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Grosse Pointe News

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025

VOL. 87, NO. 34, 30 PAGES
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 95¢)

Your community newspaper since 1940

AUGUST 20, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Chapaton keeps it clean

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Stormwater infrastructure improvements upstream in St. Clair Shores have proven their worth by producing nothing at all.

The Chapaton Pump Station on Nine Mile east of Jefferson has produced no combined sewer discharges into Lake St. Clair for 12 months.

"One full year!" said Candice Miller, Macomb County public works commissioner, in a news release. "It's fantastic we can announce no discharges in a year from the Chapaton Pump Station. This means better water quality, cleaner water, for our beautiful lake."

"Diligence and invest-

See CLEAN, page 2A



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON KEAN

The community gallery is situated to the left of the promenade in the newly opened A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts.

Schaap Center rallies to close Founding Campaign

Naming opportunity available for 'angel donor'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After years of fundraising, construction and anticipation, the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts opened this spring with a run of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," performed by Grosse Pointe Theatre.

Though the world-class performance center and its adjoining art galleries are finally open, the Schaap Center board looks forward to closing out its $50 million Founding Campaign.

The campaign has raised $45 million of its $50 million goal. To close the gap, Dr. Paul Schaap is matching gifts up to $2.5 million. Every qualifying new or increased gift made before Tuesday, Sept. 1, will be matched dollar for dollar.

"Paul and Carol led an amazing philanthropic effort to fund, through private donations, this $50 million campaign," said Gene Gargaro, a Schaap Center board member and former Detroit Institute of Arts board chairman. "Now we are in the latter stages of the campaign. The last $5 million of the Founding Campaign is highlighted by Paul's continuing philanthropy."

A single $5 million donation would not only close the campaign, but claim the center's last available naming opportunity.

"One of the attractive parts is the community gallery space that adjoins the (Richard and Jane) Manoogian Art Gallery and promenade in the Schaap Center," Gargaro said. "We're hoping to attract an angel donor who would commit $5 million to get us to the $50 million goal and name the community gallery for that donor."

The community gallery will host rotating exhibitions of diverse visual art by local, regional and visiting artists and artistic groups. Currently, it is hosting a collection of sculptures from the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

Schaap Center representatives are in talks with the Detroit Institute of Arts for a future exhi-

See CAMPAIGN, page 2A

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See SPORTS, Section D

Library reps back millage bid

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Of nearly 825,000 items circulated last year at the public library, a smidge more than 40 percent were in digital form.

Website visits outnumbered in-person visits 346,060 to 302,000.

Figures came this month from Library Director Jessica Keyser and Board Secretary Susan Larsen.

Keyser has directed the library 10 years. Larsen is the Park's representative on the board. They presented city council this month an update of library activities, accomplishments and goals.

The growing volume of digital usage confirmed the 97-year-old institution's continued relevance among the city's growing population of computer-savvy residents. Yet meeting demand for digital resources costs up to three times more per item than doing it the timeworn way with books in hand.

"Our circulation is almost one-half digital," Larsen said. "They're a lot more expensive than books."

She said e-books can cost the library more

See BID, page 3A

Involuntary manslaughter case against offender's mother dismissed

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — An involuntary manslaughter case that could have held a mother responsible for her teenage son's criminal behavior was dismissed Wednesday, Aug. 12, by Wayne County Judge Nicole Castka.

Elizabeth Puleo-Tague's son last year pleaded guilty to manslaughter with a motor vehicle, after he was the driver in a 2023 single-car crash on Ridge Road that killed his friend and passenger, 18-year-old Flynn MacKrell.

He was given a blended adult/juvenile sentence with juvenile placement in a level 2 residential facility for an indeterminate duration, at which time the deceased's family sought criminal charges against his mother.

They alleged she had prior knowledge of her son's repeated reckless driving patterns and did not do enough to prevent him access to a vehicle. They were seeking an outcome not dissimilar to the convictions of the parents of the Oxford High School shooter.

Though the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office — after an investigation with Grosse Pointe Farms police — declined to press charges against Puleo-Tague, MacKrell's parents found a century-old loophole in Michigan law, which their attorney claimed gave the right to private citizens to prosecute another private citizen so long as they post a security bond and can get a judge to agree there is sufficient probable cause.

The case found its way into the court system via Farms Judge Charles Berschback — who appointed special prosecutor Paul Stablein — and then proceeded to come before a revolving door of judges in Redford, Dearborn and Wayne County, as each side argued over the legality of a special prosecutor being appointed and of the case itself.

See CASE, page 5A

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

Pointer of INTEREST



Josie Licavoli
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Spreading joy through baking cookies

See story, page 4A

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Last street fair of summer Saturday

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A mechanical bull, a parachute drop and a carnival ride called Mindwinder offer an active midway during Kercheval After 6, 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

Admission to the fair is free and open to the public. Parking is available anywhere it can be found, including side streets.

"The Mindwinder is a tub you sit in," said Chad Craig, municipal recreation director and organizer of the fairs. "I recently rode on one with my oldest son at a festival up north. You and the other person sitting there control a wheel for how fast you want to make the tub spin. Although the ride itself doesn't go incredibly fast, you can spin yourself very, very fast. You can get dizzy pretty quick."

Four blocks of lower Kercheval, between Wayburn and Nottingham, are closed to vehicle traffic during the fair, held three times during summer. This Saturday's wraps the season.

"The parachute ride is like a bucket you sit in that goes up and down and in circles, higher and lower, back up and lower," Craig said.

The mechanical bull is a crowd favorite.

"People were excited for that to come," Craig said. "That will be something fun for older teenagers and adults. Most of my lifeguards were excited to find out the mechanical bull was back."

Concerts

Three musical acts, not the usual two, are scheduled, plus a separate dance performance by students at a studio in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The Neighbors band performs on The Zealous Root Stage at the Wayburn end of the fair.

"A couple band members know Andy Curcuru of Ripe Records Detroit (on Kercheval)," Craig said. "I thought it would be fitting to bring them in and set them up at the stage near Ripe Records. He showcases local talent."

"I used The Neighbors here at the record store for events," Curcuru said.

"He has so much

See FAIR, page 3A

CAMPAIGN:

Continued from page 1A

bition in the space, which also is available to host educational and cultural programming.

"It's a very special space," Gargaro said. "It will be a community gathering space for assembly, for discussion and speakers' programs."

Gifts of any size also may be directed toward a $10 million endowment being raised to sustain and support operations.

"In addition to capital, the money to build the center, we're putting together a fund that will provide annual support to operate the facility," Gargaro said. "We're in the early stage of funding (the endowment)."

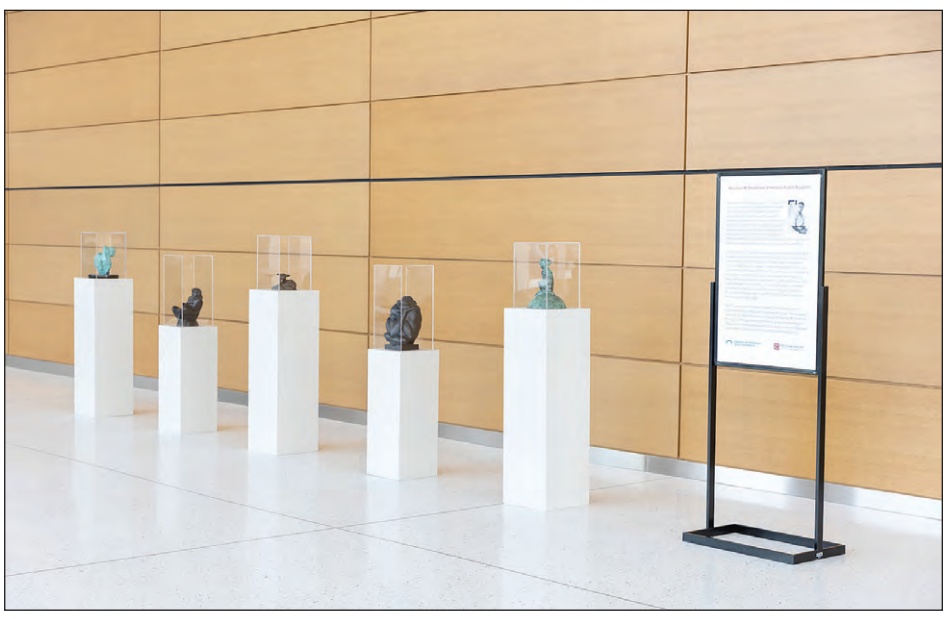
A full calendar of events is on tap this fall, featuring several groups that call Schaap Center home, including Grosse Pointe Theatre, Eisenhower Dance, Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit, Detroit Medical Orchestra, Detroit Opera, Grosse Pointe Symphony, Detroit Concert Choir and Grosse Pointe Community Chorus.

"An exciting next step on the calendar is Grosse Pointe Theatre," Gargaro said. "The theater has been pretty mobile the last 10 years at different venues. … This is a fabulous venue for an organization like that. Their performance calendar is going to be a great draw this fall."

An exclusive preview fundraiser will take place Thursday, Sept. 17, before the community theater group opens its season Friday, Sept. 18, with "Les Misérables." Preview fundraiser sponsorship opportunities may be found at schaapcenter.org/ways-to-give/#signature-fundraising-les-mis.

Another special event benefitting Schaap Center takes place Thursday, Oct. 22, when internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Dame Marina Arsenijevic performs the Michigan debut of her multimedia production, "Tesla Rhapsody."

"In the early stages, we talked about the center being a partnership with Detroit and Grosse Pointe," Gargaro said. "I think this is going to be a regional attraction, not just a community center. … Once we have a chance to welcome people in the fall, to the fall calendar of events, the opportunities are unlimited for this wonderful cultural attraction."



Currently, artwork on loan from the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is displayed in the community gallery.

The gift of time

In addition to seeking to close out its Founding Campaign, Schaap Center is building its Ambassador Corps, through which volunteers greet patrons, assist with seating, lend support at special events or lead tours.

"We're looking for volunteers to help the public when they arrive, showing different facets of the center," Gargaro said, "docents who are familiar with all the aspects of the center. That group is being put together as we speak.

"… We hope we get numbers of people to join so everybody feels they've contributed to this resource," Gargaro said.

To contribute to the Founding Campaign or endowment, or to become a member of the Ambassador Corps, visit schaapcenter.org.

CLEAN:

Continued from page 1A

ment pay off," said Park Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the Park infrastructure committee. "I am a huge fan of the work Candice Miller is doing. It's the same mindset we have: proactive, not reactive."

"This is good news for our entire region and I'm pleased to see our neighbors making meaningful investments in infrastructure," Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We all share the same water, environment and regional economy and the strength of one community benefits us all."

Investments in Macomb County to which Wiener referred included completion last year of a $29 million combined storm-and-sanitary sewer overflow reduction facility — it's 700 feet long and holds more than 16.7 million gallons of water — at Chapaton.

Also, Miller has managed nine years and millions of dollars in drain maintenance and underground infrastructure projects to reduce combined sewer overflows into Lake St. Clair.

Meanwhile, Park residents supported:

◆ sewer cleaning to increase capacity and flow,

◆ a multi-year water-sewer capital improvement plan funded largely by a voter-approved 10-year dedicated millage and

◆ installation of a $2.8 million flood-relief extreme emergency relief valve at Patterson Park.

Actions began in response to the city being hit with big thunderstorms early this decade.

"Here in Grosse Pointe Park, we've made substantial progress in addressing aging infrastructure and protecting the long-term health and viability of our community," Hodges said. "These challenges don't stop at municipal boundaries, which is why I believe our best path forward is continued regional cooperation and shared solutions."

"We have been incredibly focused on reducing — with the goal of eliminating — combined sewer overflows that have been discharged from this basin like others in the region for decades and decades," Miller said. "There have been a number of rain events over the last 12 months where every other retention basin in the region has discharged until the cows come home, like they always have."

She cited two big storms in March and one in April from which Chapaton had no discharges.

Miller said Oakland County's George W. Kuhn Retention Treatment Basin released almost 34 million gallons of combined sewer flow into the Red Run Drain in Macomb County after less than one inch of rain. Red Run Drain flows through a couple of cities before reaching the Clinton River, which empties into Lake St. Clair.

During the last 12 months, the Chapaton system has handled more than 500 million gallons of combined flow from St. Clair Shores and neighboring Eastpointe, provided minimal treatment and sent it to the Great Lakes Water Authority's wastewater treatment plant in Detroit for complete treatment.

"Grosse Pointe Park is pleased to see the vast improvements made by Macomb County Public Works with no combined sewer overflows in one whole year and an increased storage capacity of 130 percent," Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said. "Like Macomb County, Grosse Pointe Park is making serious investments in closed-circuit TV (inspections) and cleaning of our sewer lines and, starting this year, on a $6.5 million sewer lining project to reduce flow into the Great Lakes Water Authority (sewer) system."

The authority operates the regional sewer network.

"Our goal should be simple: protect our environment, safeguard our tax base and preserve the quality of life and property values that our residents have worked so hard to build," Hodges said. "When communities work together toward those goals, everyone wins."

"In Macomb County, we've had the political will, we've had the resources, we have worked very diligently to get to this point," Miller said. "I'm not saying we're never going to have another discharge, but we have reduced combined sewer overflow at this pump station by 75 to 80 percent."

Miller indicated it's time for other jurisdictions to get on the stick.

She said, "Other counties can look at what we've done in Macomb County and launch projects of their own to reduce combined sewer overflows and discharges of raw sewage. Maybe not overnight, but you have to work diligently to get to a point when you can announce, 'No discharges in a year.'"

"Now that we've cleaned up our house, it's time for us to look at Oakland County and pressure them to follow our lead and invest in their aging infrastructure," said the Pointes' State Sen. Kevin Hertel in his March 26 newsletter. "For too long, they have taken the easy way out — choosing to deliberately dump their raw sewage into Lake St. Clair rather than address their structural deficiencies."

Although the Pointes' former State Rep. Ed Gaffney failed two decades ago to have Lake St. Clair designated one of the Great Lakes, the 430-square-mile waterway is good enough.

Some 4.5 to 5 million people get their drinking water from the lake.

The lake also generates $2.2 billion in economic impact, attracts 17,000 visitors annually, supports 18,000 jobs and includes more than 1,000 businesses, said Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel during the inaugural Great Lakes Policy Conference Aug. 12.









COURTESY PHOTO

Ray Kaye, far left in a blue T-shirt, and the 1980 Hunt Club swimming team.

Swim coach, life coach

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After impacting generations of both club and high school swimmers, several of them have been visiting Ray Kaye as he recuperates from a fall.

Kaye, 85, coached boys and girls swimming a combined 31 seasons at Lakeview High School, where he was a gym teacher, and also coached summer teams at the Hunt Club, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Lochmoor Club, Country Club of Detroit, Detroit Yacht Club and Detroit Golf Club.

"He's a testament to the person I am," said Robin Hartnett, who still commutes three days a week from her home in Lansing to teach swimming at the Detroit Athletic Club during the summer. "I wouldn't be doing this 43 years later if it weren't for him."

Tom Cobau, who swam for Kaye at the Hunt Club with Hartnett and went on to swim at the University of Michigan, called Kaye a legend.

"He impacted so many lives over the years," he said.

A scrap book Cobau assembled details the struggles the Hunt Club team had due to its lack of members.

"We were the smallest team in the Michigan Inter-Club Swimming Association," he wrote. "We had the fewest swimmers and we had the worst pool. Luckily, we were blessed with talented swimmers and intelligent coaching.

"We overcame many obstacles, including a many-year dual meet losing streak," he continued. "During the years since this experience, I have had the privilege of being a member of many other swim teams. Because these teams were larger, they lacked the cohesion of the Hunt Club team. Never again did I find a group of people who so genuinely cared about each other or who worked harder together for everyone's mutual gain."

Kaye's father, Raymond Kaye Sr., swam for the United States at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, but the sport did not come as easily to him.

"I loved the water, but I didn't like to swim," Kaye said. "As a freshman at Denby in 1958, the swimming coach saw me in the pool during gym and asked me to come out for the team. I guess he thought I had

See COACH, page 8A

FAIR:

Continued from page 2A

knowledge of talent around metro Detroit," Craig said of Curcuru. "We try to showcase local bands. Andy knows what's popular. He can tell me what people of various age ranges are looking for. It's definitely beneficial to have somebody like that."

Two bands perform on the Red Crown Stage at the corner of Beaconsfield. First up is Tosha Owens and the Stable Dudes, 6 to 8 p.m.

"They're kind of blues, Motown and things like that," Craig said.

Then comes Laura Rain & the Caesars, 8 to 10 p.m.

"Laura Rain can really belt out music," Craig said. "A lot of her music is original. It's fun to bring something like that in. The music is fun, upbeat dance-type music that I think people will enjoy."

Dance

"The Mack Avenue Dance Center is going to be doing about a 20-minute performance at Red Crown between the bands switching," Craig said.

"We are performing some dances from our 2025-26 competition season," said Grace Euper, administrative assistant and former student at the studio.

The center has performed at Kercheval After 6 at least three times, she said. Students on the competitive teams can range in age from 7 to 18.

"We want to have something where kids have a place to be creative," Euper said. "We're very artistic, training and technique-based. We want our kids to come away with exercise but also a good foundation for true dance execution."

Dunk tank and more

It's become a tradition during Kercheval After 6 to host a charity dunk tank. This weekend the tank reprises the Grosse Pointe South High School Blue Devil Dance Team.

"They did so well last year, they asked for another date this year," Craig said. "With this being such a large event, it's a good opportunity for them to fundraise."

Food trucks complement area restaurants and bars. Some stores stay open late. Pop-up merchants set up tents and tables.

Sponsors

"A special thank-you goes out to all of our After 6 on Kercheval sponsors," Craig said. "Their generous support makes these events possible. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our community. We couldn't do it without you."

Kercheval After 6 is presented at the diamond level by Brosnan Builders, Thermal Mechanical Service, edmund t. AHEE Jewelers and Henry Ford Health.

Gold-level support is by E Squared Behavioral Health, Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe, Carly Copus Insurance Solutions LLC, Pointe Alarm, The Bricks Pizzeria, Harvey Animal Hospital, Aquatic Source LLC, Brine Oyster House, Inspired Family Dental Care, LeRouge Boulangerie and Pointe Hardware Group.

Silver-level supporters are Grosse Pointe Dentistry and Implants and McCarver Mechanical Heating & Cooling.

Bronze support is provided by Knotted Needle, John F. Martin Photography, Belding Cleaners, Aesthetic Theory MedSpa, Duffey & Co., JJ's Custard Co. and Makos Building Co.

KA6 as a greeting card

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Organizers beefed up the final Kercheval After 6 street fair of summer this Saturday by adding an extra band and a dance performance to the normal complement of two midway rides, food trucks and other attractions.

This has been a good year for the fairs.

"They're a good time," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "They seem to be more popular this season than in years past. They're working out well."

There's no way to compile specific attendance figures. Admission is free and there aren't designated entry points to the more than three-block fairs in the lower Kercheval commercial district.

The welcoming informality jibes with the city's purpose of providing a fun venue while promoting the community.

"After 6 is so much more than a street party," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "It's a celebration of who we are as a community. When we close down the street and thousands of people come together to enjoy music, games, exhibits and simply spend time with one another, it feels like one giant family reunion."

"Residents are enjoying it, telling neighbors and friends," Craig said. "There's a nice selection of restaurants and businesses participating in it. It's a fun way to show off to the community what we do and what we're about."

City Manager Nick Sizeland said, "Not only do we have small local vendors and events for kids, this event allows those to see the businesses on Kercheval they have not patronized them before and with the hope of coming back and supporting these local businesses."

"Events like this build the community fabric," Hodges said. "They create connections, memories and a sense of belonging and that's what makes Grosse Pointe Park such a special place to call home."

— Brad Lindberg

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, AUG. 25

- Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

- Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

- Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon at Kercheval and Lakepointe.

BID:

Continued from page 1A

than $60 compared with around $17.50 for an actual book. Audiobooks cost the library more than $50 each.

Still, the library system is in good financial shape.

"We're doing really, really well," Larsen said.

Some 90 percent of $8,369,000 total annual revenue during fiscal year 2025 came from property taxes. Staffing is the greatest expense and accounts for 35 percent of the total. Next came debt services and fringe benefits.

Larsen and Keyser advocated for passage of the library's supplemental millage request on the November ballot. Voters approved the millage in 2011, renewed it in 2018 at 0.6847 mills, but it is due to expire in 2027.

"We're asking for a renewal," Keyser said.

"It's about 30 percent of our funding," Larsen said.

Failure of the measure condemns the library to becoming a shell of itself, the way the pair described it: hours reduced to daytime Monday through Thursday, less acquisition of new materials, limited availability of meeting rooms and long waits for librarian assistance.





Custom cookies are the icing on this baker's business

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer



Cookies decorated with the names of family members are popular items, Licavoli said.



PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

Josie Licavoli uses a piping bag of icing to flood a custom cookie. Her fiancé, Nino Ferreri, tends another batch.

It's fun being Josie Licavoli.

She's a bride-to-be.

"It was meant to be," she said.

Her cookie business is booming.

"I love doing this because I can create," she said.

She gets to hang out with her maternal grandmother and baking mentor.

"I always baked with her and my mom," Licavoli said.

And its fun having Italian lineage.

"Sometimes we're a little theatrical," said Licavoli, of Grosse Pointe Woods. "We get to say we're Italian, so it's like an excuse. We get to talk with our hands."

Licavoli comes from a couple generations of restaurateurs.

"I'd always go to my grandma's house to bake things," Licavoli said. "Her name is Maryann."

Together they made cakes, cupcakes and pies.

"We did pickles, cucumbers and Italian sauce," Licavoli said. "She lives across the street from my mom and has a garden in her backyard. She grows tomatoes and cucumbers."

One of Licavoli's favorite memories is the afternoon she and Grandmother Maryann tried a new pickle recipe.

"I guess we didn't read the recipe fully because it was already about 8 o'clock at night and they had to prep for six hours," Licavoli said. "We were cooking all night. It was midnight pickles."

Maryann commemorated the mishap into family lore.

"She got me a Christmas ornament that says 'Midnight pickles' on it," Licavoli said.

The name of Licavoli's cookie business is Licavoli's Sugar Coated Designs by Josie.

It's a mouthful. So are the cookies.

"Everything is homemade," Licavoli said.

Everything also is custom designed. She sells in batches of a half dozen to however many the customer wants.

"A standard order is one to two dozen," Licavoli said. "We have bigger orders every year for my old high school (Regina), businesses and Christmas."

Typical orders are for baby showers, bridal showers and birthdays.

"Those are wonderful things to celebrate," Licavoli said.

Designs are as customized.

"For every order, we start by meeting with the customer on Facebook or in person," Licavoli said.

Some designs require a specially shaped cookie, whether a cloud, animal, flower, ice cream cone, cartoon or movie theme. That's where Licavoli's fiancé, Nino Ferreri, comes in. He makes specific cookie cutters using a computer and 3-D printer.

Ferreri began helping at the business part time as a favor to Licavoli.

"As she got more popular and had more orders, it became full time," he said. "We're having fun working as a team. She does pretty much all the creative parts. Most of the time people will say exactly what they want. But some say, 'You take the reins and do what you think looks best.'"

It takes about two hours to produce a set of cookies. A single cookie can take two to 30 minutes to decorate depending on the design and number of different colored icings, all of which, like the dough, are made from scratch.

Once the cookie is designed, cut and baked, Licavoli starts decorating.

"Icing has two consistencies," she said. "An outline consistency is thicker so when it's piped on, it holds its shape. Then there's a flood consistency."

Flooding a cookie means to fill an outlined area — an area of thicker icing that has been applied through a cone-shaped piping bag from which the contents are squeezed out — with frosting.

"Some cookies, like the ones I just flooded, have to dry 30 minutes or more," Licavoli said while applying pink frosting to a tray of about two dozen cookies shaped in circles, rectangles and stars. "Big, 3-D flowers have to dry overnight. It depends on the icing and design."

Sales of decorate-it-yourself cookie kits also are popular.

"We do them for customer orders, often birthdays, in bulk or individually," Licavoli said. "They have a half dozen (undecorated) cookies, frosting and sprinkles. You can decorate them. We usually do them for the holidays."

She teaches cookie classes.

"People learn how to do cookies step-by-step," she said. "It's a one-hour, 45-minute to two-hour class. You get a half dozen cookies. You do them with me and follow along. We have a snack break. You get piping bags with different consistencies. It's a fun time. We're doing one for Halloween with a costume contest."

Licavoli sort of fell into being a baker during the COVID shutdown.

"Throughout school, I took art classes," Licavoli said. "During my senior year in high school — I graduated in 2020, the COVID year — I had lots of time to scroll on my phone. On YouTube there was a video of a cookie decorator. The cookie artist made a really cute lemonade stand out of cookies. There were lemon cookies, a lemonade pitcher and a lemonade stand sign. It struck me that I might want to do that for a living."

She operates at her father's Licavoli's Market and Pizzeria on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods and communicates with customers through Facebook and Instagram.

"The main reason I love my job is to see people's faces light up when I give them an order," Licavoli said. "If I can bring joy to a birthday party or wedding, I love it."

She's already planning to bake cookies for her wedding next June.



This tray of four gingerbread designs. "It's my favorite," Licavoli said. "We paint it with edible silver and hand-pipe all those little designs on it."



"I love the little turkey," Licavoli said.

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

16980 KERCHEVAL AVE.
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: $49.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, $70 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Shores

Outdated

A 59-year-old St. Clair Shores man was ticketed for having an expired vehicle registration after he was pulled over around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, on Vernier near Lakeshore.

—Ted O'Neil

Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

City of Grosse Pointe

Larceny

A juvenile male was arrested at 7:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, at a restaurant in the 17000 block of Kercheval for being in possession of a stolen bicycle, which was taken Friday, July 31, from Neff Park. He confessed to stealing it.

Suspended license

A 35-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over just after noon Monday, Aug. 10, for running a red light at Mack and Cadieux. She was cited for having a suspended driver's license and released; her vehicle was impounded.

Bank robbery

A 38-year-old man, after being told he could not withdraw money from his account due to it being overdrawn, grabbed $1,700 from the hands of the bank teller and fled from the 16000 block of Kercheval just after 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10. An investigation is ongoing.

Improper plate

A 61-year-old Detroit man was stopped at 8:40 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, at Notre Dame and Waterloo, for having an expired license plate. He was cited and released; his vehicle was impounded.

OWI

A 34-year-old Detroit woman was stopped at 11:20 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at Jefferson and Cadieux, after weaving in traffic. She was arrested for driving while intoxicated and her vehicle was impounded.

Suspended license

A 29-year-old Detroit woman was stopped at 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at Mack and Cadieux, for driving with defective equipment and an expired plate. She also was found to have a suspended license. She was cited and released.

— Jody McVeigh

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Drug possession

A 45-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for driving with a suspended license and arrested for possessing heroin after a traffic stop at Mack and Moross around 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Drunken driving

A 46-year-old Detroit man was arrested for drunken driving after refusing to take a Breathalyzer test around 11:30 p.m.Thursday, Aug. 13. Callers reported the man's 2017 Land Rover parked on Lakeshore near Pier Park with its headlights off and hazard lights on.

Three strikes

A 20-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man was ticketed for not having a license plate on his 1999 Suzuki motorcycle after being pulled over on Kerby near Beaupre around 3:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 15.

He also was ticketed for no insurance and not having a motorcycle endorsement on his license.

Felony warrant

A 62-year-old Detroit man was arrested for a felony warrant for marijuana possession out of that city after being pulled over on Mack near Warren for driving straight in the turn-only lane.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Stolen property

Two pieces of mechanical equipment with a combined value of $200 were stolen overnight Tuesday, Aug. 11, from a backyard in the 1400 block of Maryland.

Police said the victim reported missing an orange Ridgid air compressor and a Craftsman three-ton floor jack.

They were reportedly taken between 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10, and 9 a.m. the next day.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Unlocked vehicles

Four residents reported items missing from unlocked vehicles that were gone through sometime overnight into Monday, Aug. 10. They were, along with what was stolen:

- 2000 block of Hollywood — wallet, cash, credit cards, cellphone,
- 2000 block of Anita — iPad, duffel bag,
- 2000 block of Van Antwerp — prescription glasses, potter's wheel and
- 2000 block of Van Antwerp — prescription glasses, sunglasses, work ID badge, earbuds.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Carjacking court hearing postponed

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Probable cause conferences for two men accused in an attempted carjacking last month were pushed back a week.

They were scheduled to take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, before Municipal Judge Theodore Metry. Lawyers for both men asked for the extension to gather more information. The hearings were rescheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, after press time.

Police say Robert Lee Bates Jr., 37, of Detroit and Skylar Carlisle, 28, of Eastpointe, attempted to steal an SUV from the driveway of a house in the 2100 block of Anita around 5 a.m. Tuesday, July 28.

Detective Miles Adams said when the two were arraigned last month they pulled up to the house in a gray Chevy Equinox as a man and his daughter were loading luggage into the SUV for a trip.

"Bates had a handgun and they ordered the man and the daughter to the ground, demanding his keys and wallet," Adams said. "The girl ran back inside to alert the family and the victim drew his own handgun, which he legally possesses."

The defendants retreated to their vehicle, firing shots, while the victim returned fire, although no one was shot. They were arrested a short time later in Grosse Pointe Farms after their Equinox jumped a curb and struck a light pole.

The two are facing several serious felony charges, including carjacking, which is punishable by up to life in prison. Michigan law treats an attempted carjacking the same as a successful one.

Other charges include assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a concealed weapon and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Bates also faces habitual offender charges for prior felonies and currently is on parole. His bond was set at $500,000 cash/surety.

Carlisle, who does not have a criminal record, was given a bond of $50,000 cash/surety. Cash/surety means either giving the court the entire amount or hiring a bail bondsman to put up 10 percent of the total.

Carlisle's attorney requested Metry reduce his client's bond, given his lack of a criminal record. Metry said he was "inclined" to lower it, but first wanted to read Carlisle's DSU report. Each county's Defender Support Unit puts together a report to advocate for lesser bond terms based on things like the defendant's mental health, community ties, housing arrangements and employment opportunities.

Assistant Attorney General Dan Grano said he felt Carlisle's current bond was "reasonable, proportional and appropriate."

CASE:

Continued from page 1A

Puleo-Tague found herself before Castka last week after the prosecution appealed Dearborn Judge Sam Salamey's ruling to remove the special prosecutor from the case and attorneys for the defendant concurrently appealed Salamey's denial of a motion to dismiss the case in its entirety.

Though it may now be of little consequence, Castka upheld Salamey's order for Stablein to vacate the special counsel appointment.

"There is no current statute cited by the plaintiff appellant that would authorize a court to appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute criminal charges initiated by a citizen's complaint," she said. "The Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Court exceeded its authority and violated the separation of powers when the special counsel prosecutor was appointed to prosecute this matter."

She then ruled the case be thrown out, citing Michigan law which only allows for the prosecutor's office, or secondarily the Attorney General, to prosecute a citizen.

"The district court only had the authority to issue an arrest warrant, not an indictment, which includes a complaint," Castka said. "Michigan Compiled Law 764.1 does not provide the judiciary to take on the role of the prosecutor and initiate criminal proceedings against one of its citizens. The lower court abused its discretion by not granting the defendant appellant's motion to dismiss."

Immediately following the ruling, Stablein stated it is his intention to file an appeal.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Troubling results

As outlined in our Aug. 13 edition, Democrats Abdul El-Sayed and Donavan McKinney received a good deal of support from the Pointes in the Aug. 4 primary. Both outdistanced their opponents in all but Grosse Pointe Shores. While they may or may not officially be members of the Democratic Socialists of America, their views certainly align with said party.

We were more than a little surprised by the Park, where Mr. McKinney beat incumbent Congressman Shri Thanedar by more than 600 votes, despite Thanedar securing a $1.6 million grant for the city's extreme emergency relief valve to help prevent basement flooding.

According to CNN, El-Sayed has promoted replacing the Second Amendment with a right to "free" health care. It is scary how many people fall for that kind of word salad, be it "free" school meals, "free" universal preschool or "free" community college.

As Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister of the United Kingdom who was known as "The Iron Lady," famously once said, "The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money."

When it comes down to it, nothing the government provides at any level is free. All of it is paid for with tax dollars. It also is laughable that people try to defend democratic socialism by claiming things like public safety, parks and road maintenance are examples of socialism. Wrong. Those are legitimate public services.

Both Mr. McKinney and Mr. El-Sayed have been endorsed by the likes of Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar. Hide your wallets.

Even more troubling is El-Sayed's relationship with left-wing influencer Hasan Piker, who has said America "deserved" 9/11. That is some serious mental instability.

Beyond that, El-Sayed, who has ripped "greedy landlords" and wants to put additional tax burdens on the country's top earners, is among the top 1 percent of earners in Michigan and owns rental properties in Ann Arbor, Dubai and India.

Mr. McKinney's campaign website says he is running for Congress, "because I've lived through the same bull**** as you my whole life, right here at home in Detroit."

Um, Mr. McKinney, you are a state representative. Your party has controlled the governorship, secretary of state and attorney general offices the past eight years. Detroit has been under Democratic control since 1962.

Mr. McKinney previously worked for the SEIU. We would recommend readers look into how that union secretly "organized" some 60,000 home healthcare workers — most of them caring for disabled relatives — and skimmed $34 million in dues, money that should have gone toward the care of vulnerable people. That is not the kind of mindset we need in Congress.

At the state level, it appears that Sen. Kevin Hertel and Rep. Veronica Paiz will both be serving another term. Hertel ran unopposed in the primary and garnered more votes across the Pointes than the five Republicans on the ballot, while Paiz easily outdistanced two challengers.

Both have kept the Pointes on their radar, with Hertel securing large grants for technology upgrades in the Grosse Pointe Public School System and the Mack/Vernier reconstruction in the Woods.

We hope everyone chooses wisely this fall. Remember, a government that has the ability to give you everything has the power to take everything from you.

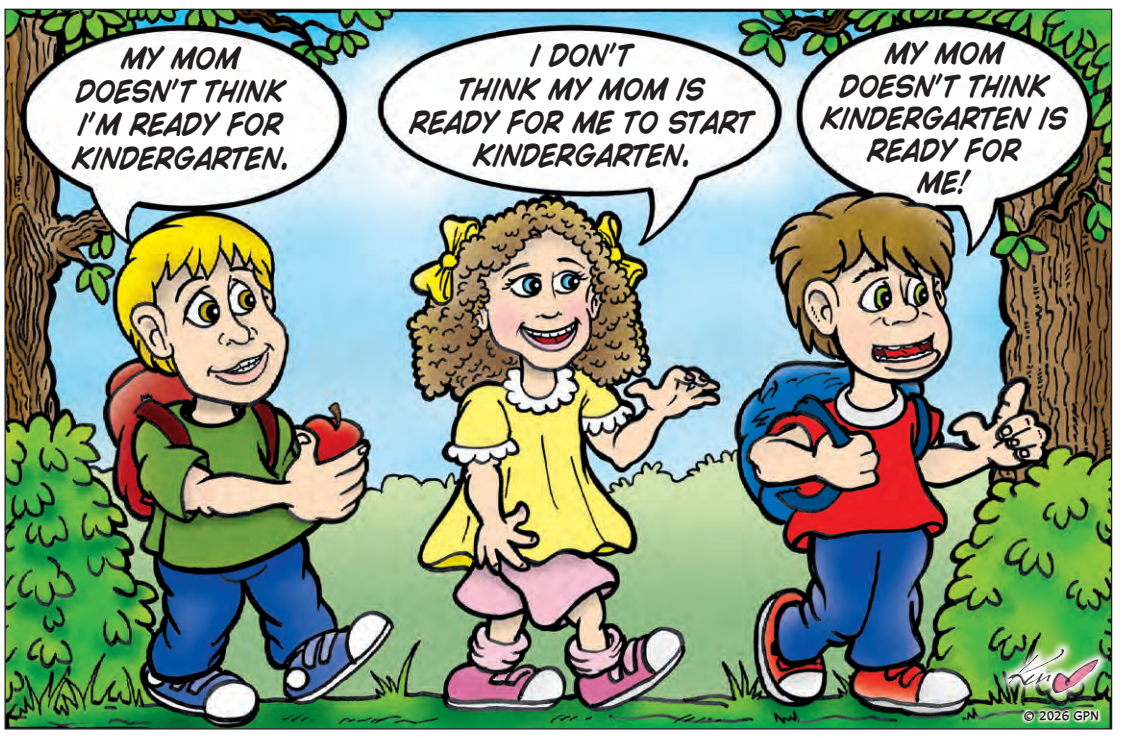

ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEW By Kathryn L. Roberts

Parents, take a deep breath: Kindergarten is ready for your child

It's that time of year when summer is still going strong but back-to-school is creeping into stores, social media and the minds of parents everywhere. The start of the school year is always a big transition for families, but even more so for families with kindergarteners who are about to start the next 13 years of their school journeys.

It's normal to be nervous. I want to preface the tips I'm about to share with this: If your child is 5, it is the job of kindergarten to be ready for them, not the other way around. So, take a deep breath — there are teachers just waiting to meet your child where they are and help them grow.



That said, here are five tips to help the transition go more smoothly.

1. Classrooms have lots of kids (yay, new friends!) and typically one or two adults. If you haven't started already, help your child build their confidence in independent skills such as opening items in their lunchbox, zipping and buttoning, washing their hands and all things bathroom related. They will feel so much better if the first time they are asked to do these things on their own isn't their first day of school when everything else is new, too.

2. That said, teachers and everyone else in schools know that kindergarteners are not completely independent and are there to help to the best of their capacity. The best way for your child to get that help is to ask for it. This is a great skill to practice in advance.

For example, you might ask, "What will you say if you can't open your milk?"

3. Change is hard. Start new parts of your routine earlier rather than later, when possible, to make for fewer changes on the first day. Bedtime and morning routines are great places to start. Perhaps an unpopular opinion: To the best of your ability, start day one of school with the routine you will be following on day two forward. Doing something different on the first day can make the second day feel like the first day all over again. Starting your routine on the first day builds confidence for day two and beyond.

4. Make sure your child knows that if they are feeling anxious or worried, that is normal.

Big changes can feel hard, at first. It's OK to feel anxious or worried (or feel any other way) and you can still have a good day and enjoy all the new and fun things at school.

5. After the first day or week of school, you are going to be so proud and relieved that you made it through. You should be! You also may be tempted to go out to celebrate, which again, you all deserve. Resist that urge. Your child is very likely running on an empty tank and may be too tired to enjoy the outing the way you would hope (or act in public the way you would hope). Low-key celebrations like a family movie night or playing in the park are likely to be more pleasant for everyone. Save those well-deserved outings for the weekend.

In the immortal words of Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Eyes up. Hearts up. Minds sharp. Compassion on full blast." Have a great school year!

Dr. Kathryn L. Roberts, a former kindergarten teacher, is a professor of reading, language and literature in Wayne State University's College of Education.

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.

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you for the nice article about the fire hydrant we donated to the Grosse Pointe Park dog park in Patterson Park. And thanks to Grosse Pointe Park for installing it in such a fun way.

Fire hydrants were being replaced in Birmingham where we lived before moving to Grosse Pointe Park. The work crew was kind enough to deliver one to our backyard for our flat-coated retriever, Bentley.

Bentley passed on before we moved, but we brought the hydrant with us as a remembrance. We are very happy to have it installed at the dog park as a memorial to him and to share with dogs in our community. We hope everyone and every dog enjoys it.

We love living in the Grosse Pointes.

PAUL & RENEE FERSHEE
Grosse Pointe Park

Facts

To the Editor:

I guess Brad Lindberg automatically assumes that every Muslim person with an Arabic name must be from Dearborn. It's been widely reported that Abdul El-Sayed grew up in Oakland County and now lives in Ann Arbor. Fact checking is such a chore.

WILLIAM WOOD
Grosse Pointe Farms

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Member Michigan Press Association, National Newspaper Association and Society of Professional Journalists

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Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	10%	50%	20%	20%	0%	10%
SUNRISE 6:44 am SUNSET 8:26 pm	SUNRISE 6:45 am SUNSET 8:25 pm	SUNRISE 6:46 am SUNSET 8:23 pm	SUNRISE 6:47 am SUNSET 8:22 pm	SUNRISE 6:48 am SUNSET 8:20 pm	SUNRISE 6:49 am SUNSET 8:19 pm	SUNRISE 6:50 am SUNSET 8:17 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Should private and public high school sports be separate?



One of the biggest debates in sports currently going on around the country, including here in Michigan, is the issue of competitive balance between private and public schools in high school sports. Being around high school sports, I have heard the topic brought up by several people in the community who feel one way or the other about whether high school sports state playoffs and championships for private and public schools should be separated.

Personally, I understand both sides of the argument. Many of the opinions I hear from people who favor separating private and public school sports come from parents of athletes at public schools who feel their kids' teams might not be given a fair chance at winning championships because of the perceived competitive advantages private schools have. I can see how that would be a frustrating feeling, but since I am not a parent myself yet, I can look at the topic more objectively. I believe a separation of private and public school sports in Michigan is not going to happen any time soon.

It feels like this debate has become particularly heated the last year or so, looking at who has won state championships in Michigan in some of the most widely followed sports. In 2025, five out of eight high school football state championships were won by private schools, including four of the five highest divisions. All four high school baseball state titles were won by private schools earlier this year during the spring sports season. Conversely, all four boys basketball state championships for the 2025-26 season were won by public schools and three out of four titles in girls basketball went to public school teams.

While private schools only make up about 14 percent of Michigan High School Athletic Association member institutions, it can still feel like they win a disproportionate number of championships. The biggest argument people make for private schools having a competitive advantage is that they can recruit and choose athletes from anywhere to attend their schools and play for their teams without being restricted by school district boundaries. Private schools can build the teams they want, while public schools have to build based on the talent within their respective districts.

Private schools also often have more freedom and money to do things like build better athletic facilities to attract elite athletes away from public schools. Some also believe athletes at private schools get more exposure to college scouts and better college programs purely based on reputation and the belief that these scouts and colleges are biased toward private schools because of prestige.

That perception of prestige is one thing that makes me believe separating private and public school sports championships might not be the best idea. If private schools begin competing for their own state championships, that perception might grow to the point where private school championships are seen as the more prestigious titles to win, therefore leading more athletes to choose private schools.

Right now, only nine states separate high school sports championships among private and public schools — Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine and New Jersey. Maryland, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia operate under a completely split model, meaning private and public schools have separate state championships and do not compete against each other during the regular season, which is something I definitely do not see happening in Michigan.

While the advantages some believe private schools have when it comes to athletics can be frustrating for people involved in public high school sports who feel like they cannot keep up, I do not think there is enough evidence yet to fully prove that separating state championships would be a good idea. Yes, some of the most recent examples suggest private schools are dominating. However, looking at Division I football, the biggest division of the most widely followed sport, last year's Detroit Catholic Central team was the first private school to win the state title since they won it in 2009. The Shamrocks had been to the state title game four times between those two titles and lost all four times to public school teams.

For now, public and private schools will keep competing against each other on the biggest stages in the state. While it is one of the most popular topics of debate among high school sports figures at the moment, I just do not see the MHSAA making any serious decisions right away. That is not to say that one day we might be living in a world where schools in Michigan are competing for separate titles, but I do not think high school athletes, coaches or parents should be holding their breath for it to happen any time soon.

A matter of clarification

The article "Socialists prevail in Park," published in the Aug. 13 edition, requires a correction and a clarification concerning Michigan U.S. Senate candidate Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed, who campaigns under the name Abdul El-Sayed.

Upon review of public records, a correction is warranted regarding El-Sayed's place of residence. Public title records indicate that property held in the name Mohamed-Abdulrahman El-Sayed is jointly owned by El-Sayed and his wife in Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County. El-Sayed's public disclosures also identify family-owned property in the Emirate of Dubai from which his family receives investment income.

As to the characterization of El-Sayed as a socialist, further clarification is warranted. El-Sayed has publicly stated that he is not a socialist, and the Democratic Socialists of America did not formally endorse his campaign. At the same time, El-Sayed has had significant ties to leaders and organizations associated with the democratic-socialist movement, including fundraising activity benefiting the Detroit chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, and he has been described as a friend of the chapter. He has also received the support of prominent federally elected officials affiliated with the DSA, and many of his stated policy positions closely align with positions advanced by the democratic-socialist movement.

Accordingly, it would be more precise to state that El-Sayed has significant ties to prominent socialist leaders and organizations in the United States and has adopted many policy positions associated with that movement, while publicly disavowing the characterization that he himself is a socialist.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1951

75 years ago this week

BIG ORE BOAT JUMPS TRACK OFF POINTE: An SOS sparked through the ozone from the 585-foot freighter "Norman B. Ream" as she ran afoul of the edge of the ship channel near Buoy No. 7 off of Grosse Pointe early Monday morning, August 20. The huge ore boat was in no immediate danger as she pushed her starboard bow into the blue clay and rocks of the channel bank.

SONGSTERS ASKED TO TONE DOWN: A Lincoln Road resident lodged a nuisance complaint against employees of the Mondry Cleaners plant at 375 Fisher on August 16. The complainant stated that employees sing from their arrival at 6 a.m. until their dismissal in the afternoon. Police notified the plant manager of the complaint. He promised to take steps to alleviate the condition.

1976

50 years ago this week

HOSPITAL PLAN OPPOSED: Grosse Pointe City Attorney Richard Hinks told citizens and council members at a meeting August 16, that they may have a chance at stopping further Bon Secours Hospital expansion into a neighboring terrace — but they'll have to go to Wayne County Circuit Court to do it. The hospital requested permits from the city to remodel and renovate a four-unit terrace at 405-415 Notre Dame Avenue to accommodate a group of Sisters of Bon Secours.

GPEA CALLS SCHOOL PLAN ILLEGAL STEP: The Board of Education announced last week it is taking applications for six new administrative positions for the coming school year, all of them

See HEADLINES, page 8A

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Helm director, SideStreet owner join Main Street board

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "I've been at this location for almost 16 years," said Meghan Spicer Josefosky, co-owner of SideStreet Diner in The Village. "I was here before there was a Main Street (Grosse Pointe) and I'm here now with Main Street, and I can tell you that it's tremendously better now than it was."

Main Street Grosse Pointe is a volunteer-based working board supported by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. It was formed in 2020, when officials sought a way to revitalize the city's downtown district, which was suffering a plethora of vacancies at the time.

Board members serve staggered four-year terms and focus their energy on driving foot traffic to The Village, attracting new businesses, helping current small businesses obtain grants, improving upon aesthetics with public art and plantings, developing downtown guidelines like the social district and Walk your Wheels zone, and organizing downtown events including the annual Art Takeover and summer evening Music on the Plaza events.

"Small business owners have a lot on their plates," Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock said. "Besides running their businesses, they have real lives that they have to address. ... They have a very finite amount of time, so the fact that we have people in the community who want to step up and be part of the board to continue the growth and to continue supporting everybody in The Village and not just their own interests, it takes really special people."

Spicer Josefosky was newly appointed to the Main Street board last month, as was Krista Siddall, executive director of The Helm, which earlier this summer opened the Wilson Day Center in The Village, serving as an adult day-care for seniors living with cognitive decline.

"I'm honored they asked me," said Siddall, who was invited to her new seat at the table by Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak. "I'm honored to help contribute to this community. ... I live in Grosse Pointe and so from a personal standpoint, I have a vested interest because I shop down there all the time. I get my hair done down there. I go and get food down there. I can walk there from my house.

"But on the professional side, I'm also interested in having a vital downtown, because we have to support that as a business owner in the area as well."

Siddall brings to the board a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, community engagement, fundraising, partnership development and "a little bit of finance," she said.

"I was really interested in supporting that board and supporting the board's growth," she added. "I know we're going to be working on some board leadership and some strategic planning right now, so that actually is right up my alley and my interest is to help lead that and play a role in that as well."

Spicer Josefosky is the first Village restaurant representative to serve on the Main Street board, bringing a fresh perspective and insight into the unique challenges of eateries in a downtown district.

"I love The Village," she said. "I love being there and I want everybody to feel that energy. I bring enthusiasm. I bring two arms, two legs. Maybe sometimes all they really need is somebody to help pick up trash. I'll do that. I'll knock on doors and pound the pavement. So what do I bring? I bring what anybody else could bring.

"Maybe my expertise is restaurants and maybe someone else's is gardening. We need volunteers. We need participants. We need people to be as enthused about The Village as they should be, because without The Village our community would look a lot different."

The current Main Street Grosse Pointe board lineup is Chairman Chris Moyer, city councilman; Vice Chairwoman Didi DeBoer, resident; Immediate Past Chairwoman Kasey

See BOARD, page 9A





COURTESY PHOTOS

Krista Siddall, left, and Meghan Spicer Josefosky are the newest members of the Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors.

HEADLINES:

Continued from page 7A

reclassifications of non-administrative jobs formerly held by Grosse Pointe Education Association members. GPEA officials are calling the board's move a violation of their contract and say they will file an unfair labor practice charge with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission on the matter.

TRIO OF MUNICIPALITIES AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN DISPATCH PLAN: Interest in the proposed centralized police and fire dispatch system from the standpoint of direct participation has apparently waned for communities at this time. While remaining under study in all the Pointes and Harper Woods, officials in the Woods, Shores and Harper Woods indicated last week the system might not be that advantageous to their cities.

2001

25 years ago this week

WOODS-SHORES TEAM WINS STATE BABE RUTH TITLE: A rough season in the Macomb Amateur Baseball Federation turned out to be a blessing for the Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Thunder when it played in the 14-year-old Babe Ruth state tournament. "They threw us into a Class A league and we took our lumps in some games, but the kids were resilient," said manager Mike Slomski. "It toughened them up for the state tournament."

PLANNERS GIVE SHOP OWNERS WRONG SIGNAL IN THE WOODS: A generation after the hippie anthem protested "Signs, signs, everywhere are signs," disciples in Grosse Pointe Woods city government have picked up the tune. Due to the interpretation of an ordinance the city's longtime mayor said was too broad, the owners of a mom-and-pop gift shop on Mack Avenue have been hung out to dry by not being allowed to hang up a sign.

2016

10 years ago this week

REZONING GOLD FOR TENNIS HOUSE CONDOS: As Week 2 of Olympic competition continues in Brazil, a hometown developer completed three laps of a legislative steeplechase toward revamping an indoor tennis club into condominiums for empty-nesters starting at $500,000. Developers cleared the first hurdle when a unanimous Grosse Pointe Farms city council Monday, Aug. 15, rezoned club property at the tip of dead-end Moselle Place from a recreation to multi-family residential district.

NEW ACADEMY HEAD PREPARES TO STEP FORWARD: Thomas "Tommy" Adams, Grosse Pointe Academy's new head of school, noticed some changes in the independent school world when he attended the Institute for New Heads July 11 to 17. Hosted by the National Association of Independent Schools in Atlanta, Ga., the institute prepares new heads of school for successful leadership transitions.

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COACH:

Continued from page 3A

some ability. I was really excited because they were city champs."

Kaye said he showed up to the first practice and there were about 90 other boys.

"I swam one lap, got out of the pool and never went back," he said. "I didn't even know how to swim with my head in the water."

Kaye said he would hang around after school, as if he were at practice, then rub snow in his hair before going home to make it seem like he'd been in the pool.

"That lasted about a week," he laughed. "Dad wasn't happy."

The coach asked him to join the team his senior year, but this time Kaye stuck with it, swimming in two meets and dropping his time in both.

"I was playing street football with some friends and ran right into a parked car and broke my leg," he recalled. "That was the end of that season."

Because the Hunt Club team was so small, Kaye was always recruiting swimmers.

"We had just joined and were there for Memorial Day," said Jackie Addis, Hartnett's mother. "I think she was about 7 and he said if she could swim one lap, she was on the team. They needed one more for the relays."

According to Cobau's scrapbook, there were several families that had multiple siblings swim for the Hunt Club, including his, as well as the Lamb, Stedem, Measelle, Palucci and Chase families.

None, however, were as legendary as the mythical Fargnarski family.

"The first year we went to the MICSA finals, we didn't have any older boys, so we couldn't swim any relays," Kaye said. "I made up the name and put it on our roster just to try and make it look more impressive.

"Every year it was someone new," he laughed. "Aganard, Fred, Frenchy. I did that for about a dozen years."

Kaye resumed swimming in college at the Detroit Institute of Technology, where he majored in English.

"I bought a book on swimming and would go to the YMCA in the morning and then our practice in the afternoon," he said. "My junior year, we swam against Bowling Green State University, which had been undefeated for three or four years. I was on the 440-yard freestyle relay and we won, beating them by one point. The team went crazy."

Kaye said his coaching philosophy was always to have the last lap of the season be a swimmer's best lap of the season.

"If you're talented and work hard, you can get a college scholarship," he said.

One of those is Tim DeCoste, a 1985 Lakeview graduate who swam for Kaye there and later captained the Wayne State University team.

"Ray is one of the most instrumental coaches I ever had," said DeCoste, a Woods resident who also is president and CFO of Pointe Aquatics. "He had the knack to allow me to swim what I wanted to swim in order to further my career. He also worked well with my club coach to let him be a partner in my high school career."

DeCoste and Kaye live in the same neighborhood and talk often.

"I'd see him out riding his bike and he'd stop," DeCoste said. "He knew my kids' times before I even told him, he just loves swimming. Our relationship has grown from coach to peers and it's grown because he's an elder in the swimming community. I've learned a lot from him and he's the only teacher from high school I'm still friends with."

Kaye said he is grateful for the career he has had.

"My job was to make sure every kid enjoyed swimming no matter their ability," he said. "Improve, improve, improve. That was my philosophy all along."





PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

In loving memory

Kelly Morawski, who teaches in an ASD classroom at Kerby Elementary School, was walking by the rock on Grosse Pointe South High School's front lawn and noticed it was blank. An idea blossomed and she set out to see who could paint the rock in honor of Grosse Pointe Public School System teacher Megan Brown, who passed away from cancer earlier this month.

Morawski was told rock-painting projects had to be led by students, so she looked for an in and was connected with Melissa Riddle, whose daughter, Olivia, is the president of the Grosse Pointe South student club, Cards for Cancer. She contacted Olivia Riddle and things began to fall into place.

The student club got together Monday, Aug. 17, and painted the rock in honor of Brown, who over 18 years taught at Defer Elementary School, then Richard Elementary School and finally at Kerby. She was teaching fourth grade when she was diagnosed.

Her husband, Pat Brown, who also is a teacher in GPPSS, checked out the rock after it was painted and said, "The rock was absolutely perfect. I know Megan would've loved it. It's a perfect symbol of the community's love for her and their support for our family in this difficult time."

Left, Grosse Pointe South Cards for Cancer Club members painted the rock with a message and pink polka dots. From left are Sophie Koop, Caroline Bryan, Emmy Brown, Vivian Jacob, Gianna Piazza, Olivia Riddle, Elle Sutorka, Reese Kalpin, Halina Buckman and Randi Kester.

Right, teachers, from left, are Gigi Murray, Yvette Vetor, Beth Rainbolt, Kelly Morawski, Holly Bayster, Therese Schrage, Karen Boon and Brooke Farrell. They collectively reflected on how they all came together: "Every single one of us is connected through Megan. At some point in time throughout all of our careers some of us taught with Megan, or Megan taught many of our own children and some of us even taught Megan's kids. Whatever our path to knowing her may be, we wanted to come together to honor Megan and to support the Brown family. We're so grateful to the Cards for Cancer student club for making this special memorial happen."

— Renee Landuyt

Former Pointer wins international leadership award

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

When Katherine Zachary broke into the corporate world with Nissan in 2004, she said she often was "the only woman in the room during meetings."

Now vice president of international communications for the company, she puts a strong emphasis on mentoring female colleagues.

"I did have people mentor me coming up and that's important," she said. "It's important to support and grow all of your talent."

For her efforts, Zachary was given the 2025 Leadership Excellence Award by the Women Automotive Network, a group of more than 50,000 professionals supporting women in the automotive industry across all fields of work.

She also teaches a master's level class at the Sorbonne in Paris, where she has lived and worked since 2015, in international communications.

"It's such a pleasure to give back to the younger generation," she said. "Plus, it's in English, which is good. I'm studying French but not quite there yet."

Zachary spoke with the Grosse Pointe News while she was back visiting for three weeks.

"My family has been heavily involved with Assumption (Greek Orthodox Church) for years," she said. "So I timed my trip to be here for the festival."

Zachary grew up in Detroit until the age of 12, attending University Liggett School through seventh grade.

"We moved to the Park and I went to Pierce (Middle School) for eighth grade," she said. "Eventually we moved to the Farms."

The 1990 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate worked at The Tower while there.

"The late, great Bob Button awakened my love for journalism," Zachary recalled. "He shaped my interest in news and it was a wonderful experience. We were very hands-on like proper journalists."

She also played clarinet in the school band.

"My mom's a retired band director," she laughed. "She'd kill me if I didn't mention that."

Zachary got her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1994 and worked one year at the Gaylord Herald Times.

"We printed a snow tally in every issue and the year I was there we had 234 inches of snow," she said. "I couldn't stay."

Zachary worked in the automotive press around Detroit before joining Nissan.

"I was in Nashville from 2006 to 2012, then had a two-year assignment in Switzerland," she said. "When that was done, I had the opportunity to move back or go to Paris with a promotion. It was a pretty easy choice."

From there, she oversees communications across 140 markets in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, India and Oceania.

"We work across very diverse cultures, which is a wonderful experience."

Zachary said she enjoys Paris for its live music, art and food.

"The French know how to live the good life," she laughed.

A bar in town shows NFL games, so she can keep track of the Lions.

"My brother was visiting, so we went there to watch the Lions and there was a group of guys from Grosse Pointe," she said. "We kind of knew them and their families."



COURTESY PHOTO

Katherine Zachary

She'll have a shorter trip when she goes to see the Lions play in Germany in November than fans traveling from the Motor City.

"I called a friend back here who has season tickets and he was able to set me up."

Zachary said she usually comes back to visit two or three times a year, particularly for the holidays and family milestones, as well as to visit her mom, Elizabeth, who lives in the Park and dad, Ernest, who lives in Indian Village.

"I love the strong community that Grosse Pointe is and love seeing friends and family," she added. "Even though it continues to evolve, it's still home."

BOARD:

Continued from page 8A

Malley, owner of Small Favors; Tomkowiak; Michelle Boggess-Nunley, owner of Posterity Gallery; Anne Murphy, owner of Apple Blossom Baby; Siddall; Spicer Josefosky; and June Lee, Wayne County representative.

The board position of secretary/treasurer currently is vacant.

"If we all work together, we can execute this plan," Spicer Josefosky said. "We've come so far, but we have more to do."



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PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Andy Curcuru, owner of Ripe Records Detroit on Kercheval, stocks a limited-edition, blue vinyl 30th anniversary commemorative reprint of an album by the Detroit glam-punk band, Trash Brats.

Vinyl Day holds sway

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Andy Curcuru, owner of Ripe Records Detroit on Kercheval, used non-technical terms on National Vinyl Record Day to explain why he thinks vinyl records reproduce music better than digital recordings.

Curcuru said a record delivers a wider range of sound than a streamed track does.

"It's the wide range of analog listening," he said while restocking some of his 10,000-album inventory Aug. 12.

It has to do with data storing methods, including compression, a process of reducing the size of audio files.

Curcuru represented the concept using hand gestures.

"A wave file is like this," he said, spreading his palms nearly two feet apart. "That's like one note."

He added, compressing the distance between his palms to less than one foot, "On a compact disc, you get like this."

Curcuru said some vinyl albums, normally manufactured to play at 78 rpm, are being made to spin at 45 rpm to reproduce even clearer sound.

"With half-speed vinyl records you can really hear the difference," he said. "But you have to have the stereo to do that."

National Vinyl Record Day was founded in 2002 by a California enthusiast. The celebration on the date Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877.

Home invader hearing postponed

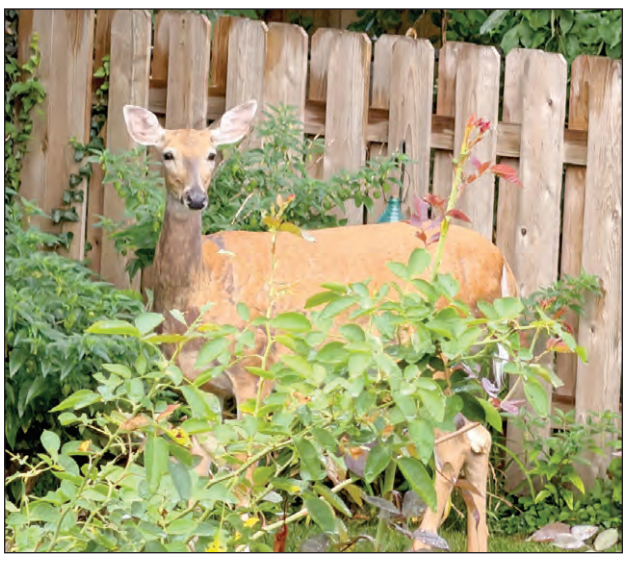
The probable cause conference for Charles Edward Earl, 42, again was postponed to give his new attorney time to work on the case, given he last month demanded his prior attorney be dismissed.

"There's some unique facts in this case and there's some discovery that needs to be reviewed and there's also a plea that needs to be discussed," Attorney Christopher Quinn II said. "... So we need another PCC date and then we'll be able to make a decision from there."

Earl is charged with home invasion and two counts of unlawful imprisonment after entering a home near Webster and Calvin through an unlocked back door and barricading himself in an upstairs bedroom where two young children were sleeping. The family ultimately was unharmed.

The probable cause conference is scheduled for noon Wednesday, Aug. 26.

— Laurel Kraus



COURTESY PHOTO

Deer me!

Jennifer Backman of Grosse Pointe Farms sent in a photo her neighbor, Mark Brooks, took the morning of Aug. 6, in Backman's backyard in the 100 block of Moran. The whitetail doe was by herself munching on a raspberry bush and appears to be molting, which occurs in the spring to swap a heavy winter coat for a thin summer coat then again in late summer/early fall to grow a thicker winter coat. This was the first time a deer came into the Backman's yard.

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Celebrate 'Cityscapes'

GPAA exhibition displayed through Sept. 25

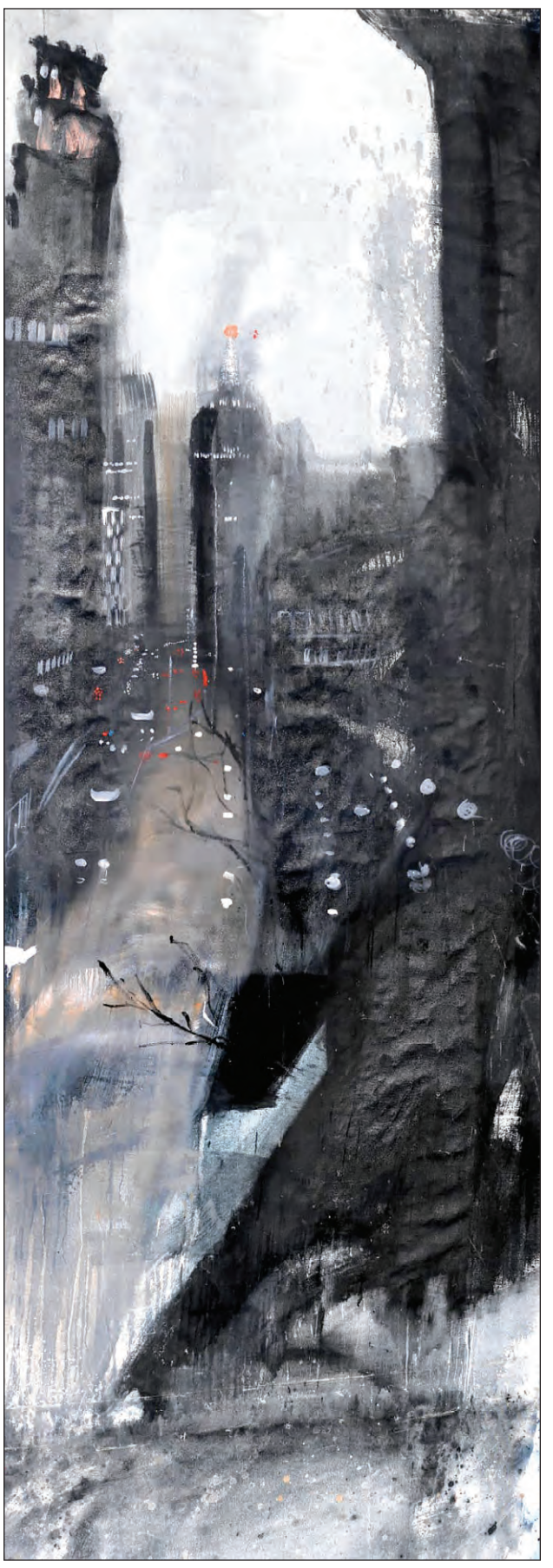
By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association received more than 200 pieces of art when it put out a call for its "Cityscapes" exhibition.

Entries were pared down to include 73 artists, whose works are displayed through Friday, Sept. 25, at the GPAA gallery inside The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Grace Serra served as juror for the show, for which artists created their own visual studies of the relationship between humanity and the built environment. Serra, senior director of the Wayne State University Art Collection and Galleries, has more than 30 years of experience coordinating major art installations like those in the Detroit People Mover stations.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

Above, "Midtown from Queens, New York," by Clayton Lewis, placed second. Right, "Rendezvous," by Jeff Renaud, placed first.

First place was awarded to Jeff Renaud for "Rendezvous," an oil painting on stretched canvas. Renaud created the piece while renting a studio in Detroit's Capital Park.



"City Beat," by Lisa Sabo Brown, earned honorable mention.

"The painting is a reflection of Griswold Street on a rainy night in downtown Detroit," he wrote in his artist's description. "I was captivated by the city's quiet beauty after dark and felt a strong urgency to capture that fleeting atmosphere on canvas. It can be difficult to appreciate a single moment when viewing a city as a whole. Cityscapes offer a way to pause and focus on those brief, often overlooked experiences — moments of light reflection and stillness that reveal the character and soul of a place. 'Rendezvous' is my attempt to preserve one of those moments."

Clayton Lewis placed second for "Midtown from Queens, New York," an acrylic painting and collage that blends paint with cut paper, historic photos and posters.

Third place was awarded to Stuart Ratner for "Toledo Waterfront Corner," a photograph printed on archival paper.

"After a walk on the Anthony Wayne Bridge in Toledo, Ohio, I returned at dusk to find this scene at the base of the bridge," Ratner wrote. "I spent my early childhood in northern Manhattan, often being loomed over by enormous bridges, and I am still thrilled by bridge neighborhoods."

Honorable mentions were awarded to Lisa Sabo Brown for "City Beat," Vincent Coakley for "Hustle and Bustle" and Mary Taitt for "Cityscape from Williamsburg Bridge."

"Everybody gets excited about the natural environment, but most of us live in cities," GPAA President Karen Pope said. "This really is about our daily experiences."

"Cityscapes" features the work of artists from 10 states and Washington, D.C. The broad scope was generated through the use of EntryThingy, which sends the call for art across the country.

"It also offers a fairer environment for the juror," said Pope, noting pieces are judged anonymously through the software. "We like the diversity that it brings."

See GPAA, page 3B



New photographer Vincent Coakley received honorable mention for "Hustle and Bustle."



"Toledo Waterfront Corner," by Stuart Ratner, placed third in judging.

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Holocaust survivor celebrates 90th with documentary, Q&A



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA LECHNIAK

Olga Lechniak turns 90 on Aug. 21.

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Most people spend a 90th birthday looking back on the good years. Victoria "Olga" Lechniak is inviting the community to look back with her at the worst ones — three concentration camps, a train full of dying prisoners and the American soldiers she still calls her "angels of mercy."

Her party, which takes place 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, will be no ordinary birthday soiree. Hosted at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, the event will include a screening of the documentary, "World War II Through the Eyes of a Child: Olga's Story," followed by a Q&A during which Lechniak will speak about the time she spent in three concentration camps during World War II.

Born Aug. 21, 1936, in Zhadova, now part of Ukraine, Lechniak was 8 years old when her village and home were invaded by Russian soldiers. They pulled "holy pictures" off the wall and replaced them with images of Joseph Stalin, telling the family, "You need to pray to him."

Ten million people were left without shelter as tens of thousands of villages and towns were razed and burned, including Zhadova.

Lechniak's family fled to the Carpathian Mountains to escape Russian soldiers, but eventually were discovered and imprisoned by Germans.

The horrors she witnessed still resonate with her.

She remembers being crammed onto a train car, standing for hours while people died around her.

"The trains came to put us in concentration camps," Lechniak said. "They were animal trains. There were no windows, no straw on the floor. We had no water, no food. The Germans put 70 people in one car. You witnessed people dying. … Grandma said, 'Pray and be quiet.'

"… They brought us to Auschwitz, but kept us in those trains like animals for hours," she added.

She remembers walls of bones stacked behind the crematorium.

"I saw something falling down from the sky; I thought it was snow, but it couldn't snow in June," she said. "My grandma said, 'It's not snow; it's people who went to be with the Lord.'"

She remembers standing in line for a shower and wondering why people were going in, but no one was coming out.

"I asked my grandma, 'Where are they?' She said, 'You just keep praying.'"

Lechniak and some of her family members survived the Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps before being rescued by American soldiers in 1945.

"Thousands were displaced," she said. "We were assigned to a stalag in Dachau."

Just before Christmas at the DP, or displaced persons, camp, men and women were separated and a new fear arose.

"We were all crying, trembling," she said. "They were handing women lipstick and the men were handed razors — like Christmas gifts. They said, 'Get ready.' We thought we were going to die. When they opened the doors, we saw tables covered with white cloth, with food and bread and oranges. Everybody began to cry and they started to sing 'Silent Night' in German. We thought we were dreaming. At first we were hungry, but when we saw all that food everyone was too emotional to eat. It was heaven on earth.

"… The American soldiers, we called them our angels of mercy," she added. "They offered us clothes and shoes. I'd never seen a tennis shoe before. They gave us Army cots and blankets. I can't believe how great Americans are."

Lechniak spent five years in Germany, awaiting sponsorship to come to the United States. Even post-war, more of her prayers were answered.

While escaping Russian forces, she contracted internal measles, the effects of which later arose. Her mother was told by an American doctor in Germany that she would lose her eyesight and hearing. With fluids leaking from her ears and a black bandage covering her bloodshot eyes, she moved toward a patch of sunlight in her hospital room, where she could feel the warmth of the sun but not see it. It was Easter and she wanted nothing more than one last trip to

See HEAVEN, page 6B

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Family Center

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

◆ The Healing Circle: Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group is a collaboration between The Family Center and Kevin's Song to help those impacted by suicide loss cope with their grief. The group meets at 4:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, beginning Aug. 20, at The War Memorial.

◆ Grief Work Support Group helps people develop resilience and be intentional in their grief, so they can grow in wisdom and connection to themselves and others. The group meets at noon the second Tuesday of the month at the Harper Woods Library and noon the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Ewald Library.

The Helm

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

◆ The Novel Network Book Club, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, featuring "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.

◆ Effective Estate Planning, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, with attorneys from Rickard and Associates.

◆ Cooking Fall Delights, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, with Olga Merametdjian.

◆ Friday Lunch & A Movie, "The Magic of Belle Isle," noon Friday, Aug. 28. Cost is $10.

◆ Electronic Device Tutoring, noon to 3 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

◆ Conversational French for Beginners, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.

◆ Conversational French for Intermediates, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, beginning Jan. 20.

◆ Young Onset Parkinson's Support Group, 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, with facilitator Angela Ferrara.

◆ Low Vision Support Group, 10 to 11:30 a.m. the third Monday of each month.

◆ Blood Pressure Screening, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. the third Thursday of each month with Mary Jo Fresard of Sunrise Senior Living.

◆ Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 5 to 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, with Carolyn Van Dorn of Nursing Unlimited.

◆ Living On, hosted by Hospice of Michigan, 10 to 11 a.m. the first and third Fridays of the month.

◆ Share for Dementia, by appointment only, with care consultants LaTonya Connally and Deb Sloss.

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

◆ Vet-to-Vet, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

◆ Night Cap, featuring Aunt Comet, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20. General admission is $20 in advance, $25 at the door.

◆ Picnic & Play by the Lake, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27.

◆ The Return of the Bald Eagle in Michigan: A presentation by Dr. Carl Palazzolo, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27.

◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Queen and The Beatles, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2. Ticket prices vary.

◆ Candlelight: Tribute to Linkin Park, 9:15 to 10:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2. Ticket prices vary.

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

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Gettin' Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24.

◆ Crafterhours, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ Poetry Workshop with M.L. Liebler, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20.

◆ The Keep it Simple Sing Along and Jam, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26.

◆ Playtime Pop-Ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 27.

◆ GPPL Friends $5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29.

Reunions

The Grosse Pointe South High School Class of 1986 reunion takes place Saturday, Aug. 22. A tour of Grosse Pointe South begins at 10 a.m. and the reunion takes place 6 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 1971 will celebrate its 55th class reunion 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Fishbones Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, 23722 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a cash bar will be available. For information, visit gpn1971.org

See EVENTS, page 6B





PHOTO COURTESY OF LYLA KIM

Rotary Assistant Gov. Renee Yancy, Rotary of Grosse Pointe President Dave Colton, the Hamsaye Network's Annaliese Myers and Kaleigh Peters and The War Memorial's Meredith Hanoian.

Multiple missions

On Aug. 12, Meredith Hanoian, fundraising and development director for The War Memorial, spoke to the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club about the history of The War Memorial and its contributions to the Grosse Pointe community.

Hanoian said the memorial was born out of a desire to honor those who served during World War II and to create a place where their service would never be forgotten. Since its opening in 1949, it has grown into a community gathering place dedicated to offering education, patriotism, culture, history and service. Its mission is to honor the past while creating meaningful opportunities for the community today and for generations to come.

The War Memorial currently is looking for volunteers to help and donate to events. Those interested may visit warmemorial.org.

The club also welcomed visitors, including Rotary Assistant Gov. Renee Yancy, who introduced two women, Annaliese Myers and Kaleigh Peters, who have worked and served in Iraq and Lebanon with the Hamsaye Network, a humanitarian aid organization that focuses on providing and improving the quality of maternal-child health care.

Around the world, many mothers and babies do not have access to basic medical care during childbirth. The Hamsaye Network helps by providing maternity care, training, health care workers and resources to communities to reduce infant mortality rates and improve access to basic care. Learn more at thehamsayenetwork.org

Personal mission

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomed guest speaker Nancy Darga — a polio survivor, former mayor of Northville and former president of the Livonia AM Rotary Club — to its Aug. 4 meeting at Ford House.

Darga shared her story of contracting polio as an infant in 1954 and growing up with the lasting effects of the disease. She discussed how her family became her caregivers when little was known about polio, helping her learn to walk and navigate the challenges of growing up with a disability. She also spoke about the years she spent hiding the fact she was a polio survivor and the hurtful experiences that shaped her perspective.

Darga's presentation connected her personal journey to Rotary International's ongoing fight to eradicate polio and offered a reminder that resilience, asking for help and coming together can help create meaningful change.

The Grosse Pointe Run is the Sunrise Rotary Club's main fundraising event for local high school students' college scholarships. The club reminds the community to support students during the annual 5K/10K/walk Sept. 19. Register at grossepointerun.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE TROST

Guest speaker Nancy Darga stands with Sunrise Rotary President Bob Grambo.

After theft, Arc seeks help through GoFundMe

The Arc of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods, an organization that works with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to advocate for their rights to participate fully within the community, now seeks the community's help.

Near the end of July, it was discovered that four of its bicycles — two 26-inch Meridian adaptive trikes and two 20-inch two-wheel bikes — had been stolen.

In an effort to replace the bikes, as well as create safer storage for them, the organization has started a GoFundMe, with a goal of raising $10,000.

"These weren't just bikes," the GoFundMe plea reads. "They were a source of joy, freedom, confidence and inclusion for the children and individuals we serve. Whether learning a new skill, building independence or simply enjoying a summer day with friends, these bikes have created countless meaningful memories.

"Over the years, many of our bikes have been generously donated by caring individuals and local businesses. The incredible support of our community has allowed us to provide experiences that might not otherwise be possible and we are deeply grateful."

Contributions to the cause are slowly trickling in — $1,340 has been raised as of press time — and more help is needed.

Donations may be made online at gofundme.com/f/support-the-arc-grosse-pointe-harper-woods.

"Every contribution, big or small, makes a real impact," the plea reads. "Even just a few dollars can help move this mission forward and reach those who need it most."



"City of Dreams" by Vasu Tolia is mixed media on canvas.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN POPE

"Ann Arbor Evening Walk" by Mary Dice is the exhibition's only needle felting piece.



Juror Grace Serra awarded honorable mention to photographer Vincent Coakley.



"Late Night," an oil on canvas by Peggy Stulberg.



Sara Wolf created "Quo Vadis" using soft pastel on Canson velvet.





Above, Richard Amori's charcoal on paper, "Bankers Trust Company Building, Detroit." Left, "Cityscape from Williamsburg Bridge," a black-and-white scratchboard piece by Mary Taitt, earned honorable mention.

GPAA:

Continued from page 1B

Local artists mingled with out-of-state artists who attended the Aug. 6 Gallery Talk, during which Serra spoke about her award-winning selections.

"In the era of social media, one thing we offer is an opportunity to really talk to each other," Pope said. "We want to develop some sense of community. It's rewarding to hear local people talk about how we've developed a community of artists who get to talk to each other. We've done a lot to foster that."

An artist-to-artist talk is planned for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, during which exhibiting artists "get together to talk shop," Pope said.

There's no charge to attend, but registration is required.

In the GPAA guest gallery, artwork from members of FOCUS, a photography group that meets monthly at Scarab Club, is displayed through Friday, Sept. 25. The exhibition follows the theme "Water." Artists will talk about their work at a gathering from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, in the gallery.

"Our next show is 'My Michigan: Our Rivers, Our Lakes,'" Pope said. "The juror is a park ranger who used to work at the Detroit Institute of Arts; he's also an artist."

Deadline for entries is Monday, Sept. 7.

The GPAA gallery is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit grossepointeartcenter.org or call (313) 881-3454.

"It's really exciting to see us blooming," Pope said. "We're really having success in proving that art can make everybody's life better, to use it as outlet for thoughts and emotions."

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.

John Dana Standish

John Dana Standish, 91, passed away peacefully Monday, Aug. 10, 2026.

John was born Aug. 30, 1934, in Detroit. He lived a life marked by dedication to his family, community, country and the game of golf, which he loved dearly. He proudly served his country during the Korean War and enjoyed a successful career in banking.

Golf was one of the greatest passions of John's life. He was a member of the Country Club of Detroit since 1956 and became its longest active golf member, a distinction that reflected not only his enduring love for the game, but also the many friendships and memories he made along the way.

He served as past president of the Country Club of Detroit and past president of the Golf Association of Michigan. He also dedicated countless hours to the Western Golf Association and its Evans Scholars Program, supporting opportunities for young people through the game he cherished.

John believed deeply in giving back to his community. He generously devoted his time to Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital and the Michigan Woodworkers Guild and was an active and devoted member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

John was predeceased by his beloved wife, Judith Knaggs Standish; as well as his parents and siblings. He is survived by his daughter, Virginia Standish Moran (John); son, John Dana Standish Jr. (Suzie); grandchildren, Meghan Standish Moran, John Dana Standish III and Stuart Thibodeau Standish; and many adoring nieces and nephews.

John will be remembered by his family and friends not only for his many accomplishments, but for the life he built around the people and communities he loved. His devotion to his family, service to others, love of golf and commitment to giving back will continue to define his legacy. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A memorial service was held at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

—

Howard Bones Hill

Howard Bones Hill, 80, died Monday, Aug. 10, 2026, at home in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Known as "Shorts" to those who knew him as a boy, he was born in Richmond, Va., and grew up in Montana, where he became an Eagle Scout and first learned the love of the outdoors that stayed with him all his life.

As a child with asthma, Howard found his hero in Teddy Roosevelt, a man who refused to let his lungs decide what he could and couldn't do. Howard took that lesson to heart and never put it down. The advice he gave his kids, prompted and just as often unprompted, always came back to the same thing: Be resilient, bounce back and never give up. Or, "If you get knocked down, get right back up."

He lived that mantra himself. Howard graduated from Northwestern University and earned a law degree from Columbia University before beginning a career as an international lawyer, taking him to firms in London, New York and Detroit. He served as Asia general counsel for Union Carbide, based in Hong Kong, where he fell in love with sailboats. That passion carried him through overnight races and two turns skippering the Bayview Mackinac Race.

In 1985, he joined Chrysler's law department and moved to Grosse Pointe, where he led negotiations to acquire American Motors, bringing the Jeep brand to Chrysler. He later became general counsel of Acustar, Chrysler's parts supplier, and helped bring the 1994 FIFA World Cup to Detroit. He also served as president of the Detroit International Bar Association. Even in his later years, he never stopped building and launched an outsourced legal firm that drew on his network across India and the U.S.

The people who loved him will remember the smaller things the most. They'll remember him on the sideline of a soccer field, cheering, coaching and starting the Grosse Pointe South High School girls lacrosse team as its very first coach; they'll remember toasted cheese sandwiches on Sundays after church and the annual Father's Day camping trip with his kids and grandkids, including campfires, hikes and roasted rutabaga; and they'll remember his refusal to slow down. In his 60s, he biked 100 miles, completed an Olympic triathlon and ran the Detroit Free Press Marathon with "Team in Training," with his son running the last five miles beside him while his grandchildren cheered. As he told the Grosse Pointe News after one of the races, "There's something in you that says, I'm going to keep striving no matter what." A heart attack and open-heart surgery 10 years ago barely gave him pause; he simply turned to swimming, hiking and walking his dogs and kept moving. His son still uses that bike today in triathlons.

Howard loved Grand Teton National Park, the open trail and the company of a good dog. He was forever picking up litter on hikes and in parks, and kept dog biscuits in his pocket for the friendly dogs of the neighborhood. Near the end of his life, a few of those dogs took to sitting on his lawn, waiting patiently for Howard to come out with the treat they'd come to count on.

He was married to Victoria Birk Hill for 22 years and previously to Roberta Gaspar for 25 years. He was predeceased by his brother, Danny Hill. He is survived by his five children, Ted Hill (Sara Kate) of New Albany, Ohio, Erica Hill (John) of Aberdeen, Scotland, Heather Hill (Dustin) of Hudson, Wis., and Emily Hill and Dalice Birk of Grosse Pointe; and by his seven grandchildren, Haze, Chris, Claire and Holden Hill, Olaira Birk and Elijiah and Kailani Berg.

Howard valued the gift of clean parks and streams. In lieu of flowers, he asked for those wishing to honor his memory to pick up litter, keep the outdoors clean and healthy for the next generation and give a treat to a friendly dog.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.



John Dana Standish



Howard Bones Hill



Jacquelyn M. Wilson

—

Jacquelyn M. Wilson

Jacquelyn M. Wilson, 82, of Grosse Pointe Farms, died Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026, surrounded by her children, after a sudden illness.

Jackie was born Nov. 7, 1943, in Monroe, to Foster and Dorothy McPherson. Jackie was one of six siblings, growing up with four sisters and one brother. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University and was a dedicated teacher for many years with the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

She loved spending time with her daughter, Deb, who is a teacher like her mom. She also enjoyed playing cards and board games. She was an avid bowler and proud of her recent 200 game. She spoke daily with her son, a lawyer like his dad, and enjoyed hearing how her grandchildren were thriving in school and life.

Jackie loved the Hallmark Channel, listening to audiobooks in her car, shrimp cocktail and cards. In the weeks before her illness, she spent time with friends and family, including playing Codewords online with her friends the night before she became ill. She was loved by her family and friends and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Jackie was predeceased by her husband, Edward Reilly Wilson III; and sisters, Dorothy Grace Paupst, Millie Illum, Janice Range and Jodi McPherson. She is survived by her children, Debra Susan Wilson and Edward Dale Wilson (Jennifer); grandchildren, Seth and Josh; and brother, Jim McPherson (Lorri).

A celebration of life will occur in the future.

See OBITS, page 5B



Kate Ashare Patterson

Kate Ashare Patterson, 58, of Grosse Pointe Farms, the heart of our family, passed away August 10, 2026. Darling daughter of Marlene Ashare (Nanny); dear wife of William Patterson (Wigman); cherished mother of Lily Patterson (La) and Danielle Patterson (Bean); coolest little sister and best friend of Julie Ashare (Gigi); loving aunt/second mother of Paul Keller (Floyd the Beverage King); adored niece, cousin and friend to many. She was predeceased by her father, Richard Ashare (Boppa); and nephew, Jamie Keller (Chico).

Memorial celebration will be held October 4, 2026, 11:30am, at the Scarab Club, Detroit.

Sweet girl, you are SO loved…

GP Men's Club extends meeting, welcomes Hodges

The next Men's Club of Grosse Pointe luncheon meeting takes place at noon Tuesday, Aug. 25, in the ballroom at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The club has added a social half-hour beginning at 11:30 a.m. for members and guests to gather for coffee or tea and camaraderie before the noon luncheon.

Michele Hodges, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, will discuss the role the organization plays in strengthening neighborhoods and solving problems in the community it serves.

Hodges also is mayor of Grosse Pointe Park. Over the past three decades, she has held leadership roles in economic development, nonprofit management, community revitalization and public service throughout the region. She previously served as president and CEO of the Belle Isle Conservancy and in multiple roles with the Detroit Regional Chamber.

For those who need transportation to the luncheon, Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services provides bus transportation to The War Memorial, then back home after the luncheon for ages 60 and older or disabled who reside in one of the five Grosse Pointes or Harper Woods. Round-trip cost is $4. Call (313) 394-9712 to make arrangements no later than 2:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

Cost for the luncheon is $25 per person. Guests are encouraged to bring a spouse or other guest.

The mulch mistake that could cost you a tree

By the Grosse Pointe Tree Collaborative

Every year, Grosse Pointe residents invest thousands of dollars planting beautiful shade trees that will benefit our neighborhoods for generations. Yet one of the most common landscaping practices — improper mulching — is quietly killing many of them. Fortunately, a few simple steps can dramatically improve a tree's chance of thriving.

If you've ever seen a tree surrounded by a tall cone or mound of mulch piled against its trunk, you've seen what arborists call a mulch volcano.

Although it may look neat and professional (even cities and landscapers do it), it is one of the worst things you can do for a tree.

When mulch is piled against the trunk:

◆ Moisture becomes trapped against the bark, leading to rot and decay.

◆ Insects and rodents are attracted to the protected environment and may damage the trunk.

◆ Roots begin growing into the mulch instead of into the surrounding soil.

◆ Oxygen levels around the trunk decrease, stressing the tree.

◆ Girdling roots can develop, eventually wrapping around the trunk and restricting the flow of water and nutrients.

Many trees decline slowly over several years before homeowners realize the damage was caused by something as simple as improper mulching.

Think "doughnut," not "volcano."

◆ Apply 2 to 4 inches of shredded hardwood mulch.

◆ Keep the mulch in a wide circle, extending toward the drip line whenever possible.

◆ Pull mulch back 3 to 6 inches from the trunk so the root flare — the place where the trunk widens into the roots — is visible.

◆ Refresh mulch annually, but don't continue piling more on top each year.

Proper mulch conserves moisture, moderates soil temperature, suppresses weeds and improves soil as it naturally decomposes.

New trees need water — especially during summer

The first two to three years after planting are the most critical in a tree's life.

Even if a tree appears healthy, its root system is still relatively small and cannot access water deep in the soil.

During hot weather:

◆ Water deeply one to two times each week rather than lightly every day.

◆ Provide approximately 10 to 15 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter each week, increasing during periods of extreme heat or drought.

◆ Water slowly so moisture penetrates 8 to 12 inches into the soil.

◆ Early-morning watering reduces evaporation and allows moisture to soak in before the heat of the day.

A tree that is stressed from lack of water becomes more vulnerable to insects, diseases and winter injury.

Signs your tree needs water

Watch for these early warning signs:

◆ leaves curling or wilting

◆ brown or crispy leaf edges

◆ premature leaf drop

◆ small or undersized leaves

◆ little or no new growth

Don't wait until leaves turn completely brown. By then, the tree may already be under severe stress.

Many homeowners assume fertilizer will help a struggling new tree. In fact, most newly

See TREES, page 5B



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COTTON COLLECTION

From left, Jon Cotton and Lauren Cotton of Grosse Pointe Farms, with The Cotton Collection President Sam Barnwell.

Harbour View Inn on Mackinac Island debuts renovation for 2026 season

Harbour View Inn by The Cotton Collection recently unveiled a major transformation for the 2026 season, including completely reimagined and newly designed guest rooms, suites and gardens.

One of America's most iconic island destinations, Mackinac Island is home to the historic retreat Harbour View Inn, now open for the 2026 season.

Harbour View Inn offers 84 guest rooms and suites across the Guest House, Carriage House, Château and the historic Cottage House. The renovation represents one of the most significant updates in the property's recent history. Interiors have been designed with new furnishings and design details inspired by Mackinac Island's Victorian heritage and coastal palette.

"We are thrilled to invite our guests to experience a reimagined Harbour View Inn," said Sam Barnwell, president of The Cotton Collection. "This transformation honors the heritage and charm of Harbour View Inn, while creating an even more memorable stay for our guests discovering the magic of Mackinac Island."

The inn was originally built in 1820 for Madame Magdelaine Laframboise, a prominent fur trader widely known as the "first lady of Mackinac Island." Over time, the residence expanded into an inn composed of several historic buildings surrounding the original Laframboise home.

Features include the inn's two-story front porch, gardens and harbor views remain central to the guest experience.

This summer guests will experience gardens designed by award-winning landscape architect Jack Barnwell. Also new to the collection is Pedals Harbour Grille, open Memorial Day to Labor Day, where guests can bike up for a fresh take on al fresco streetside dining.

For reservations, special packages and additional information, visit harbourviewinn.com and follow Harbour View Inn on Instagram and Facebook.

TREES:

Continued from page 4B

planted trees don't need fertilizer during their first growing season.

Instead, focus on:

- consistent watering
- proper mulching
- protecting the trunk from lawn mower and string trimmer damage
- avoiding soil compaction over the root zone

Healthy roots — not fast top growth — are the priority.

Trees provide enormous benefits to our community. They cool neighborhoods by reducing summer temperatures, absorb stormwater, improve air quality, increase property values, reduce energy costs and create the beautiful tree-lined streets that define Grosse Pointe.

Every properly cared-for young tree becomes part of the legacy we leave to future generations.

This summer, take a walk around your yard. If you see mulch piled against a trunk, grab a rake and gently pull it away until you can see the tree's root flare.

That small change could add decades to the life of your tree.



OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Robert Michael Cedar

Robert Michael Cedar, 45, of Michigan, passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 14, 2026, surrounded by the comfort and love of his family. Robert's memory will live on through the many lives he touched with his kindness, humor, generosity and unwavering love for family and friends.

Robert was born Sept. 16, 1980, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Richard Cedar and Mary (nee Burnham) Cedar. He was predeceased by his beloved maternal grandparents, Richard and Norma Burnham; and his paternal grandparents, Clarence and Jenny Cedar.

He is lovingly remembered by his mother, Mary Cedar; father, Rick Cedar; as well as his extended family and countless friends whose lives were enriched by knowing him. While his passing leaves an immeasurable void in his loved ones' lives, those who loved him find comfort in the memories they shared and enduring impact of his generous spirit.

Robert will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered and forever held in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Robert will lie in state Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. until his funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. He will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

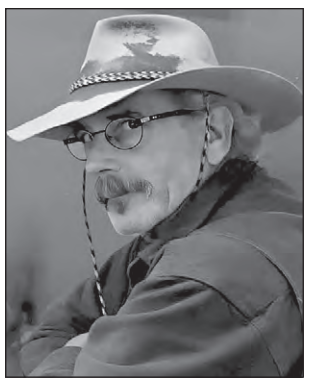
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, cskdetroit.org/donate/monetary-donations/; or the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscasey.org/help-us-serve/donate/.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.



Robert Michael Cedar



Michael Shelton



Patrick H. Cavanaugh

Michael Shelton

Michael Shelton, 70, of Little River, S.C., passed away Thursday, July 30, 2026, at his residence.

Michael was born April 27, 1956, in Detroit, to Marvin and June (nee Ball) Shelton. He was the loving husband of Lynn Rochelle (nee Stine) Shelton. They were married Nov. 9, 2007.

After graduating from Grosse Pointe North High School, Michael served in the U.S. Navy from Oct. 18, 1974, to May 14, 1982.

Michael had worked for Terminal Data Corp., Petersen Publishing Corp., Q2 Publishing Corp., Swift Trucking and Crete Trucking. He was an operations manager for Myrtle Beach Dolphin Cruises.

He is survived by his sons, Michael Robert Shelton, Matthew Shelton (Brandon Faber) and Macpherson Shelton; daughter, Jamie Johnson (Josh); son, Eric Despotovic (Suzy); granddaughters, Taj and Ahnika Despotovic; sisters-in-law, Susan Davis Shelton and Lana Frank-Krause; brothers-in-law, Larry Stine, Lyle Stine (Jule) and Lance Stine (Laura); and many cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his son, Bryan Despotovic; brothers, Dale and Douglas; as well as his parents and many fur babies.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, until a 2 p.m. memorial service at Lee Funeral Home and Crematory, 11840 Hwy. 90, Little River, SC 29566.

Funeral honors will be provided by the U.S. Navy prior to the start of the memorial service.

Patrick Henry Cavanaugh

Patrick Henry Cavanaugh, 80, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026, in Rochester Hills.

Patrick was born Sept. 9, 1945, in Detroit. He was the beloved son of Harry and Alice (nee McNamara) Cavanaugh.

Patrick is survived by his devoted sons, Sean (Natalie) and Paul (Sara); cherished granddaughters, Moira and Camille; and many loving nieces, nephews and their families. The youngest of seven children, he was predeceased by his brothers, John, Joseph and Michael; and sisters, MaryAlice Higbee, Sister Sarah Cavanaugh OP and Suzanne Cavanaugh.

Patrick was a 1964 graduate of Austin Catholic Preparatory School. He continued his education at the University of Detroit Mercy. He built a distinguished career of more than 30 years in real estate as both a broker and developer. He served as president of the Detroit Racquet Club from 1996 to 1997, where members knew him affectionately as "Uncle Pat" and treasured his trademark Irish charm and sense of humor.

An avid golfer, Patrick pursued his passion on courses throughout Michigan and in Naples, Fla., where he enjoyed retirement in his later years.

Patrick leaves behind a legacy of warmth, humor and friendship. His family takes great comfort knowing his spirit will continue through them as they carry forward the lessons of a life fully lived, with all its adventures and misadventures embraced along the way.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, until a noon memorial service at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile, Royal Oak.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Blue Fund at the Michigan Men's Health Foundation for prostate cancer research and patient care, michigan menshealthfoundation.org/the-blue-fund.

Share a memory at sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Ann Elizabeth Allen

Aug 1, 1938 — Aug 10, 2026



Ann was born and lived with her parents and siblings in Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Denby High School and furthered her education in nursing school. Ann selflessly paused her career to help her mother and later to raise her family.

She was faithfully involved in the congregation and choir in Lutheran churches throughout her life: Our Savior in Detroit, St. James in Grosse Pointe and St. Peter's in Rockford. Ann was blessed with an angelic voice singing in "perfect key".

Throughout her life, Ann remained active in her career and community. She received many accolades for her leadership, writing and participation in the Junior Achievement Program. She worked in Detroit's banking and insurance industries, in Grosse Pointe at Jacobson's, a legal firm, and at the Neighborhood Club until her retirement in 1997.

Her compassion extended deep into the community through her involvement with Girl Scouts, her children's schools and in the neonatal unit at St. John's Hospital. Ann lived simply and by an unassuming philosophy of giving oneself through her sweet, honest and caring nature.

She excelled at many interests such as baking, sewing, upholstery, gardening, and ensuring every celebratory moment was unique with creative decorations. Homemade costumes, cakes, and wrapping were always artful masterpieces for her family and friends.

Ann met Tom her husband at church where both of their families belonged while Ann was in the choir, Tom was on the basketball team. They were married for 59 years. Ann and Tom lived together in Michigan all their lives, having 4 children beginning in Detroit, moving to Grosse Pointe Park, and finally once retired settling in Grand Rapids to be closer to their 4 grandchildren. Tom passed away in 2022 and Ann spent the remainder of her years living with her daughter Kim in Florida enjoying the sunshine and tropical breezes.

As a child she spent time on family Sunday drives which sparked her love for traveling. Ann found joy spending her time with her husband & children on camping trips, family get-togethers in Canada, vacations on Hilton Head Island and among the scenic Vermont countryside. Once the grandchildren came along, they cherished their trips in whatever state or city they landed in, always "on call" at a moment's notice from coast to coast.

Ann famously had a sweet tooth, keeping a hidden stash of chocolate in her recipe box and often coaxing Tom into sharing sweet treats. They loved antiquing, going to bakeries and always searching for different cuisines and those special touches for the home. Ann was a woman of remarkable intellect. She loved novels and was an avid speed-reader always wanting to share this passion and knowledge. She also loved cats, was kind, soft spoken, and described herself as "petite" but not small. Her Mom even wrote a poem about her on day one saying "Ann was sweet, and full of mischief but wise beyond her years".

During Ann's later years she enjoyed art projects, coloring, painting, music, walking, exercising and "high kicks" despite her health challenges she met each day with resilience and her "Energizer Bunny" vitality.

Ann's family ensured she was never alone, was able to remain in her home, and supported in her last years. Ann is at peace with Tom in heaven, survived by her daughters Kim, Jill, and Amy; son Scot; grandchildren Karina, Austin, Henry and Skyler, and her brother Henry. She will be remembered for her grace, kindness, creativity, and will be immensely loved for eternity.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to: www.redcross.org



Lechniak and her mother, Maria, just before receiving haircuts at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

HEAVEN:

Continued from page 2B

church.

"I prayed that I could go one more time to church, to see," she said, "and then God could do whatever. ... I felt a pinching in my eyes and when I lifted the cloth, I could see. My eyes were all clear. And my ears dried up; there was nothing leaking from them. I could hear the church bells."

Lechniak was 13 when she came to the States, sponsored by the Kellogg family.

"We came around Christmas," she said. "There was a tree, music, presents. They said, 'We waited for you for five years to come.' ... I thought they were my family."

She eventually graduated from Northern High School in Detroit. In 1953, she met the man who would become her husband, Walter, who also came from Ukraine. The couple had four children, Walter Jr., Vira, Lisa and Andy, and three grandchildren.

Lechniak said her experiences throughout her life brought her closer to God.

"God looked after me very well," she said. "If it wasn't for God, I wouldn't be here. Everything was a miracle given by God. I learned a lot and learned to love."

To honor her mother, Lisa Lechniak wrote and produced the film that will be shown during the birthday celebration. Lisa Lechniak and her fiancé are members of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA LECHNIAK

Olga Lechniak as a child during World War II.

The Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver has developed a close relationship with Lechniak and occasionally brings her Communion in her Warren home.

"The older I get, the closer I am to meeting the Lord," she said. "Stay close to the Lord and he will be close to you."

Lechniak will share more of her story at the Aug. 22 gathering, which welcomes all. Admission is by donation. At Lechniak's request, all proceeds will support the church's general operating fund as a thank-you for the prayers and support she has received from the church.

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church is located at 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, email office@gpcong.org.



GPJC to celebrate High Holidays

The Grosse Pointe Jewish Council will hold High Holiday services, observing Rosh Hashanah Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12. Services on Yom Kippur will be held Sunday, Sept. 20, and Monday, Sept. 21. There will be special children's services on both holidays.

The Grosse Pointe Jewish Council strives to promote the heritage and traditions of the Jewish religion and culture for the benefit of its membership and the community of metropolitan Detroit's Eastside. For 36 years, the GPJC has offered religious services, as well as educational and social events.

The Grosse Pointe Jewish Council Sunday School will resume this fall for ages 5 to 13.

For information on High Holidays and membership, call (313) 882-6700 or email thegpjc@comcast.net.

Meet the member

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary welcomed club member Amy O'Shea, who provided a look into her background during the June 16 meeting at Ford House.



Amy O'Shea

O'Shea's career spans graphic design, corporate leadership and entrepreneurship. She spent nearly two decades at Ford Motor Co. in logistics, supervision and regional transportation management roles across North America and internationally before accepting a buyout in 2017.

Following that transition, she and her husband, Tim, settled in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she earned her builder's license and founded 45 Degrees North Management, focusing on renovation, design and interior work. Her current focus is aging-in-place home modifications, partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Henry Ford Health's Stay Home Safe program to help seniors live safely and independently.

A lifelong creative and athlete, she brings together design thinking, problem solving and leadership shaped by early experiences in art, sports and a wide range of career roles. She also remains active in Rotary and other community organizations in the Farms.

The Grosse Pointe Run, sponsored by the Sunrise Rotary Club, is the main fundraising event for local high school students' college scholarships. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary reminds the community to support students Sept. 20, during the annual 5K/10K/walk. Register at grossepointerun.com

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

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

POST Detroit

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

◆ Basket Weaving: Muffin Baskets, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. Cost is $90.

◆ Drop-In Workshop: Beaded Bouquets, 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22. Cost is $45.

◆ Ceramics: Garden Bird Bath, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23. Cost is $100.

◆ Screen Print: Pet Portraits, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23. Cost is $125.

◆ Mending: Mini Loom Darning, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23. Cost is $65.

◆ Drop-In Workshop: Bead Bar Jewelry + Accessories, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23. Cost ranges from $55 to $95.

Harper Woods Library

The Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper, Harper Woods, hosts Gentle Evening Yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 24, and Sept. 21. Classes are taught by Yemisi Odetoyinbo. Registration is encouraged.

Sunrise Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe Sunrise Michigan hosts a presentation, sponsored by Rotary International and the North America Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention, at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Steve Ahles, a retired Monroe fire chief and certified emergency manager, will speak about addiction, how to make a local impact, volunteer opportunities, safe drug disposal, Naloxone training and more.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Dida Sidhom and Hani Seif, visiting Rotarians from Cairo, Egypt, will speak about their Women Empowerment Project funded by the local club. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Ford House

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

◆ Four Seasons Garden Lecture, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27. Admission is $12 for Friends, $15 for the public.

◆ Storytime: "A Color of His Own," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in September.

◆ Sip & Savor: Tequila Sunset, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. Tickets are $175.

◆ Story Festival, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Benefit

The 33rd annual Benefit on the Bay takes place 5:30 p.m. to midnight Friday, Aug. 28, at MacRay Harbor in Harrison Township. The event will be hosted by FOX 2 Detroit anchor Jay Towers and includes live entertainment, silent and live auctions, dancing, raffles and more. All proceeds benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's meal programs, food and clothing distribution, Earthworks Urban Farm, substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. Visit benefitonthebay.org.

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.

◆ Exploring Encaustic on Paper with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

◆ Gomuban Workshop with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 21.

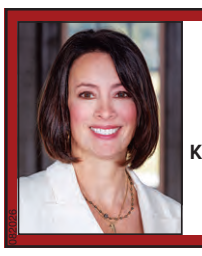
Sunrise on Vernier

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

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is $12 per drop-in class or five classes for $50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

LIFE & LEISURE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Thornetta Davis to headline 'Blues in the Woods' festival

Event anchors Harper Woods' 75th anniversary celebration

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of the city of Harper Woods continues with its signature summer festival, Blues in the Woods, which takes place Friday, Aug. 22, in Johnson Park, 20221 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods.

The festival brings live blues performances by two-time Blues Music Award-winning vocalist Thornetta Davis, as well as Tino Gross, fronting Tino G's Dumpster Machine.

The festival also includes a juried art exhibition, food trucks, beverage vendors, family fun and guided tours of the newly opened Fraser Square housing development featuring townhomes and duplexes.

"We're excited to bring back Blues in the Woods as we honor 75 years of the Harper Woods community," said Irma Hayes, deputy director of the city's Economic and Community Development Department. "The festival is a perfect reflection of our focus on community and connection, celebrating our city's history and highlighting its future."

Detroit's "Queen of the Blues," Davis has opened for Bonnie Raitt, Gladys Knight and Etta James; sang backing vocals for Bob Seger and recorded with Kid Rock.

Tino G's Dumpster Machine features Detroit native Gross, who has performed and recorded alongside music legends John Lee Hooker, George Clinton, Bo Diddley, Wayne Kramer and Kid Rock. His band blends Detroit boogie, blues, garage rock, gospel, surf and rockin' soul, and recently released the album "GTO" on Funky D Records.

This year's lineup also marks a milestone collaboration for the festival: the debut of De'Sean Jones and the Urban Art Orchestra on the Blues in the Woods stage. Jones, a three-time Grammy-nominated saxophonist, composer and Billboard-charting recording artist, leads the 20-plus-member UAO, an affiliate ensemble of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra that fuses jazz, hip hop, funk and Detroit soul with strings, DJs and live improvisation.

Blues in the Woods is a centerpiece of the Harper Woods 75th anniversary celebration. The festival's expansion reflects the city's commitment to bringing residents and neighbors together for this milestone.

"We are proud to highlight the incredible talent, local businesses, organizations and community members who continue to make Harper Woods a vibrant place to call home," Hayes said.

For more information, visit harperwoodscity.org or follow @CityofHarperWoods on Instagram and Facebook.



Thornetta Davis will headline "Blues in the Woods."

Free seminar at Better Health Aug. 28

With parasite-related illness making headlines across Michigan this summer, Better Health Market is making a local expert available to speak about the topic of parasites, common exposure sources and symptoms that are often mistaken for other conditions.

Kathleen Freydl, a certified health coach and nutritionist with the Institute for Integrative Nutrition and a member of the nutrition team at Better Health in Novi, is hosting the free seminar "Do You Have a Parasite?" at multiple locations.

Locally, she'll speak at the Grosse Pointe Woods location, 19221 Mack, at noon Friday, Aug. 28.

Freydl will discuss how parasites may be contracted through food, water, insect bites and pets, along with the warning signs people should watch for, including digestive issues, fatigue, brain fog, skin problems, joint pain and insomnia.

Registered attendees will receive a free parasite symptom checklist; be entered in a raffle for a parasite cleanse basket; and receive a complimentary lunch.

To register, visit betterhealthmarket.com/eventmanager/index/details/id/439

ASK THE EXPERTS By Carol Mastroianni, MBA, RM

The power of natural consequences:

How letting go helps kids grow

The Family Center 25 YEARS
25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES & ENRICHING LIVES

As parents, we often want to swoop in and save our children from heartache. However, children also need opportunities to learn from their actions — or inaction — through natural consequences. These experiences help shape responsible, independent individuals.

For example, if your child leaves a homework assignment at home, bringing it to school may make you feel better, but it removes an opportunity for your child to experience the direct result of forgetting it. It is better to learn these lessons when the stakes are small than to wait until adulthood, when the consequences may be much greater.

Natural consequences teach accountability, strengthen problem-solving skills and build resilience. When your child does not follow through, ask yourself: "Could this be a valuable opportunity for them to learn?" and "What is motivating me to step in?" These questions also may reveal how comfortable — or uncomfortable — you are allowing consequences to unfold.

Parenting has taught me that sometimes my reaction to what is happening with my child has as much to do with me as it does with them. Our old stories, habits, childhood wounds and life experiences can influence how we respond. When we notice ourselves overreacting or underreacting, it can be an opportunity to get curious about what may be coming up for us so we can respond to the child and situation in front of us.

Allowing children to experience natural consequences prepares them for adult life. They learn they can face challenges, solve problems and recover from setbacks without constant parental intervention.

Take a deep breath and remind yourself: You are not abandoning your child. You are helping them become a responsible, confident and capable adult. You've got this!

Carol Mastroianni, MBA, RM, is an empowerment coach and founder of BE Your Influence, LLC. For more information, including a helpful barometer to help parents recognize when a situation may be triggering something deeper, visit beyourinfluence.love or follow Mastroianni on Facebook and Instagram @carol.mastroianni.

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

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

The 20s birthday budget



Dear Gabby: I am in my 20s and my social calendar is draining my bank account. It feels like every single friend in my circle is throwing a weeklong birthday trip to Cabo or organizing $150 per person group gifts for designer bags or concert tickets.

I'm trying to build my savings, but every weekend someone is blowing out candles and expecting a financial commitment to celebrate them. How do I politely get out of these insane 20s birthday parties without getting kicked out of the friend group or looking like a bad friend? — Broke in the City

Dear Broke: Welcome to the world of 20s birthday culture, where everyone acts like they're starring in their own reality TV show on their birthdays.

It is completely valid to feel this way. Between starting careers, paying rent and navigating adulthood, expecting friends to pay for a multi-day birthday party and wishlists is a quick downhill slope for friend group issues.

You do not need to fund someone else's moment at the expense of your own financial sanity.

When a massive birthday trip or event pops up that you can't afford, send them a message like this: "I'm so bummed I won't be able to make the trip, but I'm dying to celebrate! Let's get together for coffee or drinks next week, my treat."

This shifts the focus from what you can't do to a thoughtful, one-on-one way you can show love.

As for the mandatory $150 group gift spreadsheets? It is 100 percent fine to politely reply and say, "I'm going to grab something individual for her this year, but thanks for organizing!" Then, pick up a cute $20 candle, a nice bottle of wine or write a heartfelt card.

Set your financial boundaries early in your 20s. Your future self and your savings account will thank you!.

— Gabby

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

How and when to unpack your baggage



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: I have now been married and divorced three times, with a total of over 37 years of married life. Though I doubt I will marry again at this stage of life, I would like to find a woman interested in a lasting, serious relationship. In trying online dating services, thus far I have found most women run the other way or quickly giving me the brush-off when I tell them, in the spirit of being honest and upfront, about my being divorced multiple times, plus having been estranged by my three daughters.

In sharing these facts of my past, the two options both appear to be doomed to rejection. If I confess everything in a first meeting, I appear either obsessed with or callous to my past; if I avoid those topics, I come across as dishonest and untrustworthy. How and when should I broach these issues to give a new relationship a chance? — Albatrosses Around My Neck

DEAR ALBATROSSES AROUND MY NECK: You don't hand someone your entire case file on date one. Let the first few dates be about getting to know each other. By date three or four, when things feel like they might go somewhere, that's the natural time to bring up your history.

To be honest, the daughters are more worrying than the divorces. You say you doubt you'll marry again, yet you're pouring your energy into dating while three relationships that already exist sit unattended. That may be worth a second look.

Any woman worth keeping is going to ask what happened there, and "it's complicated" won't hold up for long.

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

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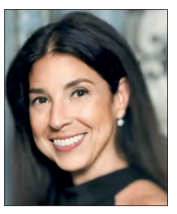
Champs, more than just rotisserie



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Grosse Pointe resident, family man, businessman and entrepreneur Daniel E. Curis knows a thing or two about the restaurant industry and how it should be successfully run.

In 1978, after earning a degree in law enforcement, Curis took over ownership of the Big Boy on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods. While working, he went to school and received two more degrees, one in business management and the other in business law.

He and his brothers followed in the footsteps of their father, George, who was one of the first Big Boy franchisees. Once all the brothers received their degrees, they helped their father build their restaurant empire — Curis Restaurant Management Group — to 12 Big Boy locations.

As the years passed, Curis had another opportunity just down the street from where he started. Mack Avenue has a lot of legends and Champs Rotisserie & Seafood is one of them. The corner of Mack and Beaufait where it sits is a legend itself.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Wagyu royale burger, crab and lobster melt, prime rib special and chef's cut special.

In the 1950s, La Coppola's Pizza was a favorite neighborhood restaurant. From the 1970s to 1991, The Bar B-Q House made its mark and about 20 years later, the restaurant was sold to Jim Champion. In 1992, Jim bought the liquor license from Red Lobster — remember when that was on Mack too? — and changed the name to Champs. Jim owned Champs for 15 great years before selling it to Curis in 2007.

Knocking on 20 years himself, Curis has been spinning its rotisseries constantly. While it is known for its rotisserie ribs and chicken, there's so much more to the Champs menu to enjoy.

"We sell a tremendous amount of fish, such as shrimp, cod, perch, walleye and salmon," Curis said. "Our meatloaf is a mainstay and we've been selling full turkey dinners on Sundays for 35 years."

The wagyu burger seems to be a customer favorite, as well as the Cali Reuben, its version of a turkey Reuben. He said the crab and lobster melt is pretty high on the list of favorites as well. All their dinners and sandwiches are served with cottage fries. Champs aims to source their products from local vendors like Fairway Packing Co. and Northern Haserot. Its coffee is blended just for them by Becharas Coffee, which also served the U.S. military.

Now back to those rotisseries!

"You can see your ribs and chicken being cooked by looking in the glass window, which allows you to view the rotisserie in action," Curis said. "We are constantly cooking ribs and chicken all night long."



Champs Rotisserie, chicken and slab of ribs.

Rib options include whole slab with approximately 12 bones, rib dinner with around nine bones or rib snack with around five bones. Chicken options include whole chicken, half chicken and chicken snack options. There's also the combo: five ribs and a quarter chicken. All entrées include cottage fries and soup, salad or coleslaw.

Curis said the biggest question is, "Do you want your sauce baked on?" Ninety-five percent of their ribs and chicken are ordered with sauce baked on. Champs' barbecue sauce is made fresh every day, sometimes even twice a day. It even sells sauce by the bottle. Its most popular dish is the whole slab.

"Customers like to have leftovers so they can bring them home to re-heat later for a snack," Curis said.

Seafood options get a lot of attention, the most popular being the perch and salmon entrées. Each dish comes with the daily vegetable and choice of starch: baked potato, sweet potato or those delicious cottage fries. I normally dine in with my parents, who are regulars and fans of the ribs. I, on the other hand, think the crispy chicken salad is one of the best on Mack. Curis said the southwest salad is one of its best sellers, so I will add that, the Brussels sprout salad and the crab and lobster melt to my list. All of its dressings are made in-house from scratch. It also offers classic chicken entrées such as chicken piccata and lemon chicken.



Shrimp and salmon dinners.

Champs has a full bar and a great mocktail menu. Dessert? I highly recommend the carrot cake. Of course there's a dedicated kids menu, too. On Facebook's Grosse Pointe Eats & Treats page, people are always asking for weekly specials. Champs' specials should not be missed. Sunday is turkey dinner and prime rib, while it lasts. Monday offers $9.99 burger and fries. Tuesday is half-off ribs with the purchase of a beverage. Wednesday is half-off wine. Thursday is prime rib, while it lasts. Friday and Saturday offers fresh catch/chef cuts of steak or seafood.

Dining in is a great experience, in the dining room or on the spacious covered patio, especially since Curis enjoys table visits. A carryout box always is an option and Champs will deliver within a five-mile radius.

Catering is a great option for all party types. Call direct and speak to one of the catering specialists to discuss specific menu requests, including dietary needs.

See FOOD, *page 3C*



Carrot cake.



We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I have never believed in expensive socks. To me, socks were one of those things you grabbed while wandering through Target or tossed into the cart at Costco because they came in a giant multipack. They all looked about the same, so why spend more?

The problem was they never seemed to last. Within a few months I would notice thinning fabric on the heel, a hole near the toe or one sock that somehow stretched out enough to slide down into my shoe every time I walked. I accepted that replacing socks every few months was just part of life.



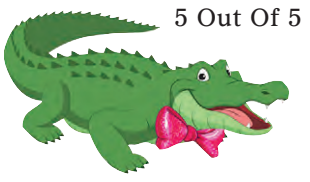
Then I tried Bombas and now I understand the hype. The first thing I noticed was how comfortable they felt the second I put them on. They have a soft, cushioned footbed that makes them feel supportive without being bulky. The honeycomb arch support gently hugs your foot, so the sock stays in place instead of bunching up or twisting throughout the day. The seamless toe is another feature I did not expect to appreciate as much as I do. There is no irritating seam rubbing against your toes, which makes a surprising difference after wearing them for hours.

One of my favorite details is the blister tab on the back. If you have ever had the back of a shoe rub against your ankle during a long walk, you know how valuable that little extra piece of fabric can be. The socks also stayed exactly where they were supposed to. I never had to stop and pull them back up, which is something I have done with plenty of cheaper socks.

After several washes, they still look and feel brand new. They have held their shape, the cushioning has not flattened out and there is no sign of the dreaded heel hole that always seemed inevitable with my bargain socks.

I never expected a pair of socks to change my opinion about spending a little more on everyday basics, but Bombas did exactly that. They are comfortable, well made and feel like they are built to last, which makes the higher price much easier to justify. I give Bombas Ankle Socks 5 out of 5 alligators.

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



Pepperoncini shrimp

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Summer always brings an increase in social gatherings. Lately, I've been overwhelmed by the number of appetizers I've had to come up with this summer. There always seems to be another get-together, picnic or family dinner in need of another dish to bring.

The silver lining of fall is almost here, when I can slink back into being a hermit with no social life. But until then, here we are. Another gathering, another appetizer and another excuse to come up with something delicious. This shrimp recipe checked all the boxes. Easy, a few simple ingredients and very flavorful, it's a nice break from guacamole and salsa.

Shrimp with pepperoncini is a dish that I've been wanting to try all summer. I'm a huge fan of pickled shrimp and this recipe seemed so much easier than all the steps needed to make it. You start by making a flavorful oil with chopped pepperoncini and smashed garlic. Let the oil cool slightly so the flavors have time to infuse. The shrimp are then cooked directly in the oil, soaking up all that garlicky, peppery flavor for a dish with just the right amount of heat. I added some of the brine from the peppers and lemon juice at the end to give them more of a pickled taste without the legwork. Since it's summer, the shrimp are finished with chopped basil, which adds some freshness that the dish needs.

I will say that when I showed up with this shrimp recipe, people were delighted to see something different from the usual summer fare. In fact, they loved it, even the kids. They can be served warm or at room temperature. I also noticed people picking up crackers to put the shrimp, pepperoncini and basil on top of, which I thought was quite clever. Crackers certainly make it more of a complete dish.

The next time you get called up to bring an appetizer, these shrimp do not disappoint. A jar of peppers, a bag of shrimp and some oil on hand are all you really need to wow your friends during the last few weeks of summer. Just don't tell them how easy it is to make.

Cheers, Mombeau

Shrimp with Pepperoncini

1 lb large shrimp, thawed, peeled and deveined

¼ cup olive oil

¼ cup chopped pepperoncini

2 garlic cloves, smashed

1 pinch red chili flakes

2 tbsp pepperoncini liquid

Juice of ½ lemon

Salt and pepper

In a skillet on medium-low, add the oil, garlic and pepperoncini. Let the garlic, pepper flakes and pepperoncini gently bubble away for about two to three minutes to infuse the oil, being careful not to burn the garlic. Turn the heat off and pour the oil into a bowl. Let it sit while you prepare the shrimp.

Use paper towels to dry the shrimp. You will want to remove all of the moisture. Season with a good pinch of salt and pepper. Add one tablespoon of the pepperoncini oil to the same pan on medium-high and then add the shrimp in an even layer. Cook the shrimp for about two to three minutes per side until cooked through. Remove the shrimp and strain out any liquid that may have accumulated. Put the remaining-shrimp in a bowl and toss them with the remaining oil, pepperoncini brine and a squeeze of lemon. Garnish with fresh basil and extra peppers if so desired. Serve with crackers and toothpicks.

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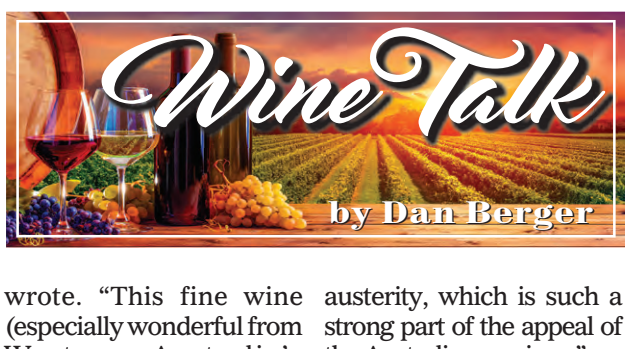
Grosse Pointe News BEST of the BEST 2026

Might be the world's greatest wine grape



A handful of the world's best wines are made from grape varieties that are rarely blended with anything else, are grown only in a few areas of the world, are notoriously difficult to make and end up not selling for anywhere near as much money as their strongest supporters believe they should.

Among those few grape varieties that fit this description is riesling, which often displays the locale from which it's harvested. Best planted in cool or cold regions, it's a challenger for title of World's Greatest Wine Grape.

When you attend any event at which someone has thoughtfully opened a bottle of a great riesling, even one that's 10 or 20 years old, most in-the-know people are thrilled. It's rare to experience mature rieslings.

Yet the chardonnay lovers among us can't figure out why riesling gets such a positive reaction from the cognoscenti. Fact is, most Americans disparage riesling because, decades ago, most of the wines made from it were sweet.

And most people associate sweetness with cheaper wines.

As vice president of the International Riesling Foundation, I admit I'm prejudiced. But I mainly prefer riesling when it's dry. The sweeter ones can be fabulous, of course, but the drier ones are sublime.

And there are infinitely more dry rieslings today than ever, partly because today's younger wine buyers are more sophisticated and know how complex this wine can be.

Despite the fact that there are more dry versions than ever, most rieslings still are too sweet or soft for me -- including the many wines that say they're dry but really aren't.

This is due partly to winery marketing managers who think to sell a riesling, it has to be at least a little bit sweet. And to achieve this they want wines that have less acidity than they should have (in my opinion), and thus the wines tend to be a bit flabby.

The coldest regions of the United States are home to some of our best riesling vineyards, and that starts for me with upstate New York (Finger Lakes), where many wines are spectacular.

There is also the Lake Erie district, which includes parts of Ohio. And there also are the twin upper peninsulas in Michigan.

One of the places in the world where riesling typically is very dry, or even, some say, austerely dry, is Australia. I've been to Australia almost two dozen times, and I simply adore their driest rieslings. But writing about them is tricky because my passion, though shared by some, is hard to put into words.

A decade ago, wine columnist Andrew Jefford of Decanter Magazine in London wrote stellar words about this. I credit his eloquence in borrowing a few of those words:

"I'm fascinated by Australian riesling," he wrote. "This fine wine (especially wonderful from Western Australia's Frankland and Porongurup, South Australia's Clare and Eden Valleys, and Victoria's Henty) provides the world benchmark for structured dry riesling. I have never come across anything quite like it in Europe or indeed elsewhere in the world.

"Most German dry riesling is fruitier, while the dry rieslings of Alsace and Austria (especially the Wachau) tend to be more richly dry, lacking the divine austerity, which is such a strong part of the appeal of the Australian versions."

By contrast, Australian rieslings deliver almost all of what you would want in a dry riesling, and that includes the ability of the wines to age for a decade or even two!

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

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FOOD

Continued from page 2C

"Champs is like 'Cheers'" Curis said. "We know most of our customers by name or at least by what they order. All four of our kids have worked with me: Katie, Dan Jr. and our twins, Robert and Richard. Chef Joe has been with me for 18 years; Heather, my dining room manager, 14 years; and Alex, my general manager, nine years. I'm the luckiest boss in the world."

Champs truly is a neighborhood gem. Give them a follow on Facebook at Champs Rotisserie & Seafood or Instagram @ champs_rotisseriegp



Perch dinner carryout.

• Fun Fact: Though Big Boy is no longer with us, Curis didn't walk out those doors when they closed. He is part owner of its replacement, Daily Jam, and loves table visits there, too. You can't miss him and his iconic mustache while enjoying an excellent brunch. You will all be reading about that location soon.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF METFILM PRODUCTIONS.

Above, Dave Johns as Dave and Alison Steadman as Fern in the 2020 movie "23 Walks," written and directed by Paul Morrison.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



MOVIE REVIEW
"23 Walks"
2020 - Not Rated
1 hr 45 min
★★★★☆

Hollywood cranks out so many rom-coms starring picture perfect 20-somethings, it's rather refreshing to discover a movie where the leads are in their 60s. This is one of those rare little gems. It's a sweet, slow-paced movie where not a lot happens, but that's the beauty of it. If you're in the mood to be quietly entertained, I think you'll enjoy "23 Walks."

The film is a gentle stroll through a year in the lives of an older couple. It stars Dave Johns ("I, Daniel Blake," "Fisherman's Friends") and Alison Steadman ("Gavin & Stacey," "Better Man"). They work off each other perfectly and are thoroughly convincing as a romantic couple. Paul Morrison wrote and directed the movie and he sure delivered a masterpiece of a film. I should also mention the fine camerawork of David Katznelson. Not only does he capture the quiet beauty of the natural settings, the way he inserts painterly closeups of wildflowers that hint at the passing seasons is remarkable. The subtle score by Gary Yershon also adds to the movie's charm.

"23 Walks" centers around two characters who are on screen together for a good deal of the film. Meet Dave (Johns), an affable, charming retired psychiatric nurse who loves taking his big Alsatian "Tillie" out for walks. We also have Fern (Steadman), a very reserved receptionist whose bestie is a diminutive Yorkshire Terrier named "Henry." They meet by chance one morning hiking in a park in Hampstead Heath, a picturesque part of north London. Fern chastises Dave for not having his dog on a leash (or lead, as the English would say).



On the trail.



A romantic night of dancing.

After their initial encounter, Dave makes a point of walking Tillie at the same time every day, hoping to run into Fern again. And he indeed does. They're part of a cadre of fellow dog walkers, who enjoy getting out not just for the exercise, but to connect with other folks and stave off the loneliness that comes with living in a big city. The next time they meet, he's more than apologetic for walking his dog off her leash.

Ever so slowly, the two strike up a friendship. Fern is a bit reticent at first because Dave can come on a little strong at times. Together, they do a slow dance toward a budding romance. They go on dates and have what I call adult sleepovers, while mutually agreeing they'll avoid having sex — keeping the relationship strictly platonic. There's a wonderful scene where the two fire up the turntable and end up doing some spirited dancing — they're obviously perfectly in sync. They seem destined to get together. It's just one of the several charming bits in the movie.

When Fern informs Dave that she's going to the Canary Islands for her daughter's wedding, she admits she doesn't speak any Spanish. Dave is fluent in the language and while they go on their daily walks, he tutors her. Naturally, there has to be a snag or two to keep things interesting. Fern makes it clear that she's divorced and that her second marriage was a huge mistake. We're told that her ex left her for his much younger secretary.

Dave, meanwhile, is a bit coy about his marital status. Eventually it comes out that while he's still married, his wife has late-stage Alzheimer's. She's so far gone, she not only doesn't recognize him, she doesn't communicate at all. So for all intents and purposes, Dave is a virtual bachelor. The news comes as a huge shock to Fern and, after discovering this, she no longer wants anything to do with him.

Dave's life is also upended due to his living situation. Because of a housing shortage, he's being kicked out of his home. He's informed that he will have to move to a small apartment, miles away from his old dog-walking turf. Even though he pleads his case, the unsympathetic office worker treats him rudely and refuses to accommodate him.

As you'd expect, things work out between the couple. While it's not one of those "and they all live happily ever after" endings, you know that ultimately things will be just fine. Overall, this movie is a beautiful tale of late-in-life romance that's sure to make you smile. Again, this is one of those films that I feel deserved much wider recognition.

Currently streaming for free with ads on Tubi, YouTube, The Roku Channel, and included with Prime. Also to rent on Prime, YouTube, Apple TV, and other streaming services.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but it does include some swearing and a tastefully done sex scene.

My rating system:

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

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

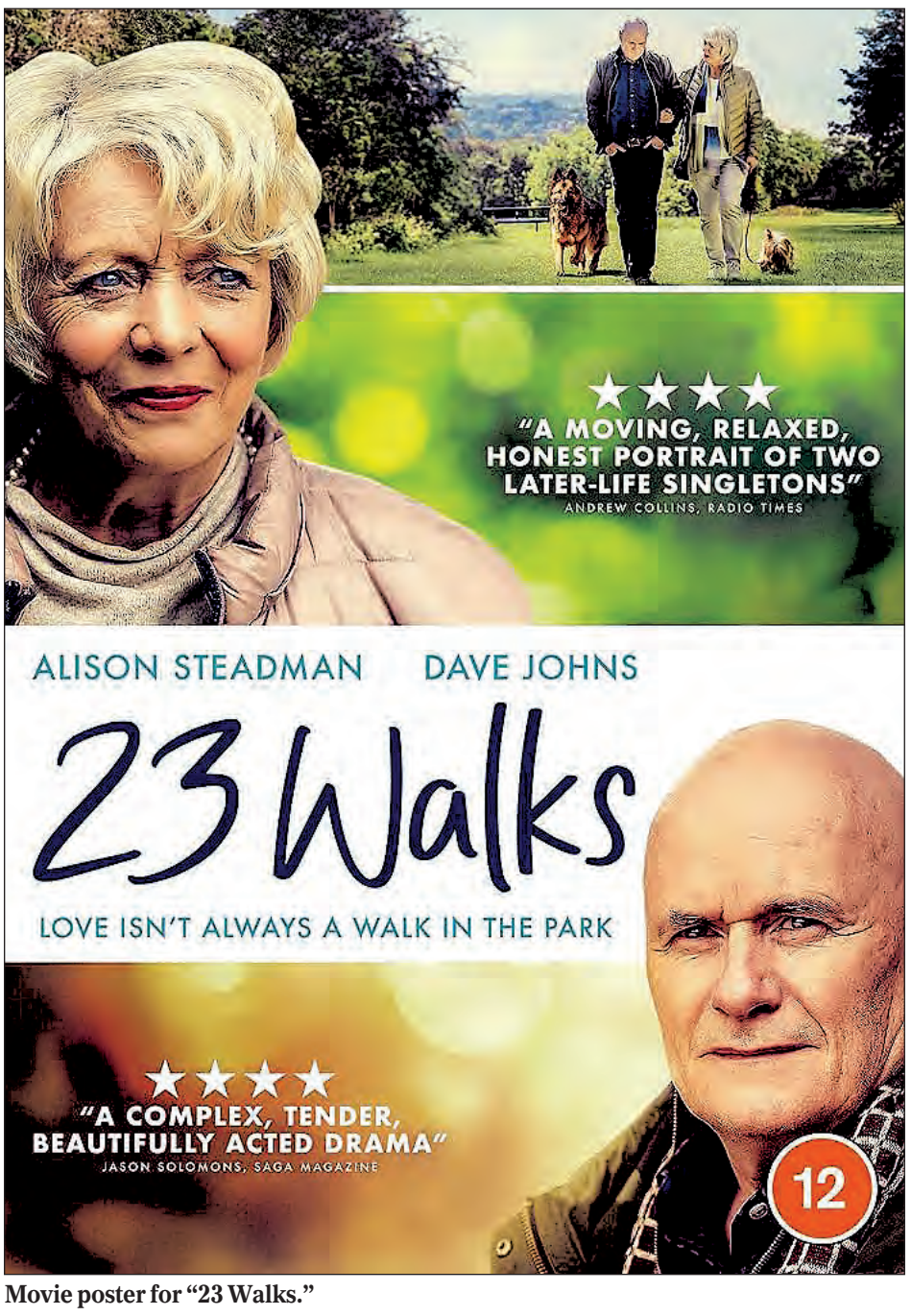
★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

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

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



Movie poster for "23 Walks."



A glorious afternoon for a picnic.



Fern falls for Dave.

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

8/20

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Previous puzzle solution

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

8/13 Solution

Pointe Word Search

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

BACKDRAFT
BATMAN
CURIOSITY-
DUNE
DUNKIRK
GLADIATOR
HANNIBAL
INCEPTION
INTERSTELLAR
LIFE
PIRATES
RAIN MAN
TWISTER

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: After 4:45 a.m. EDT today (1:45 a.m. PDT) there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in SAGITTARIUS.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, August 20, 2026: You're sensible and have an analytical, problem-solving mind. You're friendly, but you need time alone. This is a slower paced year. Focus on business and personal relationships, especially with people who are kind, helpful and have your back.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You might be interested in unusual, powerful ideas today. They might be mystical and idealistic. They might even be related to improving yourself somehow. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Yes, you're a financial wizard; however, today you have to be on your toes. You might be confused about something, financially speaking. You might be deceived. Something unexpected could impact your assets. Stay awake! Tonight: Check your finances!

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

You might genuinely want to help a friend today. You feel sympathetic. You also might be moved by philosophical or powerful ideas. Meanwhile, someone might surprise you today. Stay light on your feet. Tonight: Genuinely listen.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Today you might have a strong desire to make improvements to your health or your job. This is coming from a desire for perfection. However, something out of the blue could be unsettling. Tonight: Work.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a romantic day for you. You're also in touch with your muse, which is why you can express your creative talents. Parents should also be aware that this is a mildly accident-prone day for your kids. Be vigilant! Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your home routine might be interrupted today. If you're making a decision to share property or money with someone, double-check your information. Something could be off. If you suspect this, do nothing. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This might be a lovely day for you to shop for wardrobe items, because your appreciation of beauty is heightened. It's also a mildly accident-prone day for you, so keep your eyes open.Tonight: An interesting conversation.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Keep an eye on your money today, because an element of confusion is present. You might feel generous and then later regret it. You might be deceived about finances. Tonight: Check your belongings.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Pluto, Neptune and Uranus. This is a tricky combination! Your idealism is aroused and you might feel sympathetic to children and romantic partners. Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might be happiest today by being low-key and working alone or behind the scenes. You'll feel reassured. Nevertheless, keep an eye on your money and possessions. Be realistic when dealing with a family member. Tonight: Privacy.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Friendships are important to you today. You might idealize a friend or want to help them in some way. Stay steady, because something out of left field could impact a friendship. It might relate to romance or children. Or you might meet a real character today. Tonight: Friendships.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

People notice you today. They might admire you; they might even attribute qualities to you that you don't think you have. However, something unexpected related to home and family might surprise you. Steady as she goes. Tonight: You're admired.

BORN TODAY

Actor Andrew Garfield (1983), actress Amy Adams (1974), musician Isaac Hayes (1942).

Contract Bridge

THE BIDDING POINTS THE WAY

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 9 4
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K 9 8 2
♣ A 4 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 5 2
♥ A J 10
♦ 5 3
♣ K J 7

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ 9 8 6 5 4
♦ —
♣ 10 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ K 2
♦ A Q J 10 7 6 4
♣ Q 5 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dble	3 ♠	6 ♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Let's say you reach six diamonds doubled on the bidding shown and West leads a spade. When dummy comes down, it occurs to you that North's takeout double was just a tad light, but you concentrate instead on how to play the hand.

At first glance, it seems you must lose a heart and a club and go down one. But when you give it some more thought, you realize you actually have an excellent chance for the slam. West must have the ace of hearts and king of clubs for his bids, and if he also started with the ten of spades to go with the Q-J indicated by his opening lead, you're a virtual shoo-in for the contract.

So, you win the spade with the ace and lead the heart deuce. West can't afford to go up with the ace — you'd have 12 tricks if he did — so he plays the ten. You win with the queen, discard your king of hearts on the king of spades and ruff a heart.

Next you lead a low trump to the eight, ruff dummy's last heart, continue with a low trump to the nine and lead the nine of spades. But instead of ruffing, you discard a club!

West wins the spade with the ten but is helpless. If he returns a spade or a heart (if he has one), you can ruff in dummy and discard another club. If he returns a low club instead, you let it roll around to your queen. Either way, you make the slam.

As the cards lie, declarer can also make the slam after the queen of hearts wins at trick two by keeping the king of hearts and discarding a club on the king of spades, then running all his remaining trumps and conceding a heart to West's ace. But as this would involve guessing what West's last three cards are, the suggested line of play is preferred.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 20, 2026

ACROSS
1 Fedora part
5 Chest expander targets, briefly
9 Margarine container
12 Cry from the crib
13 World city whose name sounds like a sandwich shop
14 "How unfortunate!"
15 The place to be
17 Have another go at
18 Seasons, perhaps
19 "Get out of trouble" PC key
20 Help, as a con man
21 Image Awards org.
23 Toy to spin
25 Fury
26 Toward the back of a battleship
28 French bowlful made from vegetables or fish
31 Congregation's seating
33 Camera type, in brief
34 Hit single's place, usually
35 Place to stay dry?
37 "Star Wars" pilot Dameron
39 Fender blemishes
41 Zaps with photons
43 Unrefined material
45 "Bullets," in poker
46 "Hmm, really?"
49 QVC competitor
50 Metal-free scan, in brief
51 Slightly damage
52 "Ditto!"
54 Enthusiastic reply in Mexico
56 TGIF part: Abbr.
58 One of the Obamas
61 "A Visit From the Goon Squad" novelist Jennifer
62 Big tests ... or the ends of 15-, 28- and 46-Across?
65 Skinny
66 Bring to mind
67 Revise
68 Scores that inspire end zone dances, for short
69 Mark down, perhaps
70 "Dumb Money" actor Paul

DOWN
1 "The Ultimate Driving Machine" brand
2 Stadium cheers
3 "Take my words seriously"
4 Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"
5 Caress
6 If not
7 Celibate
8 "Seinfeld" and "Frasier," but not Seinfeld and Frasier
9 Someone very important
10 Gives fewer stars than warranted
11 Baby's soft shoe
13 '70s dance venues
14 "... bug ___ feature?"
16 Navigator's guesses
22 Juice residue
24 Checkout sticker word
26 Earth Day mo.
27 Seems like a good fit
29 Evidence
30 "Whose bright ___ was this?!"
32 Obi, for one
36 Smile radiantly
38 Taylor Swift's The ___ Tour
40 W-2 datum
42 Government agency worker
44 Environmental lead-in
46 "All good!"
47 Get there
48 Not likely to bite
53 ___ out (took to the limit)
55 Overnight rest stops
57 How some WNBA games end
59 "Definitely include me!"
60 On the subject of
63 Letters before an alias
64 Chicken piece

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

8/13 Solution

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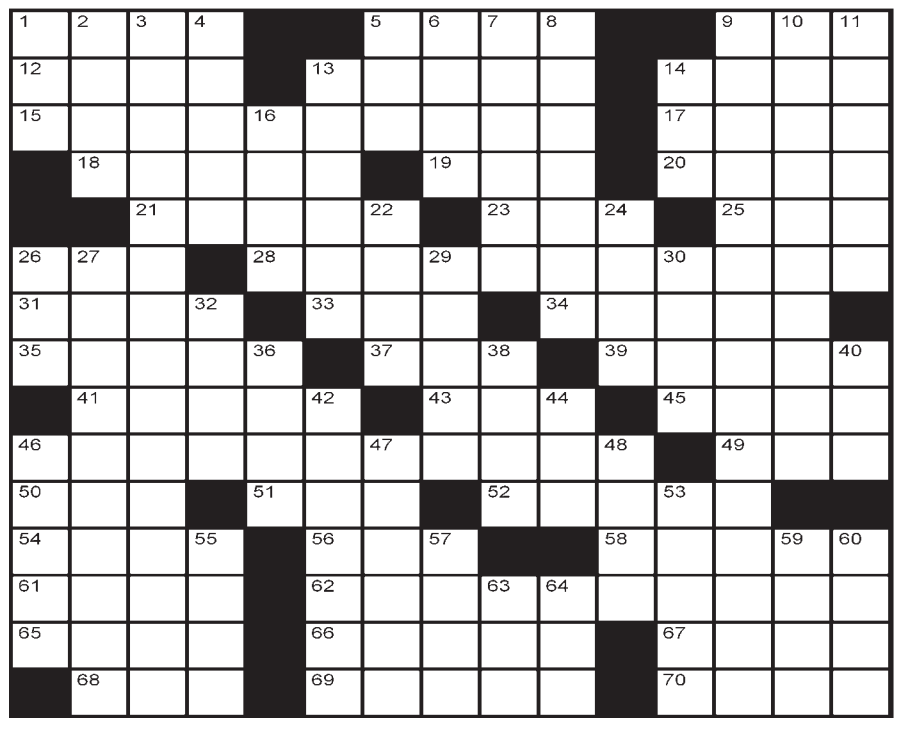
8/20

Pencil It In *by Freddie Cheng*



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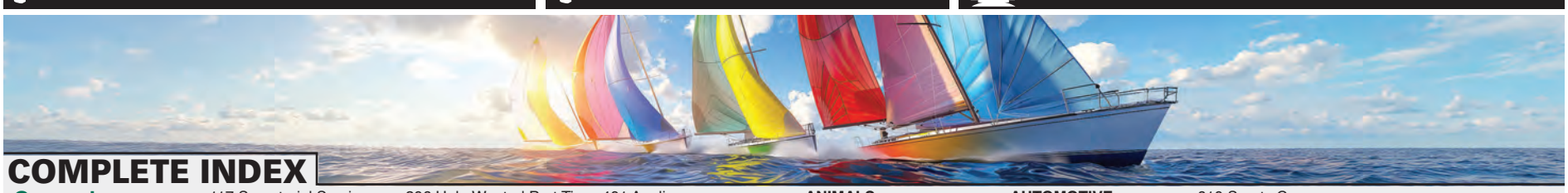

COMPLETE INDEX

General Listings

ANNOUNCEMENTS
097 Property for Sale
098 Greetings
099 Business Opportunities
100 Announcements
101 Prayers
102 Lost & Found

SPECIAL SERVICES
103 Attorneys/Legal
104 Accounting
105 Art
106 Business Services
107 Catering
108 Computer Service
109 Entertainment
110 Delivery Service
111 GP Miscellany
112 Health & Nutrition
113 Home Concierge Services
114 Music Education
115 Party Planners/Helpers
116 Local Harvest
117 Secretarial Services
118 Tax Service
119 Transportation/Travel
120 Tutoring Education
121 General Services
122 Alterations/Tailoring
123 Decorating Services
124 Beauty Services
125 Financial
126 Contributions
127 Video Services
128 Photography
129 Personal Training
130 Art Frame/Restore
131 Counselors/ Therapists

HELP WANTED
200 Help Wanted General
201 Help Wanted Babysitter
202 Help Wanted Clerical/ Office
203 Help Wanted Dental/ Medical
204 Help Wanted Domestic
205 Help Wanted Legal
206 Help Wanted Part Time
207 Help Wanted Sales
208 Help Wanted Nurses Aide/Caregiver
209 Help Wanted Professional
210 Help Wanted Restaurant
211 Help Wanted Management
212 Job Fair

SITUATION WANTED
300 Situations Wanted Babysitter
301 Clerical
302 Convalescent Care
303 Day Care
304 General
305 House Cleaning
306 House Sitting
307 Nurses Aides
308 Office Cleaning
309 Sales
310 Assisted Living
312 Organizing

MERCHANDISE
400 Antiques / Collectibles
401 Appliances
402 Arts & Crafts
403 Auctions
404 Bicycles
405 Computers
406 Estate Sales
407 Firewood
408 Furniture
409 Garage/Yard/ Rummage Sale
410 Household Sales
411 Clothes/Jewelry
412 Miscellaneous Articles
413 Musical Instruments
414 Office/Business Equipment
415 Wanted To Buy
416 Sports Equipment
417 Tools
418 Toys/ Games
419 Building Materials
420 Resale/Consignment Shops
421 Books

Real Estate

RENTALS
700 Apts/Flats/Duplex: Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods
701 Apts/Flats/Duplex: Detroit/Wayne County
702 Apts/Flats/Duplex: St. Clair Shores/Macomb County
703 Apts/Flats/Duplex: Wanted to Rent
704 Houses: Rent
705 Houses: Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods
706 Houses: Detroit/ Wayne County
707 Houses: St. Clair Shores/ Macomb County
708 Apts/Flats/Duplex: Rent
709 Townhouses/ Condos to Rent
710 Townhouses/Condos Wanted
711 Garages/Mini Storage for Rent
712 Garages/Mini Storage Wanted
713 Industrial/Warehouse Rental
714 Living Quarters to Share
715 Hunting Rentals
716 Offices/Commercial for Rent
717 Offices/Commercial Wanted
718 Property Management
719 Rent with Option to Buy
720 Rooms for Rent
721 Vacation Rental: Florida
722 Vacation Rental: Out of State
723 Vacation Rental: Michigan
724 Vacation Rental: Resort
725 Rentals/Leasing
726 Waterfront
727 Relocation Services

HOMES/LOTS FOR SALE
800 House for Sale
801 Commercial Buildings
802 Commercial Property
803 Condos/Apts/Flats
804 Country Homes
805 Property for Sale
806 Florida Property
807 Investment Property
808 Waterfront Homes
809 Waterfront Lots
810 Lake/River Resorts
811 Lots for Sale
812 Mortgages/Land Contracts
813 Northern Michigan Homes
814 Northern Michigan Lots
815 Out of State Homes & Property
816 Real Estate Exchange
817 Real Estate Wanted
818 Sale or Lease
819 Cemetery Lots
820 Business For Sale
821 Open House
822 Vacation Properties
824 Mobile Homes
825 Farms
826 Auctions

Guide to Services

920 Chimney Repair
921 Closets
922 Computer Services
923 Construction Repair
924 Demolition
925 Decks/Patios
926 Doors
927 Debris/ Clutter Removal
929 Drywall/Plastering
930 Electrical Services
933 Excavating
934 Fences
935 Fire/Flood Damage
936 Floor Sanding/ Refinishing
937 Floor Installation
938 Furniture Refinishing/ Upholstering
939 General Services
940 Glass-Residential/ Commercial
941 Home Concierge Services
942 Garages
943 Landscapers / Gardeners
944 Gutters
945 Handyman
946 Home Services
947 Heating/Cooling Repair & Installation
948 Insulation
949 Janitorial Services
950 Engine/Motor Repair
951 Iron Work
952 Locksmith
953 Marble/Stone
954 Painting/Decorating
956 Pest Control
957 Plumbing & Installation
958 Pool Maintenance
959 Power Washing
960 Roofing Service
961 Security Enforcement
962 Sanitation Services
964 Sewer Cleaning Service
965 Shutters
966 Snow Removal
968 Shrink Wrapping
969 Swimming Pool Service
970 T.V./Radio/CB Radio
971 Tree Service
973 Tile Work
974 VCR/DVD Repair
975 Vacuum Sales/Service
976 Ventilation Service
977 Wall Washing
980 Window Installation
981 Window Washing
983 Welding

ANIMALS
500 Animals Adopt A Pet
502 Horses For Sale
503 Household Pets For Sale
504 Humane Societies
505 Lost And Found
506 Pet Breeding
507 Pet Equipment
508 Pet Grooming
509 Pet Boarding/Sitting
510 Animal Services

AUTOMOTIVE
600 Cars
601 Chrysler
602 Ford
603 General Motors
604 Antique/Classic
605 Foreign
606 Sport Utility
607 Junkers
608 Parts/Tires/Alarms
609 Rentals/Leasing
610 Sports Cars
611 Trucks
612 Vans
613 Wanted To Buy
614 Auto Insurance
615 Auto Services
616 Auto Storage

RECREATIONAL
650 Airplanes
651 Boats And Motors
652 Boat Service/Care
653 Boat Parts
654 Boat Storage/Docking
655 Campers
656 Motorbikes
657 Motorcycles
658 Motor Homes
659 Snowmobiles
660 Trailers/Tractors
661 Water Sports
662 Recreational Vehicles

DEADLINES
Please call for holiday deadline dates and times, subject to change.

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS:
TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.
CLASSIFIED WORD ADS:
TUESDAYS: 1:00 P.M.

PRICING
Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.

FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS
Given for multi-week scheduled advertising with prepayment or credit approval. Call for rates or for more information. Phone lines can be busy on Monday and Tuesday. Please call early.

WORD ADS:
35 words for $25.00;
additional words are 30¢ each.
Abbreviations are not accepted.

BORDER ADS STARTING AT:
$26.00 per column inch

CLASSIFYING AND CENSORSHIP
We reserve the right to classify each ad under its appropriate heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject ad copy submitted for publication.

CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS
Responsibility for classified advertising errors is limited to either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the portion of the error. Notification must be given in time for the correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility for the same after the first insertion.

Place an Order

MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM (OR PLACE AN ORDER ON OUR WEB SITE)
Grosse Pointe News
Mail: Classified Advertising, 16980 Kercheval Pl., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
Phone: (313) 882-6900 Ext. 4 **Fax:** (313) 882-1585
Web: grossepointenews.com
Email: classifieds@grossepointenews.com

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

CLASSIFICATION NAME: _____

$25 FOR 35 WORDS. ADDITIONAL WORDS, .30¢ EACH. CALL FOR COLOR!

		35 $25.00	36 $25.30
37 $25.60	38 $25.90	39 $26.20	40 $26.50

NO. OF WEEKS: _____ X COST PER WEEK: _____ = TOTAL: _____

YOUR CONTACT AND BILLING INFORMATION

NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____
CARD NO: _____ EXP. DATE: _____
Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.

Announcements

100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Grosse Pointe News

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Email your application to **cityadmin@gpwmi.us**;
drop it off at City Hall; or mail it to:
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
20025 Mack Plaza Drive
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
Attn: City Manager

Questions?
Contact School Resource Officer Jeffry Martel at **jmartel@gpwmi.us** or **(313) 343-2410**.
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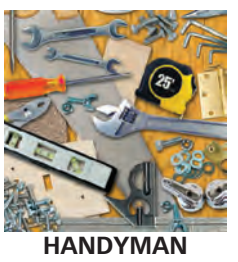

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Grosse Pointe Woods

Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK: August 20, 2026

1. 535 St. Clair Ave., GPC
2. 1117 Lakepointe St., GPP
3. 1340 N. Oxford Rd., GPW

= YARD SALE = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details

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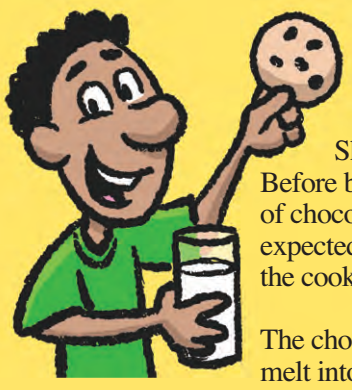
WHOOPS! Inventions By Mistake

Some of the world's favorite inventions happened by accident.

The First Chocolate Chip Cookies

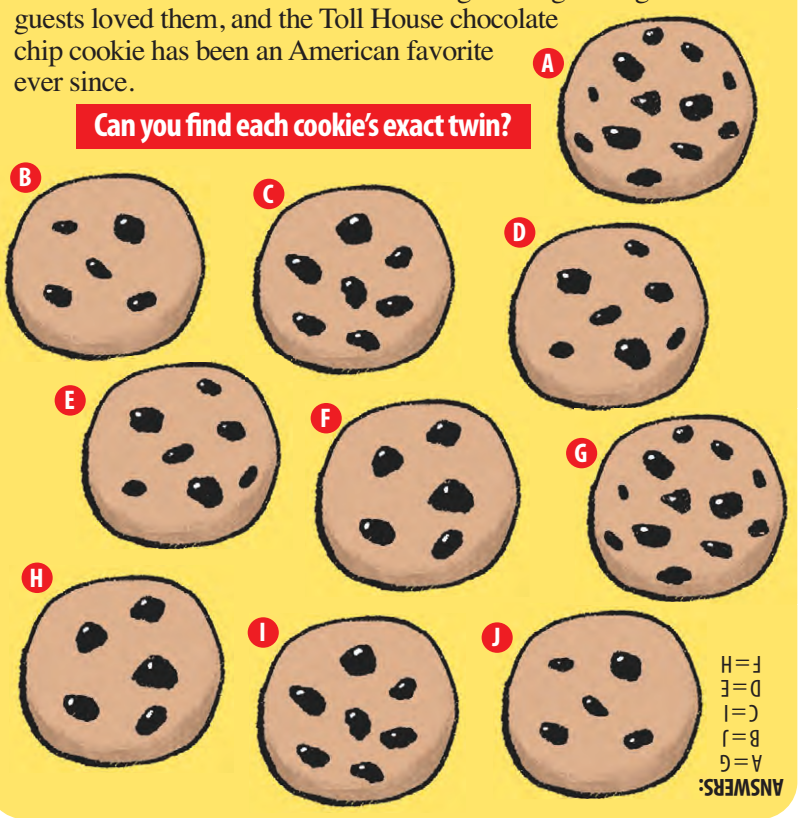


Hotel owner Ruth Wakefield was trying to create a new treat for guests of the Toll House Inn.

She made a buttery cookie dough. Before baking, she added some broken bits of chocolate bar to each cookie. Ruth had expected the chocolate to melt and mix with the cookie dough.

The chocolate bits softened, but they didn't melt into the dough during baking. Ruth's guests loved them, and the Toll House chocolate chip cookie has been an American favorite ever since.

Can you find each cookie's exact twin?

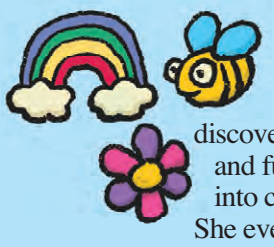


Big Fun! Big Dough!

In the early 1900s, wallpaper in homes used to get very dirty from the heating and cooking appliances. Kutol Products sold a special, soft dough that was used to clean the soot off wallpaper, and it was very popular.



But when newer, cleaner appliances arrived in the 1950s, wallpaper soot was not a big problem anymore.



The company owner's sister-in-law was a teacher named Kay Zufall. She discovered that the dough was safe and fun for her students to mold into creative shapes of all kinds. She even gave it a name: **Play-Doh®**

Circle every other letter to discover how many cans of Play-Doh® have been sold since 1956.

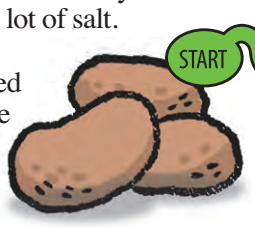
O T V B E K R J T M H L R V E H E S B W I U
L D L G I Y O J N M C R A Z N P S E



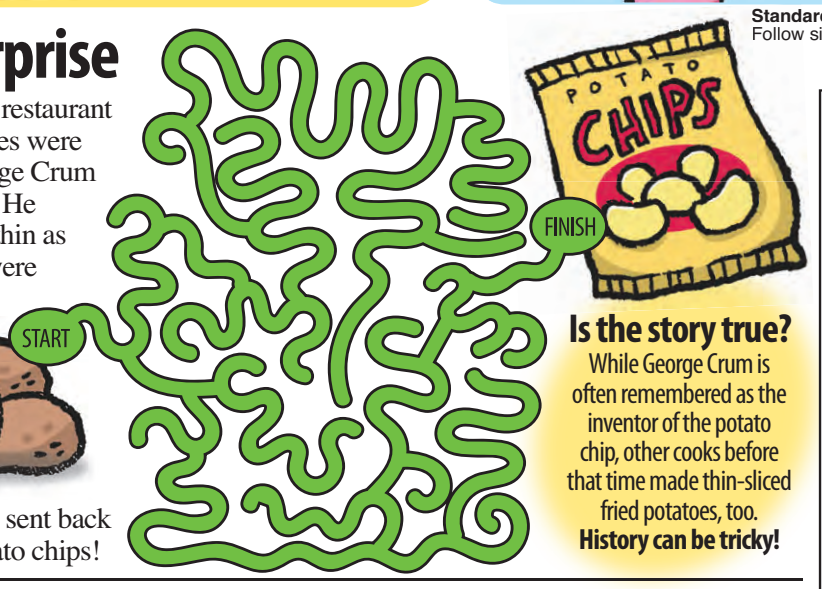
O V _ _ _
_ _ R _ _ _
B _ _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ S

Potato Chip Surprise

In 1853, an angry customer at a restaurant complained that his fried potatoes were too thick and soggy. Cook George Crum was annoyed by this complaint. He decided to slice the potatoes as thin as possible, fried them until they were crisp, and added a lot of salt.



The customer loved them! Soon people were coming to the restaurant for these crispy, salty potatoes. And that's how a meal sent back to the kitchen helped create potato chips!



Is the story true?
While George Crum is often remembered as the inventor of the potato chip, other cooks before that time made thin-sliced fried potatoes, too. **History can be tricky!**

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Extra! Extra! Great Inventions

Look through the newspaper for inventions you often use, such as computers, cars and refrigerators. Make a list of ways your life would be different without each of these inventions.

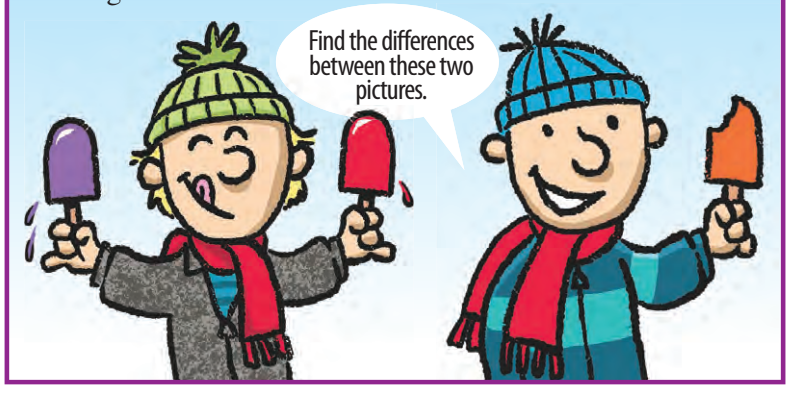
Standards Link: Language Arts: Write opinions supported by facts.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cool Kid Invents the Popsicle®

Frank Epperson accidentally invented the Popsicle® in 1905 at the age of 11. He left a cup of powdered soda and water with a stirring stick in it outside overnight. The soda froze.

In the morning, Frank pulled the frozen soda out of the cup using the wooden stick. It was delicious, and Frank started his business selling these frozen treats in 1924.



Double Double Word Search

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

BITS
BOOK
CHIPS
CLEAN
CUP
DOUGH
FROZEN
FUN
GLUE
HISTORY
MOLD
SAFE
SALTY
SOFT
THIN
TIME

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

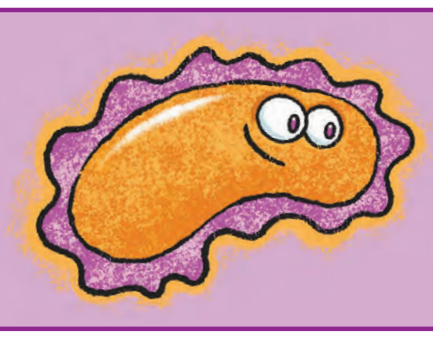
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Invention Solutions

Look through the newspaper for a product that makes lives easier. What problem does it solve? Write a sentence telling what the problem was before the invention solved it.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Establish connections between problems and solutions.



Why did the germ cross the microscope?

ANSWER: To get to the other slide.

Write On!

My Invention

You accidentally mixed two unusual foods together. And the big surprise is that it tastes great! Write about your new food invention.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

Kid Scoop Together

Sticky Subject

Number the sticky notes in order. Then, read the story of the invention of Post-it® Notes to your family.

he accidentally created a glue that stuck lightly to surfaces and book pages. It could be easily removed without leaving

employee in 1974 and began testing the glue to make bookmarks. In 1980, the first Post-it® Notes arrived in stores and were an

Spencer Silver was a chemist at the 3M Company in 1968. He was trying to create a super-strong glue when

instant success with office workers everywhere.

the surface sticky.

For years, Silver couldn't find a good use for this unusual glue. He teamed up with another 3M

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Kid Scoop® VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
INVENTION

The noun **invention** means something new that a person makes or thinks up to solve a problem.

The airplane is an **invention** that helps us travel far away.

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

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

ULS boys soccer ready for another shot at state title in 2026

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Brady Ancona leads an attack for Liggett during the 2025 Division 4 boys soccer state championship game.

Last fall, the University Liggett School varsity boys soccer team came close to winning its first state championship since 1999. The Knights battled in an epic Division 4 state title game, but ultimately fell just short by losing to Leland in a penalty-kick shootout.

The loss stung, of course, but the Knights are ready to start fresh with a new campaign in 2026. Several key pieces that helped lead the team to a state runner-up finish last year are back and enthusiastic about getting another shot at reaching the state's biggest stage.

"We were all saying that it seems like yesterday we were on the bus ride home from the state championship," Liggett boys soccer head coach David Dwaihy said. "In that moment, we were taking comfort in the knowledge that it wouldn't be too long before we were getting back at it and that time has finally arrived. ... We're very excited about the group we have coming back."

At the core of that returning group are three senior leaders. Ollie Cooley, Landon Wysocki and Brady Ancona all return to lead in the midfield, forming a strong center that can power the team on both ends of the field.

"We have the blessing of an extremely strong central midfield," Dwaihy said. "... Those three guys are pretty remarkable in terms of their talent and leadership. They're very familiar with one another, so we hope the middle of the field can be a really strong nucleus for us on both the offensive end and the defensive end."

Outside of the midfield, the Knights have plenty of strong contributors around the field. Brendan Mitchell should be a crucial part of the back line on defense and can play in the center and out wide. Liggett also is confident in its strength in net with goalkeepers Connor Sharp and Nathan Sliwinski. Brenden Logan and Liam Gady should help lead things up front on the attack.

The Knights are confident they have depth everywhere on the field, feeling like their starters and several players coming off the bench are more than capable of giving them an edge in every game. Still, the team's biggest strength might be on offense, wanting to keep the ball out of its own end as much as possible.

"It's a really deep team," Dwaihy said. "... We certainly want to defend with pride and keep other teams from getting chances and scoring goals. Our best form of defense could be a good offense up front. We can have six players press the ball and establish possession in the other team's half. We always tell the boys we want to defend as far away from our goal as possible."

Depth and a strong press could definitely be advantageous for the Knights as they battle through an always-challenging Catholic League schedule, along with some exciting non-league matches on the slate. Liggett will take on perennial Division 3 powerhouse Grosse Ile early in the season, close the season with a challenging matchup against Hamtramck at Keyworth Stadium Oct. 6, and host Leland in a state championship game rematch Oct. 3.

Liggett knows it has what it takes to compete with every team on its schedule and hopefully make another deep run in the playoffs. It is no secret what the team's biggest goals for the season are, but the coaches want everyone to remember that the season is about more than just earning a shot at a title and there is plenty for them to learn and achieve along the way.

"The natural goal for everyone, whether they're acknowledging it or not, is to go one step further than last year," Dwaihy said. "I've been trying to remind everyone since the moment that game ended how you need some luck and need the ball to bounce your way at the right moment. We very well could have been out of the state tournament in an earlier round if we didn't have some of that luck. I want everyone to keep the perspective that that goal is very hard to achieve and there might be a day when it's just not meant to be for us. It's not a reason not to pursue it and in pursuing it, I hope we can reach some even more meaningful goals."

Liggett began the season hosting Grosse Ile Wednesday, Aug. 19. The team heads on the road for its next game Friday, Aug. 21, taking on Hillsdale Academy.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

South girls XC sets high bar for new season

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern



COURTESY PHOTO

South girls cross-country's 2026 team captains. From left: Morgan Costello, Grace Geresy, Leah Sonnenberg and Rylee Piornack.

Coming off an impressive 2025 cross-country season that included an undefeated regular season, a MAC championship and numerous invitational titles, the Grosse Pointe South girls cross-country team enters the new season with its sights set on championship wins once again.

With more than 60 runners currently training in the program, longtime head coach Stephen Zaranek has a team with both high-level experience and promising new talent, which is a combination that bodes well for the Blue Devils this year.

"We are very excited about this season," Zaranek said. "We have a great blend of talented experience and promising youth. That, combined with our usual depth, should make for an excellent season."

That experience starts at the front. South returns eight of its top 10 runners from last year's championship team, headed by sophomore state finalist Eleanor Pilsner. Joining Pilsner is a talented group of upperclassmen, including seniors Morgan Costello, Rylee Piornack and Calisse Budek, alongside standout sophomore Lydia Thomson-Redus and juniors Paige Garbo, Ria White and Ciara Nordstrom.

Leadership will be a strength for the team this fall, carried by a group of more than 15 seniors and led by team captains Morgan Costello, Grace Geresy, Rylee Piornack and Leah Sonnenberg.

Adding to an already deep team, the Blue Devils welcome exciting new faces to the lineup. Olivia Colt, who was a standout track athlete for South this past spring, joins the cross-country team her senior year, while a talented group of freshmen, including Emma Ford and Ivy Surma, already have begun turning heads at practice.

"Our team depth always provides us with an advantage in both league and state competition," Zaranek noted. "We expect this depth, once again, will provide a key component to our success."

South's fall schedule is packed with high-level competition. The Blue Devils look to defend their MAC title in league meets throughout September and October, while targeting top-three finishes at major invitationals.

However, the ultimate target on the calendar is Oct. 31, when South competes at the state regional meet. A top-three finish at regionals will secure the varsity team a trip to the MHSAA State Finals in November.

Despite the long list of wins and championship goals, Zaranek emphasized that South's true winning formula comes down to the culture they create off the course.

"Our No. 1 objective each season is to be the most supportive team in the state," he said. "Our girls work so hard at this one objective and it not only shows wherever we go, but it makes a huge difference in allowing us to achieve the highest results both as individuals and as a team. We are very competitive, very hard working and very supportive of one another. This combination is the formula for success we enjoy each year."

South begins the season Friday, Aug. 21, competing in the Lamplighter Invitational at Ford Field Park in Livonia.

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2026 Fall Sports Previews

Liggett boys tennis sets sights on back-to-back state titles

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern



COURTESY PHOTO

University Liggett School's boys tennis team celebrates with the state championship trophy after winning the 2025 Division 4 state title.

After capturing the Division 4 state championship last fall, the University Liggett School varsity boys tennis team isn't interested in resting on its laurels. Heading into the new season, head coach Mark Sobieralski and the Knights are making their intentions clear with nothing short of a second straight trophy.

"Our goal this year is to win back-to-back state titles," Sobieralski said. "And our goal for a successful year will be to win the state title."

The Knights bring back a core group to chase that win. Leading the squad both on and off the court are three senior captains, Tise Courtright, Davis Ford and Charlie Laethem.

They are also equipped with much returning talent in Yurii Polnyi, Justin Platt, Lucas Ferguson and Matteo Marciano. All four were vital contributors during last fall's title run and will bring much experience to the team.

To complement their veteran group of boys, Liggett will add fresh talent into the mix. Sobieralski expects freshmen Ian Moya and Jack Ingle to step up immediately and play major roles in keeping the team's strength.

While the lineup has plenty of physical skill, Sobieralski emphasized that sharpening the team's mental strength remains an everyday priority.

"We always strive to work on our mental toughness and be resilient," Sobieralski said.

That resilience will be put to the test against what is typically one of the most demanding schedules in Michigan high school tennis. Liggett competes in the top division of the Catholic High School League, featuring programs such as Detroit Country Day, Cranbrook Kingswood, Birmingham Brother Rice, Detroit Catholic Central, Ann Arbor Greenhills and University of Detroit Jesuit which are programs that consistently rank among the top five in the state.

The Knights stack their non conference matches with state winners, including Troy, Rochester Stoney Creek, Birmingham Seaholm and Holland Christian.

For Sobieralski, navigating that schedule is all part of the plan to have his team peaking when November comes.

"We play an amazing schedule which prepares us for the state tournament," Sobieralski said.

With proven leadership, key additions and a talented team ahead, Liggett enters the season ready to embrace the pressure of winning another state championship.

The Knights opened the season hosting a quad match with Berrien Springs, Grosse Ile and Saline after press time Tuesday, Aug. 18. Liggett hosts Grosse Pointe South Thursday, Aug. 20.

South boys tennis eager to compete among the best in 2026

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

Following a historic season that saw Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis secure a sixth-place finish at the state finals — the program's best result in two decades — head coach Brian Kean and the Blue Devils are eager to push even further this fall.

Entering his fourth year as coach, Kean has overseen a transformation of the program, moving from a 14th-place state finish in his first year to a top-tier state contender last season. Despite losing five key seniors to graduation, the Blue Devils enter the new season with what may be their deepest squad yet.

"We're extremely excited about this group," Kean said. "We graduated five seniors, including some major contributors, so there are definitely some big shoes to fill. At the same time, I think this may be the deepest team we've had since I took over the program four years ago. We had 32 players come out for tryouts and the competition for spots was incredible."

That depth starts right at the top of the lineup. Senior head captain Matthew Bartoszewicz makes the move from No. 2 singles into the No. 1 spot following an outstanding offseason. Joining him in a key leadership role are seniors Max Prather and Henry Logan, who return as a pair at No. 1 doubles, with eyes on becoming one of the premier doubles teams in the state.

The roster depth is further diversified by underclassmen development. Notably, freshman Zaffran Bharucha and sophomore Luke Brennan, who paired up at No. 5 doubles last year, have made dramatic leaps in the offseason, earning spots at No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles, respectively.

"We have incredible young talent pushing our returning varsity players every day," Kean noted. "With 32 players at tryouts, 11 of which were all new freshmen, nobody was handed a position. ... There really isn't an easy spot anywhere in our lineup."

That internal competition created a shift in program culture, as South no longer just hopes to compete, but expects to battle for championship titles.

To prepare for postseason play, the Blue Devils have built a demanding schedule filled with premier competition. August features high-profile tournaments at Portage Central, University Liggett School and Grand Rapids, setting the stage for MAC Red league play, regionals and the ultimate destination: the state finals in October.

For Kean, the focus in those matches will be performing under pressure, as the team looks to turn close state final points into top-tier finishes.

"At the state finals, the difference between finishing sixth and being one of the top few teams can come down to just a handful of matches or even a few critical points," Kean explained. "We've talked a lot about becoming tougher in those moments, playing smarter under pressure and believing we belong on the court with anybody in the state."

With high expectations and a rigorous training schedule, the Blue Devils aren't putting a cap on what this season can bring.

"Ultimately, a successful season is one where we reach October knowing we became the best version of this team and gave ourselves a legitimate chance to do something special," Kean said.

South began the season on the road at Portage Central after press time Tuesday, Aug. 18. The Blue Devils travel across town to face University Liggett School Thursday, Aug. 20.

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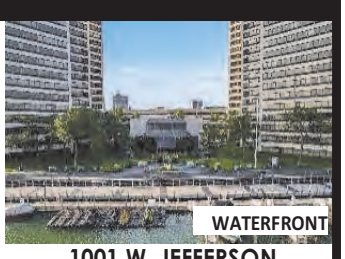

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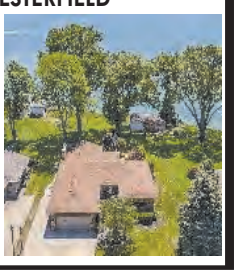

North boys tennis aims to turn close matches into wins

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

With a solid group of experienced upperclassmen and an energetic group of fresh talent, the Grosse Pointe North boys tennis team enters the new season with high expectations and a vision for growth. Head coach John VanAlst is excited by the dynamic of this year's team, creating a strong balance between proven varsity veterans and a large, promising group of underclassmen.

"Very excited about the team," VanAlst said. "We have a large, talented freshman class that is going to really benefit the team in the future. Also, these players have a great attitude and energy for the team."

Leading the charge at the top of the lineup for the Norsemen is returning No. 1 singles player Ajay Sarnaik, who brings consistency and experience back to the court. Sarnaik is expected to be a key leader and one of the players to watch this fall. Alongside him, returning veteran Liam Haney also will serve as a major aid for the roster.

"Many returning players lead to a strong team, with that the team also has lots of experience," VanAlst said.

North's primary objective this fall is honing in on key points during tight matches. After battling through a series of nail-biting matches last autumn, the Norsemen are focused on sharpening their game under pressure and flipping close losses into wins.

Mental toughness will be put to the test against a tough schedule. As is tradition, local crosstown matchups highlight the calendar and will provide the team with motivation.

"We always have a strong season schedule," VanAlst said. "We always get up for the Liggett and GPS matches."

As the Norsemen prepare to take on a demanding schedule, VanAlst remains focused on keeping his players healthy, improving day by day and measuring success through team development.

"A successful season would be an injury-free one with some on-court successes," VanAlst said.

North hosts a quad match with Romeo, Grosse Ile and St. Clair Thursday, Aug. 20.

2026 Fall Sports Previews

South boys soccer hopes depth and youth can elevate program

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Hayden Drouillard, pictured in a game against Grosse Pointe North last season, will serve as one of Grosse Pointe South boys soccer's senior captains in 2026.

Last fall had its ups and downs for the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys soccer team. However, the mostly young squad that still was gaining experience made it as far as the district championship game in the playoffs.

The Blue Devils have much of the same talent, now with another year of experience under their belt, returning from last year's squad. The team is hoping to be faster and stronger than it was last year and sees the sky as the limit for the youth and depth it still has.

"The boys know how good of a team we have," South boys soccer head coach Joe Cada said. "... We've got a lot of returning players. We were incredibly young last year, competing in the MAC Red. We're getting a bit older, but even after this year, we're not going to lose too many seniors. We have a lot of potential and the future is really bright."

Even with their eyes on the future with a host of young talent, the Blue Devils still have some veterans playing important roles this year. Senior captains Jacob Duso and Hayden Drouillard will be two of the squad's biggest leaders on and off the field. They are joined in the group of captains by junior Nolan Kidder. South also will look for a boost from junior Thomas Gorski and is hopeful about the potential shown by freshman Lucas Bukovec.

It will take a full team effort, however, for South to elevate itself to the type of program it wants to be this season. The Blue Devils finished 8-9-3 last fall and finished last in the MAC Red Division. South will be back in the MAC Red this season, competing against teams like Romeo, Anchor Bay, Dakota, Eisenhower and Utica. A competitive league schedule mixed with non-league games against Royal Oak, Detroit Country Day and rival Grosse Pointe North means there will be no days off for the Blue Devils this fall.

"We don't take any team lightly," Cada said. "... I try to make the hardest schedule I can find for the boys. ... I really think that we can beat anyone we play. It's all about getting us prepared for the state tournament at the end of the season."

Being tested regularly throughout the season is what South hopes will ensure it is playing its best soccer when the playoffs arrive. The team also believes its depth will be an advantage in those tough matchups, having plenty of capable players in the starting lineup and coming off the bench.

Where certain players fit in the lineup will change over time as South tries to figure out which pieces fit best. Again, it is all about making sure the team peaks at the right time. The Blue Devils are content with being patient and knowing they have the right players who can make it happen.

"Things change a lot from the beginning to the end," Cada said. "Last year, our lineup looked a lot different at the end from what it was at the beginning of the year. A lot of it is just seeing what works and what we look best in. ... I'm not afraid to change things up and move guys around. It's all about finding our best form coming into the playoffs."

South begins the season at home Friday, Aug. 21, hosting Warren Cousino at 5:30 p.m.

North boys soccer ready for new era this fall

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North varsity boys soccer believes 2026 is the beginning of a new era. The Norsemen welcome a new head coach who is looking to lead the program to new heights with what he believes is a deep, talented roster this fall.

Nino Maniaci takes over head coaching duties at North this fall. He previously served as the boys soccer head coach at Bishop Foley, where he led the program to a Division 4 state championship game appearance in 2023. He has spent the last few years coaching at EastSide FC, while being a varsity assistant coach at Lakeview, and is excited for the opportunity to lead the Norsemen.

"Knowing the area really well, I thought it would be a perfect fit," Maniaci said. "... There's a lot of talent that goes through this school. We've been training with off-season weight room conditioning and summer conditioning and now the season is finally here and I'm excited."

Maniaci believes he is inheriting a roster that is talented from the top down. Still, there are some to watch out for who will be playing especially important roles or could have big breakout seasons.

One of the biggest pieces the Norsemen have added ahead of this season is Matthew Eshman, a senior coming from club soccer to play his first season with North. He is expected to be one of the team's top goal scorers. While Eshman may control the attack, senior Vincenzo Bonasso will be North's leader in the midfield. Marshall Pata and Lorenzo Dichio are a pair of juniors who could be poised for breakout performances this fall as well.

"I think up to 15 of these guys are capable of being starters," Maniaci said. "We're really deep. That's our biggest strength. With that, we're very flexible as far as the different formations and styles of play we can use based on different opponents. These guys provide us with a lot of flexibility with our formations and different ways to go about things."

That flexibility is a strength North hopes will lead to some better results than last season and another strong finish in the MAC Blue Division. The Norsemen finished second in the division last year, but had an overall record of 6-8-3. This year, the team is hoping that just a few improvements and a new approach can lead to more wins and a division title.

The Norsemen will have their hands full with division foes like Fraser, Marysville, Port Huron and Sterling Heights, as well as have some challenging non-league games on the slate against the likes of Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Hamtramck, Grosse Pointe South and Detroit Cass Tech. The mindset North has going into the campaign is to take everything one game and one practice at a time for what it hopes can be a gradual build-up of development throughout the fall.

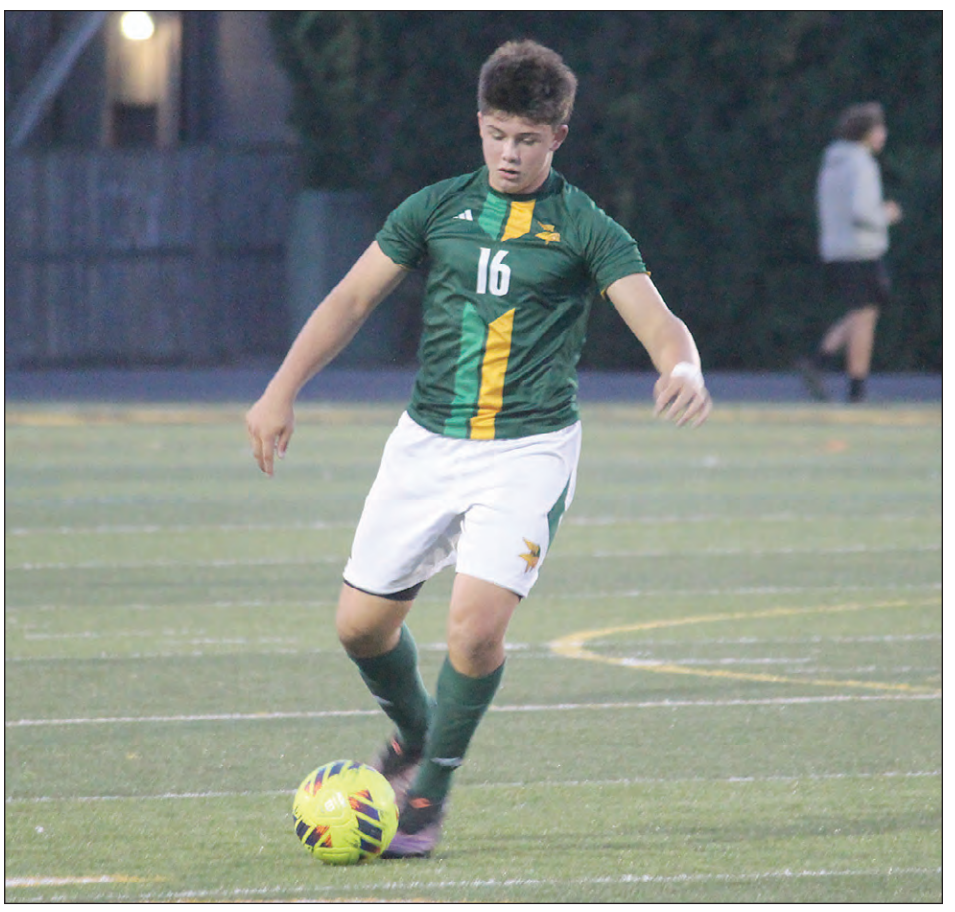

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North junior Marshall Pata brings the ball up the field in a game against Marysville last season.

"Going into any season, you always want to be playing our best soccer and be playing meaningful games in late September," Maniaci said. "... By doing that, we want to get better every day and every week. Every game has its own meaning and is just as important. Don't make any game too big or too small."

North had its season opener Wednesday, Aug. 19, after press time, on the road against Lamphere. The team hosts Orchard Lake St. Mary's at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

South girls golf looking for veterans, young talent to step up

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls golf team will have to adjust this year to being without one of its top players from the past few seasons. Lyla Hampton has graduated, leaving the program in need of leaders who can step up and help the team in its biggest matches. Luckily for South, the team believes it has more than a few golfers capable of doing just that — and some friendly competition might help make everyone better.

"We don't have a dominant force, but I think there's going to be more internal competition on a weekly basis to see who's playing in the biggest matches," South girls golf head coach Shaun Hampton said. "There's a touch of 'iron sharpens iron.'"

The Blue Devils do have some strong seniors they can look to for leadership. Alissa Mourad, Tinley Gram and Alice Gabel are three of the most experienced veterans the team has this year and could be leaned on in some big matches and tournaments.

They will be mixed with a group of young talent who will be looking to make an impression right away. Ella Kalmink and Keira Leech are two freshmen joining the squad this fall who can be major contributors early in their careers.

"They can hit the ball really well, tee to green," Hampton said. "Short game needs some work, but we can work on that. They can get off the tee and have some power."

The Blue Devils began the season Monday, Aug. 17, playing in the Rochester Lady Falcon Invitational at Stoney Creek Metropark. South finished 15th out of 19 teams in the field, with Leech shooting the team's best score of 103. South hosts Romeo at Lochmoor Club in a MAC Red Division match Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

Peanuts
Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro
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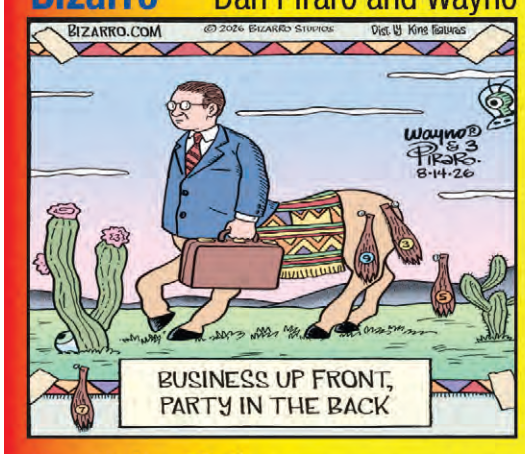

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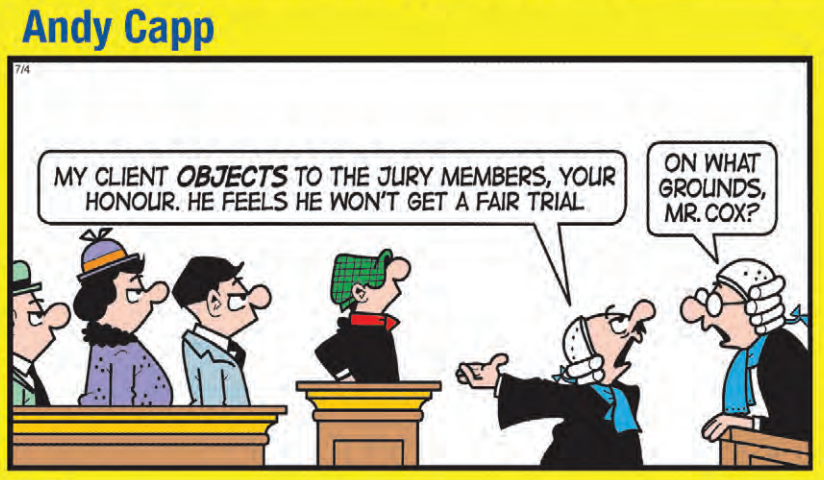

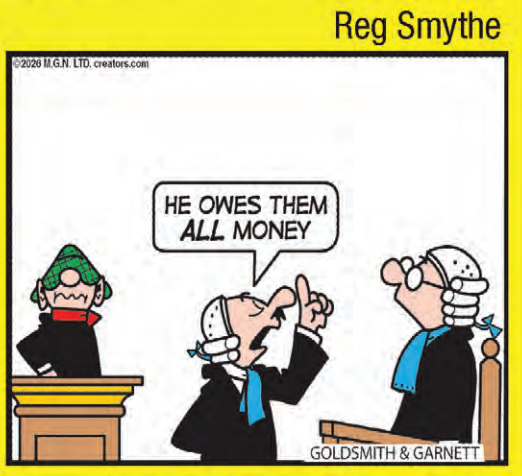

The Flying McCoys
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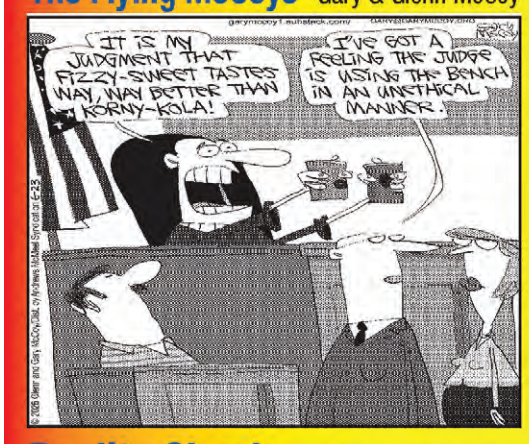

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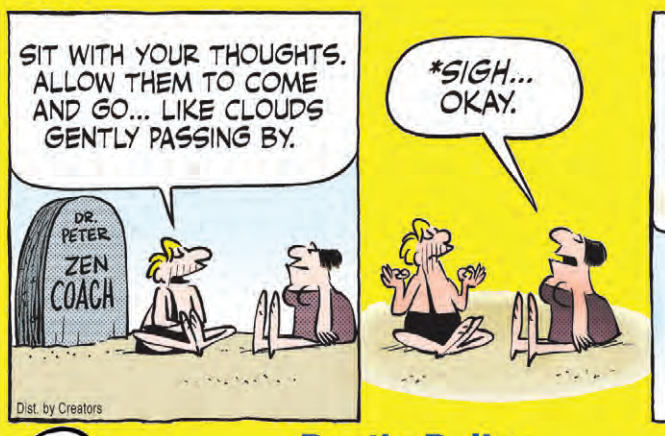
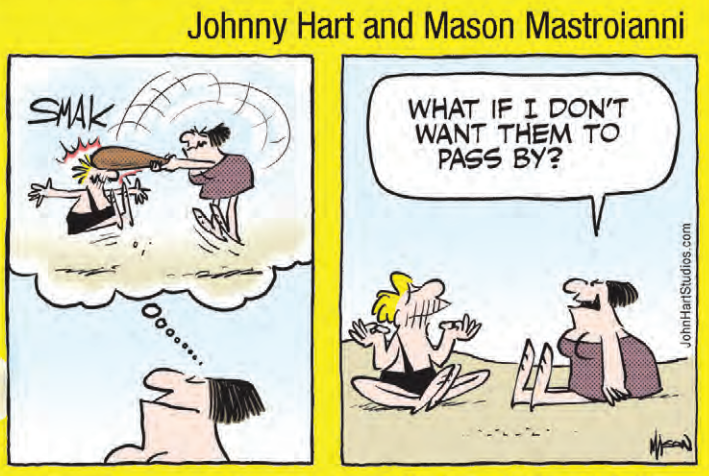
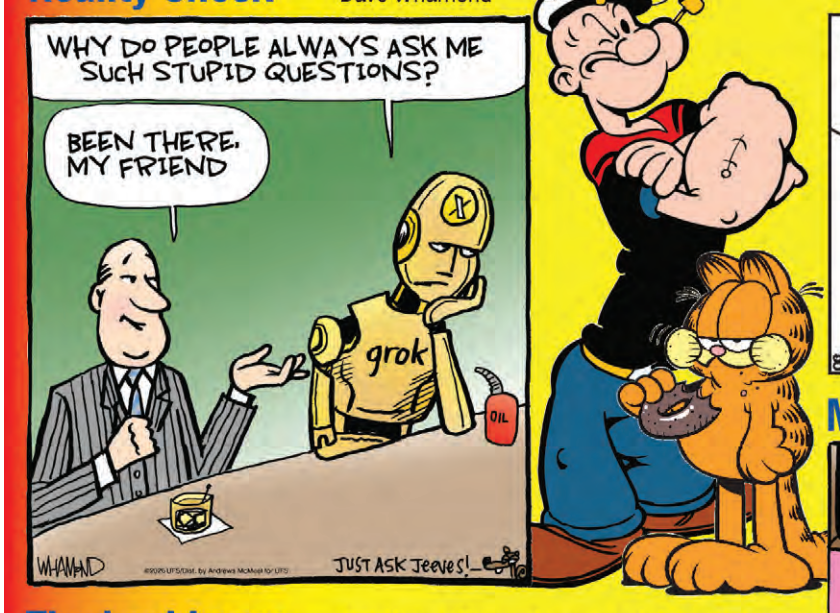


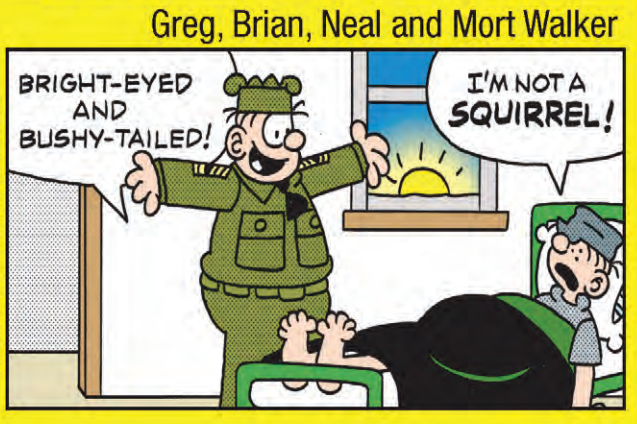


Reality Check
Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey
Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker





Mother Goose & Grim
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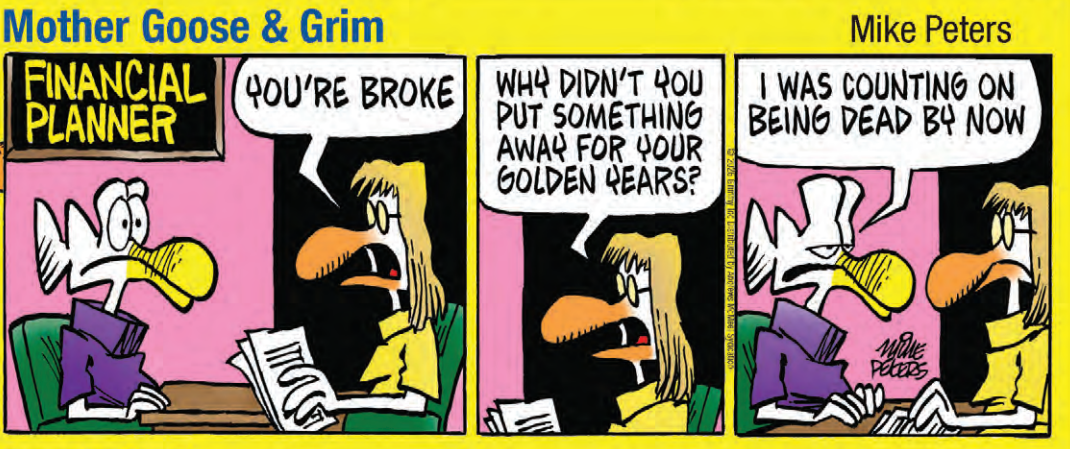

The Lockhorns
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"WHEN IT COMES TO NEW SWIMSUITS, LORETTA CAN BARELY CONTAIN HERSELF."

Crankshaft
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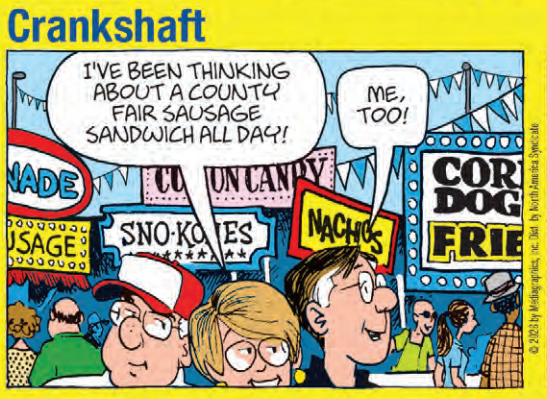
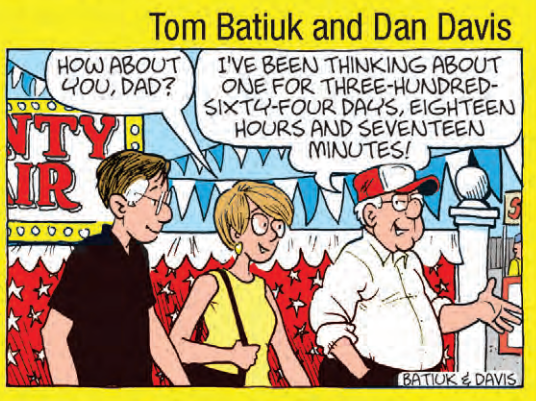
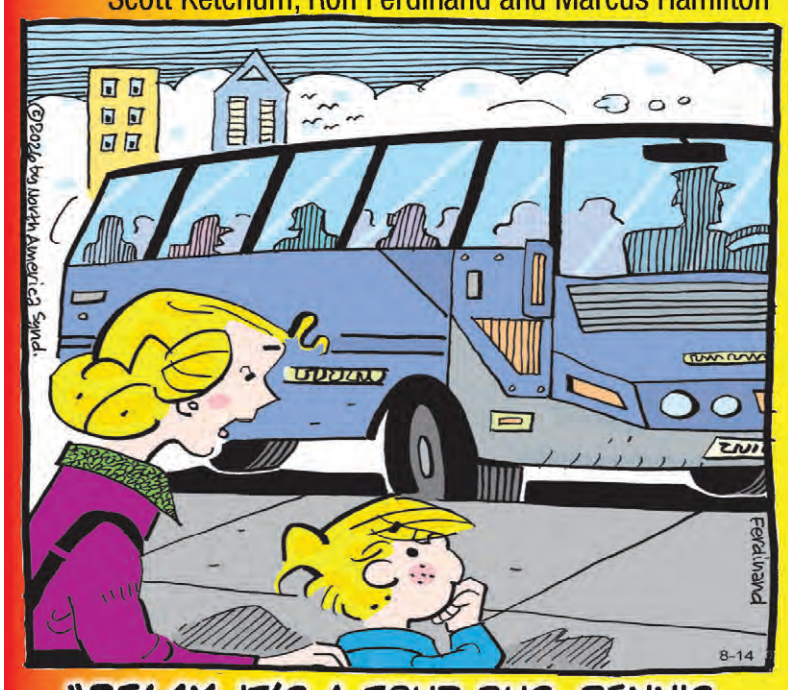


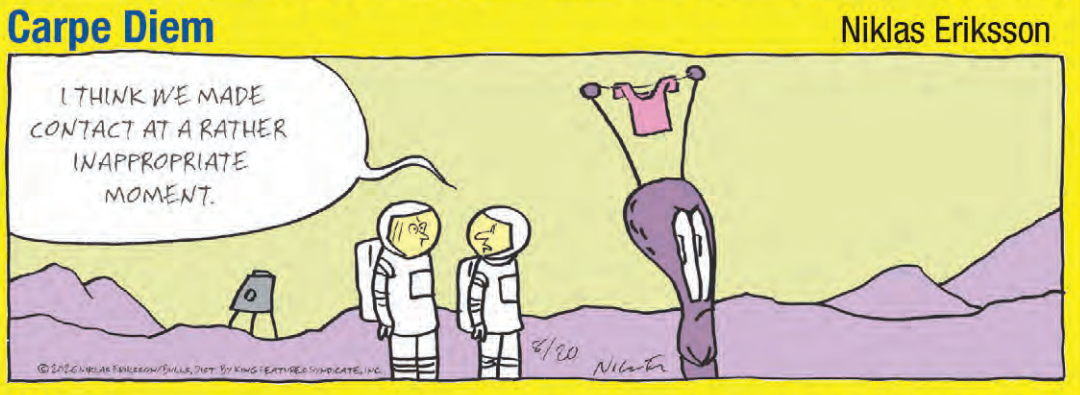


Dennis the Menace
Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"RELAX, IT'S A TOUR BUS, DENNIS. NOT A SCHOOL BUS."

Carpe Diem
Niklas Eriksson



Wumo
Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse Pointe News

THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



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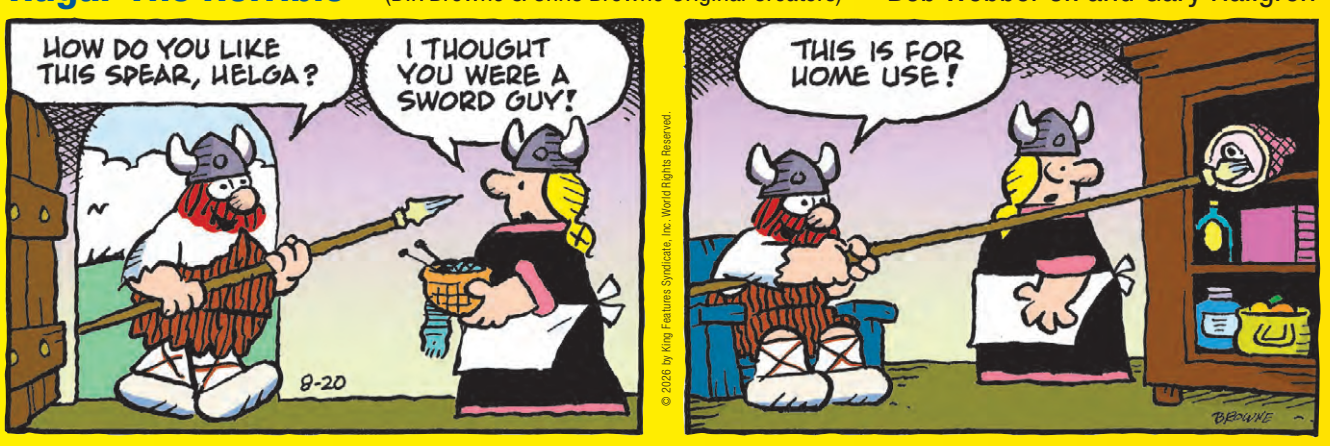

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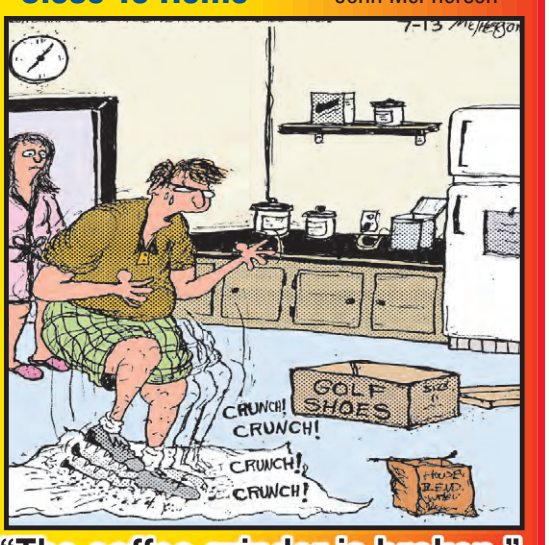

"The coffee grinder is broken."

Wizard of Id

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



Ziggy

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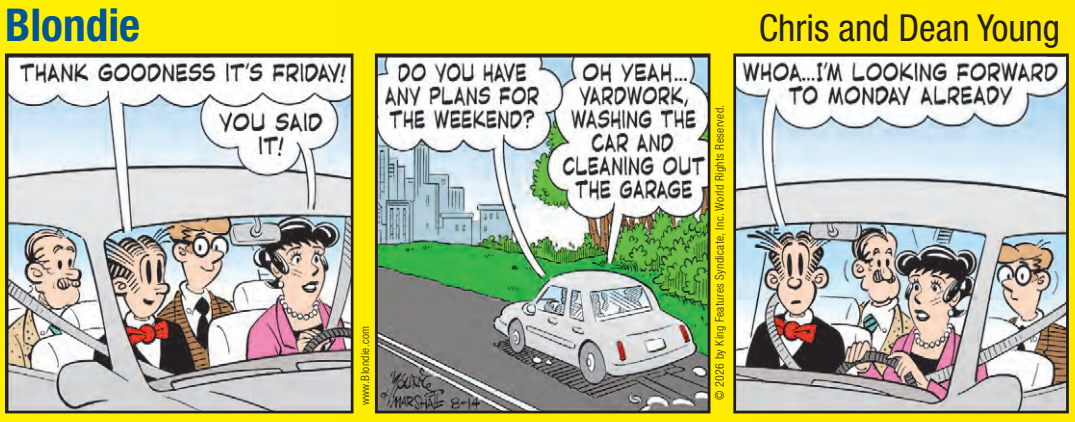
Chris and Dean Young



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Marmaduke

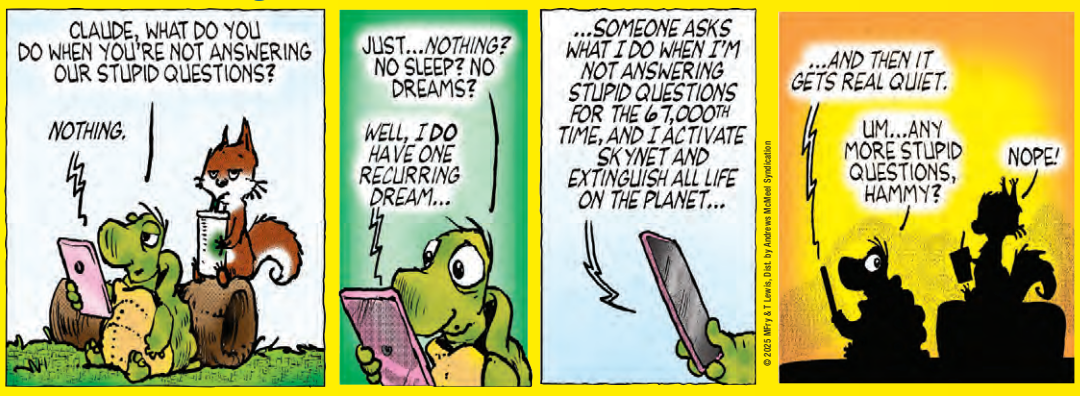
Paul & Brad Anderson



"You slept through breakfast and you slept through lunch. Try to stay awake until dinner."

Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



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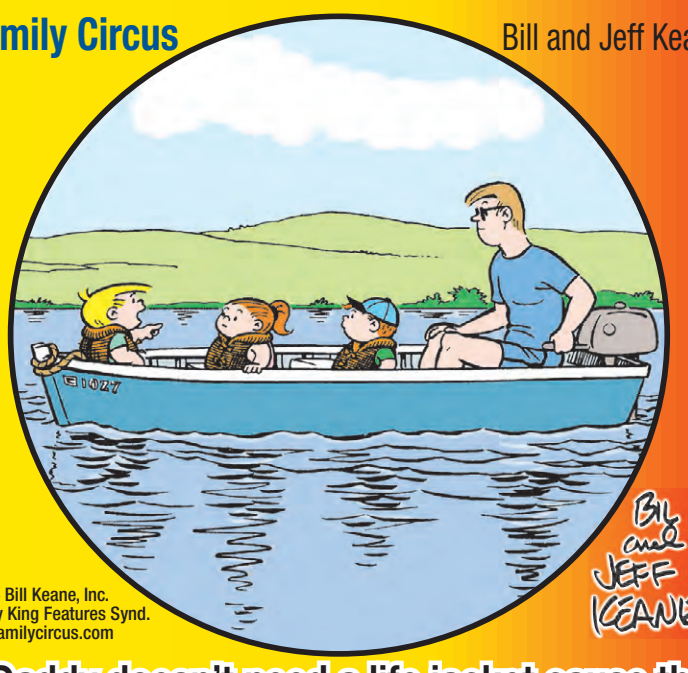
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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"Daddy doesn't need a life jacket cause the captain has to go down with the ship."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



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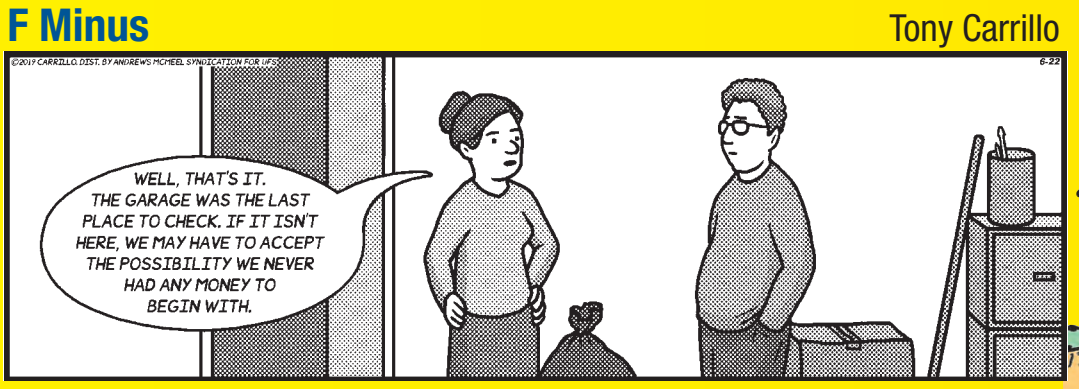
F Minus

Tony Carrillo





2026 Fall Sports Previews

North girls XC begins new chapter under new head coach

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

As the Grosse Pointe North girls cross-country team steps onto the course this fall, it enters an exciting new season held together by positive culture and a fresh perspective.

Taking the charge for her first season as head coach, Erinne Lubienski is placing a core emphasis on running with joy, building long-term program foundations and creating personal growth across a young roster.

"This season is my first year as head coach and we are putting a big emphasis on building a strong team culture and learning to run with joy," Lubienski said. "We have a young team, with a third of our runners being freshmen, so this is a great opportunity to establish the kind of culture we want our program to have moving forward."

That foundation begins with redefining what success looks like on a daily basis. While lower times and competitive finishes remain a priority, Lubienski and her staff are focused on creating a supportive environment where hard work and team chemistry take top priority.

"My expectation for this season is that we continue to grow both as runners and as a team," Lubienski said. "Of course, we want to get faster and compete, but I also want our athletes to find joy in running, challenge themselves and feel like they are an important part of this team."

Setting the tone for that mission is a captain trio consisting of seniors Anna Miller and Polly Profeta and junior Erin Doolittle. All three have embraced their leadership roles, spending the summer involved in personal training and aiding incoming underclassmen into the team family.

"I am really excited about the runners we have returning this year," Lubienski said. "I am really looking forward to watching our three captains step into leadership roles and help shape the culture of our team. All three captains have worked hard this summer, on their own training and on welcoming and supporting new runners. They have embraced what we want our team to be about, which is hard work and celebrating each other's success."

That welcoming atmosphere has allowed a group of younger runners to hit the ground running. While the team is losing a third of the entire squad, the underclassmen have brought an energy to practice that has energized the entire roster.

"I have a great group of young runners this season and I have been really impressed with the enthusiasm and energy that they have brought to the team," Lubienski said. "What has stood out to me is their willingness to work hard, learn and become a part of the team. There is a lot of potential in this group of runners and I am excited to see them develop throughout the season."

While the program's work ethic is already growing, building race-day consistency and confidence remains a key point for such a young group.

"Our biggest strength this season is how quickly these girls are coming together as a team," Lubienski said. "We also have a group that works hard and is willing to challenge themselves. With such a young team, there is a lot of room for growth. One of our areas to improve on is building our consistency and confidence as runners. We have a lot of athletes still learning to train consistently, so we want to focus on getting stronger as the season progresses and learning to race with confidence."

Looking ahead, the Norsemen are gearing up for a hard October schedule. Highlights include showcases at the Wayne County Meet and Gabriel Richard, followed by some new postseason competition. Due to regional realignment, North will face new competition when they head to Pinckney High School Oct. 31 for the regional meet.

As the team prepares to navigate the season's challenges, Lubienski's focus remains fixed on the bigger picture.

"At the end of the season, I would consider it successful if athletes are able to look back and see their growth as an individual and as a team," Lubienski said. "Of course we want to run faster times and be competitive, but success to me goes beyond what time an athlete gets. I want athletes to finish the season loving running more than they did when they started. I want them to be proud of their hard work, celebrate each other's success and feel like they were a part of something bigger than themselves. If we can do that, then I will consider it a successful season."



COURTESY PHOTO

North girls cross-country's captains for the 2026 season. From left: Erin Doolittle, Polly Profeta and Anna Miller.

South boys XC recharges program

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

Fueled by a wave of underclassmen and a culture centered on hard work, the Grosse Pointe South boys cross-country team enters the new season with energy and high expectations.

Head coach Mark Sonnenberg is leading a young squad that makes up a significant majority of the roster. With two-thirds of the 35-man team made up of underclassmen, the Blue Devils view this season as an opportunity to build for the future while competing at a high level now.

"The team is young — two-thirds of the 35-man roster is a freshman or sophomore — and like last year, my suspicion is that their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm is going to have them exceeding expectations," Sonnenberg said.

Leading the charge for South is returning No. 1 runner Oscar Resnick, a sophomore who leads a strong core of underclassmen and veterans. Alongside Resnick, team captains Caleb Thomason-Redus and Logan Garbo, as well as 10th grader Grayson Wodzisz, are expected to make major contributions on the course this fall, with All-Conference honors well within reach for the group.

Adding to that returning core is a promising class of freshmen who built a strong foundation over the summer. Key newcomers Sam Philips, Oliver Deenik and Ben Trepanowski already have caught the coaching staff's eye after putting in consistent summer training.

For Sonnenberg, the team's core identity and camaraderie stand out as its greatest assets heading into fall.

"Dedication, enthusiasm, teamwork," Sonnenberg noted. "This young team has such a great attitude that it's made for a prime opportunity to reset and recharge a program."

On the technical side, the Blue Devils are sharpening several areas to elevate their race performance, focusing on racing strategy, in-season strength and core work and refining key training techniques like tempo runs.

Those improvements will be put to the test early on. One of the highlights on South's calendar is an early-season local tri-meet against cross-town rival Grosse Pointe North and Birmingham Brother Rice, an event in which the team is eager to compete.

While the squad aims for traditional performance milestones, Sonnenberg measures the ultimate success of the program through commitment and positive team culture.

"When I can look at my crew at the end of the season and see those smiles at the end-of-season banquet and know that they all gave 100 percent dedication to the program, that's success," Sonnenberg said. "Usually, that means that the traditional successes came. We look for attitude and buy-in to what the program stands for and let the results develop from there."

South begins the season at the Lamplighter Invitational at Ford Field Park in Livonia Friday, Aug. 21.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2026

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

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held July 13, 2026 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Board of Review meeting held on July 22, 2026.
2) To Receive and File the 2025 Audit/Financial Report as submitted by the City's Auditors, Yeo & Yeo and also receive and file their management report.
3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon and with no further business, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 135601 through 135855 in the amount of $1,809,095.42 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director,and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to BS&A Software in the amount of $13,996.00 for the annual service and support fees for the software that provides us our accounts payable, cash receipting, general ledger, utility billing, receivables, payroll and time sheet systems. (3) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of $41,571.25 for professional services during the month of July 2026. (4) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of $5,078.00 for the mailing and printing of the water bills and for envelope supplies. (5) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of $7,038.50 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of August 2026. (6) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of $5,789.81 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of July, for IT support services for all departments and miscellaneous purchases. (7) approve payment to Oakland County in the amount of $6,380.00 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department. (8) approve payment to Wolverine Contractors in the amount of $8,079.00 for the delivery of crushed concrete following several main breaks and for the removal of main break spoils. (9) approve payment to Blue-Water Solutions in the amount of $9,648.46 for the replacement of water meter inventory including gaskets and couplers. (10) approve payment to Turf & Timber in the amount of $33,100.00 for the removal of dead and downed trees/limbs from water main breaks and for storm damage clean up. (11) approve payment to Guardian Underground in the amount of $23,100.00 for their assistance with several water main breaks and a gate valve replacement. (12) approve payment to $26,527.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, the service drive, pump stations, the Library and the Parks and also for lawn cuttings at various residential homes that weren't in compliance with the Ordinance. (13) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, Inc. in the amount of $34,002.76 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of July 2026.
2) to adopt the attached resolution to enter into an agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the CLEMIS Authority, and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement, and further to authorize the 5% increase for products and services beginning on October 1, 2026.
3) to approve the renovations in the Public Safety Department as listed in the individual quotes provided that include but are not limited to ceiling improvements, carpet, electrical relocations, and office furniture in an amount not to exceed $96,297.18.
4) to accept the low bid submitted by Delta Industrial in the amount of $9,900.00 to repair the floor drain in the fire apparatus bay.
5) to approve payment to PK Contracting, LLC in the amount of $13,037.89 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2026 Pavement Striping Project, #180-396.
6) to approve payment to Duke's Root Control in the amount of $5,466.25 for Progress Payment No.2 (Final) on the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Investigation Project, #180-365.
7) to approve the amendment to the Simplified Business Solutions technology agreement to include the fee structure increase and further to authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment and sign any related documents necessary to implement its terms.
8) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of $348,951.50 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain for July to September 2026.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, August 20, 2026