time with beautiful music and poignant moments that make you think and feel."

The modern telling of the classic comedy includes an updated setting.

"We've taken it away from Europe and moved it to America," he continued. "'The Marriage of Figaro' is based on a French play making fun of aristocracy, set on the cusp of the French Revolution. Ours is set in '50s America on the cusp of our own cultural revolution. It's part of our history. We don't have to bend the story. It's still 'The Marriage of Figaro.' The music is still Mozart. The context makes it more understandable to an American audience."

"We're very lucky to have Patrick, who saw a production, saw the work we're doing for the community and wanted to support us," said Madeleine Krick, artistic director and founder of ODM.

She created the company with friends, including Kellan Dunlap and Jake Surzyn, who set out to make opera more accessible by bringing it into the community. Its production of "Figaro" should accomplish that mission.

McNally said "Figaro" makes an excellent "first opera" experience.

"The story still holds up and the music is sublime," he said. "It's an old story, but there are kernels of fundamental truth to it. It's worth telling again. It teaches us about the human condition."

Lessons that are hard to understand and easy to forget often become more palatable with music, he said.

Added Krick, "It's not just the words, but what Mozart's done with them."

Some of the singers who performed last season will return to the stage, which also will welcome new voices. The company uses mostly Michigan talent; singers are coming from Midland, Lansing, Ann Arbor and other areas to perform. Orchestra members also are local.

"We're offering the first opportunity to these young talented singers who will go on to have careers in the arts," McNally noted. "... This is an educational institution that produces wonderful opera and also serves the community of artists. It provides a great step in development."

Longtime performer Surzyn will be among those onstage for "Figaro." He's taking on the role of the count.

"I'm the antagonist — to everyone," he said.

Added McNally, "(The count) is not a two-dimensional, mustache-twirling villain. This is a real person asking real questions. With credit to Mozart and Da Ponte, that's what makes this opera special. You get these fleshed-out characters, not stock characters. They're real people dealing with real issues trying to figure them out."

Added Krick, "Patrick's done a great job. It's quite a cast of characters; there's a lot going on. You can see the individual growth arc with everyone. There's no comedic lead, no two-dimensional villain. It's a lot of growth journeys. There's satisfying forward momentum."

Kudos also were extended to Assistant Music Director Sara Chiesa, rehearsal pianist Michelle Tapp and costume designer Maryn O'Brien for the work they're putting into the production.

ODM opened its second season last fall with "Dido & Aeneas," performed at Christ Church Detroit. During the holidays, it hosted a "Messiah" singalong at North Hills Christian Church in Troy. Then in February, it hosted its first voice competition, Concours de Voix, at Chippewa Valley High School, giving emerging singers in high school and college an opportunity to showcase their skills before a panel of judges. The competition will return next season.

With its sophomore season underway, Krick said she's excited to see ODM unfold the way she envisioned it would — bringing opera into communities to generate more exposure to the art form.

"We've got a lot of returners," she said. "Last season we saw a tremendous amount of support from family and friends, but also, a lot of people who came out told us it was their first opera. Now they come to everything. They came for us, but they found a love of the art. We're excited to be back in Grosse Pointe community."

"The Marriage of Figaro" takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 30, and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Thirty minutes before the show, Krick and McNally will host a talkback, during which they'll sit in dialogue with one another, providing context to the show, sharing about McNally's concept and accepting questions from the audience, if time permits.

"The more you know, the more you experience, the more it impacts you," McNally said.

Donors at the Maestra's Circle level also will be part of a champagne toast with the cast shortly before the show.

Tickets — $30 general admission, $20 for students — are available online at operademetro.org or at the door via cash or Venmo.

Planet D Nonet

Concert planned

Ava Valentina Noecker, left, and Camille Price.

The fifth annual Planet D Nonet concert at St. James Lutheran Church, 170 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms, takes place Sunday, June 7.

The jazz concert at St. James is open to the public. Guests are welcome to bring their own chairs.

Social hour begins at 3 p.m., followed by the concert at 4 p.m.

The 10-piece Planet D Nonet swing band features guest vocalists, Camille Price and Ava Valentina Noecker.

For more information, visit stjamesgp.org.

Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service
WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service
Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples-Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe **Congregational Church**
(United Church of Christ)
Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpcong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

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GPT:

Continued from page 1B

— mine especially — are challenging."

Higgins said he's looking forward to seeing months of hard work — after years of delay — come to fruition, as well as performing on a state-of-the-art theater stage. The entire "Cinderella" team is excited to use the variety of amenities at the new venue, including a world-class sound system and lighting, an orchestra pit and more onstage space than it's had in years, if not ever.

"The fly space, the proscenium — being able to be the first musical at Schaap Center," Higgins said, regarding what he's most looking forward to.

Added Quinlan, "It's an awesome space. I'm excited to be there and look forward to opening Schaap."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIA ELLIS

Costume chair Jackie Manczyk, right, makes an adjustment to Pam Montgomery's wardrobe.

Peele-Spitzer said the team is feeling pressure to put their best foot forward, but also is excited to share an inspiring story with audiences of all ages.

"I'm most looking forward to really affecting the audience and giving them a very memorable experience, whether they're grown adults or young girls or young boys," she said. "I'm looking forward to giving someone else a memory and affecting them with beautiful version of a story we all know."

"This is a much more defined Cinderella in terms of how we hope little girls watching in the audience will want to be like her, not just pretty and wearing a nice dress, but because she's kind and she speaks her mind to the prince," added Higgins, who soon will step away from directing as he's set to serve as GPT president beginning July 1. "I think audiences will be fully delighted with the story. They won't be disappointed."

Audiences will have more opportunities to be delighted as "Cinderella" takes the stage for 11 shows over three weekends — a longer run than typical GPT performances.

"I really enjoy that it still keeps the traditional bones of the story," Peele-Spitzer said. "There's no sword, no shield — she's not fighting a dragon — but I love that it keeps the gentle femininity of the classic 'Cinderella.' There's strength in being gentle and kind."

Right, Britta Peele-Spitzer as Cinderella and Carrie Royce Fisk as Marie/Fairy Godmother. Below, Peele-Spitzer and Alex Quinlan rehearse a scene.

The cast

Britta Peele-Spitzer as Ella/Cinderella
Alex Quinlan as Prince Topher
Carrie Royce Fisk as Marie/Fairy Godmother
Pam Montgomery as Madame
F. Scott Davis as Sebastian
Kristin Pagels Quinlan as Gabrielle
Jessica Graber as Charlotte
Daniel Walleman as Jean-Michel
Branden Omoregie as Lord Pinkleton

The ensemble

Gavin Bethell, Anna Christinidis, Erica Clarke, Dakota Dalton, Joshua Dubach, Grace Gillanders, Haylee Graham, Lillian Groth, Emma Hudgins, Michael Kieliszewski, Macklan "Mack" Kohler, Adam Kosznicki, Jessey Laba, Brigid Lally, Lauren Leach, Kristina Kamm Mardlin, Evan Provenzano, Rebekah Ryan, Olivia Skierski and Katie Trupiano.

The crew

Director and co-choreographer, Timothy Higgins; apprentice director, Joshua Dubach; co-producers, Lyndsey Briggs, Randie Kohler and Arlene Schoenherr; technical director, Gordon Richardson; music/vocal director, Marie Boyle Reinman; stage manager, Amy Ricker; assistant stage managers, Dominic Aldini, Raven Ross and Willow Wood; co-choreographer, Christine Campbell-Cormier; co-set designers, Kathy Conlon and Beth Gauthier; co-set dressing, Don Adzigian, Jackie DiSante and Kathy Grabruck; co-properties, Stella Woitulewicz; co-properties and dramaturg, Emily Lange; lighting design, Bob Montgomery; assistant lighting design, Chelsea Thomas; sound, Eric Sieh; costumes, Jackie Manczyk; co-makeup and hair design, Mary Magyari and Theresa Selvaggio; publicity and community engagement, Patricia Ellis; social media and dance captain, Kristina Kamm Mardlin; acrobats and lifts coach, Zak Shugart; and accompanist, Olivia Ferguson.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 6B

$35. A meet-and-greet experience with the author costs $30.

◆ Youth Athletes Showcase, 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, June 7.

Ford House

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

◆ Maker Studio at Ford House: Butterfly Garden Painting, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 30. Tickets are $45 for Friends, $50 for the public.

◆ Storytime: "A Family is a Family is a Family," 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays in June.

◆ All About Eleanor Guided Tour, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 2. Admission varies.

◆ Sip & Savor: The First Pour of Summer, for ages 21 and older, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 4. Tickets are $175.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. The speaker is Katy Klimczak, director of philanthropy with Literacy for Kids. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Optimists

The Lakeshore Optimist Club welcomes Alex J. Allen, of the Chandler Park Conservancy, to its meeting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 10, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Guests are welcome to hear the speaker and learn about the club. Email slicari54@gmail.com.

Harper Woods Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts an antique sale from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, in its soon-to-open Heritage Room. The sale will feature vintage clothing, original paintings, ceramic items and more. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

GPAA

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

◆ Color for the Abstract Painter with Marcia K. Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 19.

◆ Plein Air with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, July 16 to 30.

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Book gives momentum to 'zebra striping' movement

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

City of Grosse Pointe resident Dean Champane is at it again, this time releasing "Zero Proof USA: The New American Way," which celebrates America's 250th anniversary with a host of nonalcoholic beverage recipes.

It also introduces the term "zebra striping," in which imbibers alternate alcoholic drinks with nonalcoholic drinks, pacing their consumption of alcohol. The movement is an offshoot of popular European trends such as Dry January and Sober October.

"A number of people started doing Damp January," Champane said. "When they were alone, they'd sneak a cocktail, then go right back to a dry philosophy.

"That gained momentum, alternating from alcohol to non-alcohol," he added, noting a zebra was selected as the mascot as its stripes represent consuming or not consuming alcohol. "Now everybody is much more aware of options with alcohol and non-alcohol."

Through his new book, Champane is bringing the movement to America, coining the terms "American Zebra Striping" and "Zebra Striping USA," and using red, white and blue stripes, "to incorporate freedom of choice to consume alcohol, products with low alcohol and products with zero alcohol," he said. "Those three stripes have meaning behind them and they're red, white and blue because it's patriotic.

"'Zero Proof USA' is a spinoff of my last book and is based on the 250th anniversary of America," he continued, noting the book includes a timeline of historic events involving alcohol over the last 250 years.

Recipes for several patriotic "machtails" — Champane's homage to the Motor City — are listed in the book, which also includes chapters such as "Born in Detroit," "High Performance" and "Red White & Brew."

"Drinks affiliated with the patriotic theme are the 250th Jubilee, Yankee Doodle Fizz and Liberty Spritzer," Champane said. "There are also 'machtails' for drinks created in Detroit, like the M1 based on Woodward, Motor City Sunrise, the NA Bullshot invented at the Caucus Club in the '20s, the NA Last Word invented at the DAC and the NA Hummer invented at Bayview by Jerome Adams.

"The High Performance 'machtails' have an automotive theme," he continued, "like the Woodward Edition, Zero to Sixty, Last Lap, Rod Knock. These are all cocktails people in metro Detroit can associate with the car scene."

Other sections of the book include a nod to the Kentucky Derby, offering nonalcoholic versions of traditional and tequila-based mint juleps, as well as sparkling and champagne-based "machtails" and an assortment of "fashionable" drinks like nonalcoholic mimosas, cosmos and daiquiris that are "refreshing for spring and summer," Champane said.

"After meeting with tasting panels, metro Detroit mixologists, winecologists and other people who know cocktails, we decided to include beer for the first time," Champane said. "We looked at the whole category and decided to include a number of beer recipes we've never included before, like a beer shandy created in England, a rattler with orange juice and beer from Germany. And we came up with our own beer recipe, the Freedom TKO. We thought we'd do something really different here. There are no other recipe books with NA beer recipes."

The book is rounded out with sections on garnishes, barware and glassware, as well as a glossary, terminology and recommended brands.

"We end the book with a segment on Zebra Striping USA, a new level of where we can all be drinking in moderation," said Champane, a consultant for Great Lakes Wine & Spirits. "It's about drinking responsibly and enjoying the evening a little longer.

"Moderating alcohol consumption by zebra striping allows you to enjoy the evening without too much alcohol," he added. "You can enjoy it without worrying about a rough morning. This is going to open up whole new avenue, where everyone can enjoy cocktails responsibly."

"Zero Proof USA" was printed in the U.S., with 99 percent of its panel of experts based in Michigan. The book costs $34.99 at Amazon and barnesandnoble.com.

"Zero Proof isn't about missing out or giving up," Champane said. "It's about enhancing the experience. The book brings excitement, inclusivity and the new American spirit into every glass. 'Zero Proof USA' captures a nationwide shift that is becoming the new lifestyle toward balance and mindful enjoyment."

Free Ford House admission offered to active-duty military

Ford House is participating in the Blue Star Museums program, offering free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families (up to five guests) now through Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Guests are welcome to stroll the lakefront grounds, explore the historic main residence, browse the exhibitions or dine at The Continental.

Guests may redeem free admission by reserving tickets via telephone or redeeming them onsite. A valid military ID will be required upon arrival.

For more information, call (313) 884-4222 or visit fordhouse.org.

COURTESY PHOTO

The golden hour

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Dave Galbenski snapped this photo, which he called, "Pure Michigan in spring during the golden hour," early last week along Lakeshore.

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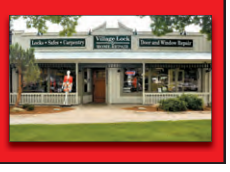

GROSSE POINTE Gabby

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

Establish ground rules for your teenage guests

Dear Gabby: Every summer, my teenage son's friends seem to migrate to our house like seagulls to french fries. I love that our home is where everyone feels comfortable, but I'm suddenly feeding six extra boys nightly and finding wet towels draped over every chair, railing and shrub in our yard.

My husband says I should just enjoy these years because "at least we know where they are," but I'm starting to feel like the unpaid manager of a summer hostel. Is it unreasonable to want a few quiet evenings — and maybe a grocery reimbursement? — Over-hosting in the Farms

Dear Over-hosting: You are not unreasonable. It's wonderful your home is the gathering place, but that doesn't mean you must operate a free, all-inclusive resort until Labor Day.

Summer houses have a way of becoming neighborhood headquarters, especially when there's food, air conditioning and a parent willing to tolerate noise, mess and late nights.

Set a few cheerful but firm ground rules: Designate certain nights as "family only," assign cleanup duties and don't be shy about asking frequent guests to chip in for pizza or snacks occasionally. You also can attempt to have the kids rotate homes. Good luck with that!

And remember: One day the towels will disappear, the house will be quiet and you may actually miss the chaos. Just probably not the wet swimsuits on the furniture, DoorDash bill and yelling at 3 a.m.

— Gabby

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

Sibling rivalry doesn't always end in childhood

Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: My sister and I have always been close. We grew up sharing clothes, secrets and late-night phone calls, and for years I considered her my best friend. But lately, every conversation with her feels less like a conversation and more like a contest I never signed up to enter.

If I mention that my son made the honor roll, she immediately tells me her daughter's school is much harder. If I say we had a nice family vacation, she reminds me that her trip was more expensive, more adventurous or more "educational." If I share that I'm tired from work, she is somehow more exhausted. Even when I try to keep things light, she finds a way to compare our children, our marriages, our homes or even how busy we are.

The last straw came at a family dinner when I proudly mentioned that my son had scored a goal in his soccer game. Instead of saying congratulations, she smiled tightly and said, "Well, some kids peak early." I laughed it off in the moment, but I drove home feeling hurt and embarrassed.

I love my sister and do not want to cut her out of my life. But I am starting to dread talking to her because I leave every interaction feeling smaller instead of supported. How do I protect my peace without creating a family feud? — Tired Of Competing

DEAR TIRED: Your sister may be turning life into a scoreboard, but you do not have to pick up a pencil. The next time she makes a cutting comparison, calmly say, "I'm not competing with you. I was just sharing something that made me happy."

Do not argue, defend or try to prove your point. That only keeps the game going. Instead, change the subject or excuse yourself from the conversation. Over time, share less personal news with her and save your happy moments for the people who know how to cheer without checking the score.

You can love your sister and still protect your peace. Boundaries are not punishments; they are guardrails.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dear annie@creators.com.

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Gaudino's, family owned and operated

Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

The property at 27919 Harper Ave., St Clair Shores, has housed Italian markets for decades. Two different family-owned and operated markets have called this address home, one being the Gaudino family, who moved to this location from Detroit, in 1971.

Generations later, original owner Peter Gaudino's granddaughter, JoMarie, and her husband, Tom Amato, bought back the property, a few years after the Giglio family retired from the family-owned and operated Italian market they operated there from 1989 to 2011.

The story behind Gaudino's is built on family. Peter Gaudino opened the original location on Mack and Drexel in Detroit in the late 1940s, with his daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Jack Genovesi, both working there. Gaudino's was a well-known Italian meat market in the '70s and '80s, famous for its homemade Italian sausage. Operations were eventually taken over by Mary and Jack, and the business relocated to St. Clair Shores in the early 1970s.

Family: Peter Gaudino, Mary and Jack Genovesi, JoMarie and Tom Amato.

By that time, two of their eldest, John and Sandy, became employees. In the early '80s, they added their youngest, JoMarie, as well as Sandy's husband, Sal Rubino, and a young man named Tom Amato, to the Gaudino's staff.

In the late '80s, Mary and Jack sold the business and the building. One good thing that came of this chapter was teenage love. JoMarie and Tom Amato married in 1987, and their next chapter began.

Tom, with an MBA from the University of Michigan, was in engineering and on his way to become a CEO, while JoMarie was in teaching and raising their family of three. In 2015, the couple decided to dive back in when the opportunity was staring them in the face.

"Tom and I bought the building back and decided to relaunch Gaudino's, not strictly as a market, but a restaurant as well," JoMarie said.

They opened brand new doors in 2017.

"Tom worked with renowned architects Ron & Roman to help bring our vision to life, of combining an urban-market space within a modern eatery environment," she said.

The open-kitchen dining room seats 100 guests. The couple noticed the concept while visiting major cities that showcased cooking as part of the dining experience. "Additionally, this approach pays homage to the many years of Gaudino's attending Italian festivals, where we grilled sausage and breaded steak in an open environment," she said.

Family members are still in the mix now.

"My sister, Sandy Rubino, makes many of the prepared foods that you see in our deli," JoMarie said. "Her spiedini are very popular. Her husband, Sal Rubino, works in the deli as well."

If you're on social media and follow Gaudino's, you know about Sal and the marketing of his sub sandwiches. "Sal completely revamped and perfected our subs," JoMarie said. "They're made-to-order, on Italian bread, made to Gaudino's specifications."

Options range from traditional Italian hoagies and caprese subs with fresh mozzarella, to heated subs. With boating season coming up, you can order a charcuterie to-go — Sal makes it in a pizza box — and grab a few subs on the way to the marina.

"The incorporation of the deli and special sandwich making into the main restaurant was also to pay homage to the original Gaudino's, which had an expansive deli and a popular sub sandwich," JoMarie said, adding that on a regular basis they have lunchmeat, cheese, olives and prepared-food counters. "We have a separate counter and cooler devoted strictly to making our Italian sausage, which we offer in three varieties: fennel, cheese and wine and hot."

Also available for purchase in the market are top brands of imported Italian pasta, as well as Chef Joe's bolognese, pomodoro and ammoglio sauces, made fresh daily and available by the quart.

Speaking of Chef Joe, let's get into the kitchen. Gaudino's executive chef is Joe Beato, who grew up in the area and developed his skills in the best place possible: Rome. He's been in the industry well over a decade and is responsible for overall kitchen operations.

"Our youngest son, Nick Amato, works in the kitchen and behind the bar on Saturdays as well," JoMarie said.

I see a pattern here! Gaudino's house specialty is the porcellino mezzi rigatoni. The star of this dish is the crumbled house-made sausage, with arugula and pomodoro, finished with cream.

Its top appetizer is the salsiccia: grilled house-made sausage, peppers and onions with ammoglio. Don't overlook Nona Marra's meatballs: a house-made beef and pork blend with sugo (red sauce) and herb ricotta. My favorite is the campagna: orecchiette, slow-braised short ribs, sugo and Reggiano.

There is truly something for everyone with this menu, from specialty pasta dishes to seafood, classic chicken entrées to steaks and lamb chops. I know people who come here just for pizza. Their made-to-order cannolis and tiramisu are the classic go-to's for dessert, but the affogato is gaining popularity when it comes to an after-dinner dessert. Espresso poured over a scoop of gelato? It's heavenly worth it.

Gaudino's sources all of its products from multiple local vendors. It also offers gluten-free pizza and pasta and a variety of excellent salads. Personally, I enjoy meeting friends and family at the bar, sharing a charcuterie platter and Mediterranean salad with an excellent glass of wine and ending the night with one of the best espresso martinis. Bartender Rodney pretty much knows the order by now when he sees us coming.

Gaudino's has an extensive wine list with several reasonably priced choices, by the glass or by the bottle. It recently added a "Captain's List" of uniquely sourced wines by a sommelier. For those wondering, yes, the "wall of wine" is used for retail sales as well as its in-house wine inventory.

"If a guest is interested in a specific bottle or case of wine, our general manager or bartender will assist them," JoMarie explained when I questioned said wall.

Along with Rodney, April is one of the original employees behind the bar and has been with Gaudino's nine years. JoMarie's husband Tom "has been known to get behind the bar and try his hand at slinging drinks too."

She said aside from the espresso martini, the Manhattan and Jack's Old-Fashioned are popular requests. In the summer, you can't go wrong with the Aperol Spritz. Gaudino's offers a full premium liquor bar, as well as nonalcoholic beer and made-to-order mocktails. JoMarie said they have recently expanded the bar seating to accommodate more guests.

Gaudino's also has plenty of space to accommodate private events.

"We have several options available for parties of different sizes, ranging from our outside patio to our back room, as well as combining both," she said. "We can easily handle special events from 12 to 60 attendees."

See FOOD, *page 3C*

COURTESY PHOTOS

Porcellino Mezzi Rigatoni, Campagna, Frutti de Mare (seafood pasta).

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

Somehow I am the worst at all things hair. I cannot even do a French braid, much to my daughter's chagrin. When I try to use a curling iron, I somehow end up putting a large dent or crimp in my hair and by the time I get it right, it's basically burnt to a crisp. When I saw the Tymo auto-curling contraption advertised on Instagram, I worried I would buy it and my hair would be sucked in and ripped to shreds — but I had to try it.

I bought the iron on sale on Amazon for around $79. When I got it, I wasn't even sure how to use it, which further illustrates my ineptitude for anything having to do with hair. When I sat down and read the (very short) instructions, it made

sense immediately.

Basically, you hold down a button to turn it on and wait about two minutes for it to heat up. To use, they recommend curling your hair away from the face. There is a sliding button on the barrel you can easily change, depending on which direction you would like it to curl. Finally, you put a small section in the slot at the top and press the button. The thing spins your hair around and around for a specific amount of time and then beeps and stops moving when it's done. Somehow your hair doesn't get yanked in and, even if you don't do it exactly right, it can sense if there's a tangle and goes in reverse. The result is magazine-worthy curls every time. Amazing!

According to the product, it has an anti-scald design and tourmaline ceramic coating that leaves your hair undamaged and shiny. After using it a few months now, I agree that it doesn't damage your hair any more than any other heat tool. My daughter and I were so excited about this hair hack that we decided to time ourselves on how quickly we could curl our entire head. Seven minutes is how long it takes! Unreal!

Even when my hair looks horrific after sleeping on it all night or letting it air dry, I can use this tool and in a few minutes I look pretty darn good. In addition, it's a long-lasting curl and is still intact after sleeping on it all night.

My 11-year-old can do this by herself, which is great when I don't have time to do it for her. Because the barrel is protected by an outer layer, there is not much room to get burned. She also has very long hair and this iron can handle any length.

Disclaimer: Definitely don't take my word for it that a pre-teen can do this solo. Try it out first and then decide if it's safe for your child.

I give this product 5 alligators. It is essentially foolproof. And I'm not alone. It has about 10,000 reviews with a 4.7-star rating. You can find it at Amazon here: amzn.to/490HgtH

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

5 Out Of 5

A summer salad favorite

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Sometimes, I ask myself if I'm trying to reinvent the wheel in the kitchen. How many different ways can you make a tomato sauce or grill a chicken breast? The truth is, countless. But this week I'm sticking to what I know is good and recipes that have stood the test of time in my kitchen and on our table. Consider this a little "best of the best" for summer.

This salad originally ran in a Mombeau's Table article three ... maybe four years ago, and I still come back to it every single summer. It's simple, colorful, bright and completely dependable. People have remembered it and ask for it. I'll even admit that corn isn't quite at its peak this time of year and the price can make you pause for a moment in the produce aisle, but summer is coming so I'm willing to splurge. A drizzle of honey sweetens everything beautifully and makes up for corn that hasn't fully hit its summer stride yet.

Reading this old introduction again makes me smile because I still feel exactly the same way.

I'm in the mood for sunburns, being lost in the woods, swimming until I'm wrinkled, skipping stones in the lake, fishing, helping the kids catch endless frogs and most importantly eating well!

When summer finally comes along I want it to taste spectacular. This week I will give you one of the best side dishes I have in my back pocket. It's fresh and bright and pleases most everyone.

Corn might not be its best at this time of year but adding honey solves the problem. Avocado and black beans add the meaty texture that any vegetarian craves.

Serve with tortilla chips and hot sauce for those who want to spice things up!

PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Corn, Avocado and Black Bean Salad

6 ears of corn

1 15oz can of black beans

3 avocados, diced

½ red onion, finely chopped

1 seeded and chopped jalapeno

2 tbsp chopped, fresh cilantro

Zest of 2 limes

Juice of 3 limes

¼ cup olive oil

1 tsp chili powder

½ teaspoon salt

1 tbls honey

Add corn to a large pot of boiling water. Simmer for seven minutes and then remove to cool. Rinse the black beans well in a sieve. Add the beans, chopped onion, cilantro, jalapeno and beans to the bowl. Once cooled, cut the kernels off the cobs with a sharp knife into your favorite serving bowl.

In a small bowl, make the dressing. Grate the zest of two lemons with a microplane. Add the juice of three limes, chili powder, honey, salt and olive oil. Whisk to combine.

I like to add the avocado at the last minute. Halve the avocado and remove the pit. Score it into cubes and remove with a spoon into the bowl. Add the dressing, toss gently and simply appreciate simple things.

Taste buddies! Sponsor Mombeau's Table in this highly-visible spot!
To reserve this space, call (313) 882-6900

Bait and switch

Sometimes it's simply just a mistake, but it seems always to backfire against the consumer.

And sometimes it is a nefarious strategy intended to put one over on unsuspecting diners, almost always with the intent of making a lot of money.

It's about wine "bait and switch" in restaurants.

This column is not aimed at casting suspicion on all restaurant owners or to imply that many are simply highway robbers who figure that the likelihood of being caught is very slim.

And besides, what they're doing isn't exactly against the law. It's simply unethical and could lead a savvy diner who discovers the tactic to decide never to visit the establishment again.

Bait and switch is the conscious act of putting something up for sale that appears to be valuable and replacing it with something that has none of the original intended value, but which is priced to indicate that it's authentic.

Sort of like a street vendor selling an "Onega" watch for $30.

Obviously, the more you know about wine, the more you are likely to avoid such situations. But when you're dining in a good restaurant, you're hoping to have a good time and the last thing that crosses your mind is that chicanery may be afoot that requires action on your part.

Most people accept the insult rather than dispute the charge.

For the purpose of this article, I won't use real names, but some of the most iconic wine brands in the world are often involved. A very visible Napa Valley cabernet producer whose wines usually sell for $80 a bottle and up has frequently been seen on restaurant wine lists at about $60 to $90 a bottle.

Savvy wine buyers easily see this as a scam because restaurant prices are almost always higher than their retail prices, and $60 to $80 almost never refers to the Napa producer's "Napa" wine. The restaurant clearly is serving one of the Napa winery's "lifestyle" cabernets, with a suggested retail price of well under $25 per bottle.

At $80, it's a bait-and-switch rip-off.

Which would be evident to the purchaser once the bottle is brought to the table unopened and the waiter shows the diner the label — to be certain this is the wine he or she ordered.

In most cases, unsophisticated buyers will nod approval perfunctorily, not noticing that the region from which the grapes came is "California," and not "Napa Valley."

But even when the "wrong" wine arrives to the table, another issue arises: having to send it back, request the wine list one more time, make another selection and wait for that new bottle to arrive.

This is time-consuming and meanwhile the food might have already arrived with no wine on the table. It has happened to me many times.

One final idea: When ordering a wine by the glass, I always ask to see the bottle from which it came. I can't tell you the number of times the bottle differed from what the waitstaff had told me the wine would be.

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

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FOOD

Continued from page 2C

General manager Bill Parker does an amazing job helping you plan your event, including the menu. For special events, two months in advance is recommended for reserving. Sometimes they can accommodate on short notice, but it depends on the amount of guests. Call for information on planning your event. You can also enjoy Gaudino's on multiple delivery platforms, such as DoorDash, Uber Eats and GrubHub.

JoMarie and Tom are proud to say Gaudino's is led by general manager Bill and assistant manager Joe Kopitske, as well as several employees who have been with them since the doors opened in 2017: Chef Joe; their sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Sal Rubino; bartender, April; and servers, Leslie, Rosalie, Susan, Sharon and Gjozofina.

"We have been humbled by the receptiveness of our vision to guests from the community and it is our goal to continue to offer great service, great food and a family atmosphere, all at reasonable value," JoMarie said.

It's pretty safe to say Gaudino's is the Italian gem of St. Clair Shores. At Gaudino's, do as the sign says: Eat. Drink. Shop.

Gaudino's is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Keep up with Sal and his subs and Gaudino's evening specials on Facebook: Gaudino's and Instagram: @gaudinosscs.

* Fun fact: Gaudino's is knocking on their 10-year anniversary coming up in 2027. Time flies when you're having fun.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

Premier sponsor Kyle Hecht, of Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe Woods, fishes with his daughter, Piper, 3, left, and son, Hunter, 6, right.

COURTESY PHOTO

Classic returns with focus on family fun on the water

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

The Grosse Pointe News Fishing Classic returns Thursday, May 28, once again kicking off a seasonal tradition that blends friendly competition with time spent outdoors on Lake St. Clair and surrounding waters. Open to residents of all ages, the contest invites families, kids and experienced anglers to take part in one of the community's most recognizable early summer events.

In its return, the Fishing Classic continues to serve less as a high-pressure tournament and more as a shared community experience, one that encourages participants to get outside and enjoy the lakefront that defines Grosse Pointe life.

"We're happy to offer this exciting contest for another year," Publisher Anne Gryzenia said. "It's one more reason to spend time on our beautiful Lake St. Clair — and we hope everyone joins in on the fun."

Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe Woods returns as the event's premier sponsor for the fourth consecutive year. For Kyle Hecht, independent branch leader and financial consultant, the continued involvement is rooted in community connection.

"It's great to give back to the community and see kids doing the old traditional way of entertainment — fishing down at the pier with friends, family and brothers and sisters," Hecht said.

Hecht emphasized that the event's appeal comes from its simplicity and ability to bring together different generations around something familiar and accessible.

Set against the backdrop of Grosse Pointe's waterfront, the Fishing Classic also reflects the community's longstanding relationship with Lake St. Clair. For many residents, the water is not just scenery, it's part of everyday life.

"We are a waterfront community and I wonder how far back, hundreds of years, fishing has gone back," Hecht said.

While some participants enter the contest with the goal of winning prizes, others, especially younger anglers, are drawn to the experience itself. The Fishing Classic continues to position itself as an opportunity to build memories that extend beyond the outcome of the competition. Hecht, who lives on Lake St. Clair, said fishing is already a regular part of his routine, making the event feel like a natural extension of everyday life in the community.

Hecht said the event continues to reflect what has kept it going year after year: a focus on connection, participation and shared time outdoors.

"We really focus on the family (with this) event and we are fourth-time sponsors and happy to give back to the community," Hecht said. "We look forward to seeing pictures of all the kids and awarding the grand prize at the end."

The Fishing Classic will run through Thursday, June 28, continuing its place as a community tradition that brings residents together on the water, one cast at a time.

Additional sponsors of this year's contest include Lakeside Fishing, Wilson Marine, Fishbones, Wally's Frozen Custard, Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, Fairway Packing Co., Chocolate Bar Cafe. Mr. Muskie Charters, J & J Custard Company and The Lobster Pot.

For more information and a complete list of rules, visit grossepointenews.com/fishingclassic/rules.

2026 Grosse Pointe News Fishing Classic

DIVISION A (ON SHORE) - *Ages 12 & under*
DIVISION B (ON SHORE) - *Ages 13 & older*
DIVISION C (BOATING) - *Ages 12 & under*
DIVISION D (BOATING) - *Ages 13 & older*

Fishing area: Anywhere in the Grosse Pointes and surrounding areas on land or boat

Dates: May 28 - June 28, 2026

Cash prizes:

- **$50** per fish category for the A & C divisions, plus **$100** for the largest fish of the week.
- **$25** per fish category for the B & D divisions, plus **$50** for the largest fish of the week.

ALSO weekly drawings for gift cards, gear and other prizes.

Visit **grossepointenews.com/fishingclassic** for full contest rules and details.

THIS WEEK'S FISHING TIP:

Bass are biting all up and down the mile roads. Catching largemouth and smallmouth near 9 Mile Rd. and the Blossom Heath area. Walleye on the river from Alter Rd. to Metro Beach. Happy fishing!

Lakeside Fishing Shop
25110 Jefferson Ave./10 Mile Rd.
St. Clair Shores • (586) 777-7003
Daily fishing report, call: (586) 777-7008

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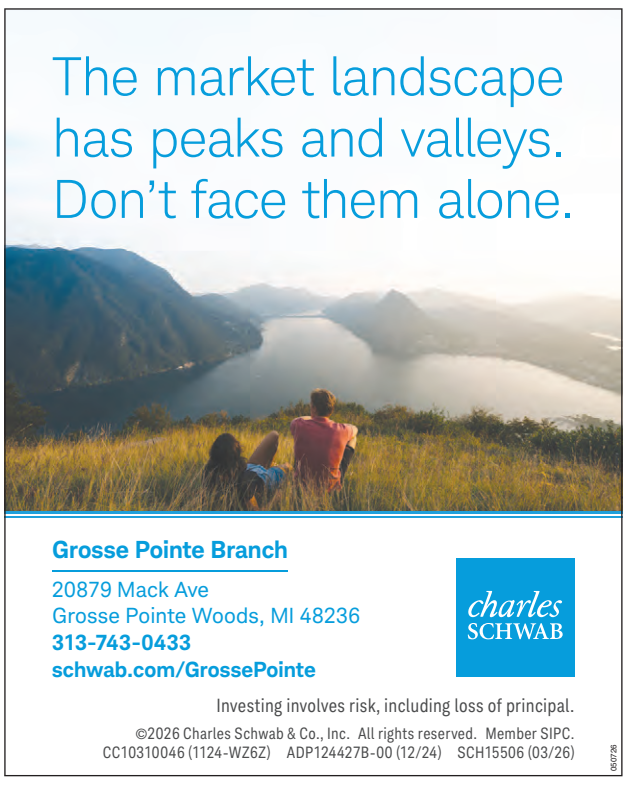

Grosse Pointe News

Fishing Classic

2026

"REEL" GOOD TIMES START NOW

MAY 28 - JUNE 28, 2026

WIN CASH PRIZES

OR GIFT CARDS AND FISHING GEAR

CONTEST RULES:

- **4 divisions to enter**
  - **DIVISION A (ON SHORE) -** *Ages 12 & under*
  - **DIVISION B (ON SHORE) -** *Ages 13 & older*
  - **DIVISION C (BOATING) -** *Ages 12 & under*
  - **DIVISION D (BOATING) -** *Ages 13 & older*
- **Fish categories:**
  - **BASS (LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH)**
  - **MUSKIE**
  - **PIKE**
  - **WALLEYE**
- **Catch and release fishing only**
- **Lake St. Clair or the Detroit River**
- **Submit a photo of your catch next to this ruler page, like this**

- **Contest is for length of fish only**
  Must be measured with ruler provided/assembled from this page or official on-site bench rulers
- **Enter as many days/fish as you wish!**

SEE COMPLETE RULES ONLINE AT:

grossepointenews.com/fishingclassic/rules

Announcing weekly winners in 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25 and 7/16 issues of the Grosse Pointe News.

Lakeside Fishing

charles SCHWAB GROSSE POINTE

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20” 21” 22” 23” 24” 25” 26” 27” 28” 29” 30” 31” 32” 33” 34” 35” 36” 37” 38”

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Sally Field as Tova Sullivan in the 2026 movie "Remarkably Bright Creatures," written by Olivia Newman, John Whittington and Shelby Van Pelt and directed by Olivia Newman.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"

MOVIE REVIEW
"Remarkably Bright Creatures"
2026 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 51 min
★★★★½

The reason I was attracted to this new film is twofold. First, I'm absolutely fascinated by anything related to octopuses. I'm what you might call an "octophile," if that's even a real term. One of my favorite movies of all time is "My Octopus Teacher" which, if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it. Additionally, I've read all three books about these amazing creatures by the prolific nature writer Sy Montgomery. Let's put it this way, if it has anything to do with octopuses, I'm all over it.

The second reason is it stars America's sweetheart Sally Field. I grew in the 1960s watching her hit TV shows "Gidget" and "The Flying Nun." After reading the best-selling novel "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, I was pretty sure it would be made into a movie. But who would play the lead character? They couldn't have made a better choice than selecting Ms. Field. The Academy Award-winning actor has starred in a ton of iconic films over the years including "Smokey and the Bandit," "Steel Magnolias", "Forrest Gump," "Lincoln," "80 for Brady," and, well the list goes on and on, seemingly forever. This fine film is just one more outstanding movie to her credit.

The director Olivia Newman ("Where the Crawdad Sings") has done a great job bringing such an emotional book to the big screen. She wrote the script along with John Wittington and Shelby Van Pelt. She's aided by the superb camerawork of cinematographer Ashley Conner and a wonderful score by Dickon Hinchliffe.

"Creatures" is set in the fictional Pacific Northwest town of Sowell Bay— and filmed in the beautiful Vancouver neighborhood of Deep Cove. It's against this scenic backdrop where the story takes place. We first meet Marcellus, the irascible octopus, voiced by the unmistakable Alfred Molina. He muses on how he misses the serenity of the ocean floor now that he's living in captivity in a local aquarium. At one point he comments, "Humans, for the most part, are dull and blundering. But occasionally, you (meaning us) can be remarkably bright creatures." Hence, the novel and film's title.

We then meet Tova, a retired woman played by Sally Field. She works after hours as the cleaning person at the aquarium. She's a lonely and somewhat despondent soul, having lost her son many years ago, and more recently her husband as well. While she has a few old friends she socializes with, Marcellus is the one creature she truly opens up to. They have a unique cross-species friendship that's quite endearing.

One day a new kid arrives in town. Meet Cameron (Lewis Pullman, "Top Gun: Maverick"), a drifter who's down on his luck. He lives out of the hippy-styled van left to him by his late mother. He's almost broke and is searching for the father he's never met. On a hunch that his dad lives nearby, he stops in to the quaint little town. When Tova sprains her ankle, he's offered a temporary position doing her job. As they work together each evening, they begin to form a bond. It's nurtured by them opening up about their losses and tragedies.

They also encourage each other to come out of their shells and start dating. Ethan, played by the always delightful Colm Meaney, is the local general store owner who's taken an interest in Tova. After a bit of prodding from Cameron, she agrees to go on a very casual date with him. And Tova pushes the reluctant Cameron to spend more time with Avery (Sofia Black-D'Elia, "The Mick"), a young woman who runs a paddle-board shop. The film doesn't spend a great deal of time on these budding romances, but focuses more on the relationship between Tova and Cameron. Their mutual support and healing is at the crux of the story.

"Creatures" is a beautiful, heartfelt movie that's just about perfect. It may be a little bit predictable, but I think that's just fine. It stays pretty true to the novel, although as I recall, the book was more about Marcellus, and I feel the film could have benefitted from him receiving more screen time. But that's a minor bone to pick. I'd be curious to know just how much was a real octopus and how much was CGI. If it was largely special effects, they did an amazing job!

Overall, I loved this emotional movie. Pullman did a wonderful job and he had great chemistry with Ms. Field. This is his breakout role and I really look forward to seeing what he does next. And the town of Sowell Bay is so pleasant and friendly, it makes you want to just pick up and move there!

Currently streaming on Netflix.

My rating system:

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

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

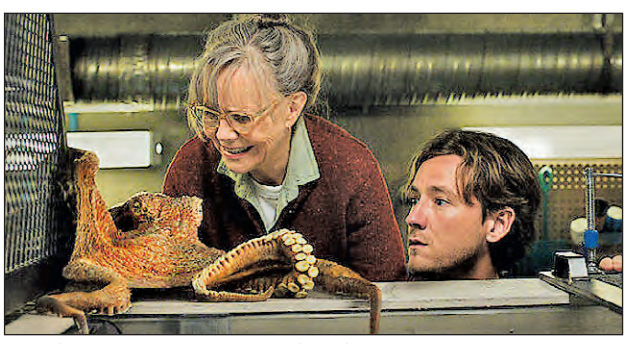
★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

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

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



Putting Marcellus back in his tank.

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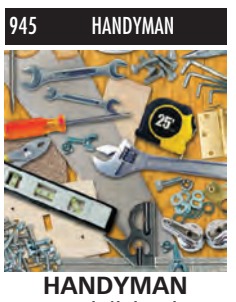

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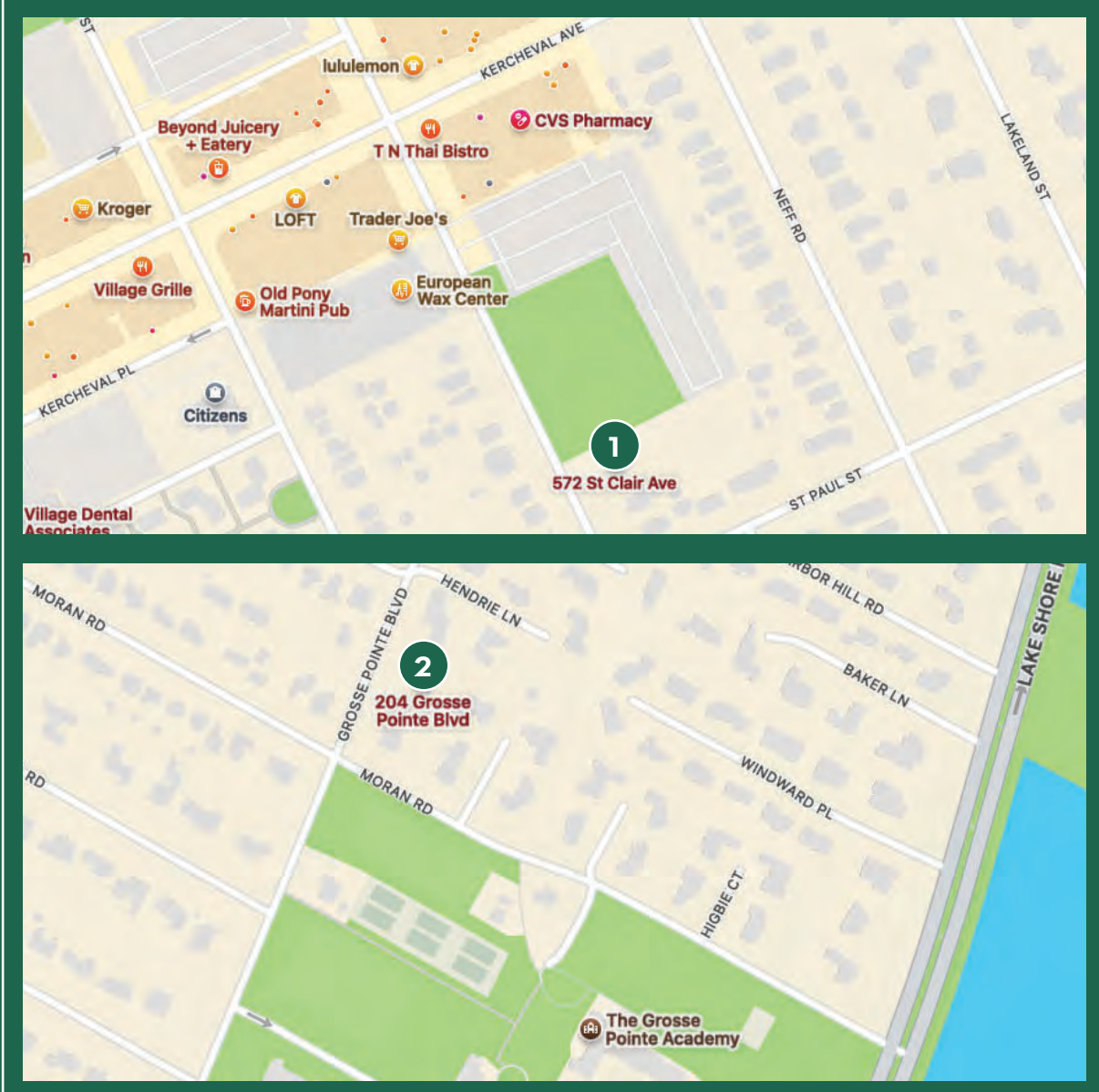

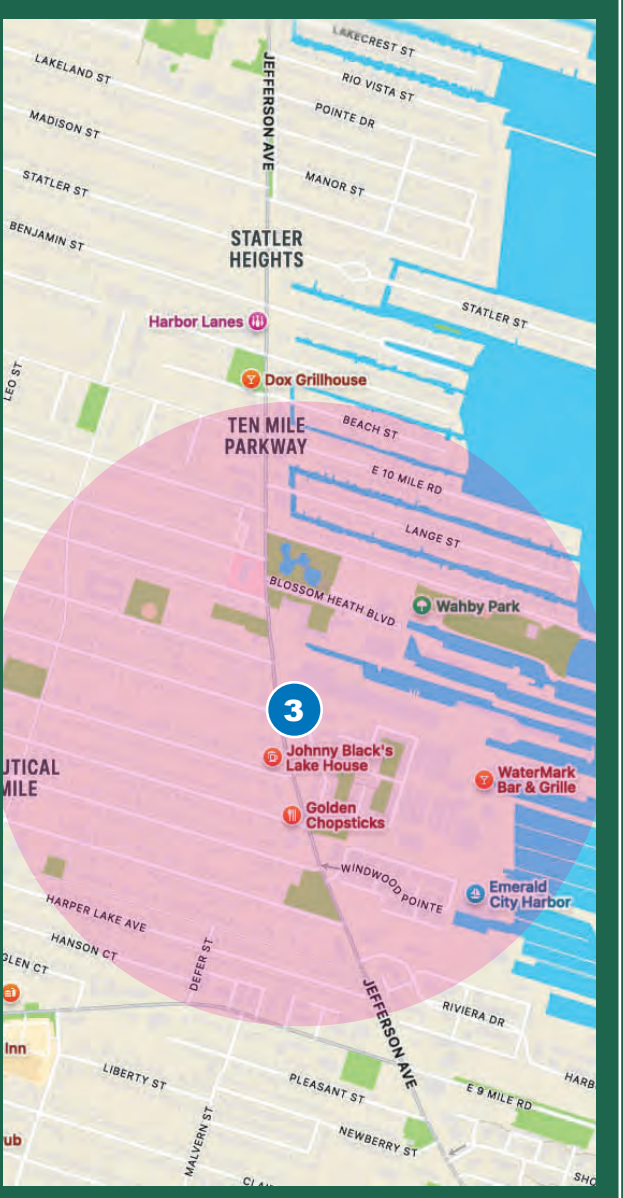

THIS WEEK

1. 572 St. Clair Ave., ... GPC
2. 204 Grosse Pointe Blvd., . GPF
3. Call for appointment 313-737-6000, ... SCS

◯ = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

5/21 Solution

5/28

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Pointe Word Search

Find the words on the left in the puzzle below and spell out the hidden sentence with the unused letters.

BOOKS
GUIDE
LIBRARY
LOCAL
MAGAZINE
MAGIC
NEWSPAPER
READ
SUMMER
TRAVEL
WORLD

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, May 28, 2026: You see the big picture. You're original, imaginative and futuristic. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore meditation, prayer or introspection. Seek philosophies that give you better self-awareness about the true meaning of your life.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Be mindful of others today because this is a challenging day. At home, issues with parents and older family members might be intense. Financial matters, especially related to shared property, taxes, inheritances or friends could create problems. Tonight: Passion and intensity.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Today the Moon is opposite your sign. It is also at odds with fiery Mars and Pluto, which means relations with partners, spouses and close friends will be intense. Even relations with siblings, relatives and daily contacts are strained. Tonight: Cooperate.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a challenging day for many. For you, the Sun and Mercury in your sign give you energy and an interest in conversing with others. You also might feel financially squeezed. Tonight: Get organized.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Don't worry if you feel cut off from others today. You might even feel lonely, criticized or diminished by someone. All this is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Tomorrow will be a better day! Tonight: Socialize.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Conversations with authority figures — parents, bosses and the police — as well as those who are closest to you will be challenging today. Don't take it personally. This is a temporary stress. Tonight: Rest.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Practice patience when talking to siblings, relatives and daily contacts today to avoid arguments. Even relations with friends and groups are challenging. Take it easy. Sit this one out. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Try to avoid money squabbles or arguments about your possessions today. Nevertheless, don't let anyone bully you, try to control you or push you into doing something you don't want to do. Stand up for your rights. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your emotions are quite strong today, which could easily put you at odds with a partner, spouse or close friend. Steer clear of power struggles, because you might regret what happens later. Tonight: You're confident.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Even though you might choose to play things low-key or hide behind the scenes, this is a challenging day for dealing with others, especially at work. Don't make a big issue about anything. Tomorrow is more mellow. Tonight: Seek solitude.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be patient when dealing with friends and groups today. People are quick to anger. Others are quick to be pushy, even bullying. Look for ways to channel your energy to be productive. This will be your saving grace. Tonight: Be friendly.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

People are quick to argue today, and tense situations are all around you. Therefore, it's important that you know you are high-viz and people notice you more than usual. You might take a second to think about how you choose to react to something. Tonight: Be modest.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Steer clear of controversial issues today. They will quickly disintegrate into nasty power struggles and arguments. Romance will be challenging. Focus on family discussions and home repairs. Tonight: Learn and explore!

BORN TODAY

Writer, creator of James Bond Ian Fleming (1908), actress Carey Mulligan (1985), voice actress Laura Bailey (1981).

Contract Bridge

A DELECTABLE CONCOCTION

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 6 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ A K 9 5 3
♣ A J

WEST
♠ K Q 10 9
♥ K 6 2
♦ 7
♣ 9 7 6 5 2

EAST
♠ 8 7 5 4 3
♥ J 9 8 7
♦ —
♣ 10 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A Q 5
♦ Q J 10 8 6 4 2
♣ K Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♦	

Opening lead — king of spades.

South's interest in getting to a grand slam on this deal was well-founded. Once partner had responded with three diamonds and followed by showing two aces in response to Blackwood, South was correct to inquire about the number of kings North held by bidding five notrump.

South was willing to undertake seven diamonds if partner responded six hearts, showing two kings. In that case, if they were the red kings, 13 tricks would be assured, while if the kings were in spades and diamonds, one heart loser would go off on the spade king and the other on the ace of clubs provided the North hand contained at least three clubs.

As things turned out, with North having only one king and only two clubs, South had his hands full making six. The correct play to assure the slam is not immediately apparent, even if the opponents' cards are known. But South found the answer where a less-thoughtful declarer might easily have overlooked the winning stroke.

After taking the ace of spades, the question is how to avoid losing two heart tricks. If declarer eliminates both spades and clubs from dummy's hand and his own, he is still subject to defeat when he leads a heart from dummy, whether he finesses the queen or allows East's seven to hold the trick. In fact, had South followed this line of play, he would have gone down.

Instead, South led a diamond to the king at trick two and trumped the six of spades. He then cashed two clubs, ending in dummy, and led the jack of spades. But instead of trumping it, South discarded the five of hearts! The five was bound to be a loser in any case, but by disposing of it on the spade jack, West was placed in a hopeless position.

After taking the queen of spades, any return he made spelled defeat for the defense. Discarding a loser on a loser made South a winner.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson May 28, 2026

ACROSS
1 Relative by marriage
6 Super Bowl org.
9 Floor covering
12 New Zealand language in which "waka" means "canoe"
13 Futbol cheer
14 Polynesian Disney princess with a pet pig
16 *Choosing not to join
18 "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and "Odyssey," e.g.
19 Ronan, to Mia Farrow
20 Consumed
22 Uprising
26 Massachusetts home to Hampshire College
27 *Pesto ingredient
29 Section of a timeline
30 Alluded to
31 Campus sports grp.
33 Maryland athlete, for short
37 And others: Abbr.
38 *From long ago
39 Ohio border lake
40 Job-related move, for short
41 Qatar's capital
42 Back half of a vinyl
43 "Just so you know" letters
45 *Quick look
47 Turndown
50 Lavish homes
51 Fresh start
52 Deity
53 Oust, as a tenant
54 *Vast blue expanse
60 Heats up in the microwave
61 Flee
62 "How low can you go?" competition
63 Golfer's peg
64 Tunneling insect
65 "In a bit"

DOWN
1 "if u ask me ..."
2 Brief slumber
3 Parking place
4 Nickname that drops "stotle"
5 "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" actress Kate
6 Morning's end
7 Seasonal illness
8 "They can do what they want"
9 When it ___, it pours
10 Not edited, as a film
11 Shocked reaction
14 Suffix with centi- or kilo-
15 *Performs surgery for
17 Reliable choice
21 Up a lap, say
22 "Copy that"
23 Mexican grilled corn dish topped with cotija cheese
24 Crucial
25 *Famous room in the West Wing
26 What a mocktail doesn't have
28 Tipster's offering
32 EGOT winner Menken
34 Cynthia of 2024's "Wicked"
35 Bus passenger
36 Social equals
38 Lyrical poet
42 "Do me this favor ..."
44 Circular Mongolian tents
46 "Let's hustle!"
47 Vaudeville show
48 Two-wheeler with a pedal assist mode
49 Spanish for "now"
51 Would-be tenant's consideration
52 Decorous dude
55 Kind of joke that may be written on a coffee mug
56 Secretive org.
57 911 responder
58 Civil War prez
59 For love ___ money (for anything, to a Brit)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

5/21 Solution

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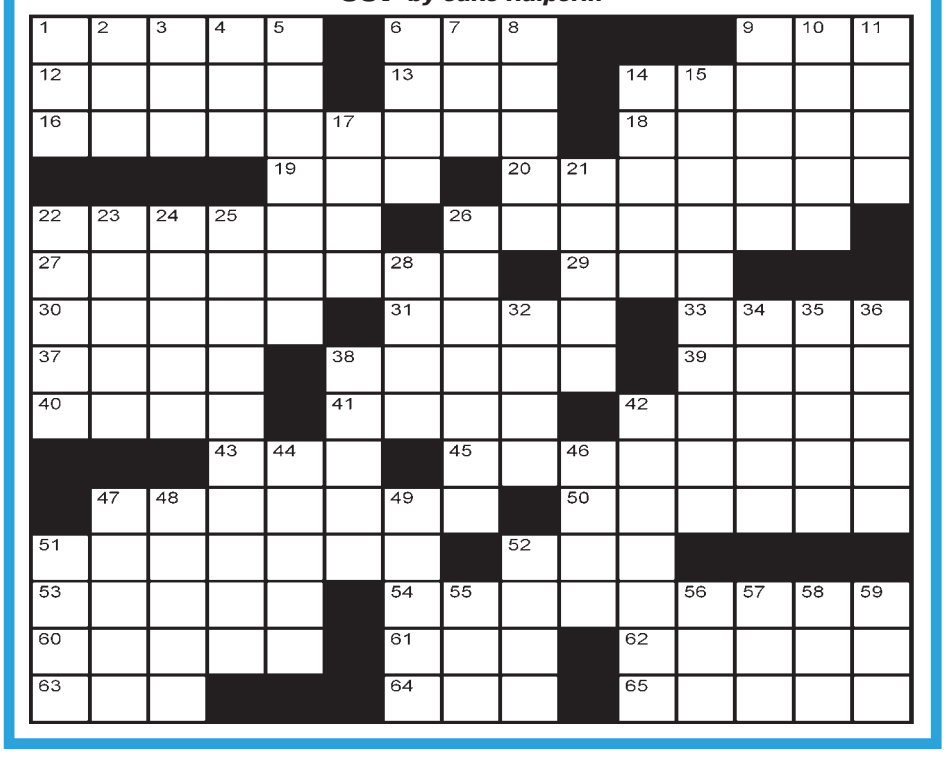
www.upuzzles.com

5/28

007 *by Jake Halperin*



SPORTS

2D BASEBALL | 3D BOYS LACROSSE PLAYOFFS | 4D-5D COMICS

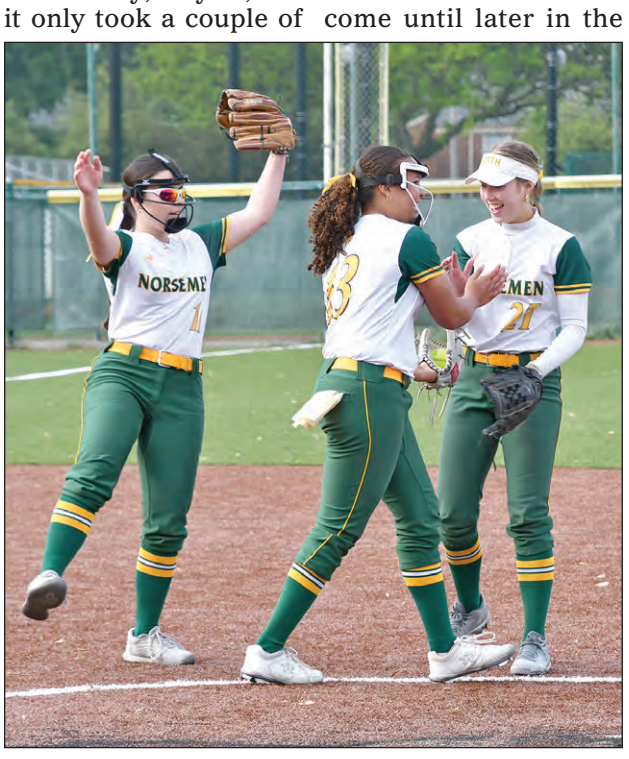
South softball's bats heat up late in win over North

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the regular season for high school softball almost at its end, last week finally brought the first and only meeting this year between the varsity teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North. The Norsemen welcomed the Blue Devils for the rivalry matchup Wednesday, May 20, and it only took a couple of big innings for South to surge its way to a 9-3 win.

"Some of our players maybe got caught earlier in the game, but they would take time to communicate that important information to the next player," South softball head coach Bill Fleming said. "They support and care about each other and it showed in the way they played the game."

South's rallies didn't come until later in the game; it was the Norsemen who seemed to be in control first. Freshman Sy'Rai Winbush put the first run on the board and got the home crowd fired up with a solo home run in the bottom of the second inning. North made its lead 2-0 in the third inning when Eva Borowski brought Emma Barr in to score on a sacrifice fly.



North's Eva Borowski (No. 27) and Carina Jensen celebrate with pitcher Addison Moses (No. 13) after a strikeout.

The Blue Devils' bats waited until the fifth inning to come alive. Avery Lollar tied the game with a two-run double to start South's first big rally of the day. Viviana Ostrowski, Sophia Husek and Madison Iverson kept the rally going with three consecutive RBI singles to make the lead 5-2 for the Blue Devils before the inning came to an end.

"Hitting is so contagious," Fleming said. "Once somebody breaks through, the other girls start thinking, 'OK, I've got this.' For us, as fast as we are, once we get runners on base, we can start making things happen. We're willing to test our speed against their arms and we did a really good job with that."

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Avery Lollar slides into home plate to score for Grosse Pointe South in a 9-3 win over Grosse Pointe North Wednesday, May 20.

North answered back in the bottom of the fifth and narrowed the gap slightly with an RBI double from Addison Moses. South still had a two-run lead going into the top of the seventh inning when it put together another big inning.

Ostrowski got things started with an RBI triple that extended South's advantage to three runs again. Husek brought in two more runs with a double and the ninth and final run of the day for the Blue Devils came on a sacrifice fly by Iverson.

Husek earned the pitching win for South, pitching four innings of relief and allowing one run on two hits with seven strikeouts. Makenzie Waterson started the game for the Blue Devils and pitched three innings with four hits and two runs surrendered. Barr was North's starting pitcher and lasted 4 1/3 innings

See SOFTBALL, page 3D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Bieri hopes to lead South boys golf to more success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Golf is like second nature to Ben Bieri. The Grosse Pointe South junior started golfing with his dad as early as he can remember and kept working on his game until he knew he could play at a competitive level. Bieri played in summer tournaments before high school and played his way onto South's varsity boys golf team as a freshman a couple of years ago.

Now, as a junior, Bieri has become one of the most reliable golfers on the links for South. One of his best rounds of the season came recently at the MAC Red Division championship tournament Wednesday, May 20. Bieri shot a three-over-par 75 at Ferris State University's Katke Golf Course, giving him a second-place individual finish in the tournament and helping the Blue Devils clinch the MAC Red title.

"We played really well and everyone just had a good day," Bieri said. "I finished my round and had to walk back to the clubhouse and all my teammates were there and we all got to congratulate each other and celebrate together."

Being part of a team in golf is a unique experience, but one Bieri loves. When he finished second at the MAC Red tournament, his South teammate, Charlie Thomas, finished first. Bieri also was one shot ahead of fellow teammate Marty Wayman, who finished the day in third.

There was no jealousy over who finished where on the leaderboard. Bieri was just happy to celebrate with his teammates. How he does each round ultimately comes down to him, making golf still somewhat an individual sport, but the team is always on Bieri's mind.

"You're trying to shoot a score for yourself, but you don't want to let down your teammates," he said. "You want everyone to have a good day. When you play well, everyone is happy for you and when one of your teammates plays well, you're cheering them on."

Having the support of teammates also helps in a game as mentally demanding as golf. Bieri knows not every round or match is going to be like his performance at the MAC Red tournament or like the time he had the best overall score in a match against Grosse

See ATHLETE, page 2D

PHOTO BY THADDEUS HOUK

Ben Bieri hits his shot for South during the McIntyre Invitational at Country Club of Detroit in April.

Blue Devil Ben

- Finished second overall at MAC Red Division tournament May 20
- Two first-place finishes in matches for South this season
- Three-year member of South varsity boys golf

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Ben Bieri

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Golf

Sponsored by Shana Sine Cameron
Sine & Monaghan Real Estate

Baseball squads face final tests of regular season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The excitement of postseason varsity baseball is almost here. Last week, Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all looked to earn some of their final wins of the regular season and build momentum in the days leading up to district playoffs.

University Liggett

Liggett took on competition from outside the Catholic League in some of its final regular-season matchups last week. The Knights earned a dramatic 4-3 win over Henry Ford II Wednesday, May 20, ending a back-and-forth game on a walk-off.

The Knights were up 3-0 after three innings thanks to an RBI triple by Javion Gray and some other savvy run production. The Falcons closed the gap in the fourth inning and eventually tied the game at 3-3 in the top of the seventh inning. Liggett's Kanaan Taylor ended up with the decisive hit — an RBI single to win the game in the bottom of the seventh.

Liggett kept the momentum of the walk-off victory going into Thursday, May 21, with a 5-1 win over Fraser. Marc Abdul-Nour had a pair of RBIs on two hits in the win, with Gray and Joey Harris driving in runs as well. Ravi Hines earned the victory on the mound, pitching four innings and allowing one run on three hits.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Ravi Hines delivers a pitch for Liggett against Fraser Thursday, May 21.

Liggett hosted Detroit Community in the opening round of the Division 3 district playoffs after press time Tuesday, May 26. The Knights then welcomed Grosse Pointe South for a final regular-season game after press time Wednesday, May 27. The Division 3 district tournament resumes at Liggett at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30.

Grosse Pointe North

After a string of losses to begin May, the Norsemen made their way back into the win column last week, starting with a 4-0 victory over Lutheran North Tuesday, May 19. Trevor Lipscomb put North up early with a two-run home run in the first inning. The game was shortened to three innings due to weather, with DJ Edwards pitching three scoreless innings for the Norsemen.

North was back on the diamond Wednesday, May 20, visiting Eisenhower. The Norsemen's offense heated up for another win, taking down the Eagles 8-1. Edwards and Lipscomb finished with a pair of RBIs each. Lipscomb also pitched a complete game on the mound, earning the victory by allowing one run on four hits with six strikeouts.

The Norsemen went on the road again Friday, May 22, to face Lutheran Northwest. The high-powered offense for North kept rolling to a 15-2 win over the Crusaders.

The ball was flying out of the park for North as the team finished the game with five home runs. Lipscomb got it started with a two-run home run in the first inning. Lorenzo Dichio and Edward Macaulay had two-run home runs as well. Edwards left the yard twice with a solo shot and a three-run blast.

North hosted Lake Shore in the final meeting of the regular season after press time Wednesday, May 27. The Norsemen begin the postseason in the Division 2 district tournament Saturday, May 30, facing Harper Woods in the district semifinal round. The game is scheduled for 10 a.m. at North.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils made sure some of their final games of the regular season were also some of the toughest tests they would face all spring. Those tough matchups did not all end in South's favor, however, beginning with an 8-1 loss to Brother Rice Thursday, May 21. South's only run of the game was scored when Luke Thompson drew a walk with the bases loaded in the third inning.

The offense woke up for South in the team's next game Saturday, May 23, in the first game of a doubleheader against Rochester. Even scoring a dozen runs, it was not enough for the Blue Devils to keep up in a 22-12 loss to the Falcons. Trey Grabowski finished the game with three RBIs, while Quinn Steinhebel and Dane Lezotte brought in a pair of runs each.

The second game of the doubleheader was not as explosive, but was much closer. South was still on the losing side, however, falling 3-2 to drop both games against the Falcons. Brady Magee and Alex Young gave South a 2-0 lead through four innings, but a three-run rally by the Falcons in the fifth inning helped them seal the win.

South visited Liggett after press time Wednesday, May 27. The Blue Devils close out the regular season at home Thursday, May 28, hosting Marine City at 4 p.m.

The postseason for South begins Saturday, May 30, as the Blue Devils host the Division 1 district tournament. The Blue Devils' first playoff game will be a district semifinal round matchup against U of D Jesuit, with first pitch at 12:30 p.m.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

Pointe North and Eisenhower earlier this season.

There are times when Bieri finishes in the middle of the pack or near the bottom of the leaderboard. It happens to everyone in golf. What Bieri knows he can control is his mental approach to every round, trying to help himself and his teammates stay relaxed and take everything in stride on the course.

"I stay relaxed and try to have fun," he said. "You have to take everything hole by hole. If you have one bad hole, you can't let it ruin your whole round. … I just try to enjoy the day and stay relaxed if I can."

Bieri hopes South's season ends with a trip to the Division 1 state finals before he turns his attention to preparing for his senior year. Even when South's season comes to a close, there will be plenty of golf to play this summer. Bieri plans on playing in tournaments throughout the summer to keep his game sharp and improve on things like putting, which he feels has not been the best this spring.

It is all part of wanting to become more consistent. Bieri's best days on the course can help the Blue Devils achieve great things, like winning a MAC Red title, but there are bad days, too. Every golfer has them, but Bieri knows becoming more consistent in every aspect of his game can lessen those bad days and help him achieve more in his final season as a Blue Devil next year.

"I know when I have good days, I'm as good as anyone," he said. "I just need to eliminate the bad days. I feel like golf is about how good your bad days are. I'm trying to eliminate the bad days and just be more consistent."

PHOTO BY ERIN WAYMAN

Bieri finished second overall in the field for South when the team won the MAC Red Division tournament championship Wednesday, May 20.

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores,
A Michigan City
795 Lake Shore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236
313-881-6565

NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS SECURED BY THE TAXING POWER OF THE CITY AND OF RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City, Counties of Wayne and Macomb, intends to authorize the issuance and sale of general obligation capital improvement bonds pursuant to Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, in one or more series, in a total principal amount of not to exceed Ten Million Dollars ($10,000,000), for the purpose of paying part of the cost to construct, furnish and equip a new pool, community center and bathhouse, together with related site improvements.

BOND DETAILS

The bonds will mature in annual installments not to exceed twenty-five (25) in number, with interest rates to be determined at a public or negotiated sale but in no event to exceed the maximum permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS shall be payable from the general funds of the City lawfully available for such purposes including property taxes levied within applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON.

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 517, Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.

Courtney Smith
City Clerk
Village of Grosse Pointe Shores,
A Michigan City

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 05/28/2026

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MONDAY JUNE 15, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Non-Use Variance Request

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 110 of 2006 the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended, and the Grosse Pointe City Code, that the Grosse Pointe Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing as noticed above at 7:00 pm in the Grosse Pointe Council Chambers at 17145 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will consider an application for a variance located at the following address:

305 University Place, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
PID: 37-005-040-005-000

The applicant is requesting a variance to deviate from Section 90-405(1) which states that the maximum height of a front yard fence shall be 36 inches. The applicant is seeking to construct a 48-inch fence in the front yard, an increase in the maximum height of 12 inches.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on June 15, 2026. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to city@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 5/28/2026

Veteran leaders help ULS boys lacrosse secure big playoff win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The playoffs for varsity boys lacrosse continued last week and the University Liggett School Knights took another step forward on the road to a championship. Liggett met De La Salle Collegiate Wednesday, May 20, in the Division 2 regional semifinals and, despite getting into an early deficit, Liggett turned things around and took down the Pilots 12-9.

While Liggett's Nick Gould scored the game's first goal, De La Salle controlled much of the first quarter. Gould's early goal was met with four unanswered goals by the Pilots, who took a 4-1 lead after the first frame.

"I wasn't too worried about our start," Liggett boys lacrosse head coach Mike Costanzo said. "... We hadn't really gotten good possessions and I thought that if we could just possess the ball and calm down, we would be fine."

Momentum completely flipped in the second quarter as the Knights began to take control. Luke Slanec, Gould and Mac Costanzo scored the three goals that tied the game for the Knights. Another goal each for Gould and Costanzo finished the second quarter and gave Liggett a 6-4 advantage at halftime.

Two more goals from Costanzo and one each from Gould and Slanec helped make it 10-5 Liggett by the end of the third quarter. However, De La Salle proved it was not going to go down without a fight. Trailing by five to start the fourth quarter, the Pilots found the back of the net three times in a row to narrow the deficit to just two.

Mac Costanzo celebrates after scoring for Liggett.

PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Nick Gould brings the ball up the field for Liggett against De La Salle Wednesday, May 20. Gould finished the game with five goals in the Knights' regional playoff victory.

Gould finally stopped the run of De La Salle goals by scoring his fifth of the game and pushing Liggett's lead back up to three about midway through the final quarter. The Pilots added one more to again make it a two-goal lead for the Knights, but Griffin Marchal scored the game's final goal and helped Liggett seal the win.

"I can just tell by everyone's actions that they're telling me, 'We got this,'" Costanzo said after the win. "They're confident and that permeates throughout the whole team. We're tired and banged up and it's been a long season. They understand that this is the last go-around for a great group of seniors and they just want to fight hard to get the best results."

Liggett faced Caledonia in the Division 2 regional championship game after press time Wednesday, May 27. The winner of that game advanced to the Division 2 state quarterfinal, which is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Coopersville High School.

SOFTBALL:

Continued from page 1D

with two earned runs but no hits allowed. Moses pitched 2 2/3 innings of relief, allowing seven runs and six hits.

The win brought South's record to 27-6 this season as the team looks to close out the regular season as MAC Blue Division champions. North fell to 9-13 after the loss.

Both teams had a break for the holiday weekend before their final games of the regular season. North hosted University Liggett School after press time Wednesday, May 27. South went on the road to face New Haven also after press time Wednesday, May 27.

The postseason for both squads begins this week. South hosts Roseville in the opening round of the Division 1 district playoffs beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 30. The district championship game is scheduled for 2 p.m. that same day at South.

North is set to compete in the Division 2 district tournament Thursday, May 28. The Norsemen received a bye to the district championship game, where they will face host Detroit Denby or Detroit East English Village Prep at 6 p.m.

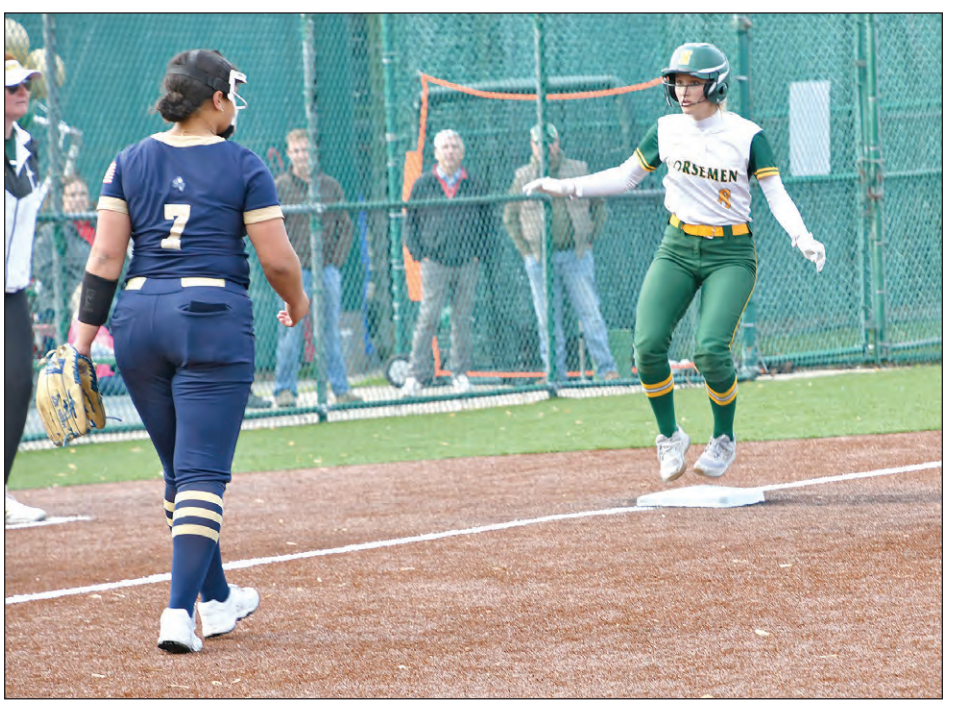
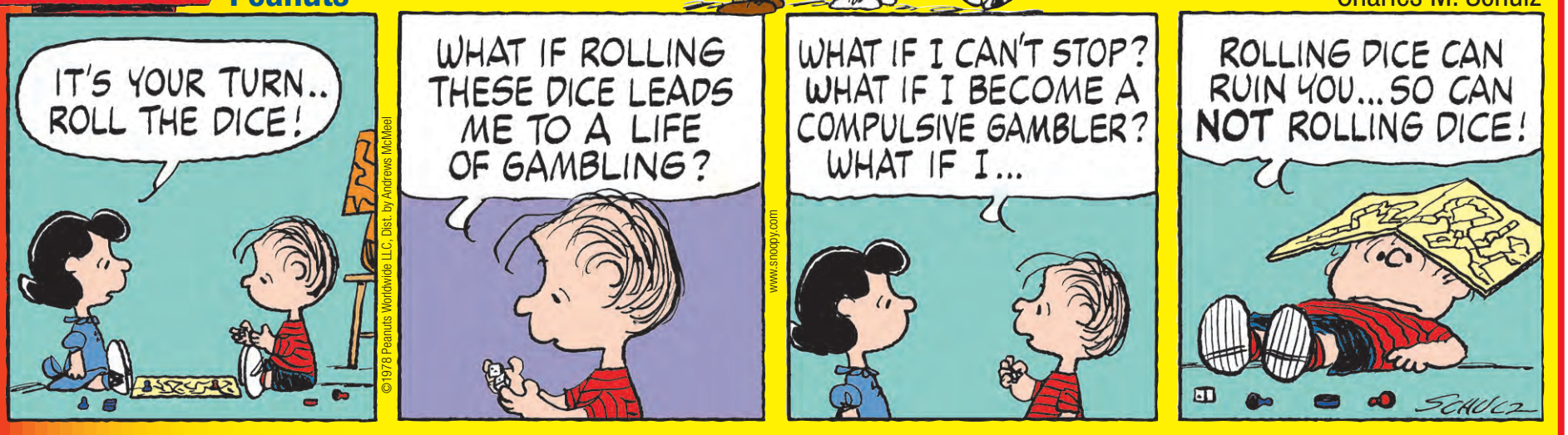


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

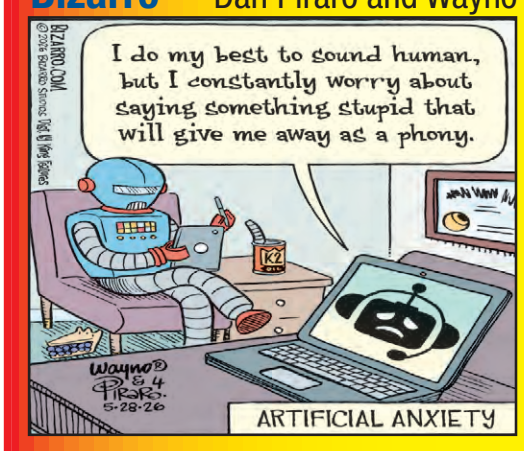
North's Victoria Mangol steals third base against the Blue Devils.

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

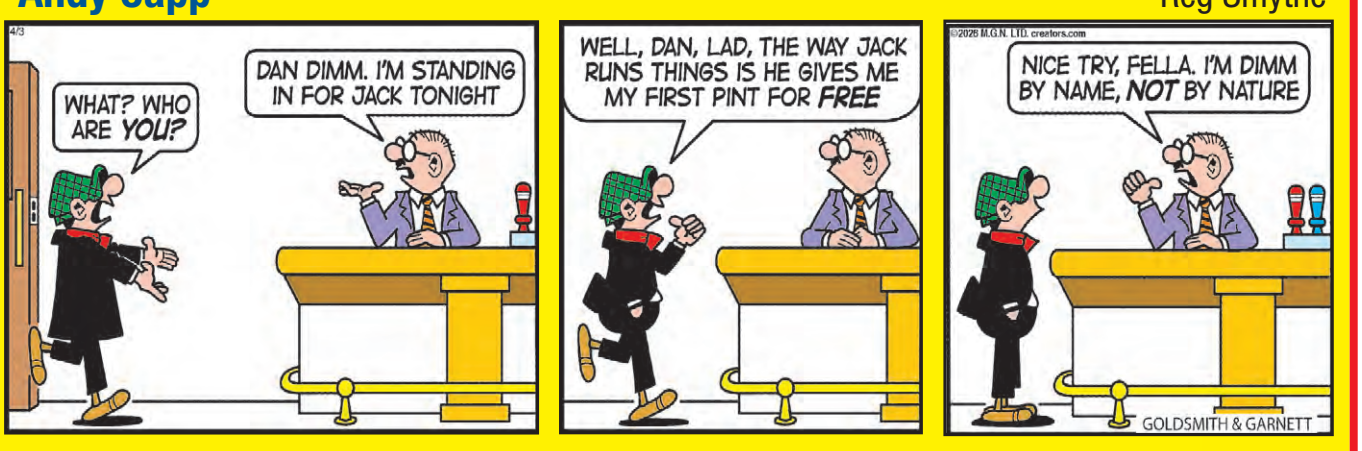
Peanuts
Charles M. Schulz



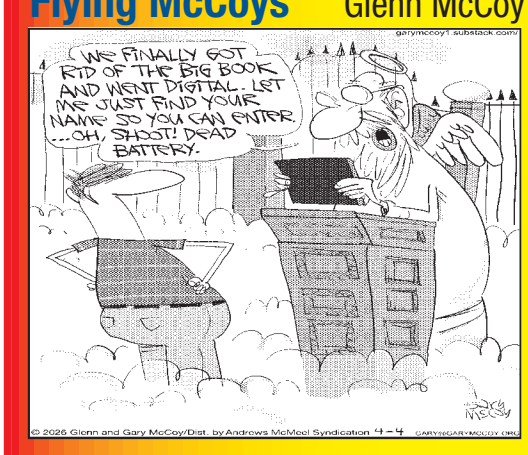
Bizarro
Dan Piraro and Wayno



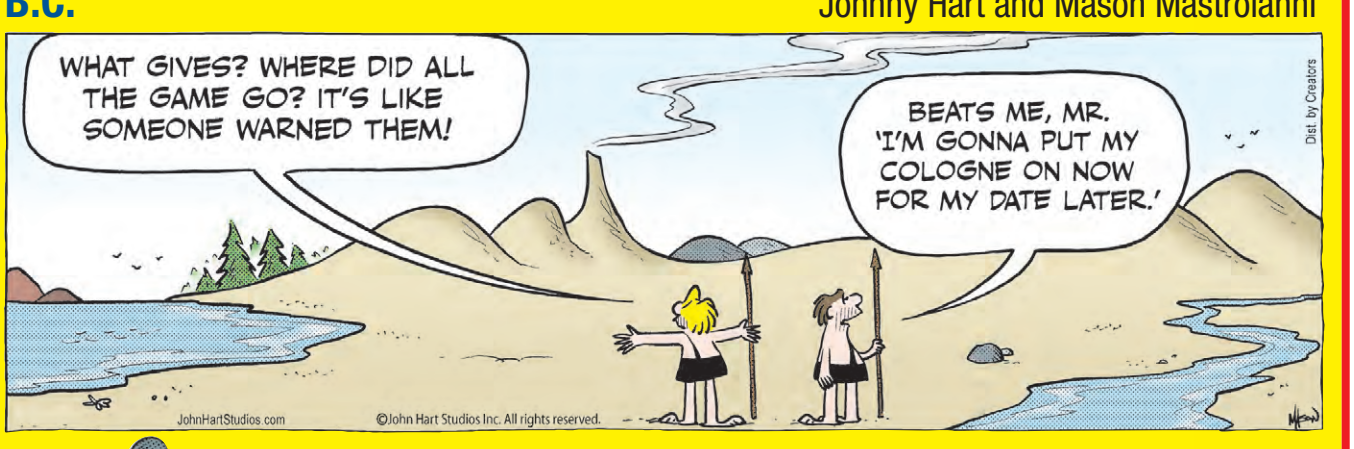
Andy Capp
Reg Smythe



Flying McCoys
Glenn McCoy

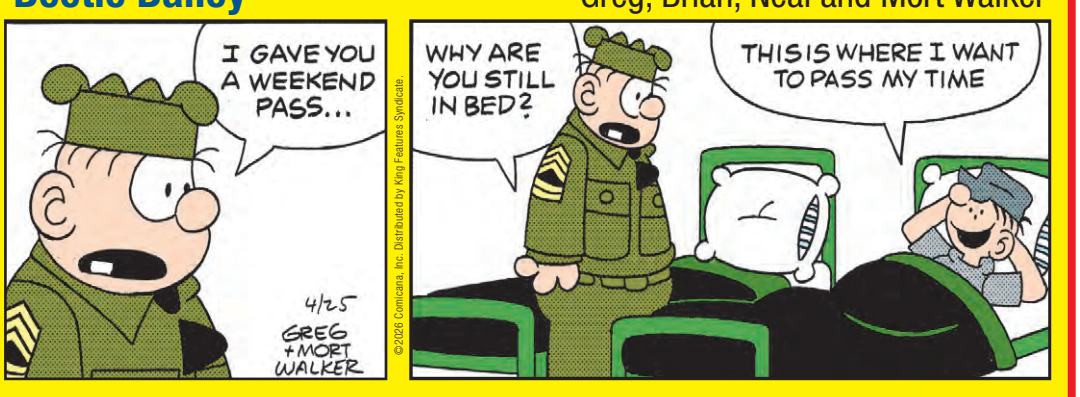


B.C.
Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check
Dave Whamond

Beetle Bailey
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



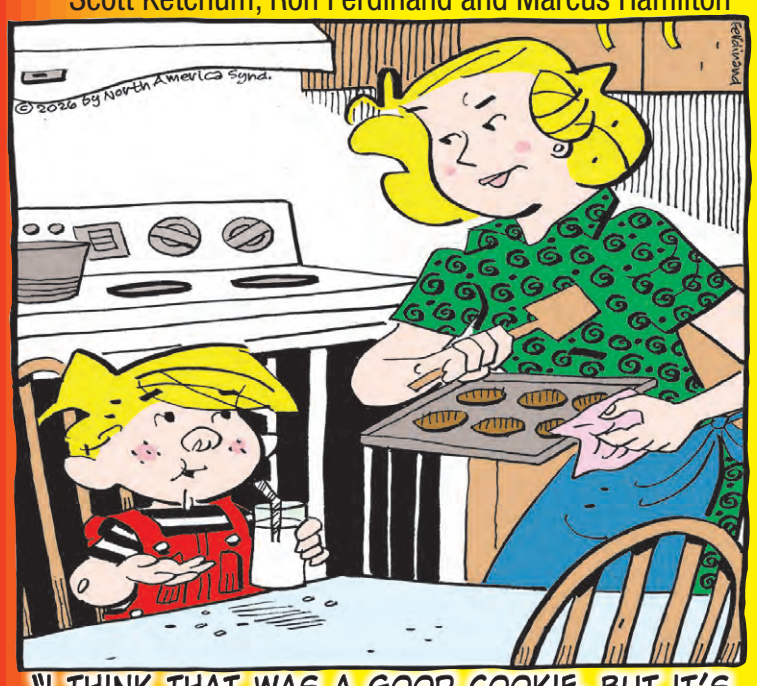
Mother Goose and Grim
Mike Peters

The Lockhorns
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

"WE'RE BOTH AWAKE AND NOT ARGUING... THIS *IS* QUALITY TIME."

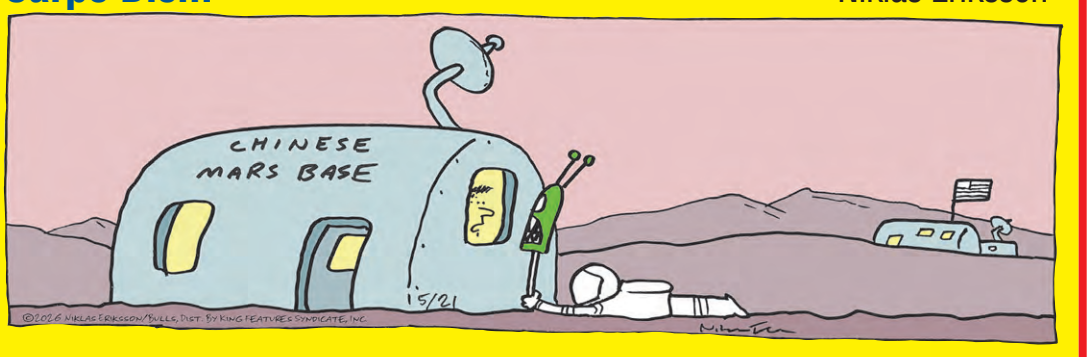
Crankshaft
Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

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



"I THINK THAT WAS A GOOD COOKIE, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL BY JUST THE ONE."

Carpe Diem
Niklas Eriksson



Wumo
Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis

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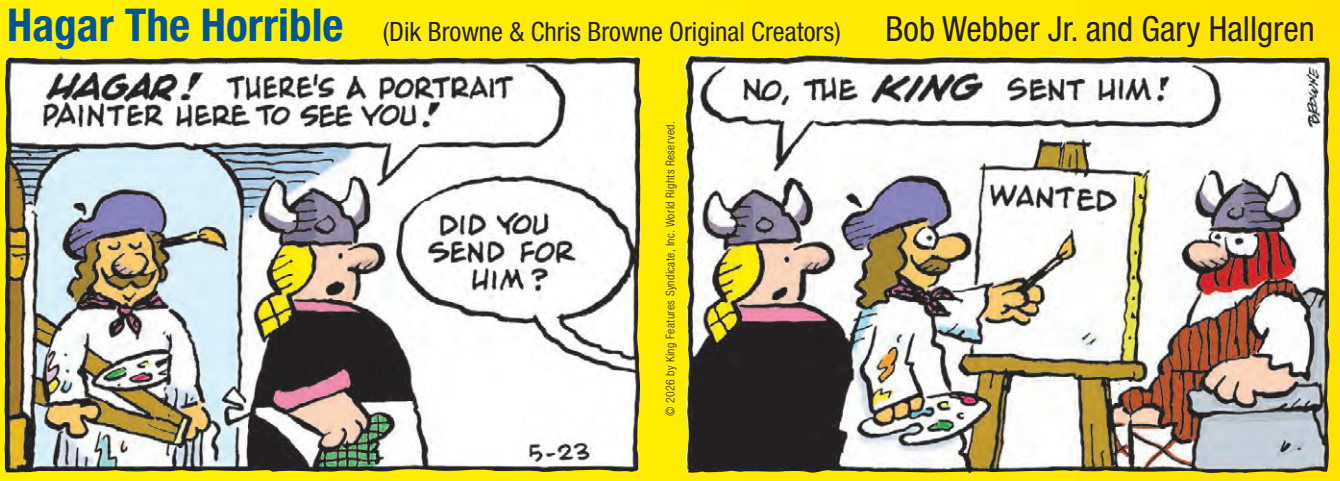
Hagar The Horrible

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



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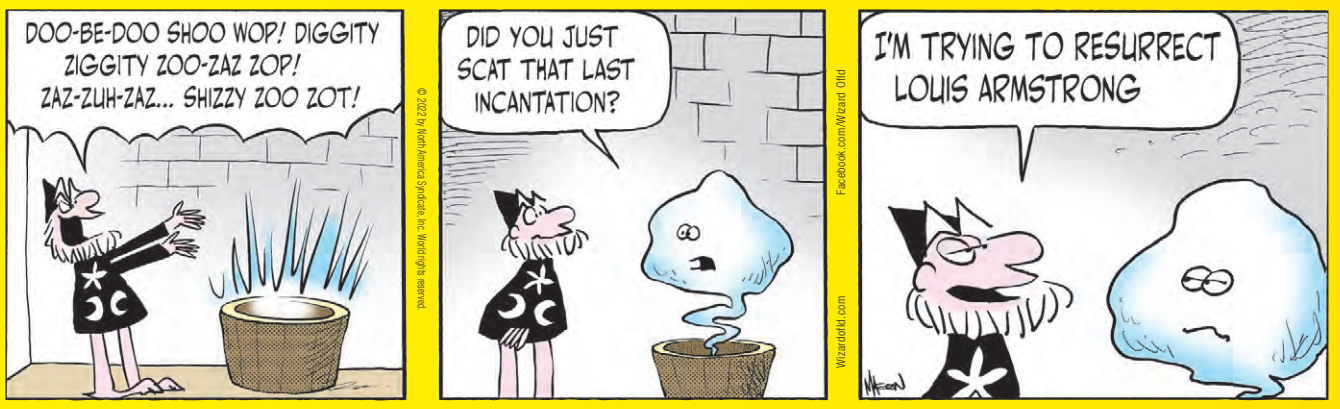
Close To Home

John McPherson

Wizard of Id

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



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Facebook.com/Wizard Old
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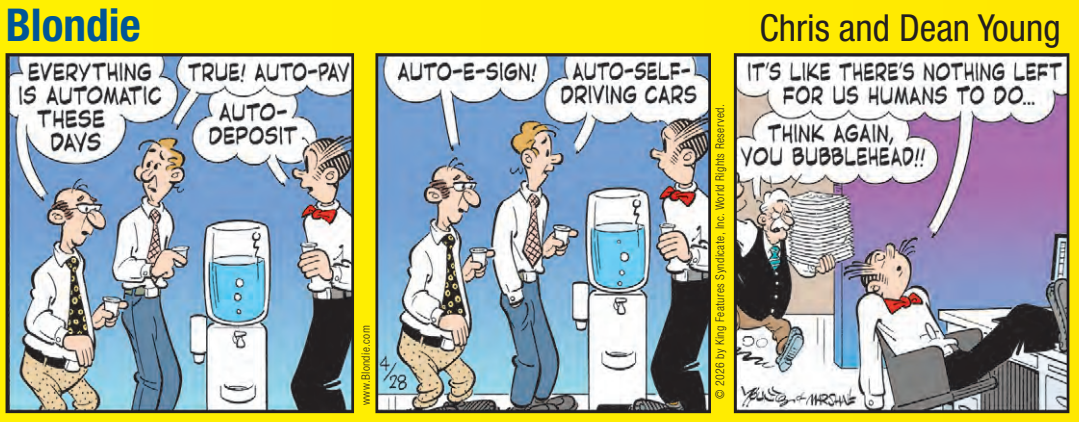
Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



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Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson

"Did you find what you were looking for?"

Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis

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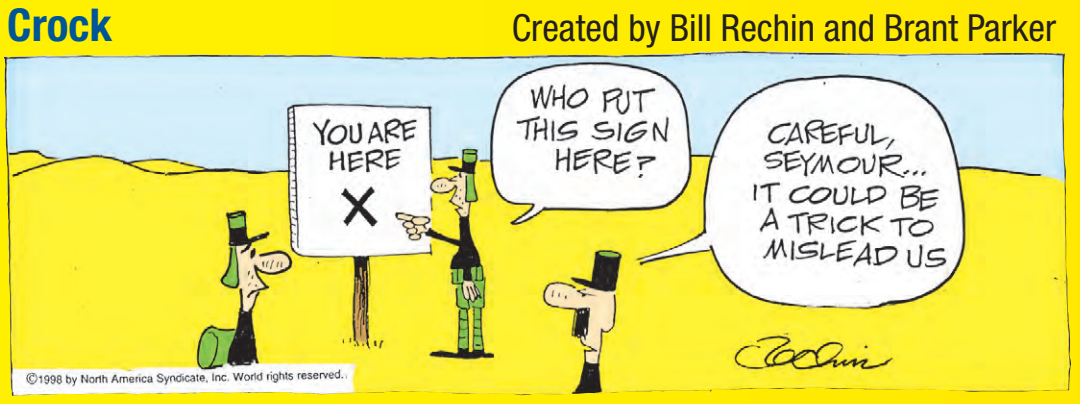
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



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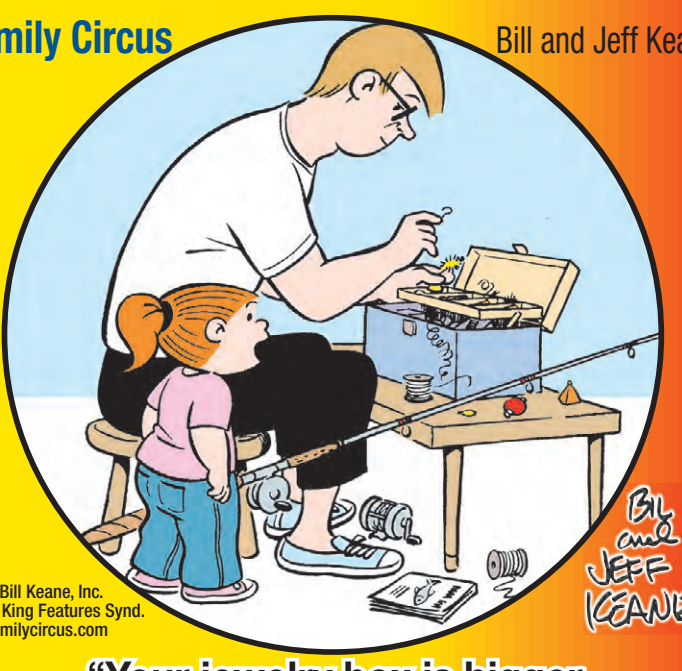
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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"Your jewelry box is bigger than Mommy's."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf

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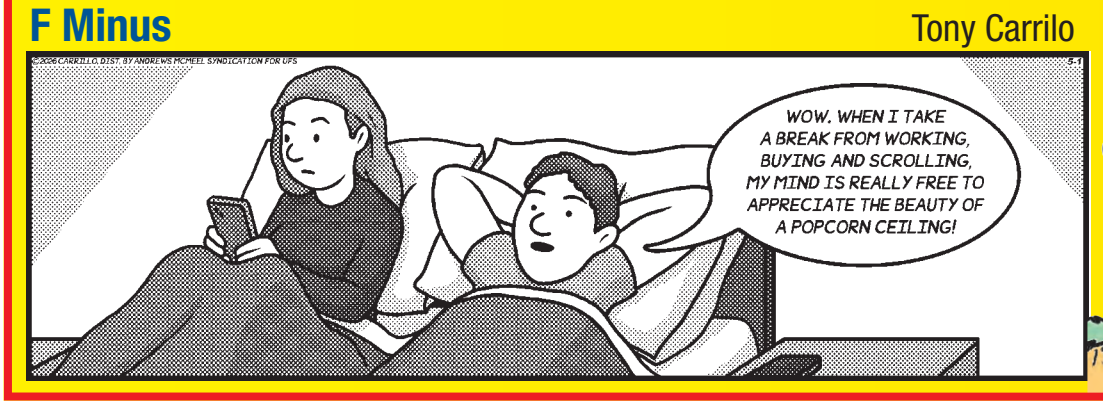
F Minus

Tony Carrilo



The secret life of Sparty

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

School spirit has never been lost on Mitchell Mills. During his high school days at Grosse Pointe North, he was a leader of the Norsemen Tide student section and a four-year varsity athlete with the boys tennis and lacrosse teams. Mills took pride in being a Norseman, but his sense of school spirit was taken up a notch when he got to college.

Mills went from North to Michigan State University and wanted to show his school spirit right away. What better way to do it than by becoming Sparty, the school's official mascot?

"My school pride is there for wherever I go," Mills said. "... That definitely transferred over to when I decided to try out for the Sparty program. I loved the school I was going to at Michigan State and I wanted to represent that as best as I could."

The tryout process began in his freshman year when Mills was selected as one of the lucky few who got to become Sparty. He had to endure a fitness test as part of the tryout process and had to keep himself in good shape throughout his career to keep up with the physical demands of being Sparty, including plenty of push-ups.

Mills spent four years going to more than 500 events as Sparty; however, no one ever knew it was him inside the costume. Being Sparty came with the burden of carrying a four-year secret, leaving Mills always having to come up with different excuses for when he had to disappear and become the mascot.

"My 'parents,' in quotation marks, had a lot of tailgates up at MSU," he said. "I would say I'm going to hang out with other buddies or that I'm working for the university. There were a lot of lies that weren't always fun to tell, but you had to do it."

While Mills got to go to plenty of sporting events as Sparty, including getting to lead the Michigan State football team out of the tunnel at Spartan Stadium a few times, sports were only a fraction of the events he experienced as Sparty. His duties included attending plenty of other university events, along with weddings, birthday parties, graduation parties and more.

Moments like leading the football team out of the tunnel will always be special, but some of Mills' favorite memories from being Sparty did not come from sports. Getting to be in the community and making people smile because Sparty showed up is what made the experience worth it. Doing things like spending a day with children at Michigan State's College of Human Medicine at the Secchia Center in Grand Rapids created moments in which Mills realized being Sparty made an impact that went far beyond sports.

"Sparty showed up and got to have a dance party with all the kids," Mills said. "There were these two kids, probably around 7 (years old), and they held Sparty's hand the whole 45 minutes that he was there and we just danced around the whole time. It definitely hit home."

Finally, at Michigan State's commencement ceremony earlier this month, Mills got to reveal the secret he held so close for his four years in college. While receiving his degree in construction management, Mills donned Sparty's signature boots at graduation, giving his classmates, friends and family the ultimate surprise to end his career as the iconic mascot.

"Having them realize that I was Sparty the whole four years, they were super excited," he said. "... It was a little odd wearing the boots in public because it's been so secret for so long. It was just pure joy that whole day, because you work so hard to get to that point and it's a little bittersweet. It's like a bit of a relief when you finally get to reveal. They kind of stopped graduation for it and the whole crowd was cheering me on."

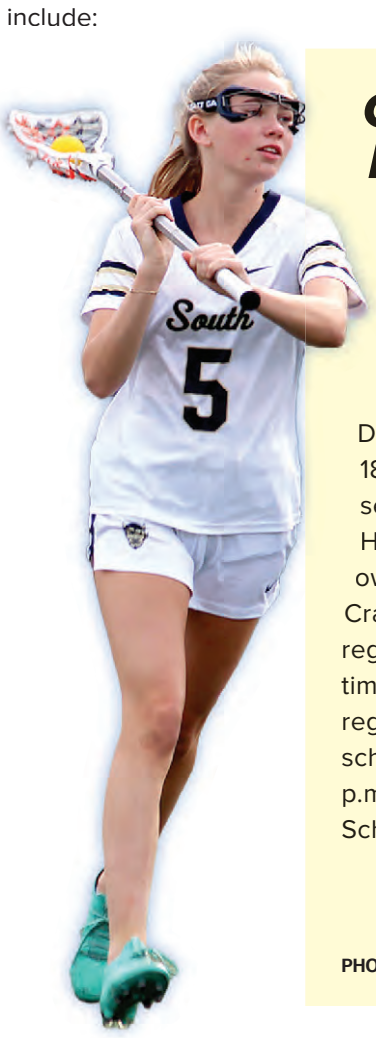
Grosse Pointe North alumnus Mitchell Mills, left, poses with Sparty following his graduation from Michigan State University this spring. Mills spent four years secretly working as the famous mascot before getting to reveal his identity to his classmates and family during commencement.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Mitchell Mills, in costume as Sparty, fires up the crowd at Spartan Stadium during a Michigan State football game.

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:



GIRLS LACROSSE PLAYOFFS

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls lacrosse was dominant in its first game of the Division 1 regional playoffs last Thursday, May 21. The Blue Devils defeated Chippewa Valley 18-2, with Wells Webber scoring seven times for South and Lyla Hampton adding six goals of her own. The Blue Devils faced Cranbrook-Kingswood in the regional semifinal round after press time Wednesday, May 27. The regional championship game is scheduled for Friday, May 29, at 6 p.m. hosted by Troy Athens High School.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

COURTESY PHOTO

SOUTH GOLF WINS MAC RED

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys golf team finished first at the MAC Red Division tournament last Wednesday, May 20, at Ferris State University's Katke Golf Course. The Blue Devils had a team score of 307, finishing 17 shots lower than second-place Eisenhower.

South junior Charlie Thomas shot an even-par 72 to finish first overall on the leaderboard. Teammate Ben Bieri was second with a score of 75, and Marty Wayman was third with 76.

Grosse Pointe North finished the tournament in fourth place. Charlie Mueller had the best round of the day for the Norsemen, finishing eighth overall with a score of 83.

COURTESY PHOTO

BLUE DEVILS WIN WAYNE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls track and field team finished first at the Wayne County Championships last Friday, May 22. The Blue Devils won in dominant fashion with 149.5 points, more than 80 points ahead of the rest of the field.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE - ORDINANCE NO. 470

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 470 amending Section 78-143 of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances regarding changes to the water rate, sewer rate, the readiness to serve charge, debt service, and industrial damage rate. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 470 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Christopher M. Hardenbrook,
City Clerk

GPN: 5/28/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 44-foot wood utility pole at the approx. vicinity of 1680 Hampton Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods, Wayne County, MI, 48236. Lat: 42-26-48.048, Long: -82-54-6.696. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Sam, s.diedrich@trileaf.com, 1821 Walden Office Square Suite 500, Schaumburg, IL 60173, (630) 227-0202*.

GPN: 5/28/26