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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 87, NO. 24, 36 PAGES
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Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Congrats, Class of 2026!

From top to bottom, graduating seniors from Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School celebrate their recent commencements with the traditional tossing of their caps. Find more graduation photos on pages 10 and 11A.

NORTH AND SOUTH PHOTOS
BY RENEE LANDUYT

LIGGETT PHOTO
COURTESY OF ULS



Farms sells JOANN's property to child care center

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Farms city leadership kept true to its word of fast-tracking the plans and approvals necessary to bring a premier United Kingdom-based early childhood care center to the entrance of the city at Mack and Moross. Monday night, city council flew through a series of unanimous approvals — final site plan, conditional use per-

mitting, a purchase agreement for the property, lease agreements for adjacent land for the playground and parking spaces and applicable variances — making it so N Family Schools is officially poised to take over the old JOANN's building at 18850 Mack. "We know you're on a very aggressive timeline," Mayor John Gillooly said to the developer. "When we met with

See SOLD, page 5A

10 percent rise in water-sewer rates

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Property owners are set to receive letters soon explaining reasons for increased water and sewer rates. Letters will read something like this: Our costs are up; now yours are, too. "The city's wholesale water retailer, the Great Lakes Water Authority, has raised their pricing for the delivery of water and sewer services," said Ethan Haan, Park finance director. As City Manager Nick Sizeland said during last

month's council budget workshop, "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." Starting July 10, water and sewer bills will show increases of 5.1 percent and 4.45 percent, respectively, according to a unanimous city council vote June 8. The city's increase is a pass-along. No additional costs, fees or charges were added to GLWA's new rates.

See RATES, page 2A

Shores takes next steps toward new pool

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — City council took another step toward making a new pool and community center at Osius Park a reality at its May meeting. Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution for a notice of intent to issue up to \$10 million in bonds to pay for the project. "This is a multi-step process,"

Pat McGow of the Miller Canfield law firm told council. "This is just the first step and allows the clerk to issue that notice of intent by publishing it in the Grosse Pointe News." The general obligation limited tax bonds means council cannot raise taxes to pay off the bonds, McGow added. "This doesn't mean we're committed to doing it," Mayor Ted Kedzierski said. "If a benefactor came forward and wanted to finance the entire

pool, we wouldn't have to go forward with the bonds." Finance Director Dale Krajniak said the city has around \$4 million in reserves to put toward the project. The impetus for the work is a \$1.2 million gift in late 2023 from the estate of Carole Ann Williams, who passed away earlier that year at age 84. She was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett School) and the daughter of Jack G. and

Gwen B. Williams. Her father was mayor of the Shores from 1954 to 1964. Williams required the money go toward improvements at Osius Park. Krajniak said the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation has committed to raising \$1 million and the last three budgets included money set aside in the city's capital improvements fund for the pool. The current pool is 60 years old and a review of it 25 years ago said it needed to be

See POOL, page 2A

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See Section C

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Laurie Strachan
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Founder of The Festival Flutes



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Roy Edmonds, District 1 representative on the Wayne County Community College District Board of Trustees, speaks at the June 5 ceremonial groundbreaking for expansion of the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center on Eight Mile in Harper Woods.

PHOTO BY
BRAD LINDBERG



WC3D digs new future

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — A ceremonial groundbreaking this month with chrome-tipped shovels and top-quality topsoil symbolized a fertile future for learning at the Harper Woods campus of Wayne County Community College District.

“Today is about more than construction,” said Roy Edmonds, representing the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods on the college’s board of trustees. “It is about progress (and) creating a campus environment that reflects the promise of our students and the strength of the community we serve.”

Edmonds and others participated in the groundbreaking Friday, June 5, at the school’s Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center on Vernier Road in the old Beacon East theater across from the former site of Eastland Mall.

Expansion and renovation of the center start soon to enhance health-care curriculums, including diagnostic technology, medical lab technician and optometry.



COURTESY IMAGE

Part of the forthcoming university center.

four months, maybe even sooner than that,” Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery said. “This complex will be something to behold. You’re going to be proud of what we’ve given you.”

Campus Provost and Grosse Pointe Park resident Denis Karic said, “Nelson Mandela once said, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’ This campus proves it every day in the families that are lifted, the careers that are launched and the lives forever changed because someone walked through those doors and never looked back. That work begins here. The expansion will change the way the campus looks, feels and services communities that count on us.”

The Stempfle Center opened in 2009. It was

named after former trustee and City of Grosse Pointe resident, Mary Ellen Stempfle.

“I graduated from here,” Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle said. “It’s going to bring a whole new element for all our communities that participate in this university center. I’m so excited.”

Edmonds said, “The vision guiding this work is clear — to modernize our facilities, create dynamic learning spaces, build a campus prepared for growth, to expand continuing education and support lifelong learning and strengthen our role as a trusted community service.”

“Education’s the domino,” said Grosse Pointe

Park Mayor Michele Hodges, attending the ceremony. “It ensures success in life. The more educational assets we have in life, the better.”

“This is a good investment, not only for the Harper Woods area, but for all the Grosse Pointes and metro Detroit,” Grosse Pointe Farms Mayor John Gillooly said. A component of the renovations is construction of a clock tower.

“Clock towers have stood at the center of great institutions for centuries, representing the passage of time and the pursuit of knowledge,” Karic said. “Ours will stand as a symbol of our commitment to education and the future we’re building together.”

Little Leaguer pitches screwball during budget hearing

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Adoption of the municipal budget this week almost maintained its anti-climactic tradition.

There are four reasons passage of the budget typically happens in quick and easy fashion.

With only weeks to go in the fiscal year ending June 30, upcoming budget matters aren’t new. They’ve been the underlying consideration of nearly all city council decisions throughout the prior 12 months.

The new budget was the sole topic of a special council workshop the month prior to adoption.

Every line of the budget has been posted for public review on the city website in clear enough fashion to earn praise from a councilman who, in real life, is a state accountant.

Lastly, passage of the annual budget adoption is scheduled so close to the deadline mandated in the city charter that there isn’t time for significant change by the time the council schedules its vote.

Yet, the city council’s normally 90-second agenda item June 8 to formally adopt the upcoming fiscal year budget morphed into a 15-minute sidebar when Councilman Marty McMillan suggested amending the document to give \$5,000 to the Grosse Pointe Park Little League.

McMillan is a president emeritus and current board member of the league.

“I request that we add \$5,000 to the recreation budget for (maintenance of the league’s) fields,” he said. “We don’t have

an actual place for our kids to play baseball. They play on Grosse Pointe Public School System fields.”

He said it would be a nice gesture if the city paid some of the league’s costs to cut the fields and dress the diamonds on which teams play in the Park.

“It’s not going to break the bank,” he said.

“That probably would require council approval,” Ethan Haan, finance director, told McMillan.

“What separates Grosse Pointe Park from other municipalities is our baseball fields are on school property,” said Nick Sizeland, city manager. “It is a question (of whether) the city council wants to spend money for school property. There are other considerations. Are other groups going to come?”

“I’m not opposed to helping a community event,” said Councilman Tom Caulfield, a former Little Leaguer. “My question is, there’s also softball, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts. Where does the list stop? My other challenge is this is on school property.”

“I’ll second that notion,” Councilman Max Wiener said. “I’m not opposed to having a discussion about this, but I don’t like a blanket earmark. If Little League wants to come and say they need X amount of dollars for something specific, I’m fine with that.”

Five thousand dollars is 0.0328 percent of the city’s \$15,219,500 budget for fiscal year 2026-27, starting July 1.

“I don’t think it’s a lot to ask,” McMillan said.

“I wish I had more time to think about this,” Councilman Brent Dreaver said.

He’ll get his wish because everyone agreed when Mayor Michele Hodges asked McMillan rhetorically, “Why don’t we have you come back?”

See BUDGET, page 3A

RATES:

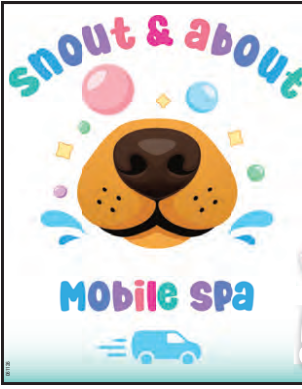
Continued from page 1A

“We’re exactly in alignment with GLWA,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

“Budget and charge increases are never implemented lightly,” Sue Coffey, GLWA CEO, said upon her board announcing increases in February. “However, our regional system is at an inflection point. Aging infrastructure is deteriorating faster than it can be replaced under the current funding model, while climate impacts and operational demands continue to rise.”

“Because we have to pay GLWA more, we have to charge our customers a little more, too,” according to the letter being sent to residents.

The Park is among more than 100 communities in southeast Michigan that buy drinking water from GLWA, contract sewerage treatment or both.



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COURTESY RENDERING

This architect’s rendering shows what the new pool and community center would look like.

POOL:

Continued from page 1A

replaced. Previous discussions included an eight-lane, 8,000-square-

foot pool with a resistance pool and a zero-entry children’s pool that includes elements similar to a splash pad. A new, two-story community center would include offices, equipment storage, restrooms, showers and a concession stand on the lower level, with a

second floor that could seat 96 people and be reserved for events.

The timeline for the project, when it starts, would include demolition in the fall, construction of the pool the following spring and construction of the community center that fall.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GPCC

From left, Jennifer Boettcher, Abigail Barroso and Lisa Frasier of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce stand in front of one of the banners gracing The Hill.

Banners up!

Nearly 70 donors came through after a funding request was made in support of recognizing the U.S. semiquincentennial. The Grosse Pointe Chamber Of Commerce is joining communities nationwide in marking America's 250th year by installing commemorative banners throughout the business districts.

To date, 132 banners have been purchased and raised in the following areas:

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe — 32 banners along Kercheval in The Village
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms — 24 banners along Kercheval on The Hill
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park — 24 banners along Jefferson, the Kercheval business district and Mack business district
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores — 18 banners along Lakeshore Road
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods — 34 banners along Mack Avenue

Opportunities still exist for those who'd like to purchase a banner to hang in their business or home. Contact the chamber at (313) 881-4722 or info@grossepointechamber.com for details.

Answering the call for contributions were:

- Abigail Barroso
- Beverly Bennert
- Jenny Boettcher
- Debra Brady
- James Brewer
- Greg Brink
- Katie and Jim Brosnan
- Ryan Case
- Terence Collins
- Larry Cools
- Lauren and Jon Cotton
- Nancy and Sean Cotton
- Shery Cotton in honor of John B. Bruce
- Grace Cracchiolo
- Erin DiLodovico
- Sierra Donaven
- David Eardley
- Mary Farley
- Annette Feldpausch
- Melissa Fradenburg
- Lisa Frasier
- Julie Fresard
- Eugene Gargaro
- Nico Gatzaros
- Deborah Gmeiner in honor of Danielle DeFauw
- Grosse Pointe Chamber Foundation
- The Gryzenia family
- Cathy Hadden
- Clare Hayner
- Sen. Kevin Hertel
- Jeff Huebner
- Karla Keelean
- Sean Kendall
- Mary and Ron

- Lamparter
- Margaret Leonard
- J Lewis Cooper III
- Mary Mancus
- Jane and Charlie McFeely
- Kelie McMillan
- Fred Minturn
- Philip Mooney
- James Motschall
- Richard Muzingo in honor of Greg Muzingo
- John Nicholson
- Darryl Nihem
- Victoria Pawlitz
- Lyndsay Peabody
- Michael Shields
- Christine Jacobs and Neil Sroka
- Karole Steen
- Michael Stines
- David Testa
- Ellisse Thompson
- Ann and Matt Turnbull in honor of Jill Rex and Sandra Turnbull
- Jaime Rae and Doug Turnbull
- Mike Vethacke
- Sheldon Wardwell
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Shores gets two new officers

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Two new public safety officers were sworn in during the May city council meeting, including one very familiar name.

Riley Batarseh and Tyler Cook were sworn in by Mayor Ted Kedzierski, who said, “it’s always a proud moment” to perform that duty.

Cook is the son of Sgt. Jason Cook, who has been with the department since 2013 and was given the Director’s Award by Public Safety Director Ken Werenski in 2022.

“This is a very special moment for the Cook family,” Werenski said.

Cook said his dad was a big supporter when he chose to pursue a career as a first responder. He also said both were aware of the dynamic



COURTESY PHOTO

New Public Safety Officers Riley Batarseh, left, and Tyler Cook, right, stand with Director Ken Werenski after being sworn in last month.

going in.

“We’re working different shifts, so there’s no

special treatment,” he laughed. “On duty he’s my boss and off duty

he’s my dad.”

Sgt. Cook said he is very proud of his son.

“He has wanted to work for GPS as an officer since he was a young teenager and pushed himself to be the best he could be every day,” he said. “I am honored and proud to work alongside of him and so proud to call him a Grosse Pointe Shores officer and, most of all, my son.”

Cook attended Tri-Hospital EMT training after high school, then joined the Kenockee Township Fire Department in St. Clair County, through which he attended the fire academy. The Shores sent him to the Macomb Police Academy, from which he graduated one day before being sworn in.

“I knew the minute I started in this field this is what I wanted to do,”

See OFFICERS, page 4A

Capuchin Souper Summer Celebration is Saturday

The 45th annual Capuchin Souper Summer Celebration, sponsored by edmund t. AHEE Jewelers, is scheduled 7:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Comerica Park.

“My grandparents and their seven children started this in 1981 as a way to give back to a great cause that meant a lot to them,” said Stefan Ahee, vice president at AHEE Jewelers.

Edmund T. and Bettejean Ahee started the event through the Edmund T. Ahee Endowment Fund for Hunger. It has raised several million dollars to provide food, clothing,

substance use disorder treatment, job training and tutoring through the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

“It makes for a beautiful summer evening,” Stefan Ahee said. “We usually get a couple thousand people.”

This marks the 22nd year the fundraiser has been at Comerica after outgrowing several other venues. Attendees must be 21 or older and admission is free, although donations are accepted. Food and beverages will be available throughout the park for purchase. The evening includes live entertainment with music by Your

Generation in Concert with fireworks at dusk.

AHEE Jewelers has donated several pieces of jewelry and watches from luxury brands like David Yurman, Shinola and Tag Heuer, along with items made inhouse by its master craftsmen, to be auctioned off.

Entrants need not be present to win. Raffle tickets cost \$5 and may be purchased over the phone by calling AHEE Jewelers at (313) 886-

4600 or in person at 20139 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Tickets also will be available at the event.

Complimentary self-parking and valet parking are available. Attendees should enter through the gates at Adams and Witherell streets.

Visit ahee.com for more information.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JUNE 15

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

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

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Life is a symphony for Pointer

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Music runs deep through the veins of life-long Pointer Laurie Strachan — all the way back to the Civil War, in fact.

“I had to do a little research because I was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for a while,” she said, “and my revolutionary ancestor on my mom’s side, Charles Ewing, was a fifer in the Civil War, which is kind of like what I play. Fife is very similar to the flute.”

After learning to play the flute at Mairé Elementary, Pierce Middle and Grosse Pointe South High schools, Strachan started Grosse Pointe-based flutist group, The Festival Flutes, more than 30 years ago, fueled by a desire to provide local musicians an avenue through which to continue performing as adults after graduating.

The group’s members range in age from women in their 20s to those in their 80s and include a librarian, teachers, lawyer, social worker, business professionals and a doctor.

“Some of the women in my group have been in since 1992,” Strachan said. “So we have a couple people that have been there the whole time.”

Every week since its inception, The Festival Flutes meets at a different nursing home or senior center to perform



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Festival Flutes performing at Sunrise Senior Living in Grosse Pointe Woods in May. From left, Arlene Bradford, Claudine Ball, Joan Odorowski, Anne Bouret, Teresa Oxholm, Linnaea Licavoli, Olga Stathis and Laurie Strachan.

for elderly residents.

“I went to Wheaton College in Illinois (for music and economics) and we had opportunities to volunteer and on Sunday afternoons I joined a group that went to a nursing home that was in the Chicago area and we visited every week,” Strachan said. “So I’ve always had an interest in senior citizens and we’ve been doing it every week for the 30-some years.”

“I’m able to combine caring about seniors and bringing music to where people already are and giving an opportunity for our flutists.”

The group, which learns a whole new repertoire every summer, also plays at weddings, parties, summer concert series and churches. June 19 and 20, it will perform in a private gar-

den as part of the annual Grosse Pointe Garden Tour.

“We’ve made great friends in the group because some of them have been in 10, 15, 20 years,” Strachan said. “And we’ve got a new member this year who just joined us, so we always have people coming in. It’s just fun.”

It’s no wonder Strachan — who also taught private flute lessons for 40 years and was a longtime member of the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra — has set the soundtrack of her life to music.

One of seven children — and the only girl, to boot — almost everyone in her family is or was a musician.

“We’ve been called the ‘Musical Millers,’” Strachan said, rivaling the Von Trapps.

Her mother sang in the church choir and her father played the accordion by ear.

“He didn’t really follow music, but he could play any tune he knew,” Strachan said. “And my brother, who was a church organist, was the same way. He could play anything that he heard, but he couldn’t read music very well.”

“... My son, Matthew, picked up that same skill, being able to play by ear. He plays the keyboard and he played trumpet in school and played the string bass.”

Among her many brothers, four were trumpeters, one a trombonist and one the organist.

“Two of them were instrumental music teachers for the Grosse Pointe Public School System,” Strachan added.

Her daughter, Libby, followed in her footsteps and played flute in high school.

Going even further back, her father’s grandfather, Earl Locke Ripley, was a trumpeter who started the horse races at the Windsor Raceway in the early 1900s — though, he is not her family’s only historical claim to fame.

“My husband’s grandpa was Matthew Patterson, who was the mayor of Grosse Pointe Park,” Strachan said, “and Patterson Park is named after him.”

Strachan met her husband, David, growing up through nursery and Sunday school at the Presbyterian church they still attend today.

It’s only fitting that if music is one thread strung throughout the length of her life, faith is the other.

“I was fortunate to grow up in a family that took us to church every Sunday,” she said. “We piled in the car — and that really was crunched with so many children — and it was very rare that any of us missed. So I grew up knowing the Bible and that I needed a savior and so I’m so thankful.”

The Farms resident taught Sunday school at the church 40 years — up until the pandemic — and two years ago, started volunteering with an online missionary organization called ExploreGod.com.

“This organization places ads all over the



Strachan’s great-grandfather Earl Locke Ripley, was a trumpeter who started the horse races at the Windsor Raceway in the early 1900s.

world about God,” Strachan explained. “And it might start out saying, ‘Feeling lonely? Do you feel like you’re missing something in life? Did you know you can have a relationship with the God who created the universe?’”

“People respond to these ads on Facebook or online and then volunteers like me pull the contact and initiate a conversation with them.”

She typically spends an hour or two each day conversing with people online, answering their biblical questions, listening to their troubles and offering prayers.

“I’ve probably got 30 or 40 people who I’m conversing with from all different countries, countries I’ve never heard of, many countries in Africa and really all over the world,” she said, “and I absolutely love it.”

Otherwise, in her free time, Strachan may be found enjoying needlepoint, sewing or a good round of mahjong at The Helm.

OFFICERS:

Continued from page 3A

he said. “I love doing all three, but firefighting takes the cake. It’s such an adrenaline rush.”

Batarseh previously went through the EMT and fire academies at Oakland Community College and the paramedic program at Macomb Community College.

“I never really had an interest in law enforcement until the last couple of years,” he said. “I’ve gotten deeper into my faith and that was the motivation, to serve others in all three aspects of public safety.”

“Whether someone is having a good day or a bad day, we show up,” he added. “It’s an awesome responsibility.”

Batarseh previously worked for Universal Ambulance, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department and as a first responder and security guard at MGM Grand Casino in Detroit.

“Riley has a lot of ambulance experience, so we’re excited to have that,” Werenski said.

“That’s the best service we offer.”

Werenski also noted Batarseh was named “outstanding cadet” of his graduating class at the Macomb Police Academy.

“That shows you how much respect he had from his classmates,” Werenski said.

Werenski added Batarseh is the second Shores officer to receive the award, the first being Billy Howe III, who

joined the department in 2022 and received the Director’s Award last year.

In his free time, Batarseh is a magician and is engaged to be married later this year.

“I’ve always been fascinated by magicians,” he said. “I do a strolling show, rather than a stage show, at things like corporate events and graduation parties and I mix in a little bit of ministry.”

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Recycling up 10%

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A 10 percent increase in recycling rates is intended to keep the service solvent the next couple years.

Grosse Pointe News

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The contracted amount charged of residents has not kept up with the cost to provide this service,” said Ethan Haan, Park finance director. “The recycling collection fund balance is projected to be negative at current funding levels by fiscal year 2027-2028 unless more revenue is raised in the fund.”

Councilman Max Wiener proposed a permanent solution.

“We should strongly consider dropping this service,” he said. “For what residents pay for it and the realities of how it’s actually implemented, I think it’s something we should consider when we get into discussions about our new waste haulers and are looking at contracts.”

Cities of all sizes, from Harper Woods to Nashville, canceled discretionary recycling programs in recent years.

Reasons are myriad. News reports cite everything from operating costs to global economics.

Harper Woods canceled

recycling in 2019 when its contractor announced a 50 percent rate increase.

Yet, Park officials decided to soldier on during their June 8 meeting.

They boosted household rates from the current \$7.25 per month to the new \$7.97 per month.

“This addresses the projected deficit,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Due to the city including recycling charges on bimonthly water bills, residents will see the new recycling fee of \$15.94 every other month. The yearly total thereby goes from \$87 to \$95.64.

Changes start next month.

“More increases may be necessary in future years, but with a new trash collection contract on the horizon and a couple other variables, the city prefers a wait-and-see approach before raising rates further than 10 percent,” Haan said.

Even with the rate increase, Haan said a \$10,000 to \$15,000 bailout from another municipal account may be needed to keep the recycling fund whole.

— Brad Lindberg

Grosse Pointe Park

Pair caught

Two 15-year-old Detroit males landed in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center when police caught them for suspected auto theft.

Officers reportedly arrested the pair while searching for a vehicle stolen overnight Wednesday, June 3, in the 1300 block of Lakepointe.

“After a brief foot pursuit, the driver and one occupant (were) detained,” police said.

A third suspect got away.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Rude awakening

A resident in the 400 block of Cloverly woke up to get ready for work at 3:33 a.m. Thursday, June 4, to find her car alarm going off and a man sitting in the passenger seat.

Two suspects fled

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

from the scene on foot and the woman did not find anything missing from her car.

Soliciting

An employee working for a Farmington Hills pest control company was cited for soliciting in the area of Kerby and Kercheval at 3:44 p.m. Thursday, June 4.

The Farms has a city ordinance prohibiting solicitors.

Out of sight

A 40-year-old Southfield man was pulled over on Moross for driving a vehicle with illegal front window tint at 9:10 p.m. Sunday, June 7, and subsequently arrested for driving while license suspended.

Snoozing

After being found asleep behind the wheel of her vehicle parked on the side of Mack at 10:04 a.m. Sunday, June 7, a 53-year-old Detroit woman was arrested for

operating while intoxicated.

Slashed tires

Ring doorbell footage captured a man slashing the tires of a truck parked in the street in the 400 block of Fisher at 3:45 a.m. Monday, June 8.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Caught red-handed

A 35-year-old Center Line man was arrested around 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, after an officer saw him attempting to steal a bicycle from outside an apartment in the 2000 block of Vernier.

Officers were called to the area after a report of a man going door-to-door trying to sell power tools. The man told officers a relative lived in

the apartment before confessing he was stealing the bike.

Uncomfortable furniture

A Hunt Club Drive resident told officers around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, someone charged nearly \$4,000 to her credit card to buy furniture. The furniture company’s fraud division is investigating.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Suspicious backpack

A 21-year-old Detroit man was seen placing a backpack in the bushes outside the emergency room entrance at a local hospital at 11:40 a.m. Tuesday, June 2. Security located a handgun inside and the individual was arrested by

officers.

Close call

While attempting to rid his computer of viruses Tuesday, June 2, a Grosse Pointe man was instructed to transfer \$60,000 to an out-of-state bank account.

After initially agreeing, he realized it was a scam and his bank manager stopped the transfer.

Drawing attention

Officers responded to reports of a man yelling for help near Lincoln and Charlevoix at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 3.

The 39-year-old Detroit man was located, investigated and arrested for possessing a concealed knife, possession of crack cocaine and disorderly conduct.

Case closed

A male juvenile was arrested Thursday, June 4, for stealing a bartender’s wallet from inside a Village restaurant in late

May. The boy confessed to the theft.

Unlocked

Nothing was taken from an unlocked vehicle that was rummaged through in the 700 block of Lincoln overnight into Friday, June 5.

Turtle’s pace

After being stopped for driving too slowly along Mack at 12:30 a.m. Sunday, June 7, a 37-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving with a suspended license.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

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

SOLD:

Continued from page 1A

the city manager and representatives of the United Kingdom several weeks ago, they indicated that they would love the center to be open by the end of 2026.

“We still, of course, have to receive architectural guidance. Matthew Baka (public service director) and his team and our departments have to go over everything, so we might be pushing it a little bit. But rest assured, as we’ve said before, the city of Grosse Pointe Farms will do anything that we can to expedite this process, but making sure that we dot every i and cross every t, especially when we consider that this is going to house many youngsters.”

The Farms, which purchased the JOANN’s property for \$2.4 million in October 2025, has now sold it for an equal \$2.4 million to 814 Acquisitions, which in turn will lease the space to N Family Schools.



Farms city council Monday, June 9, approved the sale of the former JOANN’s property, as well as lease agreements for land for the child care center’s play garden and 40 parking spaces.

COURTESY IMAGE

“This property was purchased by the city just last year, so fairly recently,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “... I think the intent was really for the city to have control of the property and to really determine the destiny of that property to ensure that it’s in the best use for the community, so I think it’s exciting that there is a use that is in great need for our community and an opportunity to put that site into that use.”

Subsequent agreements additionally will bring in \$30,000 for the initial year’s lease of playground space on city-owned land adjacent to the building and \$26,400 annually for the lease of 40 parking spaces in the municipal lot behind the building — in addition to placing the property back on city tax rolls.

The land and parking lease rates also will automatically increase by 10 percent every five years.

“Over the course of a year, we had a \$2.4 million purchase that the city made,” Mayor Pro Tem Neil Sroka said. “We’re recouping that \$2.4 million back into our coffers to additional land purchases if necessary. And also, with the playground and parking lot lease, we’re looking at \$75,000 a year, essentially, more or less, for the city on an increasing scale over the course of multiple years. So this is the real definition of a tri-

ple bottom line success here. It’s a win for the city, it’s a win for the residents and it’s a win, I think, for developers.”

A conditional use permit from the city also was necessary, given the property is located within a community service district, which means an early education child care facility would not be a by-right use under the zoning.

The approved motion for conditional use permitting noted the use will be consistent with the city’s master plan identification of child care as a missing community amenity within the city; is compatible with the adjacent land use and surrounding environment; will maintain the character of the area; and will promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner.

The permitting also emphasizes a contingency should N Family Schools ever decide to break its lease of the space.

“We’ve also developed a list of other premier daycare operators that if

N Family, for whatever reason, could not continue, that list of other premier daycare operators could receive a transfer of the conditioning permit,” City Attorney Bill Burgess said. “Anyone else, if N Family Club were to cease operations and it would not be transferred to an approved premier daycare operator, then it would have to come back to city council for approval in the future.”

Bradford Egan, with 814 Acquisitions, previously cited a study that shows there are only 83 licensed seats for the estimated 2,297 children in need of childcare within the area.

The N Family Schools location will have the capacity to care for 208 children.

“Actually, we have more children with this building than we would have had with the Kercheval building,” he said, referencing a previously denied consideration to place the daycare in the former Rite Aid building on The Hill.

An experienced team just got even better.

Raymond James is proud to welcome **Sammy Amine** to our office in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.



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SVP, Wealth Management

POINTES OF VIEW

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

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner
ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Consider becoming an organ donor

According to Donate Life America, more than 100,000 people nationwide are awaiting some type of organ transplant. That includes more than 2,600 people in Michigan.

A new person is added to the waiting list every eight minutes and 13 people die each day waiting for a transplant.

Nationally, 86 percent of those awaiting an organ transplant need a kidney. In Michigan, that figure is 82 percent.

We recently shared with readers the story of Lisa Jaeger and Paul Stencel. Last week, Jaeger donated one of her kidneys to Stencel, who has been battling kidney disease since his teens and received his first transplant in 2006. It gave out in 2002 and he has been going through nine hours of dialysis each day since.

The two, and their spouses, met when their children were in elementary school together. The children now refer to each other as “kidney cousins.”

As Jaeger said, “We all have two and we can function with one,” of her decision to donate a kidney.

Stencel’s insurance will cover Jaeger’s medical costs as a way to encourage people to become donors.

Additionally, a Michigan law as of January 2025 allows people to take a one-time state income tax credit of up to \$10,000 if they donate a kidney or a portion of their liver. 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.

The push for Michigan’s living donor tax credit has a deeply personal origin in Grosse Pointe. Dave Galbenski, a Grosse Pointe Shores resident and local business owner, faced a life-threatening liver disease and received a lifesaving transplant in 2019, thanks to a living donor — his brother-in-law, Mark Dybis.

Dybis, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident, donated a portion of his liver to Galbenski. Both livers grew back to full size in about two months. Dybis’s kindness allowed Galbenski to walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding.

Galbenski and his wife, Lynn, co-founded the Living Liver Foundation in 2022, with a mission to educate the public about living organ donation and eliminate barriers for potential donors.

Last year, Michigan saw 177 living-donor transplants (164 kidney and 13 liver), a 22 percent increase over the previous year, and advocates are hopeful the trend will continue upward in 2026 with the help of the new tax credit.

The foundation held its fifth annual Living Donor Awareness Game at UWM Field last Friday. More than 50 living donors were honored, including several double donors — both kidney and liver — and one living donor met their recipient for the first time. You can learn more about the foundation at livingliver.org.

There also is the option of becoming an organ donor through the Michigan Secretary of State, even if it is not time to renew your driver’s license. See michigan.gov/sos/all-services/organ-donor-registry.

Not ready to make such a decision just yet? Consider donating blood. The American Red Cross earlier this year reported a 35 percent drop in the national blood supply, putting trauma victims, cancer patients and others who rely on transfusions at risk.

Most weeks, local blood drives are listed under “Area Activities” in our Features section.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST OPINION By Cindy Willcock

‘If you want a neighborhood to live in, go out and get in it’

I saw a video interview recently that stuck with me. It was with a Detroit bar owner discussing the significant challenges facing bars and restaurants these days and one line really resonated with me. It put words to something I’ve been feeling for a while and it’s been sitting with me ever since: “If you want a neighborhood to live in, go out and get in it.”

Because here’s the truth: The struggle for all our local businesses is real. The new ones trying to get their footing. The longtime businesses that have been here for decades, quietly carrying the weight of community life. The places that have survived recessions, construction, pandemics, floods and everything in between.

And yet, people just aren’t going out.

Not to shop. Not to dine. Not to gather. Not even to say hello.

Some of it is economic uncertainty. Some of it is the weather. Some of it is politics, burnout, apathy or the gravitational pull of convenience. But whatever the reason, the result is the same: Our downtowns feel quieter, our small businesses feel the strain and our sense of community feels thinner than it should.

We’re living in a strange moment where people say they want vibrant neighborhoods ... but then retreat behind screens. We crave connection ... but default to delivery apps. We want thriving local shops ... but forget that they only survive when we walk through the door.

So here’s the gentle nudge — and maybe the tough love — we all need:

Put down the devices. Close the Amazon tab. Step away from DoorDash.

Go visit the places that make your town feel like your town.

Go to the café that’s been pouring coffee for 30 years.

Go to the boutique that knows your name.

Go to the restaurant that took a risk on your community.

Go to the shop that stayed open through the hard years.

Go today. And tomorrow. And the day after.

Because here’s the good news: It doesn’t take much to turn things around. A few more people choosing to stroll The Village instead of scrolling at home. A few more dinners out. A few more “let’s pop in here” moments. A few more hellos on Kercheval. That’s all it takes to shift the energy.

The Village isn’t just a spot on a map. It’s a living place made up of real people. The baristas who know your order, the shop owners who greet you by name, the servers who’ve watched your kids grow up, the entrepreneurs who took a chance on this community because they believed in it.

And they’re still believing in it.

What they need now is for us to believe in it, too — not just in theory, but in practice. With our presence. With our dollars. With our footsteps on the sidewalk.

A vibrant Village doesn’t happen by accident. It happens because people show up.

So let’s get out there. Let’s fill the sidewalks again.

Let’s remind our businesses — and ourselves — what community feels like when we choose to be part of it.

Cindy Willcock is executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe.



YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1951
75 years ago this week

2132 VOTE IN SCHOOL ELECTION: Mrs. Marion Sheaffer, incumbent, and Chet Sampson, candidate for the first time, were elected to the Grosse Pointe Board of

Education in Monday’s annual school election. Mrs. Sheaffer topped the field of 10 candidates in the balloting which attracted only 2,132 of the Pointe’s 30,000 registered voters to the polls.

ARCHITECT’S DRAWING OF LIBRARY GIVEN TO POINTE: The new Central Library, a gift of Dexter M. Ferry Jr., will be con-

See HEADLINES, page 7A

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EDITORIAL

(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:

Editor in Chief

Ted O’Neil:

Associate Editor

Mike Adzima:

Sports Reporter

Kyla Bazy:

Obituary Writer

Laurel Kraus:

Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:

Staff Photographer

Brad Lindberg:

Special Writer

PRODUCTION

(313) 343-5573

Ken Schop:

Production Manager

John Pigott:

IT Manager

David Hughes:

Graphic Artist

Mary Schlager:

Graphic Artist

Donna Zetterlund:

Graphic Artist

ADVERTISING

(313) 882-3500

Shelley Owens:

Advertising Manager

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Account Executive

Melanie Mahoney:

Administrative Assistant

MARKETING

Olivia Monette:

Marketing Specialist &

Audience Development

Manager

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(313) 882-6900 ext 567

CIRCULATION

(313) 343-5578

Ellie Carter

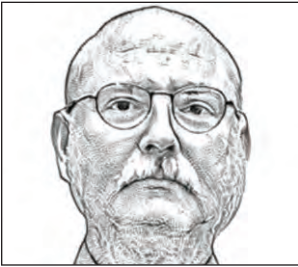
GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
June 11 – 17						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
92° 67°	83° 60°	84° 61°	79° 55°	77° 57°	73° 64°	76° 65°
Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
40%	10%	20%	30%	20%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am	SUNRISE 5:52 am
SUNSET 9:09 pm	SUNSET 9:09 pm	SUNSET 9:10 pm	SUNSET 9:10 pm	SUNSET 9:10 pm	SUNSET 9:11 pm	SUNSET 9:11 pm

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

LETTERS

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

I SAY By Ted O’Neil



Play the hits!

While back in this space, I wrote about some of the great bands I saw live growing up in metro Detroit in the 1980s and how lucky we were to have so many great venues such as The Joe, The Palace, Silverdome and Pine Knob that attracted top-notch talent. Highlights such as Bob Seger, Paul McCartney, The Stones, Grateful Dead, etc. I was scrolling through YouTube a while back, watching some favorite performers, when I stumbled upon a recording of Elton John’s 1980 con-

cert in New York City’s Central Park. That got me thinking of other recordings of live concerts I’ve enjoyed, be they purely music or documentary style with concert footage and interviews mingled. Here are some of my favorites. Since I’m a huge Beatles fan, my favorite is definitely what’s known as their “rooftop concert” from January 1969, featuring songs from the “Let it Be” album. The footage was used in a 1970 documentary of the same name and again in the more expansive “The Beatles: Get Back” in 2021. That leads me right to “Rockshow,” the 1980 concert movie that chronicled the 1975-76

tour of Paul McCartney and Wings called “Wings Over the World.” It features classics like the title track, “Venus and Mars,” “Band on the Run” and “Live and Let Die.” There’s also a great triple-live album titled “Wings Over America” with recordings solely from North American concerts from the tour. Wings also performed in a series of December 1979 concerts in London to raise money for the people of war-torn Cambodia called Concerts for the People of Kampuchea. Other performers included Elvis Costello, Queen, The Who and The Clash. A compilation of the best performances was released as a film titled “Concert for Kampuchea.”

In the same vein, George Harrison organized the Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 that featured an all-star lineup of Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Ringo Starr, Leon Russell and the band Badfinger. Highlights were Harrison’s “My Sweet Lord,” “Here Comes the Sun” and “While My Guitar Gently Weeps.” Speaking of Elton John’s Central Park concert, which was held Sept. 13, 1980, it was more than bittersweet watching him play John Lennon’s “Imagine” as he noted that Lennon lived nearby. It was less than three months before the former Beatle was murdered by Mark David Chapman. I’m also a big fan of “The Last Waltz,” filmed

in 1976, of The Band’s last-ever concert. Not only did The Band have so many great songs, but the list of musicians who joined them on stage is equally impressive, including Eric Clapton, Emmylou Harris, Ringo Starr and Van Morrison, just to name a few. A live show of The Highwaymen from 1990 is great. Seeing and hearing Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson sing their hits and each other’s is a real treat. Then there’s “The Grateful Dead Movie” from 1977, which features some of my favorite tunes like “U.S. Blues,” “Going Down the Road Feeling Bad,” (GDTRFB in Deadhead speak) “He’s Gone” and “Sugaree.” Then there’s U2’s “Live at Red Rocks.” Who can forget Bono’s classic comment as the drums start, “There’s been a lot

of talk about this next song. Maybe, maybe too much talk. This song is not a rebel song. This song is ‘Sunday, Bloody Sunday.’” “Stop Making Sense” by Talking Heads features hits such as “Psycho Killer,” “Burning Down the House” and “Life During Wartime,” plus who can forget David Byrne’s oversized suit coat? Prefer something a little heavier? Check out Led Zeppelin’s “The Song Remains the Same,” with classics like “Black Dog,” “Rock and Roll” and “Whole Lotta Love.” I’d be remiss not mentioning the iconic “Woodstock” and all those great performances. I hope you have enjoyed some of these previously or plan to. Let me know some of your favorites that I should check out.

HEADLINES:

Continued from page 6A

structed at Kercheval and Fisher on the high school grounds. The home of the late Murray Sales will be sold and the proceeds used to help furnish and equip the new building. The new library will extend 157 feet along Kercheval, with a depth of 70 feet on Fisher. **TOP HORSES OF COUNTRY COMING HERE:** R. Edmund Dowling, chairman, confidently predicts that nearly a million dollars worth of horses and equipment will be assembled on the Hunt Club grounds for the big four-day Grosse Pointe Horse Show, beginning June 21, which all of Grosse Pointe is invited to attend.

1976

50 years ago this week

MILLAGE ELECTION MONDAY: “School’s Future Cloudy,” “Board Announces Layoffs” and “Board Considers Cutbacks” were three of several banner headlines which appeared in the News in relation to the schools after the defeat of the March 29 millage propositions. The News, which hopes no headline similar in theme will result from the June 14

election, strongly urges a favorable vote on all four millage propositions for the sake of the district’s 11,145 pupils and the community at large. **PRANKS AT HIGH SCHOOL CULMINATE IN MAMMOTH DISTURBANCE AT SOUTH:** The incident where an estimated total of 500 young people gathered en masse on the South High School’s front lawn, with many entering the street early afternoon June 1, has caused obvious concern among school administration, law enforcement officials, residents and many students themselves. During the disturbance, which was basically attributed to end of school year pranks, and more specifically to “power shows,” a minority of youths (estimated at between 40-50), threw water balloons, cans, bottles and eggs at police, while hundreds of others gathered to watch the proceedings. **LAST MINUTE APPEAL FAILS TO SPARE ROSE TERRACE:** An eleventh hour injunction attempt to halt the auction and subsequent demolition of Rose Terrace backfired on a group of Farms residents June 4, when Wayne County Circuit Judge James Montante ruled against the injunction on the basis that the appeal was late.

2001

25 years ago this week

JUDGE HAS RULED ON MUSIC LAWSUIT: A discordant dispute between the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra and its former fundraising arm was settled last month. Macomb County Circuit Judge Deborah Servitto ruled that the Grosse Pointe Classical Music League, formerly known as the Grosse Pointe Symphony Women’s Association, did not have to turn over dues money raised while the two groups were still associated. **VERY MARRIED WITH CHILDREN:** The typical Grosse Pointer of the year 2000 was female, in her early 40s and is more likely to be married with children or single than her typical counterpart in 1990. She was almost two years older than her counterpart 10 years earlier even though there are more children and a relatively same percentage of seniors living in the area, says the most recent data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. **LUCY’S LAUNCHES QUEST FOR SECOND STORY:** In a debate resembling what came first, the chicken or the egg, representatives from Lucy’s Tavern on the Hill and the Grosse Pointe Farms city council talked

about the possibility of adding a second story to the neighborhood bar and grill at the May council meeting. Glen Williams, co-owner with Tom LeFevre, and architect Doug Hamborsky wanted to know how members of the council felt about the idea before going ahead with the expensive process of drawing up detailed site plans.

2016

10 years ago this week

POLICE RESPOND TO

THREAT: Using gum shoe detective methods updated to the cyber age, Grosse Pointe police and public school computer experts are backtracking an email sent to Grosse Pointe South High School indicating a death threat against the principal for punishing students misbehaving off campus. **JOHNSON CAPTURES STATE TITLE:** Grosse Pointe South senior Kayli Johnson finished her high school track and field career on the biggest stage and earned the biggest prize, a state championship. Johnson is the Division 1 champion in

the shot put, winning with a throw of 44 feet, 7 3/4 inches. She also made All-State in discus with her sixth-place throw of 126 feet, 6 inches. **LIGGETT DEDICATES FIELD IN HONOR OF FORMER COACH:** University Liggett School publicly kicked off its \$50 million Sure Foundations campaign Saturday, May 14, on the athletic fields. Despite high winds, rain and bitter cold, more than 250 people came out to celebrate. The event included the dedication of the girls’ lacrosse and field hockey field in honor of Coach Emerita Muriel E. Brock.

READ LOCAL

Caring begins with sharing what’s happening in your hometown.



Awareness is the starting point for nurturing a great community. There’s no better source for Grosse Pointe news and information than the Grosse Pointe News



PHOTO BY TED O’NEIL

Painting gifted

Woods residents Burgess and Traci Foster presented a painting of George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78 to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence at the city council meeting Monday, June 1. The artwork is inspired by one originally commissioned by Congress in 1976. The Fosters said they intend to donate replicas of the painting to the other Pointes between now and 2033, which will mark the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War.

Grosse Pointe News

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North student self publishes sci-fi novel

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Dean Drieborg, a junior at Grosse Pointe North High School, told next to no one he was self-publishing his debut sci-fi novel until it went live for sale on Amazon Friday, May 22.

A simple Instagram post announcing its existence garnered 11.8 thousand views within a week and had his cousins, teammates on North’s lacrosse team and former middle school teachers reaching out in surprise. “Everyone in my lacrosse group chat is like, ‘We didn’t know you wrote a book!’” Drieborg said. “And I’m like, ‘Yeah, it’s kind of private, but it’s public now.’” “The Ranger Corps” takes place in the fictional world of Thereva, where a member of the Ranger Corps, charged with enforcing stability across the dimensions, must reconcile the discovery that everything



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, “The Ranger Corps” book cover; its creator, Dean Drieborg; and Drieborg with the LEGO universe he created as a child, which was the inception of his new sci-fi novel, “The Ranger Corps.”

he’s believed in has been corrupt all along. “‘The Ranger Corps’ is a sci-fi novel about war, loyalty, power and what remains after loss, set in a world I built from the ground up,” Drieborg said. The world contained within the novel has been brewing in his mind for well over a decade. Sutton Banks, the main character, began as a LEGO figure Drieborg, as a young child, sent on

heroic adventures within the same fictional world now published in his novel — though he did rename some of the characters to be more age-appropriate than what his elementary school mind originally came up with. Kripz became Sutton and a secondary character, Blaro, matured into Bailey. “I (still) have the same LEGO figures from the original characters and they’re all scratched up,”

Drieborg said. “... The book that I wrote or the stories that I still write about, they still honor what I would come up with as a kid.” As he aged, LEGO make-believe evolved into drawings, scene writing and short stories — all of which culminated in the moment his Honors American Literature teacher, Allison Dunn, caught him writing in the margins of a paper during

class and confiscated it. “Instead of shutting it down, she encouraged me to direct that creativity into something real,” Drieborg said. “That moment helped push me to take my writing seriously and turn my ideas into a full novel.” At Dunn’s suggestion, Drieborg entered NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), which is a popular challenge among amateur writers to draft a 50,000-

word story within the 30 days of November. He spent November 2024 getting up early to write before school, going home to write during lunch hour and staying up late after shifts as a caddy at the Lochmoor Club — ultimately, cranking out 50,000 words, which is equivalent to a 200-page book. “I had everything and then (Dunn) just opened the door and I just had to walk through,” said Drieborg, who thanked the North teacher in the novel’s acknowledgments page. “She showed me that there was a door to walk through.” He also thanked his older brother, Dirk, who long has encouraged his storytelling. “In fifth or sixth grade, my brother would make posters for me about my world, my stories,” Drieborg said. “And so this book is based off of a poster that I have.” That same brother, now a professional

See NOVEL, page 9A

Camp Invention has 3 local stops

THE GROSSE POINTES — Camp Invention, a nationally recognized nonprofit summer enrichment camp program, is holding three sessions in the Pointes this summer. They are: ♦ Brownell Middle School, June 15 to 18, ♦ The Grosse Pointe Academy, June 22 to 26 and ♦ The War Memorial, Aug. 3 to 6. The first two run 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day and cost \$325. The last one will run 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at a cost of \$330. A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems.

Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning, builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness and encourages entrepreneurship. Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of the nation’s most world-changing inventors — the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year’s Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on experiences. This year includes a DIY rocket kit and launch, entrepreneurship and robotic animals. All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

Star of the Sea kicks off 70th anniversary with ‘Joseph’

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A number of events are scheduled to mark the 70th anniversary of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, including a production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” featuring a cast and crew of nearly 70, ranging in age from 8 to 78. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, June 19, and Saturday, June 20, in the school’s gymnasium. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 and general admission is \$10. They can be purchased at the school office 9 a.m. to noon weekdays, after all three Masses this weekend or at the door. “I’ve always wanted to do a production that brings in the whole community,” said Jennifer Koester, the school’s

music teacher. “We have students, parents of students and alumni.” Msgr. Gary Smetanka called the play a “rich tapestry of instant unification.” “We’ve been nurturing these families for 70 years,” he said. “This shows the unity and bonding music can bring.” He and Fr. Brian Meldrum have “guest starring” roles as The Baker and The Butler, respectively. “I have two lines,” Smetanka laughed. “But it’s a good, lively musical that will have people tapping their toes.” Koester added she’s put in some things that are unique to Michigan and the Pointes that the audience should find humorous. The connections to the school and parish run deep. The narrators, for example, will be Amie Johnston, a Star

staff member; Emily Moore, a current Star parent; and Audrey Schena, a Star graduate. The title role will be played by alum Ralph Kaleniecki, who is finishing his first year at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. “It’s really neat that Joseph’s dad, Jacob, will be played by Aaron Kaleniecki, Ralph’s father and our parish music director,” Koester said. Rose Maciejewski Farley, who is producing the play, said it’s been a good introduction for people to theater. “Theater all over Grosse Pointe is very much alive, but people might be intimidated to try out for, say, Grosse Pointe Theatre,” she said. “It’s been great to see them blossom.” Other events planned so far to mark the anniversary

See JOSEPH, page 9A

GPPSS parents raise concerns about screen time

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A new Facebook page is drawing a lot of attention from parents concerned about how much time students in the Grosse Pointe Public School System spend looking at screens. “I began this journey in April after having one too many conversations with friends talking about the same issue,” said Danielle Carlomusto, who wrote a Guest View for the Grosse Pointe News

about the matter in March. “There is a massive disconnect between the tech companies and the schools and us.” The page, Screen Sense Grosse Pointe, had more than 67,000 views in less than two months. “Parents, teachers, neuroscientists, social workers, we’re all pleading for reform,” the Woods mom of twins heading into fifth grade added. “This is a space to show solidarity, share the science and create a partnership so we can move the needle for-

ward.” Carlomusto said one of her main concerns is the addictive nature of what she calls “the gamification of education.” “All these things are designed to be irresistible to their brains,” she said. “How boring a book must feel. The tech companies design things this way to make money and the schools have to justify the money they spend for the tech.” According to the National Institutes of Health, tech companies study how casinos oper-

ate in developing their games. “By utilizing behavioral psychologists, tech platforms incorporate variable rewards, mystery boxes (such as loot boxes) and continuous feedback loops. These design elements trigger dopamine releases, encouraging repeated use,” it said in a 2019 study. The Office of the U.S. Surgeon General recently released these screen time guidelines: ♦ zero hours per day for children under 18 months, ♦ one hour per day for children 18 months to 6 years and ♦ two hours per day for children ages 6 to 18. Carlomusto said she thinks the matter is directly related to the district’s shrinking enrollment. “They can’t lament the exodus while ignoring the parents who are still here,” she said. “They have to do something to keep us here.” One parent posted to

the page they are a public school graduate whose parents were public school employees, but decided to send their children to Catholic school — despite not being Catholic — because of the emphasis on pencil and paper learning. Nicole Runyon, LMSW, said reliance on tech has eroded children’s sense of community. “It’s addictive and not designed for learning,” the Shores resident said. “Using pen and paper builds fine motor skills. People don’t realize movement scaffolds brain growth. Kids need social activity, talking and interacting with each other.” Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop said the district is reviewing how technology is used in the classroom so it aligns with learning goals. “We recognize some members of our community have concerns about technology use, especially for our youngest learners,” he added.

“Please be assured our recent curricular purchases exemplify our commitment to a wide variety of educational tools including traditional books. Our well-rounded curriculum also offers variety throughout the day so students are participating in physical education, art, music and language exploration.” Christina Morrison, a mom of four in the Farms whose oldest is heading to fifth grade in the fall, said she thinks there’s also a matter of inequity. “We’re a bring-your-own-device district, so most kids have Chromebooks, but there are some families that can’t afford them,” she said. “Some kids bring older, clunky laptops that are slower or check out a school-issued device each day that they can’t take home. It’s like wearing a scarlet letter.” Bishop invited parents to a listening session on the matter this past Tuesday, June 9, before the GPPSS Board of Education meeting.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Multipurpose Room, Brownell Middle School, Grosse Pointe Public School System, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, the Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the District’s proposed 2026-2027 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A physical copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 20601 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Published: GPN, June 11, 2026

Called to serve

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Three young women from the Grosse Pointe South High School Class of 2026 are ready for military service and each has a family connection that helped pave the way.

Leila Oskui is headed to the United States Naval Academy, Addie Hall will attend the United States Military Academy and Berkley Fuller enlisted in the United States Air Force.

According to school officials, they are the only three 2026 graduates from either high school joining the military this year.

Oskui said she has been considering the move since her freshman year of high school, back when her sister, Ava, received an appointment to the same academy.

“She’ll be a senior this year, so she’s been teas-

ing me about a lot of stuff, saying she’s going to make me do push-ups,” she laughed.

Hall, whose father has spent his career in the U.S. Army, grew up at bases in Texas, Alabama and Virginia before moving to the Pointes.

“It’s something I’ve always thought about, but there was never any pressure,” she said. “I like the structure.”

Fuller’s dad, likewise, spent 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

“I wanted to join because he’s an amazing man and I’ve seen what the military can do for people,” she said.

Fuller also had another reason.

“I’m not a big fan of school,” she laughed, “although I do like English. I love reading and writing. My stepmom works for Customs and Border Protection, so I maybe could have gotten a job there, but you can’t start until you’re

21.”

Oskui and Hall both were nominated by Congressman Shri Thanedar. A nomination, however, other than in certain circumstances, does not guarantee acceptance. Each member of Congress can nominate 10 people for each vacancy with one guaranteed acceptance provided that person meets the necessary qualifications. Acceptance rates to military academies are around 10 percent. A minimum five-year commitment after graduation is required.

“Sometimes it can be longer, depending on your training and how much they’ve invested in you,” Hall said.

She plans to major in behavioral science with a biomedical engineering minor, noting it would be “cool” to be a doctor or a pilot.

Oskui is going into nuclear engineering with a Spanish minor, saying



PHOTO BY TED O’NEIL

From left, Leila Oskui, Addie Hall and Berkley Fuller with sweatshirts of their respective military branch.

she hopes that will help her travel abroad.

Fuller isn’t quite sure what her exact career path will be, other than something administrative.

“I met with my recruiter recently about the process and I should hear soon what they chose for my job,” she said.

She’ll head to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in September for basic training, then somewhere else for job training.

Oskui and Hall will be reporting later this month for orientation.

All three said recent world events gave them and their families a little pause about their decisions.

“I originally wanted to go into security, like the military police, but my dad vetoed that,” Fuller said. “But what’s going on isn’t stopping me.”

Hall said her mom “threatened to pull me out if World War III starts, but what’s going on now won’t be a problem forever.”

Oskui said tensions in the Middle East hit close to home as her dad is an Iranian immigrant.

“It’s a big topic at home, but they know it’s something I’ve always wanted and they trust me.”

NOVEL:

Continued from page 8A

graphic designer and one of Drieborg’s biggest fans, created the cover art for “The Ranger Corps.”

The North student also enjoyed layering niche references to his own life throughout the novel.

One character is based on his oldest brother, Luke, who is a doctor. The story also takes place in dimension 13, which is Drieborg’s num-

ber in lacrosse.

“I take a lot of inspiration from Stan Lee and a lot of his characters are people that he knows,” Drieborg said.

Just as Stan Lee didn’t start the Marvel Universe with Spiderman, Drieborg noted that “The Ranger Corps” actually is not the story of the main character within the Thereva universe.

“This is one story within a whole world,” he said. “I have other manuscripts just sitting there.”

Currently, he’s working on a pitch bible — a comprehensive document used to pitch stories to producers — and envisions Thereva being adapted to an animation concept.

“A lot of people were joking in my comments when I posted, saying, ‘Which streaming platform is picking this up?’ And ‘Oh, I’ll just wait to watch it,’” he said.

For those who don’t want to wait, “The Ranger Corps” may be purchased on Amazon.

JOSEPH:

Continued from page 8A

include:

- ◆ Fall Fest in September, featuring food trucks, games, raffles and music;
- ◆ a Legacy Mass in November, inviting back alumni, former teachers and former families, with a reception afterward;
- ◆ a car show in spring 2027 and
- ◆ a parish picnic in June 2027.

“Our school is all about building relationships,” said Danielle Trudell, who is finishing her first year as principal after nine years teaching at Star, “relationships with other students, with teachers, with Christ. And we do that with everything — academics, sports, fine arts. This is a wonderful way to end the year.”



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast and crew of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat” at a recent rehearsal.

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Congrats, Norsemen!



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe North Senior Class President Alejandro Delgado gave the welcome and introductions.

Grosse Pointe North High School held its graduation ceremony on the soccer field Monday, June 1, under sunny skies. A total of 231 students walked the stage that evening to make graduation official. Above, the presentation of the Class of 2026 was given by Grosse Pointe North Principal Kevin Shubnell.



Above, Student Association President Lauren Loper welcomed students and their families to graduation. Left, Maressa Fielder sang, “Home,” and was accompanied on the piano by her father, Joseph Fielder.



Above, Shubnell hands a diploma to graduate Piper Crossley. Left, Darrior Goley gave a commencement address that had graduates and audience captivated and laughing.

Congrats, Knights!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARREN CLARK

Above, 2026 valedictorian, Teresa Romanelli, gives her address during commencements. Left, Otto Massie was one of the students who spoke during commencements.

Congrats, Blue Devils!



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South High School had its graduation on the front lawn Wednesday, June 3. A total of 268 graduates walked the stage on a beautiful summer evening.

Senior Class President Heidi Bryan walks up to the stage to give her speech titled, “1,826 Meaningful Days.”



Above, “Laces, Velcro, Dress Shoes” is the title of the speech given by Emilia Koper. Left, Grosse Pointe South Principal Cindy Parravano giving the Principal’s Address to the Class of 2026. This was her first year as principal and first graduation speech in that role.



Above, Simon Justin shakes hands with Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, before receiving his diploma cover. Diplomas were given out after the ceremony. Left, Tuttle gives her last speech as superintendent to the Class of 2026 at Grosse Pointe South.



Oh, what a Knight

University Liggett School saw 77 seniors graduate during commencement Sunday, June 7. From left, Creative and Performing Arts Department Chair Dr. Phillip Moss, ULS Board of Trustees President Gretchen Knoell Higbie and Upper School Head Shernaz Minwalla listen as students and families are addressed by Head of School Paul Rossi.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN CLARK



Congratulations to the Class of 2026

The 77 seniors in the class of 2026 were admitted to these colleges and universities.

Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Albion College
Alfred University
Alma College
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Babson College
Ball State University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Bowling Green State University
Butler University
Calvin University
Carleton College
Case Western Reserve University
Central Michigan University
Central State University
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clemson University
College for Creative Studies
College of Charleston
Colorado Mountain College
Columbia College Chicago
Davenport University
Denison University
DePaul University
Drexel University
Earlham College
Eastern Michigan University
Elon University
Ferris State University
Florida A&M University
Fordham University

George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown College
Grand Valley State University
Hampshire College
Hampton University
Harvard University
Haverford College
Heidelberg University
High Point University
Hillsdale College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Indiana University
Jackson State University
John Carroll University
Johnson C. Smith University
Kalamazoo College
Kennesaw State University
Kent State University
Kettering University
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence Technological University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University New Orleans
Lynn University
Macalester College
Macomb Community College
Madonna University
Marist University
Marquette University
Marshall University
Marymount Manhattan College
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Miami University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University

Morgan State University
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
Northern Illinois University
Northern Michigan University
Northwestern University
Northwood University
Oakland University
Oberlin College
Ohio Dominican University
Ohio University
Otterbein University
Pace University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Penn State University
Point Park University
Providence College
Regis University
Rollins College
Roosevelt University
Rutgers University
Saginaw Valley State University
Saint Francis University
Saint Leo University
Saint Mary's College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Schoolcraft Community College
Simpson College
Southern Methodist University
Stetson University
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Trine University
Trinity College
Tuskegee University
University of Alabama

University of California (Davis)
University of California (Irvine)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of Chicago
University of Colorado (Boulder)
University of Colorado (Denver)
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Georgia
University of Illinois (Chicago)
University of Indianapolis
University of Massachusetts (Boston)
University of Miami
University of Michigan (Dearborn)
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of Mount Union
University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin
Upper Iowa University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Wayne State University
Wesleyan University
Western Michigan University
William & Mary
Xavier University
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHY LIGHTBODY

This 1976 Cadillac Eldorado, owned by Mike Hurley of Flint, will be displayed at the show.

Power & Elegance EyesOn Design returns with full weekend of events

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Auto enthusiasts of all ages are invited to EyesOn Design at Ford House, the 39th annual car show that carefully curates its selection of vehicles based on the beauty of their design.

This year’s show, which follows the theme “Power and Elegance,” takes place Sunday, June 21, on the grounds of Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

“We’ll have 175 cars from 24 states and Canada,” event chair Kathy Lightbody said. “The earliest is from 1907, all the way up to concept cars from current OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) and historic concept cars.”

To prepare for the main event, all are welcome to attend the second annual Cars & Coffee Saturday, June 13.

“Our second Cars & Coffee takes place at 8 a.m. at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall on Mack,” Lightbody said. “It’s free. Just show up and have fun and bring your own cars to show.”

Revving up

The action heats up during an entire weekend of events leading up to the car show, beginning with the Friday Drive on Friday, June 19.

“The location won’t be revealed until the week before the show,” Lightbody said. “It’s a super secret starting place where they meet, then go on a 75-mile drive on picturesque southeast Michigan roads.”

The drive ends at a surprise location sure to please auto enthusiasts, then is followed by lunch. It’s a registration-only

The schedule

Cars & Coffee: 8 a.m. Saturday, June 13, at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
Driving Tour: Friday, June 19, location details to be shared prior to event. Cost is \$95 per person. Reservations are required.
Vision Honored: EyesOn Design Lifetime Design Achievement Award gala, 6:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, June 19, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Tickets are \$300 per person. Black-tie optional. Registration required.
Design Symposium I: Fabulous Fiberglass, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20, at Ford House. Tickets are \$50 per person.
Design Symposium II: Petersen Automotive Museum, noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 20, at Ford House. Tickets are \$50 per person.
Private Eyes Brunch: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at Ford House. Adult tickets are \$125 per person; child tickets are \$50 per child younger than 10. Includes car show admission; reservations are required.
EyesOn Design at Ford House: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at Ford House. Tickets are \$40 per person, free for children younger than 10 and active military with ID.
To register for any event, visit tinyurl.com/mrxwsyr7

event and costs \$95. Friday night, during a gala at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Gorden Wagener, recently retired chief design officer for Mercedes-Benz Group AG, will receive the



This 1996 Dodge Viper GTS, owned by Robert Lutz of Ann Arbor, will be part of the show.

Lifetime Design Achievement Award. Since 1988, the award has recognized individuals whose creative vision and innovative spirit have fundamentally transformed automotive design. Recipients are chosen exclusively by previous winners, Lightbody noted.

Stellantis Chief Design Officer Ralph Gilles will speak, as will Laurens van den Acker, chief design officer of Renault Group. Tickets are \$300 and reservations are required to attend.

The next day, two symposiums will set the stage

for Sunday’s car show. The first, “Fabulous Fiberglass,” takes place 9 to 11 a.m. at Ford House.

“We’re going to have a whole class of cars in the ‘Fabulous Fiberglass’ category,” Lightbody said. “Coming out of World War II, all this development in material science happened as a result of the times. They found that fiberglass is a lightweight, durable and easily manipulated material. It makes it easier to create body styles than with steel and it allows them to be customizable.”

Geoff Hacker, owner of

Undiscovered Classics, will speak.

“He’s been on ‘Jay Leno’s Garage,’ ‘AmeriCarna,’ ‘Barn Find Hunter,’” Lightbody said. “He is the world’s foremost authority on fiberglass in the automobile industry. He’ll be bringing a couple of his vehicles.”

The second symposium takes a look at Petersen Automotive Museum from noon to 2 p.m., also at Ford House.

“The winner of our Preserving the Vision Award, recognizing an individual or group for furthering the hobby or sport of car collecting, is Petersen Automotive Museum,” Lightbody said. “A curator and historian, Leslie Kendall, is bringing two vehicles. One is a 1939 Delahaye Type 165, built for the 1939 New York World’s Fair. It’s considered one of the finest examples of Art Deco in automobile design. He’s also bringing a 1952 Ferrari 212/225 Barchetta — the last one ever built. It was a gift from Enzo Ferrari that was gifted to Henry Ford II, so it truly is like a homecoming.”

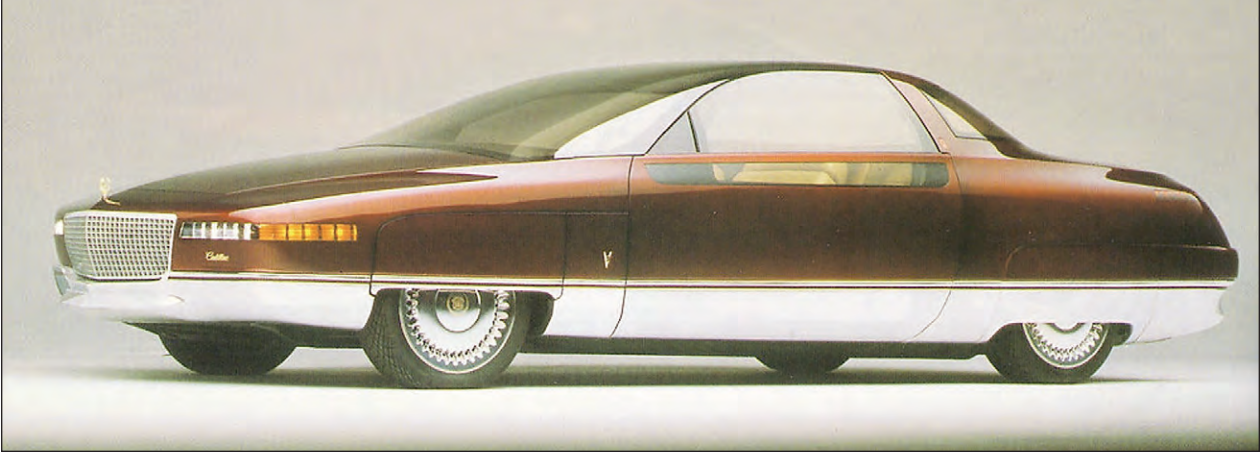
The big show

Friday’s and Saturday’s events all pave the way to the main event, the EyesOn Design at Ford House automobile show, which takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Following the “Power and Elegance” theme, Lightbody said, the show will start with autos from



Also featured in this year’s show are this 1971 Cadillac Eldorado, owned by Ray and Melissa Arondoski of Grosse Pointe Park, and below, this 1989 Cadillac Solitaire concept car, courtesy of General Motors.



See POWER, page 2B



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Community invited to listening session

Older adults, family members, caregivers and community members are invited to attend a community listening session hosted by the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging at 1 p.m. Friday, June 12, at The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The public hearing is designed to gather input on issues that matter most to older adults and help inform statewide priorities and planning efforts. Community members are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives on topics, including aging in the community, access to nutritious food, transportation, caregiving supports and other needs impacting older adults.



Appointed by the governor, the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging advises state leadership on issues affecting older adults and helps guide policies, programs and resources across Michigan.

“The Helm is honored to host this important conversation and provide an opportunity for community members to share their experiences and perspectives,” said Krista Siddall, executive director of The Helm.

“Hearing directly from those who live, work, care for and support older adults helps ensure the needs and priorities of our community continue to be understood and represented.”

For additional information, contact The Helm at (313) 882-9600 or visit helmlife.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHY LIGHTBODY

This 1930 Duesenberg Model J Murphy convertible sedan, from the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Ind., will be featured at EyesOn Design.

Celebrating the Duesenberg

Six iconic automobiles will be gathered on the Ford House lawn in a class comprised entirely of Duesenbergs, a perfect representation of the 2026 car show theme, “Power and Elegance.” They will include the vehicle featured on this year’s commemorative poster: a Model J Weymann St. Cloud, owned by Don Gahreeb.

In the Classic era, the Duesenberg represented the perfect melding of power and elegance. This was due, at least in part, to the vision of Errett Lobban Cord. Fred and August Duesenberg were talented and accomplished engineers — their cars won the Indianapolis 500 four times during the 1920s — but by 1924 their fledgling company was bankrupt.

Their fortunes took a turn for the better when E. L. Cord purchased the company’s assets in 1926, and assigned them the task of developing the fastest and finest automobile the world had ever seen.

Designed and engineered to compete with the world’s most luxurious and powerful cars, the Duesenberg Model J was introduced to the world in December 1928. It was the epitome of luxury, at a price only the elite could afford. The car was light years ahead of its time.

Regardless of body configuration, with a 265 hp engine — almost double its nearest competitors — nothing came close to the performance of these production cars. Even more amazing for nearly century-old cars, they are fully capable of keeping up with modern traffic.

In addition to the poster car, the EyesOn Design Duesenberg Class also will include Model Js from collectors Greg Ornazian, Doug and Judy Cadman, Stahl’s Automotive Foundation, the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum and RM Sotheby’s. It will be a spectacular sight, not to be missed.

—EyesOn Design

POWER:

Continued from page 1B

the earliest days, when power and elegance were inseparable.

“You needed power to move a vehicle,” she said. “There was a requirement of power to move these large, beautiful vehicles. Then came the ability to customize. For racing, you’d strip them down to make them light. For luxury, you’d reduce the power but crank up the elegance. So we’re starting with the combined power and elegance, then there will be two trails — those that have been power-refined and those that have been elegance-refined.”

The show promises

something for everyone, including a design category for vintage dragsters that bear names like The Sizzler, Mr. C and Prussian.

“The Sizzler was the winner of the 1970 Bakersfield March Meet,” Lightbody said. “The Prussian won the 1965 Top Fuel World Championship.”

The show also will feature categories such as Classic Roadsters, Personal Luxury Coupes, Full-Sized American Luxury Convertibles and Old World Lux. Concept cars and motorcycles will be highlighted as well.

“I would encourage people to walk the field starting from the first category and read the descriptions,” Lightbody

said. “For anybody, no matter their level of understanding of cars, if you walk the field in order and read the signs, it’s such a compelling story. You’ll get a whole new appreciation for design, for how it tells the story of this year’s theme.”

Each of the vehicles in the show were carefully selected by the EyesOn Design Vehicle Selection Committee, which consists of more than 60 working or retired automotive designers and design educators, Lightbody said.

“It is remarkable to me that they scour the country and can fill these classes,” she added. “What’s unique to EyesOn Design is that it

is a different theme every year. The judges don’t select on rarity or condition. It’s not a concours or a celebrity car show. (Chief Judge) Glen Durmisevich selects a unique theme every year and then he takes the theme and develops classes based on the theme and they go out and fill the classes. ... Every year is one of a kind.”

Among this year’s judges will be Wayne Kady, a GM designer, whose poster was selected as the winning artwork for the year. The Duesenberg he featured in his poster will be part of the car show.

Several vehicles will be awarded for their design, including one selected by EyesOn Design Visionaries, a panel of visually impaired people who judge through touch, wearing white cotton gloves. They’ll judge the Supercar Speed Kings

category and present the winner with the Philip C. Hessburg Visionary Award, named for the co-creator of EyesOn Design.

Students from various engineering and design schools make up another unique panel of judges. They’ll meet with senior judges, who will walk them through how to judge a vehicle based on design.

Students also were involved with Stellantis’ drawing competition, Drive for Design.

“For the first time we hosted Drive for Design Junior,” Lightbody said. “Three young winners were invited to the car show. One asked if they could judge, so an 11-year-old will join our junior judges.”

This year’s grand marshal is Matthew Rossetti of HOK + ROSSETTI. The honorary chairman is Bryan Nesbitt, vice president of General

Motors Global Design.

The show is run by 265 volunteers.

“We are 100 percent operating as a volunteer organization and have for 39 years,” Lightbody said, “so we can return all the proceeds to the DIO.”

The cause

Proceeds from EyesOn Design benefit the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, which assists and educates the visually impaired, as well as sponsors annual international research conferences that bring together the world’s leading vision-related scientists.

The Eye and The Chip conference alternates years with The Eye, The Brain and The Auto.

This year, The Eye, The Brain and The Auto world research conference, organized by Henry Ford Health and the DIO, takes place Oct. 26 and 27, at the Athenaeum Suite Hotel in Detroit.

“Traditionally, over the past 20 to 25 years, this biennial conference has had a broad focus on research evaluating the impact of vision and/or cognition and other brain issues on driving performance and safety,” Lightbody said. “However, this year we are focusing on naturalistic driving as a methodology to study a broad array of driving issues. Naturalistic driving is a technology that uses instrumentation fit to a driver’s vehicle or a test vehicle to examine driver behaviors under the real-world conditions of everyday driving.”

For more information about EyesOn Design or its companion programs, visit eyesondesign.org.



Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles will bring this 1939 Delahaye Type 165 Roadster to the show.

About Petersen Automotive Museum

The Petersen Automotive Museum was founded by the late Robert Petersen, who built the largest special-interest publishing company in America, beginning with Hot Rod Magazine and soon Motor Trend, which was aimed at fans of production cars. These were followed by dozens of other publications focused on different segments of the automotive market.

As a successful entrepreneur and noted car collector, Petersen and his wife, Margie, realized a lifelong dream in 1994 by creating a 300,000-square-foot museum to celebrate automotive culture.

Its mission is to educate and excite generations with fascinating stories about the vehicles and people that have influenced America’s love affair with the automobile.

Inside, its three floors and 25 galleries showcase just about every kind of car, from legendary race cars to exotic foreign models to special vehicles made by America’s automakers and more.

Due to its proximity to Hollywood, the museum also features lots of cars well-known to TV and movie buffs, including a special exhibit that opened this spring on the cars from the “Fast & Furious” films.

Downstairs, in the museum’s “Vault,” are more than 250 of the rarest cars, trucks and motorcycles from around the world, from early legends and American classics to award-winning hot rods and stunning modern supercars.

Once a month, the Petersen also hosts cruise-ins during which car buffs get to show off their own cars in the museum’s parking lot.

The museum itself is a standout on L.A.’s famed Wilshire Boulevard, with its façade of swooping stainless-steel ribbons added during an extensive \$125 million renovation in 2015.

—EyesOn Design

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Gorgeous gardens take center stage for 34th Grosse Pointe Garden Tour

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

A series of spectacular gardens will be on display for the 34th annual Grosse Pointe Garden Tour, which takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, throughout the Grosse Pointes.

Six homes and one church join perennial tour darlings, the Trial Gardens and Veterans Garden, located at The War Memorial. The Trial Gardens this year were planted by seven local garden clubs according to the theme, “250th Anniversary of Our Nation.”

“Being a proud American and proud of our country, the committee for the garden tour is happy to celebrate the 250th anniversary in honor of our country,” said Kathy Brown, tour co-chair. “We’ll all be wearing red, white and blue and we encourage tour guests to do so. They’ll see patriotic things throughout the tour.”

The patriotic theme flows into the annual scavenger hunt, during which participants should be on the lookout for items at all seven gardens, including one created by Brian Clay Collins and the late Roy Figurski.

Their home at 223 Kenwood in Grosse Pointe Farms often catches the attention of passersby for its skillfully sculpted yews, as well as a custom-forged, cast aluminum urn potted with Kimberly Queen ferns.

The yard’s kousa dogwood, white astilbe and other plantings were added by the homeowners, who stripped nearly everything from the grounds after buying the property in 2018.

“We moved in in 2019, after an 18-month total



Sculptures and bird houses intermix with varieties of plants and blooms at 717 Middlesex, Grosse Pointe Park. The lilacs to the right are original to the property.

renovation of the house and property,” Collins said. “The only things we kept were the big things. Virtually everything else was torn out and replaced.”

Working in collaboration with a landscape designer, the grounds were perfected with a variety of textures and shapes.

“We complimented each other,” said Collins, an interior designer. “I had specific ideas of what I wanted in certain areas and he filled in the blanks.”

The yard also features three sitting areas — one in front, one in back and one off the side door. It will host the Festival of Flutes from 11 a.m. to noon both days of the tour.

Music also will be played by the Sweet Mountain Strings Dulcimers from noon to 2 p.m. both days at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, the gardens of which are another stop on the tour.

Located at 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park, St. Clare offers a garden for all seasons that



Varities of potted plants line the patio at 717 Middlesex.

is accented by a gazebo, pond, statues and sculptures. All of its gardens are planted and maintained by the St. Clare Garden Club.

“We’re happy and honored to be celebrating the 100th anniversary of St. Clare of Montefalco,” Kathy Brown added. “It has beautiful gardens.”

Three other Grosse Pointe Park gardens are on the tour, including the Andrzejczak garden at 1320 Yorkshire, as well as next-door neighbors on Middlesex.

Mary and Richard Trost at 717 Middlesex moved to the home in 2001, when “it looked a lot different,”

Mary Trost said. “Almost all the beds were ground cover. There was periwinkle everywhere.”

Over the years, much has been torn out and replaced, most recently a pair of hulking Japanese maples that flanked the front doorway.

“They were beautiful, but too big, so we had them removed,” she said. “I replanted the area, so the front door is under development.”

Most of her front and back yards are continually under development, the Master Gardener said.

“Something’s always



One of three peaceful sitting spaces at 223 Kenwood, Grosse Pointe Farms.



A massive cottonwood centers the backyard at 725 Middlesex, Grosse Pointe Park.

PHOTOS BY
RENEE
LANDUYT

going on,” she added. “Most of the garden is perennials. ... I’ve moved things. If it doesn’t work, I move them again. The yard has evolved over the years.”

One consistent piece is a patch of lilacs that is original to the property.

Another hearty yield can be found along the driveway next to the house.

“Some of the peonies are from my great-grandmother,” Trost said. “They went to my mom in Pennsylvania. Then when

See TOUR, page 5B

Grosse Pointe dentist honored

In October, Dr. George Goodis was honored with Hour Detroit’s 2025 Top Dentist Hall of Fame Award, Excellence In Dental Care, in recognition of his contributions to dentistry, innovation and community leadership.

He also earned the University Detroit Mercy Dean’s Faculty Achievement Award.

Goodis introduced the concept of Dentistry 2.0 in the Michigan Dental Association Journal in 2023, sparking what is now called “The New Golden Age” of dentistry.

In January 2025, he hosted the Dentistry 2.0 Leadership Celebration at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, bringing together rising dental professionals, students and seasoned leaders to inspire collaboration and excellence across Michigan.

As a specialist in endodontics and family founder of EdgeEndo, Goodis has pioneered advancements in root canal treatment through state-of-the-art technology, including the revolutionary EdgePro Dental Laser and 3D imaging.

These innovations have transformed patient care, delivering safer, faster and virtually pain-free treatment while preserving natural teeth. His practices across metro Detroit are recognized for combining compassionate care with leading-edge science.

Beyond technology, Goodis is committed to mentorship, education and philanthropy — guiding the next generation of “Gen Z Zoomer Dentists” and investing in Michigan’s dental community.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. GEORGE GOODIS

Dr. George Goodis at the podium at Hour Detroit’s Hall of Fame event.



Grosse Pointe Endodontic Office, from left, 3D Imaging Director Katie Meldrum, Dr. Susan Paurazas, Dr. George Goodis and Dr. Gerald Halk.

Summer fun returns to The Helm

Summer programming is underway at The Helm, bringing opportunities to stay active, connect with others and enjoy favorite seasonal traditions.

One of The Helm’s favorite summer activities returns this month as Bocce League kicks off for the season. Open to all members, the league meets 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and welcomes beginner and experienced players for friendly

competition, movement and connection.

Members also can enjoy a little laughter and a sweet treat at Sundaes & Stand Up from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 11. Comedians Kathy Ryan and Ed Hunter will provide live entertainment while guests enjoy frozen custard and toppings from Wally’s Frozen Custard. There will be

See HELM, page 4B



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4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Randolph Milton Wright

Randolph “Randy” Milton Wright was born Aug. 2, 1946, in Detroit, and died Wednesday, May 27, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife, Catherine (nee Anderson); sisters, Julia Ellinger (the late Jerry) and Marsha (Rick Griewski); sons, John (Celina) and Mark (Jessica Davis); and granddaughter, Evelyn “Evie.” Randy was predeceased by his son, Jeffrey, who was born and died the following day in 1986.

Randy grew up in Dearborn and his family later moved to Grand Rapids. He graduated from Forest Hills High School in 1964, and enrolled at Western Michigan University later that fall. He spent the summers living with his grandparents and working at Scott Paper Co., in Detroit.

WMU is where he proudly served as president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and, most notably, where he met his sweetheart, Cathy, who he later married in Grosse Pointe after enlisting in the U.S. Army and completing basic training and before reporting to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning.

After successfully graduating from OCS, then serving as a tactical training officer, he served in Vietnam as a rifle platoon leader of the 3/21 Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. His military awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal for Valor with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnamese Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with star and National Defense Service Medal. Randy was inducted into the OCS Hall of Fame and awarded the Order of Saint Maurice (Legionnaire) by the National Infantry Association.

On his return home from Vietnam, admission to Wayne State University Law School was waiting for him thanks to advocacy by Cathy. After law school, he practiced law in various settings including as general counsel to National Bank of Royal

Oak (later Citizens Bank) until 1983, when he started a law firm in Birmingham and bought a house there on land contract — both big bets on himself that paid off. He grew his firm through a series of partnerships until it merged with Berry Moorman, P.C., in 1997, but for his part, he practiced law 50 straight years.

In addition to his successful law practice, he also gave his time and energy to nonprofit causes close to his heart. He helped fellow veterans working with the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Detroit Chapter No. 9, serving as its third president and thereafter as a board member. He also worked many years toward the mission of ending violent conflict with the non-governmental organization Search for Common Ground, serving on the board of directors beginning in 1987, including a stint as chairman from 1991-94.

Unbeknownst to him, either he or Cathy carried a “lacrosse gene” and their two sons went on to play Division I lacrosse in college, John at Syracuse University and Mark at the University of Pennsylvania. After college, both boys went on to obtain professional degrees, John following the legal path by going to Wayne State Law School and Mark forging his own way in architecture at the University of Michigan. Randy was delighted to welcome two daughters-in-law into the family when John married Celina and Mark married Jess.

Yet the absolute highlight of his life were the last six-and-a-half years he spent as a doting grandfather to his only grandchild, Evie. She will miss her beloved “Popsie” and the rest of the family will miss their dad.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Randy’s memory be made to one of the organizations he cared so deeply about: VVA Detroit Chapter No. 9 at vva9.org/howyoucanhelp/; or Search for Common Ground at sfcg.org/?form=Donate.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Benjamin G. Chapman

Funeral services take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, for Benjamin G. Chapman, who died Thursday, May 28, 2026, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms. He was 94.

Born in Detroit in 1932, to Kathleen Early Chapman and Charles Goodman Chapman, Ben’s family lived in Indian Village before moving to Grosse Pointe Farms when he was 5.

Ben attended Detroit University School through ninth grade before transferring to The Taft School in Watertown, Conn., from which he graduated in 1950. Ben attended Yale University, graduating in 1954, and spent two years in the U.S. Army in Oklahoma and Germany, before going to work as a stockbroker. He first worked for Clark, Dodge & Co., then was a partner with Wm. C. Roney & Co., and finished a nearly 50-year investment career at Raymond James. Ben also served on the board of directors at the Grosse Pointe News from the mid-1970s through the mid-’90s, handling the newspaper’s accounting and bookkeeping during that period.

Ben’s family was the center of his life. In 1958, he married Lauren Grinnell Edgar and they lived in the City of Grosse Pointe, where they raised four children. Ben and Lauren shared a passion for sports, particularly hockey, and had season tickets for the Detroit Red Wings at Olympia Stadium for many years. Ben played goalie at Taft and Yale and later coached for many years in the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association. He was a willing chauffeur to boys whose parents were unable to drive them to practices and games. Ben also was an avid golfer, playing on his teams at Taft and Yale. He grew up across the road from the fourth tee of the Country Club of Detroit course and often started his round there. He enjoyed playing, coaching or watch-



Randolph Milton Wright

ing just about any sport. Ben and Lauren formed many lifelong friendships in Grosse Pointe, hosting numerous Fourth of July parties and on many other occasions with a tight-knit group. They enjoyed travels to Europe, the Canadian Rockies and many other destinations in their later years.

Ben was an exceptional father to his four children, leading by example, and adored spending time with his five grandchildren. Despite a busy work schedule, Ben rarely missed a practice, game or performance.

Ben spent his life quietly serving others. When he was 14, he joined Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and served in numerous roles, including elder, deacon, usher, trustee, the investment council, worship council and outreach council, where he made sandwiches for the less fortunate well into his 80s. He served in some of these capacities more than once. Ben died just 10 days before his 80th anniversary with the church.

Ben also was a member of the Country Club of Detroit, The Woodworkers and the Yale University Alumni Association.

Ben is survived by his daughters, Jill Edgar Chapman and Gay Chapman Kennary (James); sons, Charles Goodman Chapman II (Judy) and Clayton Grinnell Chapman; and grandchildren, Hadley Kennary, Cole Milazzo, Alison Milazzo, Graffin Kennary and Sarah Chapman. He was predeceased by his wife, Lauren; parents, Kathleen and Charles; and sisters, Nancy Chapman Fisher and Julianne Chapman Henkel.

Interment will be in the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church columbarium.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.



Benjamin G. Chapman

Rolan Evan Brooks

Rolan “Ron” Evan Brooks, 81, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away Friday, May 29, 2026. He was born June 1, 1944, to Gerald and Bernice (nee Linn) Brooks in Manhattan, Kan.

Ron is survived by his son, Stephen Brooks, and daughter-in-law, Dr. Elizabeth (nee Hanlon) Brooks, of Grosse Pointe; and three adoring grandchildren, Eleanor, William and Charlotte Brooks.

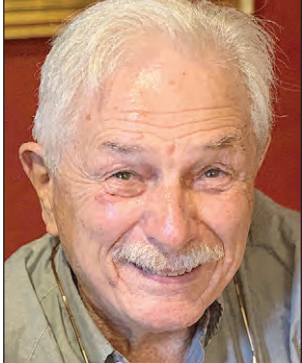
He also is survived by his sister, Karen Resser (Robert) of Manhattan, Kan., and many nieces, nephews, cousins and wonderful friends. He was predeceased by his parents; his loving wife, Phyllis; and sisters, Janice and Linda.

Ron spent the first years of his life in Kansas and his early years developing a love for the outdoors, including the Boy Scouts, in which he was very active. He graduated from Manhattan High School in 1962, and later moved to Michigan, where he met Phyllis, the love of his life to whom he was married for 53 wonderful years. He spent most of his working life in the boating industry, owning multiple small businesses providing electronic sales and installations, as well as serving on numerous boards for the betterment of the boating community. His contributions to the boating community brought him many lifelong friendships, some of which he shared while sailing for fun or competitively in races like the well-known Bayview Mackinac Race.

Later in life he split his time between Lupton, where he and Phyllis spent many beautiful summers together in their cottage on Sage Lake, and Sun City Center, where the two of them reconnected with old friends and made many new ones. In retirement he continued his hobbies of boating and golfing and was an avid do-it-yourselfer,



Rolan Evan Brooks



Dr. Thomas A. Drabecki

always working on a new project.

Above all, Ron had a devotion to his friends and especially family. The relationships he had with people were the most important thing in his life. He was very social, always looking forward to an event or party, and would never miss a chance to catch up with a loved one or help someone when the need arose.

He will always be remembered by those who loved and admired him; his love and friendship will be missed but never forgotten.

Dr. Thomas Anthony Drabecki

Dr. Thomas Anthony Drabecki, 84, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away at home Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026.

Dr. Drabecki was born June 27, 1941, in Detroit, to John and Janet Drabecki.

Dr. Drabecki had a private medical practice for more than 40 years. He helped deliver countless babies, cherished his patients and always delivered a red rose by hand to all of the new moms when making his rounds the day after delivery. Providing care to patients brought him joy and a sense of purpose he held close to his heart.

Dr. Drabecki is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Katie Drabecki (Will Hopkins) and John Drabecki (Rachel); and granddaughter, Carina Drabecki.

A celebration of life will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at the Pier Park Community Building, 350 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Detroit Zoo releases critically endangered tadpoles to the wild

The Detroit Zoo recently helped give thousands of Puerto Rican crested toad tadpoles a new start in the wild, sending 6,855 tadpoles to be released at Rio Encantado, a rainforest area in Manati, Puerto Rico.

This effort is part of the longest-running amphibian reintroduction program in the world to help recover the Puerto Rican crested toad, a critically endangered amphibian found only in Puerto Rico. Through specialized animal care, collaboration and conservation expertise, the Detroit Zoological Society is helping protect a species whose future depends on action both in



COURTESY PHOTOS

Tadpoles at the Detroit Zoo.

its native habitat and from conservation partners around the world, including southeast Michigan.

“Each of these tadpoles represents a lot of care, coordination and hope,” said Mark Vassallo, curator of amphibians for the Detroit Zoological Society. “For our team, it’s incredibly meaningful to know

that work happening here at the Detroit Zoo can help support the future of a species in Puerto Rico. Amphibians are facing serious challenges globally and efforts like this show how zoos and the communities that support them can play an important role in protecting vulnerable wildlife.”

Puerto Rican crested toads rely on healthy habitat and temporary freshwater pools to breed, making conservation efforts especially important. By supporting tadpole releases, the Detroit Zoo is contributing to a larger effort to strengthen wild populations and protect an important part of



An adult Puerto Rican crested toad.

Puerto Rico’s native biodiversity. In addition to this most recent release, the Detroit Zoo has raised and released 143,195 tadpoles to date as part of this conservation program.

The work also reflects the Detroit Zoological Society’s commitment to

conservation that reaches beyond southeast Michigan. While the release will take place thousands of miles from Royal Oak, it is made possible in part by the expertise, care and support rooted in the Detroit Zoo community.

HELM:

Continued from page 3B

time to mingle afterward. Cost is \$10 per person.

Then, on Wednesday, June 17, members are invited to celebrate Father’s Day with a Tigers game and hot dogs at The Helm. Beginning at 1:30 p.m., guests may enjoy hot dogs and classic ballpark favorites while watching the Detroit Tigers take on the Houston Astros together on TV. Cost is \$10 per person.

Registration is required for all programs. To register or learn more, visit HelmLife.org or call (313) 882-9600.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ Summer Circus Show, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11.

◆ The Work of Landscape Architect Jens Jensen, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 17.

◆ Craft-To-Go, all day Monday, June 15.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Laughing with Dad After Hours: Clean Comedy Show, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 12.

◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 13.

◆ Craft-To-Go, all day Monday, June 15.

◆ Gettin’ Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 15.

◆ Crafternoons @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 18.

◆ Appy Hour, 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, June 19.

◆ Celebrate and Educate Black Music Month with Professor Griff, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 13.

◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 13.

◆ Craft-To-Go, all day Monday, June 15.

◆ Author Sally Wenczel book reading, signing, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16.

◆ Hustle for Health, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 17.

◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 18.

◆ Poetry Workshop with M.L. Liebler, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 18.

◆ Non-Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 18.

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.

◆ Detroit Princess Cruise, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 12. Cost is \$80 and includes roundtrip transportation, the cruise, a luncheon buffet and entertainment.

◆ The movie “The Starling” is shown at noon Friday, June 12. Cost is \$4.

◆ Selfridge Air National Guard Base, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. Cost is \$30 and includes roundtrip transportation and a tour ticket.

◆ Tigers game and hot dogs at The Helm, 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17. Cost is \$10.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500

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

◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Bag Charms, 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 12. Cost is \$55.

◆ Folk Art Workshop: Memory Jars, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13. Cost is \$100.

◆ Custom Paw Print Tile, bookings between 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday, June 14. Cost is \$65.

◆ Mixed Media Abstract Collage with Shug, 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 19. Cost is \$75.

◆ Advanced Knitting Workshop: Learn to Cable Knit, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20. Cost is \$50.

◆ Screen Print Workshop: Tea Towels with Scarlet Crane, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 20. Cost is \$75.

Ford House

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

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

◆ Science Saturdays: Michigan Science Center, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 13. Ticket prices vary.

◆ Eleanor’s Birthday Tea and Tour, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 14. Ticket prices vary.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

The Family Center

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

◆ Pride Yoga, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 15.

◆ Picnic and Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, June 19, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, St. Paul Catholic School, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, St.

Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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.

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts an author talk with Khadijah Queen from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 29. Queen will discuss her memoir, “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea,” which was a 2026 Michigan Notable Book.

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

◆ Low Country-style Shrimp Boil, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 17. Tickets are \$68.

◆ Barbara McQuade: “The Fix,” a book and conversation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 22.

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.

Right to Life

The 34th annual Bid for Life auction and dinner takes place Tuesday, June 23, at The Vintage House, 31816 Utica, Fraser. The theme is America’s 250th birthday; red, white and blue dress is encouraged, but not required. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and a family-style dinner is served at 7 p.m. The event includes live and silent auctions and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$55. Proceeds benefit the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund. Call (586) 774-6050, email macombrlm@rtl.org or visit rtl.org.

Live music

Planet D Nonet will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 28, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Cover charge is \$10.

Reunion

The Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th reunion Sept. 19, at MotorCity Casino Hotel. The event features a casual dress code, food stations and a cash bar. For more information or to RSVP, visit gpncclassof1976.com.

TOUR:

Continued from page 3B

she sold the home, we dug them out and brought them to my home in Tennessee. When we sold that home in ’01 to move here, I had it in the contract that I could take whatever perennials I wanted.”

Also standing the test of time is a small, but mighty vegetable garden Trost was gifted for Mother’s Day when her now-adult daughters were 5.

“My husband built it and I’ve used it ever since,” she said. “It’s small, but it’s amazing what we get out of it.”

Dotting the expanse of yard are sculptures created by her brother-in-law, as well as several bird feeders, interspersed among the agapanthus, beardtongue, lupine, goat’s beard and other varieties.

“It blooms into the fall,” she said. “In the winter, we feed the birds like crazy — nine bird feeders and a heated bird bath.”

The Trost gardens will host a Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener information table.

On a patch of garden nestled between 717 and 725 Middlesex is the combined green-thumbed efforts of Trost and her neighbors, Ron and Kelie McMillan, whose home also is on the tour.

“We have this shared bed between our homes,” Trost said. “It’s a joint project. We plan and plant together. ... It’s nice to have the benefit of a fellow Master Gardener next door. We work in tandem.”

Like Trost, Ron McMillan pulled much of what existed in the yard when he moved there in 1993. He pointed out dogwood, rhododendron and climbing hydrangeas, among other varieties, he has planted. It’s a lot of work, but it’s worth the effort, he said.

“I was in the restaurant business a long time. What’s really nice about this is you come out and it’s mental therapy. Although you’re working, it’s not stressful. It’s relaxing.”

A massive standout in his yard is the 90-foot cottonwood at its center, which features a 70-foot rope swing that has been a family and neighborhood favorite for generations.

“When we moved here, our sons were 4 and 6,” he said. “I was able to get it hooked up from a tree service that was here cutting trees for DTE. They got older and then Mary’s two girls would swing on it. Then the neighbor kids. Now my granddaughter swings on it. She’s 4.”

The tree is beloved by both families and Trost praised the McMillans for taking care of it.

“Cottonwoods get a lot of dieback, a lot of dead



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

An inviting sitting space at 223 Kenwood.



Potted blooms are part of the landscape at 725 Middlesex.

branches,” she said. “They’re so responsible about having it professionally pruned.”

McMillan said being a Master Gardener has helped in the planning and planting of his gardens.

“It’s a multifaceted thing,” he said. “You have some knowledge, but you never have all the knowledge. You’re constantly learning from books and a good bit of knowledge comes from trial and error. You plant something and see how it goes. ... You can be creative. The nice thing to me is that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If you like what you’re doing, that’s great. It’s all on you. Go out and start working; it’s never over.”

McMillan, who served as a garden tour docent for a few years, encouraged guests to take the tour to get ideas for their own homes.

“They’ve done a great job of picking houses and gardens,” he said. “Some of them look like they’re right out of Architectural Digest and others are more rustic, but you get ideas. You think, I can do this.”

The McMillan garden will provide complimentary refreshments to tour guests, as will the Rinaldi home at 851 S. Renaud in Grosse Pointe Woods, which also will host the Ewald Library Seed Exchange.

The tour is rounded out with the Budrys garden at 816 Lincoln in the City of Grosse Pointe, which also hosts the Garden Shoppe and raffle items (see sidebar).

“We’re very excited to have everybody come,” tour co-chair Ginny Brown said. “I hope you have a wonderful time and get wonderful ideas for your

own gardens.”

Tour tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 the day of the tour and free for ages 12 and younger. Proceeds fund lectures, seminars, workshops, scholarships and other activities.

For tickets or information, visit gpggardencenter.org.

Raffle roundup

Guests of the Grosse Pointe Garden Center tour may check out this year’s raffle prizes while visiting 816 Lincoln, City of Grosse Pointe. Winning tickets will be drawn at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20, at the home, though winners need not be present.

Raffle prizes include an original watercolor painting, “Eastside Hollyhocks,” valued at \$400, by artist Robert Fionda.

“Back when there were alleys, hollyhocks used to grow through the fence cracks,” said Ginny Brown, tour co-chair. “This is his homage to Detroit’s Eastside.”

Other raffle items include a Waterford Crystal Woodmont vase valued at \$150, a Garden Shoppe gift basket valued at \$125, a Pewabic “Detroit Skyline” art tile and one-year Pewabic family membership valued at \$124, and a Motawi “Wood Duck” tile valued at \$96.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Only 500 tickets will be for sale.

Proceeds benefit the Grosse Pointe Garden Center, which welcomes new members.

“It’s the best-kept secret in Grosse Pointe,” longtime member Mary Trost said of the gardening club. “For \$20, you get access to all the programming and you meet people. It’s a wonderful resource.”

Trost has been on the board two years.

“It’s a great organization and it’s open to anybody,” she added. “You don’t have to live in Grosse Pointe to join.”

To learn more about the GPGC or its raffle, email gpgardencenter@outlook.com or call (313) 889-1647.

EIA to host U.S. Senate candidate

Eastside Indivisible Alliance will host a meet-and-greet with Mallory McMorrow, candidate for United States Senate, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

McMorrow will discuss her vision

for Michigan and the nation, as well as answer questions directly. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Attendance is free and open to the public.

Registration is required at mobilize.us/s/55fyOB

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2nd annual Great Lakes Groove Fest is June 14

Proceeds benefit Kevin’s Song

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Great Lakes Groove Fest returns to the Cadieux Cafe for a day-long fundraiser Sunday, June 14, to benefit Kevin’s Song, a non-profit dedicated to creating awareness about the causes of suicide and potential preventions.

“Great Lakes Groove Fest isn’t just a music festival,” said Jennifer Margaf, executive director of Kevin’s Song. “It’s a day where hope takes center stage. It’s where community, compassion and incredible metro Detroit talent come together to lift spirits, spark connection and fuel lifesaving work across Michigan.”

Doors open at noon, with music beginning at 1 p.m. The lineup includes:

- ♦ Rock ‘n’ Roll Prep School
- ♦ Trade Mark
- ♦ Laid Jumbo
- ♦ Nolan Eszes
- ♦ Dave McMurray
- ♦ Ben Allemon
- ♦ Russ Macklem Detroit Quintet
- ♦ Noah Dakho
- ♦ The Firewalkers

“Some favorites from last year are back again,”

Margraf said. “We’re starting with Rock ‘n’ Roll Prep School. It’s important to keep the pipeline of up-and-coming performers supported.”

“We’ll have all different types of bands playing,” added Justin Urso, vice chairman of the Kevin’s Song board of directors. “I’m excited we’re introducing Dave McMurray into the fold. There’s something for everyone, from Rock ‘n’ Roll Prep School — the next generation of rock — all the way to Russ Macklem, which is a jazz quintet, and everything in between. There’s a lot of variety there.”

After a successful first year, organizers took cues from last year to create an even better 2026 event.

“We had a blast,” Urso said. “The weather cooperated, the bands had a great time and a lot of families came out. We’re trying to lean into that and have more activities for kids. When the families came last year, we had activities and crafts for kids, and we realized that allowed parents more time to relax and hang out longer. So we’re making it more family-friendly this

year.”

Among activities for younger attendees will be face painting, balloon animals, corn hole, crafts and more. Additionally, feather bowling and a silent auction will be part of the festivities. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, as will branded Great Lakes Groove Fest merchandise.

“It truly is for all ages,” Margraf said.

Added Urso, “I want to acknowledge the support of John Rutherford and Cadieux Cafe. They’re great partners that are providing the space and resources we need as a nonprofit to host an event like this.

“It’s meant to be a fun time, a fun day,” he continued. “The mission of Kevin’s Song is to save lives through suicide prevention and education and provide hope and healing to survivors. Our work is serious and heavy and it’s what we’re doing on a daily basis. For this event, we want to bring the community together to celebrate and be with one another.

The purpose of the Great Lakes Groove Fest is celebrating the here and now and introducing the community to this



COURTESY PHOTOS

One of the bands from last year’s Groove Fest.

organization and being together. Ultimately, the day is meant to be uplifting, not a time where we reflect on some of the more challenging elements of Kevin’s Song. It’s a delicate balance. The work is always present ... and music is a wonderful outlet, a wonderful way to bring people together to enjoy the moment.”

Tickets for Great Lakes Groove Fest are \$20 for adults, \$15 for ages 14 to 18.

“Proceeds directly support Kevin’s Song and the wonderful things

we’re doing through our conference and through training different folks in different communities,” Urso said. “The event is not only to raise awareness, but to help support the operation of our organization.”

Kevin’s Song offers:

- ♦ lifesaving suicide prevention education and training and community outreach in communities across southeast Michigan;
- ♦ the annual Kevin’s Song Suicide Prevention Education Summit, the state’s largest gathering of experts, survivors and

advocates; and

- ♦ monthly Survivors of Suicide Loss support groups, offering comfort and connection to those navigating unimaginable, complex grief.

Great Lakes Groove Fest sponsorships also are available.

To purchase tickets or commit to a sponsorship, visit zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-great-lakes-groove-fest.

The Cadieux Cafe is located at 4300 Cadieux, Detroit.

For more information, visit kevinssong.org or call (313) 236-7109.



Activities for children will be part of the festivities.

Picnic and Pickleball event planned

The War Memorial is partnering with The Family Center and Parking Lot Pickleball to host a free, family-friendly picnic and pickleball event at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, at The War Memorial.

Guests will learn pickleball basics along the lakefront with family — and dinner or snacks — during Intro to Pickleball: Family Style.

Pickleball pros will lead two 20-minute workshops on the back lawn of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. After the sessions, the courts will be available for open play,

giving participants an opportunity to test their new skills.

Other outdoor games also will be available, as will an interactive drum set up for families to enjoy all evening.

Guests should bring a blanket or borrow a folding chair and stake out the perfect picnic spot to enjoy dinner al fresco. Attendees are welcome to bring their own food, but alcohol is not permitted by Michigan state law. The War Memorial’s cash bar will be open, with small snacks available for purchase.

To register, email warmemorial.org/events/introtopickleball.

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Gabby

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Laid-back summers can be memorable too



Dear Gabby: Why has summer become an Olympic sport for parents? One friend’s son is at an elite hockey camp in Sweden, another’s daughter is “interning” at a fashion house in New York and someone else’s twins are apparently “building schools” in Costa Rica while also studying for the ACT.

Meanwhile, my kids are sleeping until noon and working at the marina snack bar. I suddenly feel like I’m failing at summer. — Outmatched in the Park

Dear Outmatched: Half the parents bragging at the club are exaggerating and the other half are exhausted

from their puffery. Your kids having jobs, free time, boredom, sunburn and actual memories is not failure. Not every summer needs to look like a college admissions brochure. Some of the most successful adults spent their teenage summers like normal teenagers. Also, if someone casually mentions their child is “studying abroad” three separate times before appetizers arrive, that tells you more about the parent than the child.

— Gabby

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

Drama at the gym

DEAR ANNIE: I love the gym. It has really helped me gain confidence and strength. I have been going to the same gym in our small town for roughly 10 years. I know all the people there and enjoy my time there — until lately. There is a woman who just started going to the

gym who is toxic. She really hurt a dear friend of mine, whose child was in the same class as her child, by spreading vicious rumors that she was having an affair with a tennis instructor. This was not true. She is the typical mean girl from middle school who we all choose to forget — the

girl who never grew up. Aside from comforting my hurt friend, I never came into contact with this woman until she joined my gym. Now I have to see her daily, and it bothers me. It seems like every time I sign up for a class, she is also in the same class. — Took Away My Happy Place

DEAR TOOK AWAY: Don’t let her take away your happy place. So long as she does not try to engage you in conversation, just ignore her. The gym is a big place with lots of people, so don’t let one bad apple spoil the bunch. Focus on your exercises and on the kind people, the friends you have made at the gym over the years, and you won’t have time to focus on her negativity.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

If you consciously choose to focus your attention on all the wonderful people and experiences you have at the moment, she will become like white noise in the back-

ground, and you won’t even notice her.

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

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Apple Annie’s Kitchen & Bakery to serve its last meal Monday, June 15

Please allow me to step outside of the bubble — off the avenue, the boulevard and the mile — and get a tad personal. If you are someone who keeps up with the local news, I’m sure you have heard that Apple Annie’s Kitchen & Bakery is retiring after 28 years of calling Roseville its home.

This announcement originally came in February 2025, coinciding with the announcement that the highly popular one-stop shop/convenience store/gas station chain, Sheetz, purchased the entire stretch of Gratiot from Utica Road to Martin Road. Aside from Apple Annie’s, this stretch of property also belonged to the historical Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which has been closed and vacant since 2017.

The news was not received well by most of the community. Social media exploded in a mini uproar, if you will, over “another gas station” and people asking, “How dare they tear down a historical church?”

But for Apple Annie’s, the timing made sense. Retirement was on their horizon and this made the owners, Leonard and Cathy Pagano, make the inevitable hard decision much easier. I’ve never dropped a “fun fact” this early on, but there’s a first for everything, so here it is: Apple Annie’s is my family. Cathy is my aunt and Len is the uncle I never knew I needed, but am so grateful to have. Len was raised in the restaurant industry. His cousins, the Rubino family, opened the very first Friar Tucks in 1965, in Warren at 12 Mile and Ryan, then expanded to Clinton Township on Garfield, as Friars Kitchen & Bakery, in 1984. It was family-owned and operated for decades — 50-plus years. While Len was once the young boy washing dishes at Friar Tucks, this was just the beginning; his future in the business was never a question.

Fast-forward to adulthood. In 1998, Len and his cousin and business partner, Danny Rubino, were ready for their next restaurant venture. They purchased the property at the corner of Gratiot and Martin in Roseville, which was previously Joe Church’s Restaurant and Sugar Shack Donuts. One day I asked my uncle where the name Apple Annie’s came from, as I knew Annie wasn’t a family name.

“One night, I was watching ‘A Pocketful of Miracles’ on AMC,” he said. “Bette Davis played the role of Apple Annie. I called my cousin Danny, told him what I was watching and that I had the name for the new restaurant. Danny knew immediately and Apple Annie’s was it.”

The Apple, as we call it, prides itself as a home-style-cooking, scratch kitchen that was built on family and family recipes. Known for its 10 weekly homemade soups, excellent breakfasts and comfort foods like its most popular entrees, chicken pot pie and pot roast dinners, patrons always felt like family when dining here. During COVID, my aunt and uncle were determined to remain open, with a skeleton crew of three to four employees: enough to prep, cook, take call-in orders, bag them up and insure hot carryout

meals could continue to feed their regulars and the community. They were one of a few restaurants in the area that chose this route during a very challenging time in the restaurant industry.

The Apple was very charitable over its 28 years, always donating to local schools, churches and organizations, such as Toys for Tots and Angie’s Toy Chest during the holiday season. Its catering was an excellent choice for all types of events. Its baked goods were a huge draw to the restaurant. The bake shop at the front register was a fan favorite offering giant muffins and cookies, multiple pies, including sugar-free options, as well as cannolis filled fresh daily and finished with chocolate chips or nuts. Its cheesecake combos were like none other and its dessert staple, strawberry shortcake, was always ready to plate. But the main thing people were in a frenzy for upon the retirement announcement: their coveted low-calorie cookies. Their last round of these individually wrapped cookies were gone in the blink of an eye.

My cousins Johnno, Matthew and Francesca, grew up here, as did Len’s



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

daughter, JoMarie, and son, Sam. Everyone worked at their parents’ restaurant at one point in their lives. It was an option for all of us cousins, too, even for just a couple shifts during the summers. And, Johnno’s wife, Rachel, owner of Wood n’ Scraps, is the crafty queen behind all the merch, home decor, gifts and goodies that greet you when you walk in.

Apple Annie’s is, and will always be family to so many people. The Apple has been blessed with amazing employees, some of whom have been with them 20-plus years. It’s no secret in the restaurant industry that longevity of employees is a reflection of great ownership, which is exactly what they are.

As the last week winds down, the dining room has been full in more ways than one — full with memories shared, stories told, sad farewells and, of course, full hearts, bellies and well-wishes into their retirement.

As the saying says, all good things must come to an end. Apple Annie’s Kitchen & Bakery will serve its last meals Monday, June 15, and, sorry folks, its recipes will be retiring with them. As Len said in one of the interviews he’s done over the last year and a half, “It’s gonna be a weird feeling seeing this place gone. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You’ve all made us very successful. If it wasn’t for the community and our regulars, we would have never been here this long.”

He is a man who is grateful beyond words.

Personally, I couldn’t let this chapter end without doing a Food Gossip article for them. They have no idea about this either. My Aunt Cathy is my best friend. My sister and I would be lost without her. And, for the first time ... Fun Fact No. 2: Food Gossip wouldn’t exist if it wasn’t for my aunt. In the world of social media, the right person connected the dots to our family ties and asked her for my contact info. Here we are, 61 articles and 2 1/2 years later. Thank you, AC. Love you.

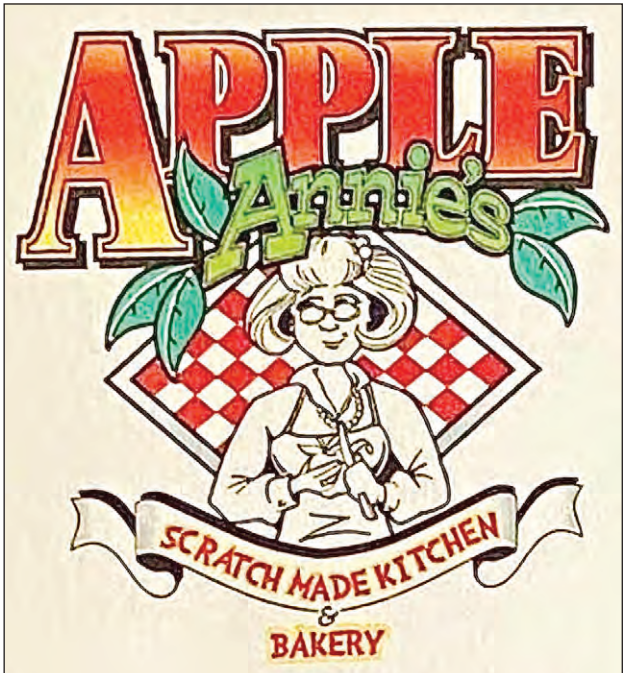
And thank you all for welcoming me into the Apple Annie’s family. I will miss spending my Thursday mornings hanging out in the kitchen taking pictures for your social media, because yes, that was my role there, too. What a ride it’s been. Much love and cheers to your retirement years!

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



Apple Annie’s marquee.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Restaurant logo.



Nina with her aunt and uncle, Cathy and Len Pagano.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Lately I've heard from a few people that too many of our reviews are good ones. That our readers are craving some zero-star product slayings. Well, friends, this is not your week, because this week we have a (spoiler alert) 10 out of 10 product the world needs to know about.

A few of my family members just got absolutely

hammered by seasonal allergies this past week to the point where they could barely see, swallow or stop sneezing. No amount of AllerClear, Claritin or eye-drops were making a dent in the symptoms.

On a hunt for some relief, I scoured reviews and asked friends. The consensus for those in the know was Pataday Extra Strength

24-hour eyedrops. I didn't really see how a drop could help that much, but the proof is in the pudding — real, lasting relief started about two minutes after the drops hit the eyes.

From what I have observed and heard, there is nothing like this product and there are no drops that work as well. I am sold. According to the company,

it provides 24-hour eye itch relief from discomfort caused by pet dander, animal hair, pollen, grass and ragweed. It claims to support year-round indoor and outdoor eye allergy itch relief and has more than 20,000 positive reviews.

How did I not know about this? Run, don't walk, to get this product. Even if you don't

need it now, when it hits, it hits. Be prepared! You can find it at most pharmacies or online here at amzn.to/4fySSb9.

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



Patio handhelds

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

A Middle-Eastern street food known as "arayas" has won my attention and is becoming my new summer food obsession. They are that good. Grilled until extra crispy with a spiced meat filling, these pita-stuffed handhelds are just what your next patio gathering needs.

I've attempted to make these before but they turned into a soggy mess when roasted in the oven. The flavors were dead on and I had to keep testing different methods so the end result was a crispy handheld. Grilling worked great. The filling can be made in advance and you could even stuff them ahead of time and keep them in the fridge until you're ready to grill. Just take them out when you preheat the grill to take the chill off.

The meat mixture is filled with flavors from spices like cumin, paprika and allspice. A touch of cinnamon goes a long way and gives them their Middle-Eastern flair. I whipped up a quick yogurt sauce from The Contrarian Money Food Vlog on Instagram. It's made with Greek yogurt and tahini that's freshened up with parsley, cilantro and lemon juice. It's the perfect cooling sauce for the arayas

when they come off the hot grill.

Now about grilling. You have to stay close while they cook. You don't want flare-ups because the pita bread will catch fire and burn. So, I grilled mine on medium-low heat. When the juice from the meat started to drip and cause flare-ups, I just shuffled the pitas around to prevent too much char.

These cook quickly and are perfect patio food because all the prep can be done ahead so you can just stay outside and grill. There is no need to be running back and forth from the kitchen. Just pull them straight off the grill and serve on your favorite platter.

All five of my kids gave their approval and for once it was a semi-quiet dinner as they were too busy eating. Bring street food to your patio tonight. You can thank me later!

Cheers, Mombeau

Arayas

4 medium pita rounds

1.5 lb lean ground beef

¼ finely chopped onion

3 finely minced garlic cloves

2 tbsp chopped parsley

2 tbsp chopped cilantro

2 tsp cumin

2 tsp paprika

2 tbsp tomato paste

1 tsp coriander

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp kosher salt

½ tsp allspice

¼ tsp cinnamon

¼ tsp cayenne pepper

2 tbsp olive oil for brushing

Tahini-Yogurt Sauce

¾ cup Greek yogurt

¼ cup tahini

Juice of ½ lemon

2 tbsp chopped cilantro

2 tbsp chopped parsley

1 tsp cumin

1 tsp olive oil

1 tsp hot sauce

½ tsp salt

Begin by making the sauce. Add all sauce ingredients to a bowl



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

and mix together well. Cover with plastic wrap and store in the fridge until ready to eat.

Preheat your grill to medium-low. For the meat mixture, add the ground beef along with the remaining ingredients to a large bowl. Use clean hands to thoroughly combine. Slice the pita in half and then cut into four triangles. Spoon about one-third of a cup of the

meat mixture into each pita triangle. Use your hands or the spoon to evenly distribute the meat so it's an even layer that reaches all the way to the edge of the pita. Brush each side with olive oil.

Place on the grill, cover and let cook one side for about three minutes. You need to watch for flare-ups, so don't walk away. Flip and cook for another

three to four minutes on the other side. Watch for the pitas becoming too charred. I did a lot of moving around the grill. When you can see that the meat is brown along the edges and internal temperature is between 130 to 135 degrees, it should be done.

Serve on a platter with sliced cucumbers and tahini-yogurt sauce.

Wine quality improvement

With wine sales as slow as they have been in two decades, most of the industry news recently has been about the hardships wineries are facing as new wine consumers seek alternative products.

Although much research has been done in the area of making better quality, lower-alcohol or zero-alcohol wines that seem to be in demand from younger consumers, not much in a practical sense has resulted in breakthroughs in this area.

Although consumers are poised to buy such products, very few of those that have been produced thus far have enough flavor or personality to satisfy people who really want traditional wine but want to ingest less alcohol. And while the sort of home-grown solution of adding water to a glass of wine sounds like a good idea, in most cases it simply dilutes the quality and flavor. Even the aroma is negatively affected.

But one thing is happening that should please regular wine consumers. Good wine is getting better. And this has nothing to do with improving the grapes or the techniques that wineries use.

It comes down to the simple fact that every winery in the world that produces fine wine doesn't need as much of it as when demand was high. If a winery normally produces 30,000 cases of a particular cabernet, and its computer model tells the winery owner that only 20,000 cases are needed, the amount produced is usually of better quality.

Assume the winery has 100 barrels filled with wine. The winemaker knows which of those barrels contains the best wines — and which barrels contain lesser-quality wine. If less wine is required, the wine that is bottled comes from the best barrels.

The mediocre stuff will end up being sold off in the bulk market, almost

always at a substantially discounted price. Some of that wine will end up selling for a fraction of the price of the higher quality liquid, usually under a brand name no one ever heard of.

This also benefits large-volume brands that normally put out decent value wines. The quality of such wines typically improves during slow sales periods.

Thus, the result of slow wine sales worldwide usually means a slight improvement in the quality of moderately priced wines and a greater increase in the quality of branded products.

An additional factor that may also boost the quality of wines coming from West Coast wineries: an improvement in recent vintages.

Increasing temperatures along the West Coast have created much richer, slightly more alcoholic wines in the last decade. These products are not as popular with newer consumers, who are seeking better balance and structure in

their wines.

However, the growing seasons of 2023 and 2025 on the West Coast were cooler than most average years, which led to lower alcohols and better structure for most wines. Although most other vintages still produced excellent quality, 2023 and 2025 wines tended to be slightly more balanced, which today's younger buyers should appreciate.

Wine of the Week:
2023 Burgans Albarino, Rias Baixas (\$18) — This



delicate, spicy white wine from Spain's East Coast has only 11.5 percent alcohol and an aroma that's more tropical fruit and citrus. It is delightful to sip on a patio or pair with light finger foods. Rias Baixas is known to be a terrific region for growing this grape and

offering wines of excellent balance."

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

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MONDAYS & SATURDAYS

FOR THE DAD WHO HAS EVERYTHING

(and says he wants nothing)



Make Dad's day with these cool gifts

By: Meg Kelly
Special Writer

Shopping for dad is less about finding something he needs and more about navigating what he'll actually accept.

Because if you ask him, the answer is almost always the same: "I don't need anything." And technically, he's right.

What he does want, though he'd never phrase it this way, is a day that is seemingly easy. Time on the lake, time with family and some grilling at night. A day that is thought through and full of favorite hobbies but not overdone. The kind of day where nothing feels rushed and the plans unfold naturally and everything seemingly just, works.

In Grosse Pointe, that version of Father's Day is already built in. It lives in the places you've been a thousand times before, the coffee shops, the restaurants, the lake and the backyard. The difference isn't about what you do, but how intentionally you do it.

This guide isn't about overcomplicating things but about refining them. A better version of what he already loves, a few well chosen upgrades of what he may need, and just enough planning to make the day feel like it was made for him.

Because for the dad who has everything, the goal isn't more.

It's better.

The quiet upgrade

Things dad never buys for himself but will use every day

Dads don't tend to replace things until it is an absolute necessity. Which makes Father's Day the perfect excuse to step in and upgrade the pieces he uses on repeat, the ones he may never think to replace, but immediately appreciates once he does.

A) Prevent hat blahs

One hat is never enough. A Smokey the Bear hat from *Village Palm* deserves a spot in dad's lineup. Ideal for the pickleball court, dinner on the patio or — putting out the campfire.

B) Dad 2.0

Every dad has his "default hat," and chances are it has seen better days. This cap is the upgrade from *Half Moon Outfitters* he's been needing. It's the kind of staple that works for whether he's heading out early or grilling all afternoon, looking good every time.

C) Tee it up

Needlepoint men's wallet has style no golfer could resist. Treat your dad to a new billfold that keeps his mind on what he loves. From *Newport*.

D) Travelin' man

For golf days, quick trips or just carrying more than he planned to, this travel bag from *Newport* brings a sense of order to the chaos. It's functional, polished and something he'll end up relying on more than expected.

E) Circle of love

Custom leather keyring says it all with deep engraved lettering that tells him who he is in your heart. Made in the USA by Maven Metals Inc. on [etsy.com](#).

F) Check it out!

On Cloud sea tones checkered shirt from *Half Moon Outfitters* is breathable enough for warm summer days and polished enough for plans that may come together at the last minute on a warm summer night.

G) Polo pony

He'll ride high in this reliable classic, done right. This Southern Tide polo shirt from *Village Palm* is the piece he'll wear to brunch, to the club, to dinner and never once question if it works because it always does. It's timeless, just like him.

E) Up-style

If his current wallet is "perfectly fine," it's probably overdue for a replacement. This beautifully-crafted Will Leather Goods wallet from *Newport* is the ideal upgrade for dad's current raggedy wallet. Swap it for a practical quality leather piece he'll be proud of.

What Father’s Day is really about

Fun gifts that say, "I see you, Dad"

For all the effort that can go into planning the day, knowing who dad is ends up mattering the most. It's the small and personal gestures that say what often goes unsaid the rest of the year. These gifts feel thoughtful — and a lot more about HIM.

From a simple gift card and quality time to the kind of items that don't demand attention but end up shaping the tone of the day anyway. They're practical, a little personal and exactly the sort of items that make an ordinary moment feel more considered as dad feels recognized and appreciated.

I) Cheers to Pops

Whether it ends up on the boat, the porch, or just passed around the backyard, this flask from *The League Shop* will be a classic that never really goes out of rotation.

J) Look sharp

This pocket knife and wine opener is part tool and part personality piece. It's practical, nostalgic and exactly the kind of thing he didn't know he needed until it was in his pocket every day. From *The League Shop*.

K) Celebration station

A gift card from *The Whiskey Six* lets Dad celebrate at his own pace and companions. Even dads need to cut loose on occasion and be pampered with delicious food and drinks!

L) Get your mitts on this

This Michigan cutting board from *Small Favors* moves easily from kitchen to patio, becoming part of whatever the meal needs, whether it's a prep station, a serving board or a statement piece that stays out on display.

M) On the map

A Michigan map mug will make coffee taste better for dads who love seeking adventure in their own home state. From *Small Favors*.

N) Lovin' the D

Detroit styled coasters "set" any table nicely, even if it's just coffee outside or drinks in the yard. Practical, local and thoughtful, from *Small Favors*.

O) Serving up Michigan

Perfect for stacking those steaks from the grill, Dad will enjoy this colorful platter that adds state spirit to any meal. Find it at *Small Favors*.

P) Tea on the go

The Spice & Tea Exchange infuser mug: makes something as simple as his favorite tea feel like a pause worth taking for Dad. This mug is perfect for dads who take their drinks on the go.

Q) Froggy fun

This playful tea infuser frog from the *The Spice & Tea Exchange* adds personality to Dad's drink. It doesn't need to be noticed to matter to Dad, but it will be!

R) "Datza" spicy pizza!

The *Pizza Upgrade Sampler* spice set gives Dad a change to experiment with his pizza oven — and make perfectly seasoned pizza every time. Buy it at *The Spice & Tea Exchange*.

S) Keep Dad or Grampa in the loop!

Your special Pointe man will love being on top of all the happenings in his favorite town with his own subscription to the *Grosse Pointe News*. From local info — to restaurants and movies — to high school sports — he'll enjoy keeping up with all the latest buzz. Make it a combo with a cool GPN mug at grossepointenews.com/subscribe.

T) Bit o' the Irish

Not everything has to be meticulously planned to feel thoughtful. An *Irish Coffee* gift card leaves space for your dad to choose what he actually wants from their superior menu of taste treats, including award-winning burgers and fries. From a quiet bite with friends to a casual stop during the week, this gift will put a smile (and maybe some ketchup) on Dad's face!



Grosse Pointe's The Whiskey Six, above, is a dad haven, where guys can enjoy a shot and a beer, along with menu favorites such as calamari, shrimp tacos, char-grilled octopus, truffle onion burgers, pan-fried lake perch, filet mignon, pizza and more.



Small Favors has a great selection of Michigan-themed gifts for dads.



Tea-loving and culinary dads will have a field day at The Spice & Tea Exchange. Choose from teas shipped from around the world, tea gifts and spices for every palate. A gift or a trip to this remarkable shop will really spice up Dad's Father's Day.



What Dad wants

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Put some SIZZLE in Father's Day with a great BBQ gift!



It all starts at the grill
Where the party naturally ends up — and lasts the whole day!

At some point, Father's Day in Grosse Pointe almost always finds its way outside. The grill gets pulled open, someone starts moving things around, and suddenly the day doesn't need a plan anymore. It just needs food, time and a place to connect with the family.

This is less about perfecting anything and more about making that backyard rhythm a little easier, a little more enjoyable and a little more intentional without interrupting the flow of dad's cooking.

U) A blazing great gift
The Blaze Outdoor Grill from *Shores Fireplace and BBQ* brings an elevated feel to outdoor cooking as it combines its stellar cooking performance with a sleek look. This grill turns the backyard into Dad's domain.

V) Spice up the day
The Spice & Tea Exchange Griller's Collections or BBQ Shaker spice sets change up the usual routine while adding more flavor to life. They're the "try something different" moment gift every dad will savor.

W) Rare treat
For the dad who appreciates a fabulous cut of meat, *Fairway Packing Co.'s The Steak Shop* delivers the centerpiece of any Father's Day cookout! This is the quality that speaks for itself before it even hits the grill. Giving Dad a delicious collection of prime meats is going a step further toward creating a meal that everyone will remember.

X) Perfect temp
A good meat thermometer takes the pressure off and lets your dad focus on everything else happening around the grill. This is one of those small tools from *Weber* found at *Shores Fireplace and BBQ* that makes the whole cooking experience smoother and turns good meals into great ones.

Y) Slow roll
The *Weber* smoke-to sear Searwood Grill from *Shores Fireplace and BBQ* brings that slower and more intentional way to cook because the flavor building process becomes part of the experience. This grill is the perfect gift to make Father's Day less about rushing to eat and more about enjoying the process.

Z) Fire pit fun
A fire pit keeps the fun going just a bit longer this Father's Day, giving everyone a reason to stay outside, talk and relax. A fire pit from *Shores Fireplace and BBQ* shifts Father's Day from just a meal into family memories that linger all evening long.

WHERE TO SHOP

- The Steak Shop by Fairway Packing Co.**
20877 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods
(313) 332-5114 • fairwaypacking.com
- Half Moon Outfitters**
17145 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 498-5287 • halfmoonoutfitters.com
- Irish Coffee**
18666 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms
(313) 881-5675
- The League Shop**
16847 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 882-6880 • theleagueshop.com
- Grosse Pointe News**
16980 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 343-5578 • grossepointenews.com

Newport
17133 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 882-7256 • shopnewport.com

Shores Fireplace & BBQ
21915 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores
(586) 285-5634 • shoresfireplaceandbbq.com

Small Favors
17112 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 887-1774 • shopsmallfavors.com

The Spice & Tea Exchange
17037 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 499-8572 • spiceandtea.com

The Whiskey Six
646 St. Clair St., Grosse Pointe
(313) 939-2403 • thewhiskeysix.com

Village Palm
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Saturday: 10-3 • Sunday: Closed

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Keep Dad's paws cool and comfy when he's at the grill. These premium insulated gloves from *Shores Fireplace and BBQ* will do the trick! Added to his arsenal of grilling tools, they will be the gift he'll value most.



COURTESY PHOTO

Finn Mohnney, Carter Zeldes, Henry Hosey and Hudson Brown, above, take stock of Carter’s winning 16.5” bass aboard Hudson’s Grandma’s boat.

Amazing turnout as the Fishing Classic heats up

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

After a record first week of entries, the hardy continue to cast their lines for big prizes under continued sunny blue skies. Muskie and walleye remain scarce — but bass and pike are making up for that, as anglers hit the piers, shores and lake for prize catches.

This week’s top fish award went to Skip Moody, of Grosse Pointe Farm, who reeled in a 34.5” pike for the overall longest fish of the 13+ B/D Divisions. Asher Zeldes, also of Grosse Pointe Farms, nabbed overall winner for the 12 and under A/C Divisions for his hefty 26.25” pike. Each will get both the overall cash prizes for their age divisions as well as the top pike prize for their individual divisions.

The bass category winners were Ozzie Chin, Division A, for his 11” smallmouth, Gabby Szafarczyk, Division B, for her 17.8” smallmouth and Carter Zeldes, Division D, for his 16.5” smallmouth.

Cash prizes are underwritten by premier sponsor Charles Schwab, Grosse Pointe. “The event represents community connection, participation and shared time outdoors” said Kyle Hecht, independent branch leader and financial consultant at Charles Schwab Grosse Pointe. His generous sponsorship support is in its fourth year.

“We really focus on the family with this event and and are happy to give back to the community,” Hecht said.

Weekly prize drawings from sponsors Lakeside Fishing, Fishbones, Fairway Packing Co.’s The Steak Shop, Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, The Lobster Pot, Chocolate Bar Cafe, Wally’s Frozen Custard and JJ’s Custard Company sweeten the prize pot. Everyone who enters any size fish is eligible to win in the random weekly drawings.

- The drawing winners for this week are:
- Tom Kolojeski - \$100 Fishbones gift card
 - A.C. Stahl - \$25 gift certificate for Lakeside Fishing
 - Gabby Szafarczyk - \$25 gift certificate for Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy
 - Skip Moody - \$25 gift certificate for Fairway Packing Co.
 - Daniel Shanle - \$25 gift certificate for The Lobster Pot
 - Ozzie Chin - \$10 gift certificate for JJ’s Custard Company
 - Andrew Phillips - \$10 gift certificate to Chocolate Bar Cafe

For complete Fishing Classic rules, see details online at grossepointenews.com/fishing. Stop in at the Grosse Pointe News offices at 16980 Kercheval in the Village a free Mr. Muskie tape measure to size up what you catch. Enjoy a great week of fishing, Grosse Pointe!

The market landscape has peaks and valleys. Don’t face them alone.

Grosse Pointe Branch
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schwab.com/GrossePointe

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CC10310046 (1124-WZ6Z) ADP124427B-00 (12/24) SCH15506 (03/26)

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:

Walleye biting from Metro Beach to 400 Club in 10-12’ of water. Harnesses are pulling in Detroit River and St. Clair. Bass are biting at 9 Mile.

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St. Clair Shores • (586) 777-7003
Daily fishing report, call: (586) 777-7008

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LEADERBOARD

- ★ LARGEST FISH OF THE WEEK PER **AGE** DIVISIONS
- ★ LARGEST FISH OF THE WEEK PER FISH **CATEGORY** IN DIVISION

DIVISION A		
ON SHORE - AGE 12 AND UNDER		
1	ASHER ZELDES	26.25" PIKE ★ ★
2	A.C. STAHL	19.5" PIKE
3	OZZIE CHIN	11" SM BASS ★



DIVISION C		
BY BOAT - AGE 12 AND UNDER		
NO ENTRIES		

DIVISION B		
ON SHORE - AGE 13 AND UP		
1	SKIP MOODY	34.5" PIKE ★ ★
2	TOM KOLOJESKI	29" PIKE
3	GABBY SZAFARCZYK	17.8" SM BASS ★
4	CARTER ZELDES	17" LM BASS
5	ANDREW PHILLIPS	16" LM BASS
6	DANIEL SHANLE	14.7" LM BASS

DIVISION D		
BY BOAT - AGE 13 AND UP		
1	CARTER ZELDES	16.5" SM BASS ★

Congratulations to the winners and all the anglers.

This is only the second week — so there’s plenty of time to pick up your pole to participate and WIN!

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Whistle Stop hobby & toy

CHOCOLATE BAR CAFE

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Whopper of the week overall for 13+ was this amazing 34.5” pike, above, caught by Skip Moody, holding the fish. Moody, 19, of Grosse Pointe Farms — wins a cool \$50 for topping the B/D age divisions, plus an additional \$25 for having the longest pike in B Division. Great fishing, Skip!



Asher Zeldes, age 9, nabbed the big 26.25” pike, above, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht club. Asher takes top overall prize for the A/C divisions as well as Division A’s top pike award. Well done, Asher.



Thirteen-year-old Gabby Szafarczyk, above, caught a nice 17.8” smallmouth bass this week at Windmill Pointe Park under the B Division.



A.C. Stahl, 9, of Grosse Pointe Shores, caught this huge 19.5” pike, above, for Division A. He pulled the big fish in at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.



Dave Whittingham, above, of Grosse Pointe Farms, with his 21.5 smallmouth bass, caught last week at Pier Park — using hand-tied flies. Ozzie Chin, far right, holds his winning 11” smallmouth bass — reeled in at Farms Pier, as his brother looks on.



COURTESY PHOTOS



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MAY 28 - JUNE 28, 2026

WIN CASH PRIZES

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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.



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Lakeside Fishing



1"	—	20"	—
2"	—	21"	—
3"	—	22"	—
4"	—	23"	—
5"	—	24"	—
6"	—	25"	—
7"	—	26"	—
8"	—	27"	—
9"	—	28"	—
10"	—	29"	—
11"	—	30"	—
12"	—	31"	—
13"	—	32"	—
14"	—	33"	—
15"	—	34"	—
16"	—	35"	—
17"	—	36"	—
18"	—	37"	—
19"	—	38"	—

CUT RULER EXTENSION AT RIGHT IF ADDITIONAL LENGTH IS NEEDED AND TAPE TO THE BOTTOM END OF RULER AT LEFT

ALIGN WITH 19.5' MARK AND TAPE TOGETHER

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Merchandise

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**DUE TO CONSTRUCTION
NEW date for garage sale**
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Friday & Saturday
June 12 and 13
9- 4
Had an extra week to add many new items.
Tons of childrens clothes - sizes 4-9 (shoes included)
Girls and boys/ Jewelry/Misc items. Many other great items.
Hope to see you!

409 GARAGE / YARD /
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Saturday June 13th
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Furniture, clothing, shoes, toys & more!
Music, games & food make it a fun day for all.
Come shop and stay for the fun!

409 GARAGE / YARD /
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327 Merriweather
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Friday 9-3
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Great stuff! Adult & junior girls clothing, household items, and puzzles.

LOADED
570 Ballantyne
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June 12 9-3
June 13 9-12
Beautiful bikes, scooters, Squishmallows galore, fouton, new large corkboard, old school desk, garden, treasures and trinkets.

409 GARAGE / YARD /
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MULTI-FAMILY SALE
for Lurie Children's Hospital & LLS
Furniture, sports equipment, children's toys, electronics, household, holiday, and more.
662 University,
Grosse Pointe Fri, June 12
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat June 13
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UPSCALE GARAGE SALE
Friday, June 12
Saturday, June 13
97 Merriweather
48236
Robo vacuum, yoga mat, new week-ender luggage, home and garden, seasonal, designer bags, home decor, demi-lune console table, small antique cupboard and more

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97 Merriweather
Friday,
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9- 2.
Saturday,
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Antique Jenny Lind maple daybed, twin bleached mahogany single bed, jewelry, garden accessories, framed artwork, golf clubs, fishing gear, light fixtures, other antiques, many toys, games and over 200 children's books, picture frames, some clothing, linens, wet suits, vases, electronics, decorative items.
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South boys golf battles back for 11th-place finish at state finals

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

The Grosse Pointe South boys varsity golf team wrapped up its season with a resilient performance at the MHSAA Division 1 State Finals, placing 11th overall in a pool of 18 teams. The tournament concluded Saturday, June 6, at Ferris State University’s Katke Golf Course.

The Blue Devils had a two-round team total of 623. After a challenging opening round that left the team with a score of 318, South showed grit under pressure on day two. The team bounced back with a 13-stroke improvement in the second round, posting a second-round score of 305 to place themselves back on the leaderboard.

South’s impressive second-round surge was



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys golf team finished 11th at the Division 1 state finals Saturday, June 6, at Ferris State University’s Katke Golf Course.

driven by small adjustments across the entire roster, allowing the Blue Devils to finish ahead of programs such as Mona Shores (626), South Lyon (628) and regional rival U of D Jesuit (636). Sophomore Marty

Wayman came out with a great weekend to lead the Blue Devils, finishing tied for sixth place individually in the state. Wayman demonstrated consistency by matching his opening round 72 with another even par

72 on the second round to finish the tournament with an even-par 144 overall. His final round had a great front nine highlighted by birdies on the par-5 third and par-5 seventh holes. Junior Ben Bieri also

made a great leap in the second round to fuel South’s comeback. After putting up an 81 in the first round, Bieri shaved off four strokes on his score to post a 5 over par 77. His final round included a birdie on the

par-5 third. Bieri finished the tournament with a total score of 158.

Junior Will Gryzenia proved the largest single-day turnaround for the Blue Devils. He opened with a round of 84 and fired 4 over 76 in the second round, representing an eight-stroke improvement. He had a great front nine with a birdie on the par-4 fourth and the par-5 seventh, completing the tournament with a score of 160.

Junior Charlie Thomas rounded out South’s scoring with consistency following up his first round 81 with an 80 second round for a 161 total. Thomas had a birdie on the par-5 third hole. Sophomore Max Knowlton (85) and freshman Jaxson Bartalino (102) also had valuable state finals playing in the opening round.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jayakar brings No. 1 singles state title home to Liggett

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It has not taken long for Sonya Jayakar to start building an impressive legacy with University Liggett School’s varsity girls tennis team. She came into the program last year as a freshman and immediately took over the No. 1 singles position, making a run to the quarterfinals in her first appearance at the Division 4 state finals and earning All-State recognition.

On May 27, Jayakar returned to the big stage at the state finals and had her sights set on winning it all. She did exactly that, becoming the 2026 Division 4 No. 1 singles state champion as a sophomore.

“Winning states was so surreal,” she said. “It was such an unbelievable feeling. It was a culmination of years of hard work. I’ve been playing

Grosse Pointe News



Sonya Jayakar
School: University Liggett
Sport: Tennis

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tennis since I was little and I believe that you learn so much from your failures. Last year in the state tournament, I had a disappointing match in the quarterfinals where I didn’t play my best. ... My opponents were super talented. There were times when it felt like the matches could go either way. Even in the final, there was a point where I was down 3-0, and I just had to remind myself to focus

was one of the best finishes at states for the program in a few years and Jayakar takes as much pride in helping the Knights reach a top-five finish as a team as she does in winning her own state title.

Winning the state championship was an individual feat for Jayakar, but she knows it would not have been possible without her team. Tennis can feel like an individual sport at times, but she likes to remember she is part of a team when playing for Liggett. The support Jayakar gets from her teammates and gives back to them is something she feels makes

on each point and have fun while doing it and it was an unforgettable experience.”

Jayakar’s state championship helped propel Liggett to a fourth-place finish in the team standings at the finals. It



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett School sophomore Sonya Jayakar holds her state championship plaque after winning the No. 1 singles tennis state title at the Division 4 girls tennis state finals May 27.

her and everyone else around her better. “I love my teammates

and when they cheer me on — and when I can cheer them on as well,”

she said. “It’s so much See *ATHLETE*, page 2D

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South finishes fourth at states to end varsity girls tennis season



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Grosse Pointe South’s varsity girls tennis team celebrates together after a fourth-place finish at the Division 2 girls tennis state finals June 4.

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Another spring sports season reached its finale last week with the Division 2 varsity girls tennis state finals. Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North ended their seasons on the state’s biggest stage last Thursday, June 4. The Norsemen finished the tournament tied for 13th, while a young South team had a surprisingly successful run to a fourth-place finish in the state.

“There’s a lot of pressure and the young kids held up and were so poised. It was incredible,” South girls tennis head coach Mark Sobieralski said. “Even if we lost matches, we

were losing in three sets and battling like you wouldn’t believe.”

South earned many of its biggest points of the tournament in doubles play. Charlotte Kowal and Aubrey Lindow won their first two matches to advance to the state semifinal in No. 2 doubles before being eliminated. Ella Brennan and Francesca Swikoski also made it to the state semifinal for South in No. 3 doubles. Helena Tabaczuk and Leah Dobrovolschi were state semifinalists in No. 4 doubles.

In singles play for South, Katelyn Strong made it to the third round of the No. 1 singles flight before being eliminated. McKella Florence also advanced to the third round in No. 2 singles, as did McKenzie Florence in No. 3 singles. In No. 4 singles, Lillian Novack also made it to the third round before suffering a loss.

For the Norsemen, their best finish of the tournament came in No. 3 singles. Daniela Pietrowsky won a three-set match over Port Huron Northern’s Taryn Lyons in the third round to advance to the state semifinals, where she lost to Milana Kest from Birmingham Seaholm. Aakansha Negori advanced as far as the third round for North in No. 2 singles, while No. 1 singles player Laila Aslam was eliminated in the second round.

ATHLETE: *Continued from page 1D*

better playing on a team. Right after I won the state final, they all came rushing onto the court to celebrate with me and I thought that was so cool. Tennis can feel so individual, so having that support system is nice.”

Jayakar also had her teammates’ support when she won the Division 4 No. 1 singles regional championship earlier this spring. That

helped her earn the third-highest seed in the No. 1 singles flight at the state finals. Jayakar won her first two matches at the state finals and rallied to win in the semifinals and state championship match after being in a deficit early.

Jayakar’s ability to not get intimidated after finding herself down in a high-stakes match like the state championship speaks to her mental strength on the court. Mental toughness is

something she and her coaches have been focusing on throughout the year. To see it pay off in the biggest moment of the season was gratifying for Jayakar and those who helped her get there.

“Her shots and mental toughness make her a joy to coach,” Liggett girls tennis head coach Jeff Collins said. “She’s very coachable and just a pleasure to have on the team. With two more years to go, her game keeps improving. She

loves to practice and puts in a lot of work throughout the entire season. She’s invested and it shows — and it’s paying off.”

After finishing her sophomore year, Jayakar has two more seasons to play with Liggett tennis. The bar is set high for the rest of her career after winning a state championship in just her second high school season.

However, Jayakar is not intimidated by the fact the expectations around her will be raised now that she is a state champ. All she wants is to continue improving her game in every way and remembering that having fun can be the most important thing on the court.

“I want to just keep working on what I’ve been working on, which is a lot of my mental game,” Jayakar said. “Obviously, work on my strokes too and make sure that I have fun on the court and really enjoy what I’m doing.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Sonya Jayakar on the court during a match in the Division 4 state finals. Jayakar was this year’s Division 4 No. 1 singles state champion and regional champion.



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Regional losses end softball seasons

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity high school softball playoffs continued last weekend as teams advanced to the regional round of the postseason, looking to get one step closer to East Lansing and championship weekend. Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School all competed in their respective regional tournaments Saturday, June 6, but all three teams saw their seasons come to an end with losses.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils made the trip to Anchor Bay last weekend for the

Division 1 regional tournament. South's first matchup was against Chippewa Valley in the regional semifinal. There was no shortage of offense on either side, but the Blue Devils were able to stay in front for a 9-7 win to start the day. After going down 2-0 in the top of the first inning, South bounced back to score three runs in the bottom of the first. Sophia Husek brought in the first run with an RBI single. Mackenzie Simon hit a sacrifice fly later in the inning to bring in the second run and another run ended up scoring due to a Chippewa Valley error. South would not give up the lead again after that. Chippewa Valley

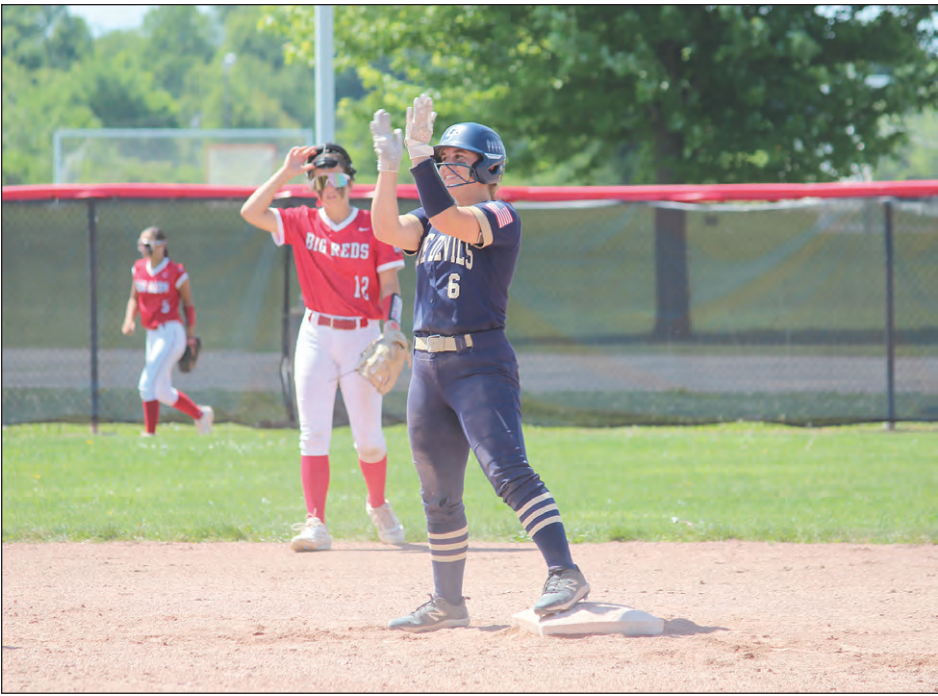
tied the game at 3-3 in the third inning, but three more runs for the Blue Devils later in the third put them back in front. Three more runs in the bottom of the fourth inning gave South a 9-3 lead and, while Chippewa Valley looked like it might rally a comeback in the fifth and sixth innings, it was not quite enough to surpass the Blue Devils. Husek finished with three RBIs, while Simon had a pair as well. Mackenzie Waterson pitched 4 1/3 innings, allowing three earned runs on eight hits. Madison Iverson closed out the game, going 2 2/3 innings with three strikeouts and three hits surrendered.

The win sent South on to the regional final, where it met Dakota later Saturday afternoon. After plenty of offense in the first game, Dakota's pitching proved too much for the Blue Devils to handle as South's season came to an end with a 9-3 loss. All three of South's runs were scored in the top of the sixth inning on a three-run home run by Iverson that made the score 8-3. The Blue Devils' comeback was not enough late in the game and the Cougars hung on to win and advance to the state quarterfinal.

"I was extremely proud of the team and how hard they played back-to-back games on a hot day against two (MAC) Red Division teams," South softball head coach Bill Fleming said. "We played really well, but also realized that to be at that elite level, we still have work to do. Not to say that I'm not extremely proud of where we're at, but teams like Dakota are a bit ahead of us. This group has done amazing work over the last couple of years to get to where they are and I have no doubt that they're going to continue to improve and get better." South's season ended with a record of 32-7. The Blue Devils were district champions and MAC Blue Division champions in the regular season.



Makenzie Waterson winds up a pitch for South against Dakota in the Division 1 regional championship game Saturday, June 6.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South junior Courtney Cowan celebrates on second base after hitting a double against Chippewa Valley in the Division 1 regional semifinal Saturday, June 6.

the first three innings and surrendered three runs on three hits.

North finished the season with a record of 11-14. The Norsemen were district champions and finished fifth in the MAC Red Division.

Grosse Pointe North
North traveled to Dearborn Saturday, June 6, for the Division 2 regional tournament. The Norsemen started the day with a game against Farmington Hills Mercy in the regional semifinal and a 7-0 loss ended North's postseason run. The Norsemen were unable to get any runs across in the loss and finished the game with five hits. Two of those hits came from Addison Moses, who went 2-for-3 at the plate. Moses also pitched three innings, allowing four hits and four runs. She entered the game in relief of Emma Barr, who threw

University Liggett
The Knights advanced to the Division 3 regional tournament after becoming district champions to start the playoffs. Liggett met up with Ottawa Lake Whiteford in the regional semifinal Saturday, June 6, and were ousted from the postseason with a 10-0 loss. Liggett had only two hits in the game, one from Isabella Nihem and one from Kendall Butler.

North, Liggett baseball teams fall in regionals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After winning their respective district championships to begin the postseason, playoff baseball continued last week for Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School. The Norsemen competed in the Division 2 regional tournament, while the Knights battled through the Division 3 regional, but both programs saw their 2026 seasons come to an end with losses.

Grosse Pointe North
North met Divine Child in the Division 2 regional semifinal Wednesday, June 3. Similar to when the two teams met in the regular season in April, last Wednesday's playoff game was a high-scoring matchup that saw North take a big early lead, only for Divine Child to come back and win 14-11. "We tried to stay ahead and in the past we've blown those close games on errors and mistakes, but there were no errors or mistakes," North baseball head coach Phil Kozlowski said. "(Divine Child) just found the gaps and hit the ball there and it was hard to keep up with them. ... Regardless of the outcome, they left that game hungry for next year. It was a great learning experience for some of our younger guys and I just assured them that we'll be back next year." The Norsemen jumped out to a big early lead that still proved to be unsafe. Edward



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Javion Gray at the plate for Liggett in the Knights' regional semifinal victory over Clawson Wednesday, June 3.

Macaulay started the rally by bringing in two runs on a single in the first inning. Marshall Pata brought two more runs across with a double later in the inning and Luke Bruveris added three more with a base-clearing double. North added one more run to the board with a sacrifice fly by Jacob Sahadi to take a commanding 8-0 lead to end the top half of the first inning. The comeback started right away for Divine Child, however, as the Falcons scored four in the bottom half of the opening frame to cut the deficit in half. North scored three more runs in the second inning to bring its lead to 11-4. The Falcons cut into the lead again with three more runs in the second inning and finally completed their comeback in the bottom of the fifth inning by scratching across six runs to take a

13-11 lead. Divine Child added one more to its tally in the sixth inning as the Norsemen were unable to mount a final comeback. The loss ended North's season with a record of 14-22. Six of those wins came in the final weeks of the regular season in May and in the district tournament where the Norsemen were victorious. The team may have had its struggles early on in the spring, but how it put things together down the final stretch shows what North believes to be signs of optimism for the future of the program. "What we had to hit home with these guys is playing selfless baseball," Kozlowski said. "... Doing a job that might not necessarily show up in the stat box, but puts us in a position to compete in games. I think our approach changed completely after that.

When you take an approach of trying to do

less, more happens. ... Everybody bought in and our bats got hot." Last Wednesday's playoff loss also was the final game at North for a group of seniors who had been a core of the program in recent years. Leaders like Caleb Butler, DJ Edwards, Trevor Lipscomb and Jacob Sahadi brought leadership to the program on and off the field that North's coaches hope will be emulated by the players who will have to step up and lead in years to come. "Those guys are phenomenal baseball players and had a phenomenal approach to practice and before games," Kozlowski said.

"... We're going to have to replace some of our captains. They did a great job of taking the younger guys and showing them what they can do to be efficient, good quality baseball players at Grosse Pointe North." **University Liggett** Liggett continued its postseason journey Wednesday, June 3, hosting Clawson in the Division 3 regional semifinal. The Knights' strong pitching and defense helped them move on to the regional final with a 3-0 win over the Trojans. All three of Liggett's runs came in the first

See BASEBALL, page 6D

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THURSDAY COMICS

Charles M. Schulz

Peanuts

"EXCUSE ME, PLEASE.. ARE YOU GERMAN?"



© 1978 Peanuts Worldwide LLC. Dist. by Andrews McMeel

"ENTSCULDIGEN SIE, BITTE..SIND SIE DEUTSCHER?"



www.snoopy.com

MOVE, BEAGLE, OR I'LL BREAK ALL YOUR ARMS!!



"WHERE IS THE TAXI? MY UNCLE IS FROM WISCONSIN "



SCHULZ

Bizarro Dan Piraro and Wayno

What I'm hearing is you're afraid of public speaking, the wind and invisible boxes, yes?



BIZARRO.COM
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Andy Capp

LOOK, IT'S OL' RONNIE STOKES OVER THERE... I'LL GO AND SEE IF HE'LL GET THE BEERS IN

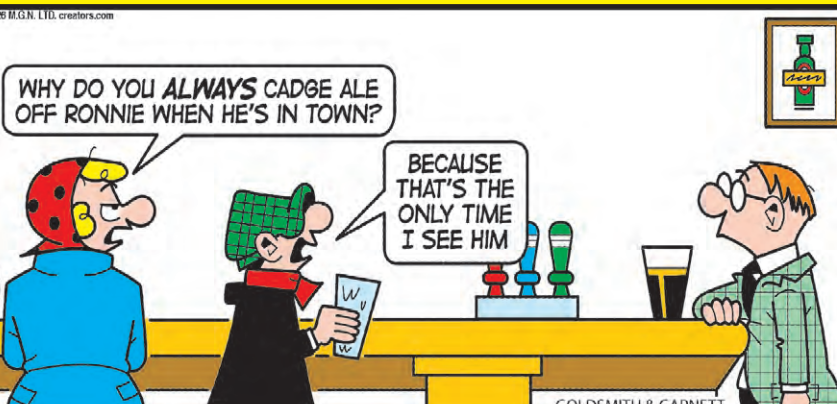


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Reg Smythe

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS CADGE ALE OFF RONNIE WHEN HE'S IN TOWN?

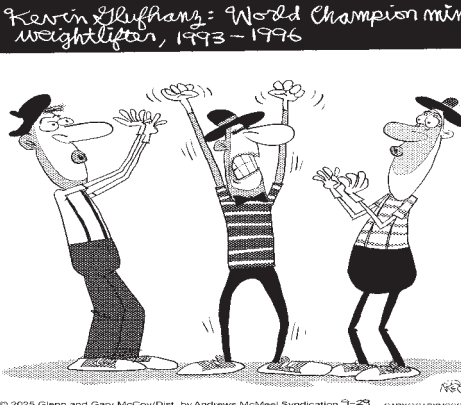
BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY TIME I SEE HIM



GOLDSMITH & GARNETT

Flying McCoys Glenn McCoy

Kevin Kuffman: World Champion mime weightlifter, 1993 - 1996



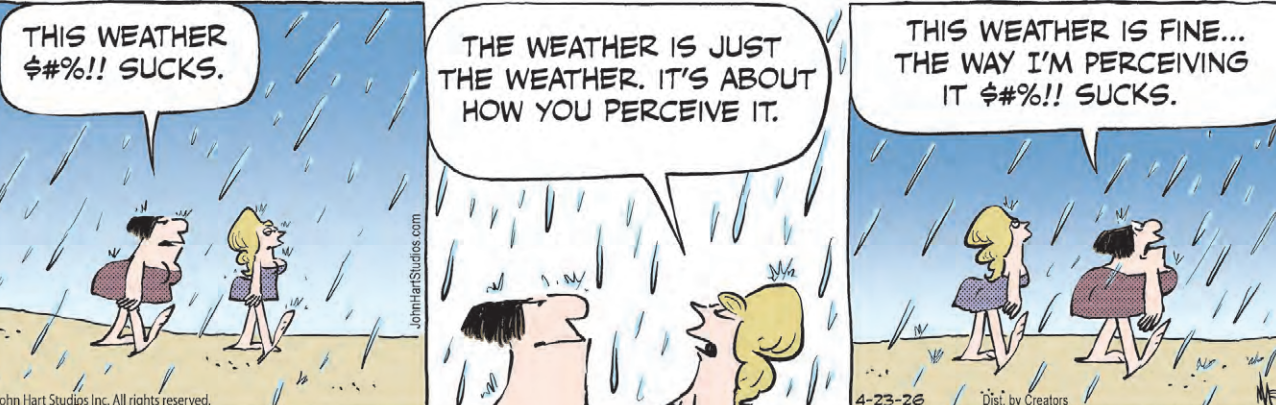
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B.C. Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni

THIS WEATHER \$%#! SUCKS.

THE WEATHER IS JUST THE WEATHER. IT'S ABOUT HOW YOU PERCEIVE IT.

THIS WEATHER IS FINE... THE WAY I'M PERCEIVING IT \$%#! SUCKS.



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Reality Check Dave Whamond

MUSEUM

DON'T SHOOT! HE'S UNARMED!

YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY! THE HEIST WAS A BUST!



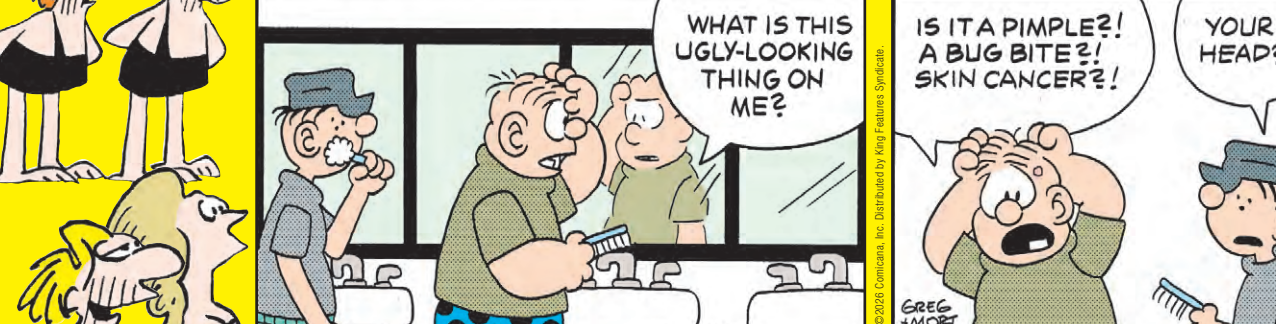
WHAMOND

Beetle Bailey Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker

WHAT IS THIS UGLY-LOOKING THING ON ME?

IS IT A PIMPLE?! A BUG BITE?! SKIN CANCER?!

YOUR HEAD?



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The Lockhorns Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

"THAT'S THE SAME WAY LORETTA PLAYS PIANO. . . ALL THUMBS."



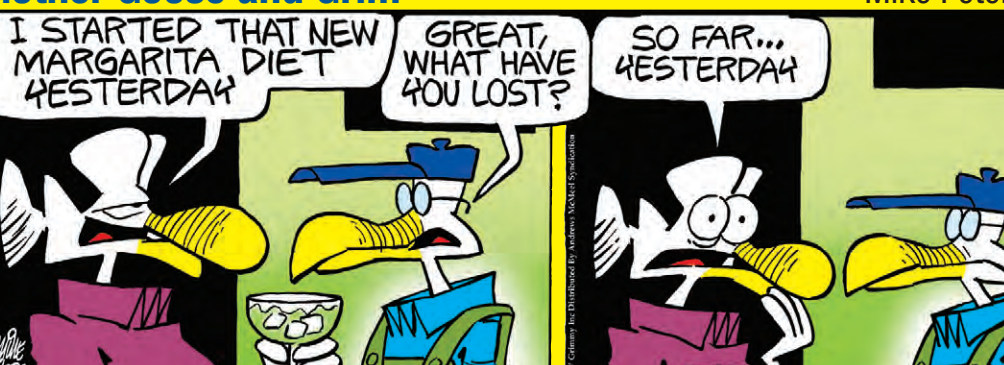
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www.thelockhorns.com
JOES & REINER 3-28

Mother Goose and Grim Mike Peters

I STARTED THAT NEW MARGARITA DIET YESTERDAY

GREAT, WHAT HAVE YOU LOST?

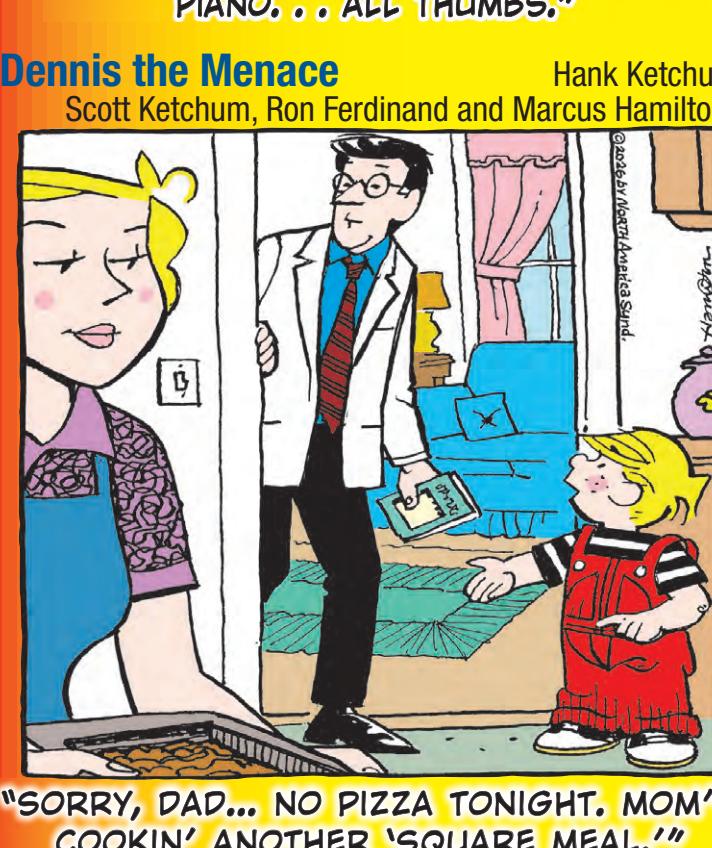
SO FAR... YESTERDAY



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

"SORRY, DAD... NO PIZZA TONIGHT. MOM'S COOKIN' ANOTHER 'SQUARE MEAL.'"



© 2026 H.K. KETCHUM/ANDREA SANDI
H.K. KETCHUM

Crankshaft Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis

IS THAT FROM BEAN'S END?

YEP...

I'M THINKING OF GROWING MICROGREENS!



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Carpe Diem Niklas Eriksson

I GOT BAD NEWS, GUYS.

GRAND OPENING OF THE SCHOOL OF HI-TECH TORTURE TECHNOLOGY.



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Wumo Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler

Dad, you said you didn't want a dog, and if we got one, we'd have to take care of it ...

Well ... if anyone touches Muffy, they're out of the will!



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Illustration by Anders Morgenthaler

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THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

GARFIELD

GARFIELD

GARFIELD

GARFIELD

GARFIELD

GARFIELD

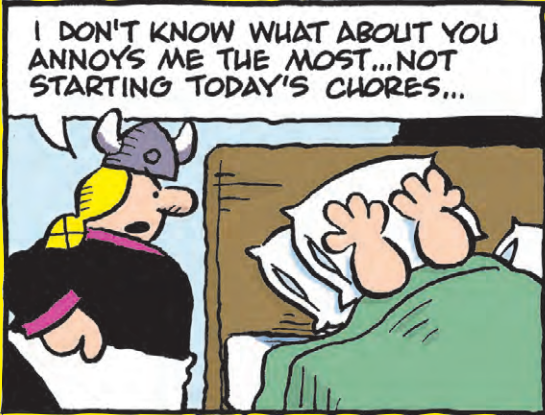
Jim Davis



Hagar The Horrible

(Dik Browne & Chris Browne Original Creators)

Bob Webber Jr. and Gary Hallgren



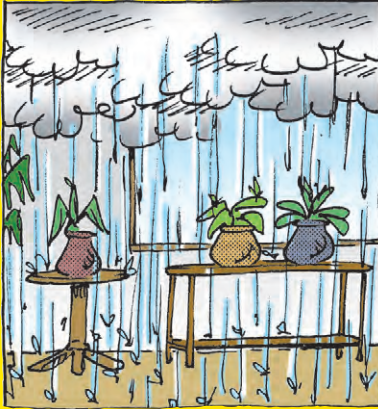
Close To Home

John McPherson



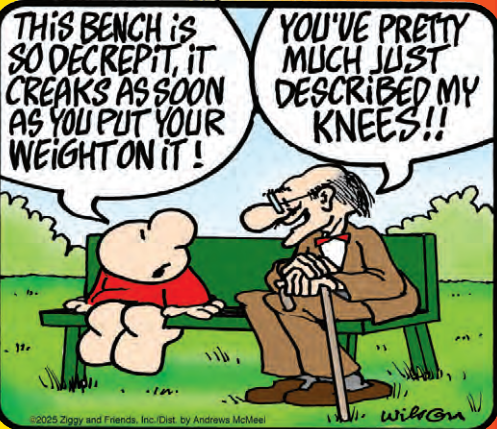
Wizard of Id

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



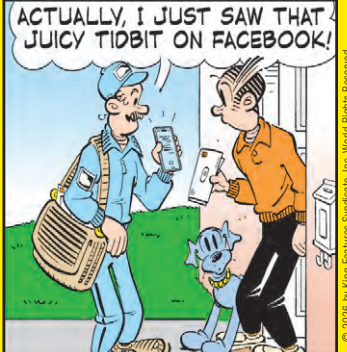
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



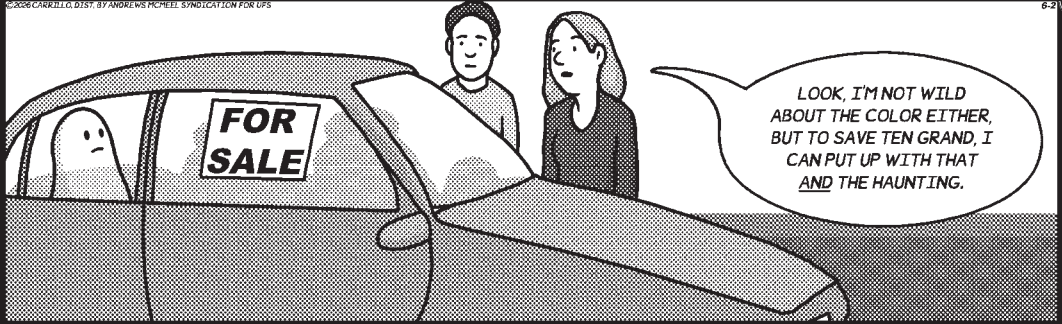
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



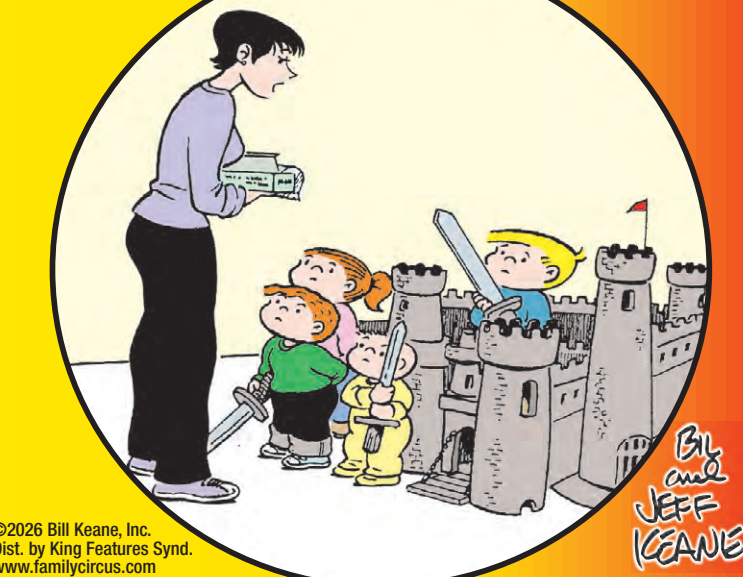
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



"I don't have enough aluminum foil to make armor. You'll have to remain knights of cotton."



East Side FC U15 Boys punch ticket to nationals with State Cup title

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

The East Side FC U15 Boys team captured the State Cup Championship following an undefeated run, proving that a community club can go toe to toe with the region’s largest programs.

The group dominated the group stage with a 15-3 goal differential before heading into the high-stakes playoff run. After defeating MDA 2-0 in the quarterfinals, East Side faced a major challenge in the semifinals against Michigan Burn, an Elite Clubs National League (ENCL) team. East Side earned a hard fought 1-0 win, punching its ticket to the finals against another ENCL powerhouse, Legends FC.

The championship final was a grueling and tightly contested match that remained dead-locked at 0-0 through the match. The tension peaked in the first period of overtime when



COURTESY PHOTO

The East Side FC U15 Boys team poses with the trophy after winning the 2026 State Cup championship. The team’s roster includes: Coach John Bentley, Max Chittenden, William Moerschell, Liam Gady, Julian Loreda, Owen Sanderson-Price, Grayson Graskewicz, Justin Carpenter, Henry Kruszyna. Bottom: Lukas Bukovec, Owen Hermann, Owen Applegate, Connor Sharp, Sami Afram, Brenden Logan and Cass Yoder.

Legends FC was awarded a penalty kick.

“When the penalty was awarded in overtime, we thought this was the game,” Florian Bukovec, an East Side board member and parent, said.

That was when goalkeeper Connor Sharp delivered the defining moment of the match.

The Legends FC player struck the ball toward the lower left corner, but Sharp dove down to make a save, keeping the game scoreless.

With neither team finding the back of the net in overtime, the state title came down to penalty kicks.

“Really both teams can win in penalty,” Bukovec said. “The other team missed first kick and missed fifth penalty kick and our player made it.”

The parents and fans went crazy as East Side clinched the dramatic 4-3 victory in the shootout to steal the state championship title.

While the championship was won in a dramatic shootout, the foundation for this success was laid out over eight years together, including the last five under head coach John Bentley.

“John Bentley is one of the full-time coaches from England and he has done an absolutely great job and is a huge part of the success,” Bukovec said.

This victory marks a major milestone for East Side Soccer, which last won the State Cup

around eight and a half years ago. This group has already proved their place on a national stage this past year while finishing second in the highest division of the Great Lakes National League.

“Even though we are a community club for Grosse Pointe, it shows we can compete against large clubs and keep up with them, we punch at eye level,” Bukovec said. “And the second part is consistent coaching and that professional coaches can build a great program to be able to compete more and more.”

The historic season is not over yet. The team is now moving onto the national tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 13 to compete in the national championship. To help support the boys on this journey, community efforts are underway to fundraise and ensure the trip is affordable for all the players and coaches. Donations can be made at gofund.me/90eae9a9a.

BASEBALL:

Continued from page 3D

inning. Ravi Hines started the scoring with an RBI single and later came in to score as part of a two-RBI single by Kanaan Taylor that put the Knights ahead 3-0 at the end of the first frame.

That ended up being all the Knights needed, as the game turned into

a pitching duel. Both teams had zeros across the board for the rest of the game, but the early runs helped Liggett secure the win. Taylor pitched 6 1/3 scoreless and hitless innings with 12 strikeouts, while Joey Harris came in for the final two outs and kept the shutout going.

Liggett moved on to the Division 3 regional championship game

Saturday, June 6, taking on Millington. After going down early, the Knights were unable to rally a comeback, with the Cardinals winning 7-2 to end Liggett’s season in the regional final.

Millington scored four runs in the top of the first inning to take an early lead, adding another in the fifth to make it 5-0. The Cardinals’ lead got up to six runs before

Liggett got on the board in the bottom of the sixth inning with an RBI double by Taylor. It was too late, however, and one more run in the bottom of the seventh inning for the Knights made it 7-2 before the final out to end Liggett’s spring.

“We’ve talked about not letting one game define what you’ve done over a year or a career,” Liggett baseball head

coach Jay Ricci said about the season-ending loss. “Emotionally, it’s tough because you’re in that moment at that time, so the kids who are done have pretty strong emotions, and the ones who are coming back are going to miss the seniors. You spend so many days and nights and hours over months, and it all comes to an end, and it’s tough in that moment,

but we like to talk about all the times we’ve had success...We left the field, and everybody was feeling pretty good about what we’ve done as a group, whether it’s been this year or over four years.”

Liggett’s record to end the spring was 27-12, with the Knights adding a district title to their trophy case before the year ended.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Johnson returns to GP for football camp

Will Johnson held his 3rd Annual Youth Football Camp at his alma mater, Grosse Pointe South High School, Saturday, May 30. The camp was for girls and boys, grades 4 to 7, and attendees learned drills, skill development and competition. “It’s an honor for me to be out here with these kids and to have the camp at my old high school,” said Johnson who played football at Grosse Pointe South from 2018 until 2021. He went on to play football at the University of Michigan beginning in 2022 helping the team win the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship. Johnson now plays in the NFL for the Arizona Cardinals.

Above left, Will Johnson shows Silas Young proper technique for protecting the football after making a catch. Above right, Johnson poses with Roy Bishop III, left, and Grosse Pointe Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop. Bishop was gifted an Arizona Cardinals football signed by Johnson. Below left, Cass Lupo and Simon Thiel pose for a photo with Johnson. Thiel attends Maire elementary. Lupo attends Kerby elementary. Below right, Will Johnson, stands with his former Michigan teammate, Derrick Moore who now plays for the Detroit Lions. Moore came to help Johnson work with the kids at his Youth Football Camp.