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Grosse Pointe News

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ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 95¢)

Your community newspaper since 1940

AUGUST 27, 2026
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Being coy about the millage

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission's word for the next couple of months is "prevaricate."

Or maybe "equivocate." Possibly "tergiversate." But in any case, beat around the bush.

Commissioners are verboten to promote passage of the recreation millage when explaining why the 0.65-mill, seven-year millage is being sought.

The millage request is part of the upcoming November ballot.

If passed, it's forecast to raise $3,934,000 revenue at a cost of $308.75 per year for owners of property with taxable values of $475,000.

"The city attorney has

See MILLAGE, page 2A



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION/JEFF DUNN, PHOTOGRAPHER

Ava Noecker performs at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe during the Detroit Jazz Festival's youth vocal competition.

All that jazz

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Ava Noecker has been singing since she was 6 and is no stranger to performing, having taken the stage at the famous

See JAZZ, page 3A

Farms begins separating sewers in inland district

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Eighteen streets. Five miles of sewer. A year and a half timeline.

Such is the scope of the third phase of the Farms' major inland district sewer separation project: separation of the sewers on streets bordered by Chalfonte, Mack, Moross and the city's border.

A community meeting was held Wednesday, Aug. 19, for residents in the city's northwest quadrant — particularly those on Lexington, Shelbourne, Barclay and Chalfonte.

"You're all here tonight because you're going to be impacted by our largest public works project in more than a quarter of a century," City Manager Shane Reeside said.

Work already has begun on Chalfonte, where 20 homes on the east side of the street must have their sanitary leads reconnected to a new sanitary sewer, which will be placed in sections along the east side of the road.

This will allow the city to repurpose the existing 42-inch to 60-inch combined sewer below Chalfonte as a stormwater pipe.

"We're going to disinfect it," noted Eddie Zmich, project manager with Hubbell, Roth and Clark. "EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) is on board with it."

Work also began on

See SEWERS, page 4A



COURTESY PHOTO

Feeling patriotic

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Roderick Petschauer spotted this majestic sight on Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores, where he recently bought a home.

Family-friendly tailgate party coming to The Village this fall

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — There won't be mini golf on Kercheval in The Village this year, but there will be a family-friendly tailgate party as a new offering in the fall.

The Village Fall Family Fun Day & Tailgate Party takes place noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, on Kercheval between Notre Dame and St. Clair — courtesy of Main Street Grosse Pointe and the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

"The Lions play in Arizona that day," said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe. "It's a 4:30 p.m. start, so that's why we're running the event from noon to 4 p.m. like a tailgate. We hope people who want to stay and watch the game will then go to our establishments, our bars and restaurants that have televisions, and spend some time patronizing those businesses and watching the game with their friends, neighbors and families."

The free fun will incorporate bounce houses, tailgate-style games, children's activities, an active social district and business engagement opportunities. More specific details will be forthcoming as the date nears.

"What we hear from people is that they either want family-friendly

See PARTY, page 3A

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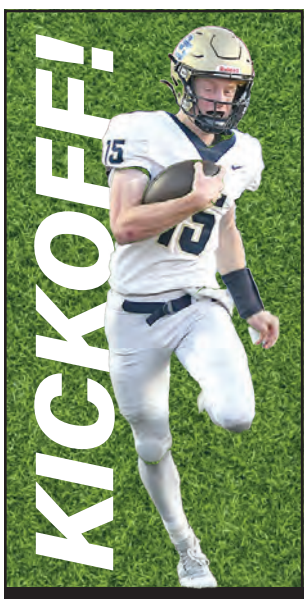

Everything to know before the action begins.

Special tab section inside

Week Ahead 3A
Public Safety 5A
Opinion 6A
Features 1B
Obituaries 2B
Classified ads 6C
Sports 1D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Linda Elich
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Beautification Advisory Commission member

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GP firm involved with boat tour fighting childhood cancer

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — There are boating enthusiasts, and then there are boating enthusiasts. Especially those who would traverse multiple waterways for 7,400 miles to raise money for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation.

Capt. Red Flowers, based out of Florida, is captaining a boat for the second time in the Great Loop Challenge, hoping to beat his record of 19 days set in 2024. His boat also has a particular Grosse Pointe connection, as it is outfitted with propellers from Sharrow Marine, a design from Park resident Greg Sharrow.

"These are by far the most superior props compared to anything on the market," Flowers said. "They have top fuel economy and performance."

Flowers and his three crew members stopped at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 19, for some much-needed rest and a good meal.

"We're trying to get in around 400 miles a day, but we've had to pull some all-nighters due to weather to keep up our pace," Flowers said. "We mapped out all of our fuel stops, but as far as food it's mostly been sardines and peanut butter."

One of the crew members is Jim "Slim" Berns, vice president of operations for Sharrow Marine.

"At first I said I would do a leg, maybe through Lake Erie, but they said I need to be along for the whole thing," Berns said. "It takes a lot of endurance."



The Great Loop Challenge boat Capt. Red Flowers is piloting to raise money for pediatric cancer research as it visits the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Wednesday, Aug. 19. It is powered by propellers made by Grosse Pointe-based Sharrow Marine.



Capt. Red Flowers and a fellow cancer survivor ahead of the Great Loop Challenge.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Berns said he joined to honor his brother, who passed away from cancer at age 25 when Berns was 14.

"It's all about the kids," he added. "Very little research money goes toward kids with cancer and they can't take the medicines adults can."

Berns did take one break from the trip when his daughter-in-law went into labor.

"I told them if I get the call, I'm out of here," he laughed.

The call did come shortly after the boat left Portland, Maine.

"We turned back and I was able to get a flight," he said, able to make it back in time for the birth of his grandson Saturday, Aug. 15. "I grabbed a flight to Montreal and met back up with them that Sunday."

The "loop" started and will end in Florida, making stops along the East Coast, around Nova Scotia and down the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Great Lakes. After leaving Grosse Pointe, the plan was to travel up Lake Huron, dip into Lake Superior and down Lake Michigan to Chicago. Eventually they were headed to the Mississippi River, connecting with smaller rivers to end up in the Gulf of Mexico, then around the Florida Keys and back up.

You can track the boat's journey and make a donation at nationalpcf.org/the-great-loop-challenge/

Cancer also plays a part in Flowers' involvement.

"I've been a fishing charter captain for 45 years," he said. "About 10 years ago I was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma. I saw the pediatric unit at the hospital and I was just amazed. It bothers me just thinking about it. That's when I decided to start raising money."

Flowers said the 2024 trip raised $400,000 and the current one $200,000 as of their Grosse Pointe stop. His goal is $1 million.

"If somebody is having a golf outing or a bake sale to raise money for us, we'll come help," he said. "If possible, we'll bring the boat."

Thrive on The Hill rescheduled this Saturday

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The show is back on for Grosse Pointe's inaugural health and wellness festival, which had to be postponed when smoke from Canadian wildfires plummeted metro Detroit's air quality in mid-July.

Thrive on The Hill takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, on Kercheval in the Farms. It is free and open to the public.

"There are not a ton of changes (to the original schedule)," said Kristen Giancola, event organizer and owner of iCRYO, "other than that we've actually had an influx of more vendors that wanted to sign up. So instead of being around 40 vendors, we should be around 50 vendors and it could continue to climb, because even yesterday I had two people call me to sign up."

Only one vendor scheduled for July was unable to return for the new date.

"It was just because she had a vacation already planned, but she asked to just defer her payment to next year," Giancola said.

A series of 30-minute live fitness classes also will proceed as planned, with the addition of a class by Tower Therapeutic.

The class schedule is as follows:

- 10 a.m. low impact, flexibility and toning by Pure Barre Grosse Pointe,
- 10:45 a.m. fitness and wellness by Tower Therapeutic,
- 11:30 a.m. mat Pilates by The Corner Studio,
- 12:15 p.m. accessible yoga by American House Grosse Pointe,
- 1 p.m. total body strength and cardio by Orangetheory,
- 1:45 p.m. strength, mobility and stability by Club Pilates,
- 2:30 p.m. isometric mobility by Pointes Chiropractic and
- 3:15 p.m. pelvic Pilates by The War Memorial.

"Anyone who wants to participate in a class should bring a roll-up yoga mat, athleisure and some water," Giancola said previously. "As for the sun, there will be a 20-by-30 tent, so people aren't getting too hot."

In its totality, the high-energy wellness block party will feature around 50 vendors spanning fitness programs, healthy food offerings, functional medicine doctors, recovery specialists and a

See THRIVE, page 5A

MILLAGE:

Continued from page 1A

said we can't advocate for or against the millage, but we can give a recitation of factual information," said Michael Hindelang, commission chairman, during the group's Aug. 19 meeting.

Councilman Patrick Gleason, liaison to the commission, advised members to stick to information outlined on a flyer titled, "Investing in our parks," posted on the city website under the recreation department banner.

"Utilize this whenever you're asked questions around town about the upcoming millage," Gleason said. "Our job is to inform, not suggest one way or another. It has to be made clear that we are not influencing the decision."

The instruction prompted responses for and against compliance.

"I think our residents expect the commission to make recommendations one way or the other," said Commissioner Larry Haggart, a 30-year member of the body.

Gleason said the orders came from the city attorney.

"That seems very surprising," Haggart said.

"You cannot do any aspect of suggesting (people) vote one or another," Gleason said. "Just give as much information as possible."

"Making clear what we want to happen and suggesting how someone else should vote are two different things," Commissioner Howard Bouton said.

"It's a fine line," Commissioner Roger Basse said.

"Everything on the flyer is fair game," Hindelang said.

Commissioners scheduled or at least proposed a couple public engagement sessions about the millage.

"We should be out spreading the word," Bouton said.

Three commissioners and Gleason staffed an information booth during last Saturday's Kercheval After 6 street fair.

"We're going to have some explanatory materials and volunteers from this group to answer questions," Hindelang said.

"Lots of positivity and feedback from residents in discussions," Recreation Director Chad Craig said of the booth.

They may set up another booth during October's Halloween in the Park. Craig suggested posting the flyer at businesses.

Commissioners are scheduled to meet Wednesday, Sept. 9, but may hold off for a joint meeting with city council Monday, Sept. 14. A town hall-type meeting entitled Community Conversation is scheduled 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at city hall. An email blitz is in the works or being launched.

But there's to be no open advocacy from municipal representatives.

"Sharing information about the true financial status of (the parks) is important," Hindelang said. "Hopefully people will reach the conclusion that this makes sense."

City administrators proposed the millage to pay for improvements and compensate for years of forgone maintenance.

"Should this millage not pass, we would be faced with a very real discussion about what (park facilities) stay open," Gleason said. "Under those circumstances, the pool would remain a priority, but that is not guaranteed. While we are hoping for a certain outcome, we cannot pass on our personal recommendation. We have to let each and every resident make that choice based on information we are presenting."







Flower bed replanted

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A beautification commissioner and the city's main gardener rehabilitated a flower bed surrounding the flagpole and stone marker honoring the namesake of Patterson Park.

Anne Billiu, a member of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission since 2019, volunteered to re-landscape the bed midsummer.

She teamed with Corin Vance, the city's garden staff team leader, to renovate the formerly overgrown bed circling a tall stone tablet honoring former Mayor Matthew Patterson.

"There were roses that weren't kept up and died," Billiu said. "So, we pulled everything out. Mayor Patterson's grandson donated money for us to buy flowers for it."

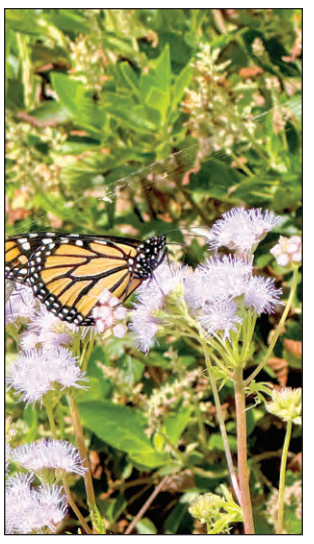
They chose a new flower scheme based on color, growth patterns and maintenance needs.

"We wanted it to be more colorful," Billiu said. "And things that would last long, too. I transplanted some lavender and iris from my backyard. Corin brought more of those and black-eyed Susans."

The selection also included monkey flower, ironweed, blue giant hyssop and more.

"All the plants chosen are butterfly-attracting, bee-friendly (and) attract pollinators," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

He said of Billiu, "It's great working with an individual like her on volunteer projects. She takes a bit more pride in them. Her enjoyment is rewarded on a daily basis as she gets to see it whenever she's at the park."

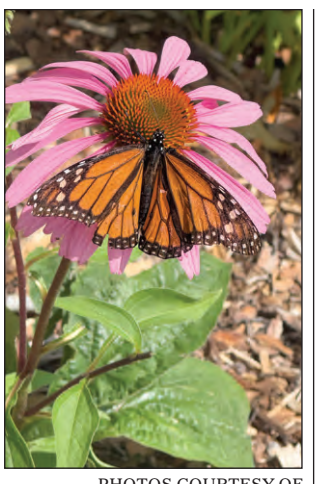


Lisa Kyle, chairwoman of the beautification commission, gave credit where due.

"Anne took the lead on the Patterson flagpole monument bed," Kyle said. "She knows a member of the Patterson family and spoke with them about what they would like to see there."

The replanted flower bed at Patterson Park.

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Examples of newly planted flowers at Patterson Park.

Patterson served 17 years as mayor starting in the mid-1960s. His marker contains text from a 1981 city resolution renaming Three Mile Park after him:

"(Patterson) has been a tireless patron for the recreation interest of the citizens of the city and was instrumental in the acquisition of additional properties to increase the acreage" of the park.

Billiu said she knows Patterson's granddaughter.

"We're retired teachers and meet once per month," Billiu said. "She said she and her brother would pay for the flowers. We sat down and planned everything and Corin ordered the flowers. Corin and I worked on it together."

Demand high for Camp Wind-Y-Mill

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — And … they're off. From post-time to crossing the wire, the race to register for Camp Wind-Y-Mill ended in record time.

"The rumors are true," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "We sold out in two minutes."

"That's good," Recreation Commissioner Paul Spratt said.

Too good, actually, Craig and commissioners said during a meeting this month.

The quick sellout proved, as in prior years, excess demand to participate in Camp Wind-Y-Mill, a weekend campout at Windmill Pointe Park. This year's event is Friday, Sept. 11, through Sunday, Sept. 13.

"Some of the weekend activities will include an outdoor movie, a foam party, outdoor games, live music, inflatables, a tailgate zone, swimming (weather dependent), a glow dance party and breakfast on Sunday morning," Craig said.

A total of 125 families signed up within 120 seconds of the registration window opening 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 14.

Recreation Chairman Michael Hindelang cited the volume when considering ways to accommodate more participants.

"It's a great problem to have," he said. "In the meantime, 125 families are happy."

"We might be able to squeeze a few more in," Craig said.

Yet, squeezing in more people could jam Windmill's grounds to unsafe standards. Organizers must be mindful of cramping the campsite and inadvertently creating an obstacle course of tent stakes and rope stays over which attendees could trip and fall.

Craig said he may add another date next time to meet demand.

"It's a big undertaking for three days," he said. "We know the interest is there."

Expanding the campground to Patterson Park is an option that adds its own logistical concerns. Involving Patterson means providing transportation back and forth to Windmill.

Sponsors of Camp Wind-Y-Mill are Brosnan Builders; Charlene Williams, a Realtor with Sine & Monaghan Realtors; and Your Mortgage Guy Chris DeRosier with John Adams Mortgage Co.

JAZZ:

Continued from page 1A

Birdland in New York City, as well as regular appearances locally at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Aretha's Jazz Cafe and with Planet D Nonet at Cadieux Cafe.

"R.J. Spangler is my uncle," she said. "I love singing with their horns."

Fans will get a chance to see Noecker again at the Detroit Jazz Festival, after she won its youth vocal competition last month. Her performance will be 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6, on the J.P. Morgan stage.

Find one of the songs she performed, "Moody's Mood for Love," during the competition at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, at you tube.com/watch?v=iqvGgNlK76A

"My musical taste is pretty crazy, but I like singing jazz the best," she said. "I'll listen to anything but rap, but I like jazz because of the improvisation and I have a lower voice that's suited to it."

Noecker will be performing at the festival with a group of Detroit-area musicians who attend the Berklee School of Music and won the youth band side of the competition.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know them through how they play their instruments," she added.

Entering her senior year at University Liggett School, Noecker has been involved in several musical theater productions at the school, where she also plays field hockey. She also takes dance lessons at The Turning Pointe in St. Clair Shores.

"I'm glad I started that, because it has really broadened my range of performing."

Noecker said she plays a "very rudimentary" piano and the ukulele, which she learned at Liggett.

Before getting serious about music, Noecker said she wanted to be an author.

"I love to read, but when you perform people actually applaud, rather than just leaving a book review," she laughed.

As for college, Noecker said she wants to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater degree from either New York University or the University of Michigan.

"I also want to take some music business classes in case I ever want to be an agent or a manager," she said. "I just want to be involved in the industry in some way."

PARTY:

Continued from page 1A

events or they want some adult-based events, so this kind of fills the gap in the middle," Willcock said. "We'll have a kid zone, but we'll also have some more adult menus like cornhole, the social district and other things."

Though Main Street did not have the capacity this year to pull off both a family fun day and the annual Main Street Mini Masters, it may look to host both next year, depending on community interest.

"One of the things I noticed with the sidewalk sale on a Friday evening when we had a concert was it wasn't 1,000 people and all of that, but there were people hanging out, having conversations with their friends and neighbors and it felt very neighborhood, organic and real. I think that's where our niche is," Willcock said. "We're not the Park. We're not going to throw those events like the Park. We're not The Hill. So understanding that we're different, wanting us to be special, but knowing that we can't just duplicate what others do. The Village attracts more families, so this is a good opportunity to (meet that interest)."

The Week Ahead

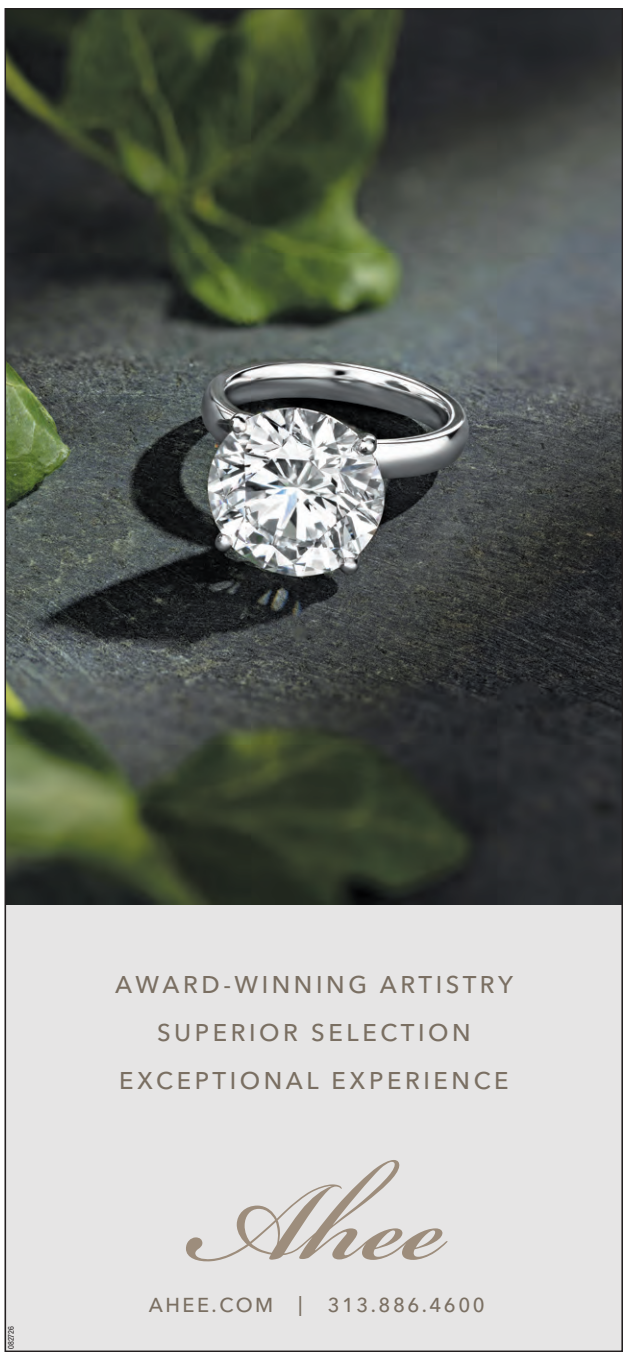
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

- Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

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





Landscaping not the only passion for Woods woman

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

After joining the Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission in 2021, Linda Elich decided to put her green thumb where her mouth is and chose to get involved in the commission's Adopt-a-Garden program.

For the last three summers, she's been tending to the 75-foot-long flower bed at Lake Front Park.

"It's my baby," she laughed. "I take a lot of pride in it, but it's been challenging this year due to a lack of rain."

Elich has rotated which annuals she plants to complement the hydrangea and day lily perennials, such as zinnias, petunias and impatiens.

"It can be hit or miss because it sits in the hot sun all day," she said. "I'm there about every other day to water and prune. I love going early in the morning during adult swim because it's so quiet. People getting out of the pool tell me how much they like to see the flowers as they're doing laps."

Elich, who moved to the Woods in 2017, decided to join the BAC after being inspired on walks and bike rides around her neighborhood.

"I love seeing the landscaping and seeing how creative people are," she said. "People here take a lot of pride in their homes."

Elich said she has landscaped all three homes she's owned in the Pointes, including the Farms and Park.

"I grew up putzing around in the garden with my dad," she noted. "I drove by my first house on Moran recently and the same landscaping I put in is still there."

She also enjoys the yearly beautification awards the BAC hands out.

"Each member is assigned an area of the city and can only nominate one house," she explained. "It's hard to pick just one."

Elich gets help from her daughters, Andrea, Nikki and Alicia, in tending the flower beds at Lake Front.

"They don't come every day, but one or two will make it when they can."

She said she also is appreciative of John Salter, the park foreman, and Bob Frank, the city's gardener.

"John's crew spreads the mulch for me every year using a tractor, which is a lot easier than me lugging bags," she said. "And Bob is always available for any questions I have."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICIA ELICH

Linda Elich next to her Adopt-a-Garden sign at Lake Front Park

Elich and her daughters "do a lot of things together," she laughed.

"We owned a baking business, we've dabbled in real estate," she said. "There's always some kind of mother-daughter project going on."

Elich, who has a background in kitchen and bath design, has partnered with oldest daughter Andrea, an architect, to flip houses.

Growing up in an Italian family, Elich also likes to cook, including making traditional pizzelle cookies around the holidays.

"One year the girls said we should make them and sell them, so we started making them in the kitchen at First English (Lutheran Church) and selling them at the farmers market the Woods used to have," she said. "You have to use a commercial kitchen in order to sell anything."

They ended up selling in 10 stores around the Pointes and Macomb County and made it to the second round of tryouts for "Shark Tank" in 2017.

After auditioning for representatives of the show in Detroit, they were asked to submit a video of them making the cookies.

"We didn't make it any farther, but that was a real highlight," Elich said. "I mean, who doesn't watch 'Shark Tank?'"

Just as they were thinking of scaling the business, COVID hit, putting an end to it and the farmers market.

Elich, who gets the flower box ready before the pool opens on Memorial Day, will be out there shortly after it closes on Labor Day, pulling annuals, trimming perennials and planning what to plant next year.

"It's definitely a labor of love," she said. "And Woods residents need to know you don't have to be on the Beautification Advisory Commission to adopt a garden."



The flower box Linda Elich and her daughters care for at Lake Front Park is 75 feet long.

SEWERS:

Continued from page 1A

Lexington this week, starting with milling the asphalt on one side of the street and removing the concrete beneath.

Barclay, Shelbourne Road and Shelbourne Court also are tentatively scheduled to begin this year, though work likely will stretch into next spring.

"But we're not going to start something late in the year if they can't get enough done and get enough restoration in (prior to winter)," Zmich noted.

Sewer separation along the selected streets is unlikely to interfere with sidewalks, lawns or curbs. The new pipes will be laid within the roadway, on one side of the street, which will mean one-lane roads during construction.

Crews intend to cut into the road several feet from the curb and go anywhere from six to 10 feet into the road depending on the depth and size of the sewer being placed.

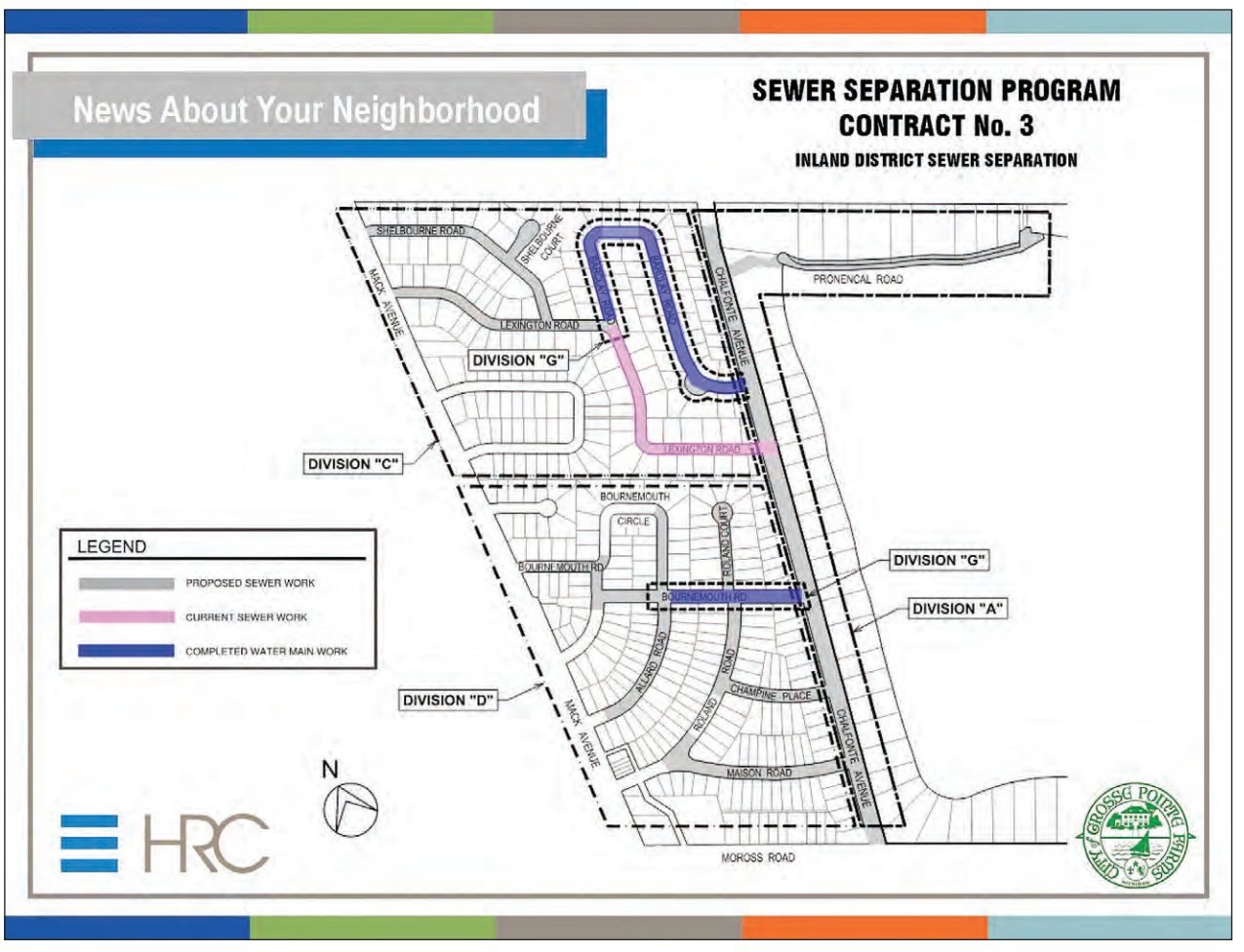
They will saw cut, remove the pavement, remove dirt and anything else underneath the pavement, place the new storm sewer, backfill, put new stone and build a new road on the affected half.

"If for some reason your driveway's road taper gets messed up because of whatever reason, we will replace it," assured Austin Fletcher, the lead project engineer.

During construction on Chalfonte and to address school traffic congestion, contractors will use rolling lane closures, meaning the east side of the street only will be closed at the sections directly where work is happening.

"We understand there's obviously two schools at Cook," Zmich said, "so we know it's congested as it is, so we don't want to close even one side of the road to increase that congestion."

Coming in the late winter and early spring will be sewer separation work on Bournemouth — where some already began this year — Allard, Champine, Maison, Roland Road and Roland Court.



Streets affected by the third and final phase of sewer separation.

Next summer and fall will see similar sewer separation on Mt. Vernon, McMillan and McKinley as the project wraps up.

"The whole point is to try to get everything done by the end of next year," Zmich said, "but again, things happen."

The first phase of the sewer separation project — a 60-inch pipe to transport the water from the inland district out to Lake St. Clair — has been completed.

The second phase — construction of a pump station at Moross and Chalfonte to pump the water out to the lake — will begin within the next few weeks in tandem with phase three.

"The ultimate goal obviously is to reduce the likelihood and severity of basement flooding," Reeside said. "And that's something that we've dealt with particularly over the last 20 years, where we're seeing more of these extreme rain events where we're getting heavier volumes of water in shorter periods of time."

The project in its totality will not separate the entire inland district, but still is projected to remove almost a third of the wet weather flow that currently goes into the combined system.

"We actually had a study where we put meters within the sewer system over a nine-month period, so we could see where the flows were," Reeside said. "This is where we know we can capture most of the flow. We're getting a lot of this (stormwater) coming from the Country Club of Detroit. We're picking up over 200 acres of runoff.

"And so the question is, well, if I don't live in that district, how do I benefit?" he continued. "Well, you do, because all that flow that you're taking out of the district now gives greater capacity for the rest of the community to utilize."

A second community meeting was held Tuesday, Aug. 25, to disseminate the same information.

Residents on affected streets who wish to receive email updates on progress and upcoming work may email Fletcher at afletcher@hrcengr.com to join the project distribution list.

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Farms

Marijuana

A 39-year-old Detroit man learned the hard way there are no designated areas in which it's legal to smoke marijuana in public in the Farms, when he was seen smoking on Mack at 8:40 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19.

He was cited for smoking marijuana in a public place.

Hacked

After her computer shut down and rebooted of its own accord in early August, a Farms business owner learned her Microsoft Teams account had been hacked and a suspect, acting as her, requested an employee make a $450,000 wire transfer to an outside entity.

The employee found the request suspicious and reached out to the woman directly, before any funds were lost.

Egged

While a 21-year-old Brighton man was visiting his girlfriend in the Farms at 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, her neighbor — a 33-year-old Farms man — egged his car and left a note that said not to leave trash on his property.

The man admitted as much to officers and said he overreacted. After the neighbor apologized and washed the egg residue off the car, the Brighton man said he did not wish to press charges.

Assault

A 24-year-old Saginaw man was reported at 4:19 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23, for banging on a car window in a Mack parking lot and screaming he would kill the person inside.

When officers reached the scene, the victim had left and the suspect refused to cooperate. In the process of arresting him, one officer was struck in the face with a closed fist and others were kicked. The man was arrested for resisting police and assaulting an officer.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Averts ID theft

An identity theft victim learned last week that someone tried to divert several checks mailed to creditors.

"(The victim) reported placing several payment checks in the mail," police said. "Shortly afterward, the victim received alerts indicating the checks were attempted to be deposited into accounts other than the intended recipients."

Larceny from auto

An officer patrolling the 500 block of Barrington overnight Saturday, Aug. 22, investigated a vehicle parked at the curb with its driver-side door ajar and interior light on.

"The victim inspected the vehicle and discovered that three necklaces, valued at approximately $300, were missing," police said.

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicles

Two residents reported stolen vehicles over the weekend.

The first occurred in the 19000 block of Emory Court sometime overnight into Sunday, Aug. 23. The owner said it was parked in the driveway and the key fob may have been in the center console. It was recovered in Detroit.

The second happened in the 2000 block of Allard overnight into Monday, Aug. 24. The owner said it was locked and there was no key fob inside it. A neighbor said they heard the vehicle being driven away around 4:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 24.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Bad day

A 29-year-old Detroit man was cited for pulling multiple flowers out of several pots in The Village at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17.

He told officers he was having a bad day and hurting flowers was better than hurting people.

Suspended

A 21-year-old Eastpointe woman was cited for driving with a suspended license at 10 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, after she was stopped at Mack and Notre Dame for speeding.

Intoxicated

A 39-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 12:10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 21, after speeding 54 mph on Mack.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Case involving former South hockey coach moves ahead

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Former Grosse Pointe South High School hockey coach Ben Warda will face a preliminary exam at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23, on one count of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree, which involves force or coercion. The complainant is an adult female.

The preliminary exam, which is used to determine if a case should be forwarded to circuit court, was set after a probable cause conference at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, in Macomb County 40th District Court. It had been postponed from Tuesday, July 14, at the request of Warda's legal team to allow them more time for discovery, including awaiting results of DNA testing.

A press release from Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney Peter Lucido in early July said the alleged incident occurred Saturday, June 13, on Warda's boat while it was docked at a marina in St. Clair Shores. Warda faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Judge Joseph C. Oster did agree with Warda's attorneys that he is allowed to remove his ankle tether. Attorneys earlier told Oster that Warda, who owns a hockey training facility, could not wear ice skates over the tether.

Oster also agreed Warda had so far met the conditions of his bond, which include no contact with the complainant and not returning to the location where the alleged incident occurred.

Warda was arrested and arraigned Wednesday, July 1, and was dismissed from coaching at South later that day.

Oster told Warda that depending on the details that come out at the preliminary hearing, he might order Warda to be held in the Macomb County Jail.

Carjacking cases moving ahead

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — After a week's delay, probable cause conferences for two men accused in an attempted carjacking last month moved ahead Wednesday, Aug. 19, before Municipal Judge Theodore Metry.

Things now progress to preliminary hearings to decide if there is enough evidence to move the matter to Wayne County Circuit Court.

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.

Bates also faces habitual offender charges for prior felonies and currently is on parole. His bond was set at $500,000, 10 percent cash/surety.

Carlisle, who does not have a criminal record, originally was given a bond of $50,000, 10 percent 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 previously requested Metry reduce his client's bond, given his lack of a criminal record. The judge did so, lowering it to $35,000, 10 percent cash/surety. Attorney Vincent Toussaint told Metry that Carlisle is a high school graduate, has been employed consistently since moving to Michigan in 2020 and lives with his grandmother.

If Carlisle makes bond, he will be placed under house arrest with a tether but would be allowed to leave the house to go to work if Toussaint provides the court with proof of his client's employment and hours he'd be working.

Stipulations include no contact with his co-defendant or the victims.

— Ted O'Neil

THRIVE:

Continued from page 2A

healthy gardening guru; live fitness classes; a kids zone; giveaways and raffles.

"It all worked out," Giancola said. "I was really nervous about deferring the event … but it actually, I think, turned out really nice.

"We're of course really hoping for a nice, big turnout, so we can have a beautiful event yearly for Grosse Pointe and just have a great turnout for the vendors that signed up."

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POINTES OF VIEW

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OUR VIEW

GPPSS budget headed in wrong direction

The Grosse Pointe Public School System could be facing major budget issues in the next few years. The sad part is, it did not have to be this way.

Other than what the district is calling a "placeholder," the 2026-27 fiscal year budget does not take into account the five contracts being signed this year with various bargaining units.

The board approved agreements with three of them in June.

Those unions were the Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association, Grosse Pointe Educational Plant Association (maintenance) and Grosse Pointe Educational Office Association. All are four-year agreements.

Each group will receive 3 percent raises each year, plus step increases for those eligible, while paraprofessionals also will get hourly longevity raises after their fifth year of employment starting at 55 cents and topping out at $2.30 after 25 years.

After being delayed at the board's July meeting, trustees approved a three-year contract with the Grosse Pointe Administrators Association Aug. 17, which includes principals, assistant principals and special education directors. It passed 4-2, with trustees Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup voting no.

It includes 1 percent raises the first two years and a 2 percent raise the final year. It also includes a reduction of the last five working days for administrators in June 2027 and the first five in August 2027, an effective pay raise of 2.1 percent for 11-month administrators and 1.9 percent for 12-month administrators.

Contributions to each administrator's tax-sheltered account will go from a flat $2,000 annually to 2 percent of their base salary.

A new eight-step pay scale for administrators includes yearly raises ranging between $5,019 and $5,990, depending on position.

New minimum and maximum pay scales are:

- director — $112,584 to $148,574,
- high school principal — $114,529 to $150,819,
- supervisor of special education — $91,732 to $120,653,
- middle school assistant principal — $94,460 to $125,557,
- high school assistant principal and high school assistant principal/athletic director — $98,231 to $129,359,
- elementary school principal — $98,597 to $129,874 and
- middle school principal — $101,278 to $133,434.

The district's 2026-27 fiscal year budget passed in June shows $101.3 million in revenue and $101.2 million in expenditures, for a cushion of $100,000. Information discussed at the most recent board meeting showed the first-year impact of the above agreements comes in at $255,317.

That is not even counting the new contract with the Grosse Pointe Education Association, which was not passed as of press time.

A slide presented during the meeting (See graphic, below) showed the cumulative four-year budget impact of the four contracts is $1.8 million. Therein is the fatal flaw, because the impact is not cumulative, it is compounding.

Terry Collins, former board treasurer and a financial analyst, gave a simple example during public comment at the meeting. He explained that if you agree to pay someone $1 more a year for four years, the final impact is not $4, it is $10 because you have to include each prior year's cost moving forward. The first year is $1, the second year is $2, the third year is $3 and the fourth year is $4. Add that up and you get $10.

According to an analysis Collins put together, the four-year compounded totals in the slide below should be:

- Office — $946,241,
- Para — $1,828,509,
- Plant — $1,254,873 and
- Admin — $395,542

Assuming the board follows its general approach of pattern bargaining, the GPEA will get at least yearly raises of 3 percent in its new contract. If it also is for four years, that would put the cumulative cost for the teachers union at $6.2 million and just over $8 million for the district as a whole.

The compounded costs, however, put the GPEA at roughly $15.4 million and the district at $19.8 million over the same time frame.

Where is that money going to come from? Some may say from increased yearly state aid. The per-pupil foundation allowance for this year went up $250. If that pattern holds true, that would be a compounded funding increase of $9 million through the 2029-30 school year. That still leaves a $10 million hole.

None of the numbers, however, take into account increasing costs for things like healthcare, utilities and supplies.

Some might say more students would mean more money. We hope this is not an end-around attempt at pushing Schools of Choice. More consolidation and building closures also are not the answers.

It appears the board will have to dip into its fund balance and deficit spend, a fund balance that former Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and the previous board worked so hard to take from a worrisome 8.8 percent to more than 15 percent while rescuing the district from financial ruin.

Group	Term	26/27 Adjustment	27/28 Projection	28/29 Projection	29/30 Projection	Total
Office	4 year	85,732	108,498	96,256	85,487	**375,973**
Paras	4 year	131,111	231,033	207,987	194,992	**765,123**
Plant	4 year	121,143	129,203	129,240	124,212	**503,798**
Admin	3 year	-82,669	70,004	170,365		**157,700**
Total		**255,317**	**538,738**	**603,848**	**404,691**	**1,802,594**

** additional cost per year includes wages, retirement & fica*

** assumes staffing same as what was projected in original budget*



Pure GP

Pangea Global Kitchen on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods posted this sign in front of the business Aug. 21, as a way to get attention during road construction. The day before, employees were running out samples of meat pies and musakhan rolls to cars held up in traffic. Business is down due to construction, but the owners are turning a negative situation into a positive one.
"Our business and our neighbors need support right now while we weather this temporary setback with construction," the owners said, adding that call-in and online orders will be brought curbside to awaiting cars.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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.

Support our teachers

To the Editor:

It is incredibly sad that (as of press time) our teachers still do not have a contract. Why is this Board of Education not doing everything possible to reach an agreement before students return? At this point, it appears school will begin without a contract and the next scheduled board meeting is not until after classes start.

Andrea Tuttle and the prior board majority successfully negotiated a two-year agreement with our teachers and eliminated the divisive salary formula. That provided stability for our schools.

Most importantly, this is about our students. Supporting our teachers with a fair contract supports the children they teach every day. Our students deserve classrooms where teachers can focus on educating them, not uncertainty over their employment. Getting a contract done should be one of this board's highest priorities.

MARLENE SMITH
Grosse Pointe Shores

For all who love creatures big and small

To the Editor:

I was donating to the Lakeview Public Schools football players and walking with them. What thoughtful, well-mannered young men.

We saw a lady near the pet store down on the sidewalk. We thought she had fallen or been hit by an electric or regular bike. We hurried down the street to see if we could help.

Guess what? A small, innocent kitten, probably about 2 weeks old, was alone with her on the sidewalk. The young lady said she was waiting for a ride to talk to the emergency medical clinic.

I hurried into the pet store to purchase kitten weaning bottles and replacement milk, but when I returned, she had left. She must have gotten her ride. Good for the kind lady and good for the kitten. Hope all is well.

What's next for our Village?

BARBARA COTTINGHAM
City of Grosse Pointe

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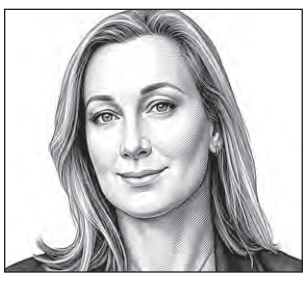
GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST August 27 – September 2 — LOCAL 4 Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
83° / 62°	82° / 60°	82° / 63°	83° / 67°	81° / 58°	71° / 53°	65° / 51°
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Chance of Rain	Cloudy	Cloudy
30%	0%	0%	20%	30%	10%	20%
SUNRISE 6:51 am SUNSET 8:16 pm	SUNRISE 6:52 am SUNSET 8:15 pm	SUNRISE 6:53 am SUNSET 8:13 pm	SUNRISE 6:54 am SUNSET 8:12 pm	SUNRISE 6:55 am SUNSET 8:10 pm	SUNRISE 6:56 am SUNSET 8:08 pm	SUNRISE 6:57 am SUNSET 8:07 pm

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Navigating the August ambush

I have decided August is the Sunday night of the calendar year.

Technically, it's still the weekend. The sun is out. The pool is open. There probably is a half-full bottle of rosé in the fridge.

But emotionally? It's 9 p.m. on a Sunday, you haven't done your homework and you have no idea where your gym shoes are.

August is the Sunday Scaries.

For parents, it usually starts innocently enough with an email from school. Then another. Then 47 more. Forms need to be filled out. Physicals scheduled. Sports registered for. School supplies purchased. Calendars synchronized. Kids need shoes, clothes, folders, a new lunchbox and God knows what else.

Everyone has grown 6 inches overnight.

College kids need to be moved in. Everything they have ever owned packed like Jenga into a car. Fall sports begin. Practices begin. Booster clubs begin. And suddenly the vacant squares on the family calendar look like air traffic control at O'Hare. Oh, and don't forget the fundraisers, speaking of squares.

But you don't need children to experience this August ambush.

Work wakes up. Everyone returns from vacation and remembers all the things they said they would "circle back to in the fall." Boards and committees reconvene. Charity events appear. Football pools start. Summer credit card bills hit home just as we decide we need new boots, a fall jacket and $200 worth of mums for the front porch.

And lurking behind all of it is the realization that Thanksgiving is somehow practically tomorrow, which means Christmas is essentially next week. Don't forget to make your reservations by Sept. 1 — OR ELSE.

It's enough to make you want to cling to your beach chair and refuse to come inside. And yet, a few weeks from now, something awesome happens.

The humidity disappears. The leaves along Lakeshore begin to change. Sweatshirts come out. The fireplace gets lit for the first time. Football is on television all weekend and something good is cooking in the kitchen.

The calendars are full, but eventually they become familiar. Everyone knows where they're supposed to be (mostly).

There is structure again.

Maybe that's why we put ourselves through the August Scaries every year. Because on the other side is — in my opinion — the very best part of living in Michigan.

Here's to hoping we can soak up the last bits of summer with as little stress as possible.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1951

75 years ago this week

WOODS DEFENDS NEW PARKING LOT: The Grosse Pointe Woods council has denied a petition requesting the city to abandon the parking lot recently installed by the city north of Anita Avenue behind the municipal building. The impending widening of Mack Avenue was the reason stated by the council for denying the petition. The council assured the petitioners the lot will be used in a manner to conform with the character of the neighborhood.

POLIO SKIPS POINTE FOR THIRD WEEK: For the third straight week no new cases of infantile paralysis have been reported in the Pointe area, the Board of Health stated Tuesday. The last reported case was on August 9. Total number of cases in the area this year has been six, five in the Pointe and one in Gratiot Township.

GROUNDED FREIGHTER SET FREE IN POINTE WATER: The "Norman B. Ream" got an able assist from the lighter "William Edenborn," which unloaded 3,000 tons of iron ore from the "Ream" onto the "G Post," which enabled the "Ream" to free herself from the blue clay and rocks of the bank of the ship channel at Buoy number seven. The "Ream" ran afoul of the bottom on August 20, and remained stuck until August 23.

1976

50 years ago this week

GP FARMS-CITY TEAM CAPTURES REGIONAL TITLE: Two weeks ago, a 13-year-old Babe Ruth League All-Star Team representing the Farms-City won the State championship at Belleville, Mich. Next, it was the regional crown as the team represented The Pointe and Michigan in the Ohio Valley Regional held at Anderson, Ind., from August 14-20.

RECYCLED HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN FARMS: When Larry Black of the the Shores sets about building a house, he does it armed with the standard tools of his trade and a not so standard philosophy. Buildings like the one he and architect Jerry Reinbold are creating for Richard Adrian and his family are designed with many factors in mind. They are functional, pleasant to look at and live in and also attuned to a family's attitude toward its surroundings.

KEN 'DISARMED' AT TOURNAMENT: Ken Stockwell, a junior at South High School, was a finalist in the men's middleweight division of the Michigan-Ontario Grand Prix of Arm Wrestling. Ken, at age 16, was the youngest contestant in the tournament and finished seventh out of 60 participants in his weight division.

2001

25 years ago this week

STORM DISCHARGE INTO LAKE CATCHES FARMS UNAWARE: When Darrel Schuurman of the Grosse Pointe Farms water department came to work on Monday, Aug. 20, the last thing he expected to find was a report indicating that the Farms discharged 126,000 gallons of sewage into Lake St. Clair, beginning at 11 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19. The discharge, according to records, lasted 48 minutes. "We just completed construction of a separated sewer system," Schuurman said. "The storm and sanitary sewer lines are now separated. A storm like the one we had over the weekend shouldn't flood the system. There's no reason for a discharge."

GP SCHOOLS MAKE ROOM FOR UNEXPECTED ENROLLEES: The elementary school years are a time of growth. And the elementary schools in the Grosse Pointe Public School System are seeing tremendous growth. As of Aug. 10, the Grosse Pointe public schools had 154 more students enrolled than projected.

RESIGNATIONS, ENROLLMENT SPUR HIRING BLITZ: A rash of last-minute retirements, leaves of absence and an unexpected increase in new students has put the Grosse Pointe public schools into an end of the hiring season blitz. As of last week, the district was interviewing candidates for all 12 of its available full-time teaching positions, including two new classes which were added at Richard and Poupard elementary schools Friday, Aug. 17.

2016

10 years ago this week

SERVING UP NEW COURTS AND LOT: A $262,000 baseline budget generated by a one-year, 0.5-mill tax levy limits near-term improvements at Osius municipal park to the tennis courts and entrance. Expansion of the swimming pool is out of reach, even if bonds are issued to fund the estimated $1 million cost.

POWER OUTAGE PRECEDED FLOODING: Electrical problems at the Neff Road pumping station are prime suspects in more than 200 flooded basements during a 2 1/2-inch downpour early Tuesday, Aug. 16. Automatic alarms at the station summoned City of Grosse Pointe public works employees to manhandle pumps back to action. But, by the time pumping resumed, a smelly and discolored slurry of runoff and sewer water silently backed up through the underground collection network into basements.

KEYSER JOINS LIBRARY AS DIRECTOR: Patrons of the Grosse Pointe Public Library may see a new face among the stacks as Jessica Keyser takes the reins as library director, replacing Vickey Bloom, who recently retired after more than 20 years at the helm. Keyser brings with her a passion for books and the community, of which she soon will be a part.

Bank robber arrested

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A 38-year-old homeless man is facing the potential of life in prison, after he snatched $1,700 in cash out of an 84-year-old employee's hands at Flagstar Bank in early August.

Officers easily identified him, because the man tried to withdraw the funds from his own account, which the associate began to process, before being alerted that the funds had been deposited via a fraudulent check.

"She already had the money in hand getting ready to give it to him when the manager said, 'No, you can't withdraw money. Your account's flagged. It's under investigation for fraud,'"

See ARREST, page 8A

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use application at 20439 Mack Avenue. The subject site is zoned the C, Commercial Business District where a Miscellaneous Business Establishment (a proposed golf simulator) is considered a Special Land Use. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Special Land Use, with conditions, to the City Council. The corresponding site plan will also be reviewed by City Council at this time.

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's Office at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, or at cityclerk@gpwmi.us up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmi.us.

For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at (313) 343-2426 or e-mail: building@gpwmi.us.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 08/27/26

Grosse Pointe News

THE NOSH

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Neely named Michigan History Teacher of the Year

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

Sarah Neely, a second grade teacher at Maire Elementary School, has been named the 2026 Michigan History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The organization, founded in 1994 to promote K-12 history education, has been naming history teachers of the year from each state since 2004.

Neely, entering her 33rd year of teaching, said she was nominated by a colleague.

"I got an email recently letting me know I had won," she said. "I had to fill out some paperwork when I was nominated, so it's not completely out of the blue."



Sarah Neely

"History teachers play an essential role in helping students understand the past, build critical thinking skills and develop a deeper appreciation for the people and events that shaped our nation," James G. Basker, president and CEO of the Gilder Lehrman Institute, said in a statement. "We are proud to recognize educators who go above and beyond to make history engaging, meaningful and relevant in their classrooms."

Neely this past spring secured grant funding that allowed each second grade class in the Grosse Pointe Public School System to visit the Cook Schoolhouse, located at Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall.

"It's part of our social studies curriculum on how education and transportation have changed over time," Neely said at the time. "The unit is inquiry based and our essential question is: How can I think like a historian about how our community has changed and how can I make change?

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

Another enjoyable project for Neely and her students came in early 2024, at the first Grosse Pointe History Day hosted by the Grosse Pointe Learning Collaborative.

"We were touring Maire, sort of on a scavenger hunt, and we saw a photograph in the office of a plane," she recalled. "We started doing some digging, asking questions."

The students eventually learned the plane in question was called "The Olde Gray Maire," named so because students at the school raised money to pay for it by selling war bonds during World War II.

It was flown by Lionel Montagne, who lived for several years in the Woods and passed away in September 2025 at the age of 105. He was able to attend the history day even in February 2024, when he was 103.

"I love to listen to stories older people tell," Neely said. "It adds to the richness of society."

Each state-level winner receives a $1,000 honorarium, while a national history teacher of the year will be named this fall and receive $10,000.

Pickleball work starts next month

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The plop-kerplop-pop of pickleball has potential to double in tempo this fall.

Courts at Patterson Park are scheduled for renovation. Work includes doubling the number of courts.

"We have three courts now," said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation. "We'll have six when the renovations are done."

Adding pickleball options was so urgent that city officials singled it out to be addressed separately from the recreation department's five-year master planning and improvement process.

"Court renovations are scheduled to start Sept. 8," Craig said. "Fence installation will take three to four days. By the end of that week, they'll be finished, which will allow about three weeks for the court surfacing company to come in and finish. It should be done before Oct. 1, give or take."

"This is a long-overdue renovation," Recreation Commission Chairman Michael Hindelang said.

Pickleball is miniature tennis. A straw poll during a commission open house meeting in April revealed Park residents wanted more and better pickleball access in their municipal parks.

Park council members that month awarded a $79,300 contract to Goddard Sport Surfaces of Pontiac to do the job. A separate contract for fencing increased the total cost to $100,000.

City officials intended for construction to take place earlier in the year.

"Both contractors were delayed due to rain and heat earlier in the summer, which made it difficult to line their schedules up," Craig said. "August is also a difficult time for the court contractor as they are finishing up a lot of school projects before the school year starts up again and we wanted the least amount of downtime possible."

Pickleball facilities move indoors during the work period.

"We will make the courts at the Lavins Activity Center (at Windmill Pointe Park) available for reservations as much as possible while the project takes place," Craig said.

Longer-term pickleball improvements include adding a small pavilion or shelter near the courts, he said.

Funding for the five-year plan is the subject of a millage request on the November ballot. The largest single recreation infrastructure maintenance envisioned in the plan is the main swimming pool at Windmill costing $801,000.

Reconstruction of the municipal marina at Windmill, scheduled to start in about one year at a cost to be determined, will be funded largely by boaters that rent wells at the 270-slip facility.

— Brad Lindberg

ARREST:

Continued from page 7A

Detective Mike Narduzzi explained. "So he just reached across the desk, ripped the money out of her hands and then fled on foot."

The man is charged with bank robbery, a felony punishable by up to life in prison, and larceny from a person, which is a felony punishable by 10 years in prison — though his status as a habitual offender brings it up to a life offense as well.

The man has 10 previous felony convictions including drug possession, receiving and concealing a motor vehicle, assaulting or obstructing police, and uttering and publishing attempts.

"He confessed and stated addictions to gambling and cocaine fueled his decision," Narduzzi said.

The man was arraigned before Municipal Judge David Draper Wednesday, Aug. 19, during which the court entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf and set bond at $250,000 cash/surety, no 10 percent.

"I cannot have this individual out on the streets committing this type of act and if it is proven, this is going to result in a significant time in prison for the defendant," Draper said.

A probable cause conference was set for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27.

The stolen money was unable to be recovered.

— Laurel Kraus

FEATURES



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Building better businesses

Newly formed GP Owner Roundtable encourages connection, partnerships

By Jody McVeigh
Editor



COURTESY PHOTOS

GP Owner Roundtable founder Liz Naber moderates the group, which meets monthly.

After nearly a decade owning a multiunit fitness franchise in Chicago, Liz Naber relocated to Grosse Pointe, where her husband was raised, to raise her own family.

She started consulting with small businesses and quickly learned the Pointes are teeming with entrepreneurs. But, she said, outside of chambers and networking organizations, there were no places for business owners to sit and compare notes — to discuss challenges and come up with solutions.

"I've experienced firsthand how challenging entrepreneurship can be," Naber said, "as well as how powerful it is when business owners have a community of peers who understand what they're carrying and are willing to lift one another up, share ideas and build together."

In April, Naber hosted the first GP Owner Roundtable, offering the kind of resource sharing she was missing while working in Chicago and the kind she hopes will grow in Grosse Pointe.

"It sounded like a good opportunity to start one," she said, "and I knew that because when I was a business owner, that's what I wanted. In the day to day, your business is all-consuming. This is a chance for business owners to step back and connect and find out that their challenges are not so different. And you're less isolated and can learn from each other."

Naber, who created her leadership development, coaching and consulting firm, Hummilitas, in 2022, facilitates each 90-minute session with eight other business owners in different fields.

"Eight is a nice number," she said. "Everyone in the room could contribute. We had six at one meeting, but it doesn't matter how small it gets. The depth is there."

The time frame also fits nicely.

"I wanted it to be something you could say yes to, get value from without having to reorganize your life," she added.

The first meeting started with a simple question: What's your purpose? Participants also have been asked about the structure of their business, how it supports the community, their leadership goals and challenges.

"In the beginning, it was here's what we're experiencing," Naber said. "The second and third meetings, people were saying, 'We're hiring. Are you having a hard time finding the right people, too?' There were deeper issues. At our last one, it was: How do we grow together?

"All the meetings are focused on growth in some way," she added. "How can we serve the community? How can we grow? How can we reach more people? That's always the undercurrent."

There is a core group of businesses committed to the roundtable that are joined by guests invited to participate. That consistency, mixed with new voices, allows candid conversations about leadership, growth, hiring, challenges, ideas and resources.

Naber said GP Owner Roundtable is a welcoming group. She does have one ask of participants: Show up with complete presence.

"We all have a million things going on every day," she said. "When you come to this table, leave that. You have nothing to prove. Your presence alone is your strength."

There's intentionality to the businesses that participate: not more than one from a particular field, so it's not about competition.

Businesses that have attended roundtable meetings represent fields including financial coaching, private health care, beauty, graphic design, wellness, home services, retail and media. A newly formed swim school has attended and next month's meet-

See BETTER, page 3B

New semester starting for diverse learners at WCCCD

Offerings include two-year certification program

By Jody McVeigh
Editor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICIA CARLISLE

Michael Carlisle puts the finishing touches on a batch of cupcakes during a cooking class last semester.



Tom O'Hara learns kitchen safety during a cooking class last semester.

Following a successful summer featuring art classes and shinrin-yoku — the practice of being one with nature — a new semester soon begins for students with special needs.

Through a growing partnership between Wayne County Community College District and the future Michael B's Cafe — a coffeehouse that will employ young adults with special needs — the fall semester kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The classes are designed with the future in mind. Among those helping behind the scenes is Suzanne Klein, a Michael B's board member and former superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

"With Michael B's, partnerships are centered around the cafe," Klein said, noting young adults employed at the cafe will need to know more than how to serve a cup of coffee. "There's hospitality, what it takes to run a small business, how to get ready for that first customer, putting routines in place."

Fall classes range from yoga and photography to digital content, art and cooking. Unique offerings such as Nail It, through which students learn hands-on home repair — or when to call a professional — provide life skills that lead to independence.

Course offerings were created after a casual conversation between Alicia Carlisle, who has been raising funds for Michael B's for a few years, and Denis Karic, provost of the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center in Harper Woods. She suggested the idea to offer classes for adults with special needs and he enthusiastically accepted. The program started small and quickly grew.

"Through our partnership with Michael B's, we've been able to offer continuing education courses for students with learning disabilities and the response from our community has been incredible," Karic said. "Many parents have reached out to share how much of an impact this program has had. But for us, the real shining light has been watching the students grow and build genuine friendships with one another through the program. That's what makes it all worth it."

Through the partnership, young adults with special needs have the opportunity to enroll in life-skills courses, earn college credits and gain hands-on experience that prepares them for the future.

Fall classes take place at the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, with the exception of a cooking class, which is hosted at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Class sizes are limited to 10 students; every class has a teacher and an aide. The teaching team is heavy with retired Grosse Pointe teachers and administrators, Carlisle said.

"Having been a special ed teacher and director, then having served as superintendent, it's important to me to serve every student in every classroom every day," Klein said.

"… It's not too early for kids or young adults to think about what their plans are," she added. "Community college may not have been the original game plan, but it might fit appropriately now."

The upcoming semester includes the launch of a two-year program that will culminate in internships and ultimately lead to job placement.

"We're helping them to be knowledgeable and independent, if they so choose," Carlisle said. "This is giving them tools to make good choices."

Included in the two-year certification program is a class called Foundations: Thriving on Your Own. According to program materials, the class empowers students to build purposeful and increasingly independent adult lives. Through a variety of practical life skills, stu-

See CLASSES, page 4B



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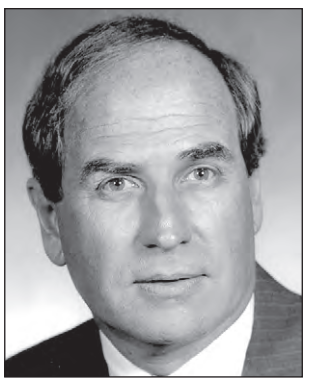
OBITUARIES

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



John William Tipp



Suzanne Clark Osborne



Patrick Glenn Higgins



Pamela Barthel



Mary Jeanne Finlan

John William Tipp

John William Tipp, 87, of Troy, passed away peacefully and surrounded by his family Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.

Born Sept. 29, 1938, in Grosse Pointe, John grew up between the city streets of Detroit and the quiet shores of Frankfort. Both areas shaped his lifelong love of being on the water. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He used that foundation to raise his family in Grosse Pointe while building a career devoted to advertising, publishing and marketing through his companies, John W. Tipp Associates and New Car Test Drive. He also was involved with the men's U.S. Pro Ski Tour and organized and promoted races across the country for a decade. He had an undeniable entrepreneurial spirit that continued to engage him into his later years.

John was a true adventurer. Sailing and skiing were his greatest passions and he traveled far and wide in pursuit; however, his true gift was the wholehearted interest he took in whatever his children were doing. He was always supportive, curious and along for the ride. He was hardworking, a natural "Mr. Fix-It," and a devoted father who never sat on the sidelines of his family's life.

His love of sailing ran deep and lasted a lifetime. He was the faithful guardian of the family's beloved sailboat, Yare, and spent decades immersed in the sailing community, first at Crescent Sail Yacht Club as a child, then Bayview Yacht Club and Grosse Pointe Yacht Club before returning to Bayview, where he was regarded as an esteemed "Grand Ram" after racing in more than 50 Bayview Mackinac races. In later years, he and his family and friends sailed a new boat, The Moab. They explored the British Virgin Islands and the French West Indies together during the winter months and added new chapters to a life already rich with experiences on the water.

As his long and full life slowed in his final years, John met it with the same steadiness that had defined him — calm, quiet and introspective.

John was predeceased by his parents, Gretchen and Hans; and brother, Eric. He leaves behind a family that loved and admired him deeply. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Tipp; children, Anne Tierney, John Tipp Jr. (Carolina) and William Tipp (Rachel); their mother, Mary Tipp; stepdaughter, Kelly Breeding (Samuel); grandchildren, Otto Tierney, Matteo Tipp and Ella Tipp; stepgrandchildren, Laynee Breeding and Cole Breeding; and former son-in-law, Matthew Tierney.

He will be interred on the treasured shores of Crystal Lake in Frankfort, next to his parents, this fall. A memorial service will be held in the future at Bayview Yacht Club.

Suzanne Clark Osborne

Suzanne Clark Osborne, 82, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026.

Susie, as she was known by many, was born Oct. 5, 1943, in Petoskey. She is survived by her husband, Jim; sons, Jeff and Jamie, and Jamie's family; brother, John; nieces and nephews; and the family dogs, Harriet and Echo.

Susie was a beloved mother, wife, sister and friend who made a positive impact on many people. Susie loved connecting with her bridge group, cared deeply about her friends and was invested in the Grosse Pointe community, from small businesses to the public school system. She had her finger on the pulse and was fastidious with details about her children's classmates and sports teammates.

She was a dedicated and indulgent grandmother to her grandchild and showered her family with phone calls, thoughtful questions and silly anecdotes, as well as children's books, toys and clothes. She loved cooking, baking and entertaining for her family and friends. She shone around holidays, particularly Christmas, and she loved when the family came together to decorate the Christmas tree. The family was blessed to have such a supportive presence in their lives.

She was an amazing partner and spouse to Jim, raising the family, managing the household and helping him run their small manufacturing business. The two loved to take long drives to visit family and friends for a few short minutes before returning home, regardless of the distance traveled. They loved dogs and were indulgent pet parents for a host of four-legged friends. They also appreciated their alma mater, Michigan State University, from which they both graduated in 1965, and were emphatic boosters of collegiate and Detroit professional sports teams. She also loved returning to Petoskey and visiting her old haunts. She very much saw Petoskey as home.

Susie studied education and was a social studies teacher with the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD). She was a beacon of information and opinions about current events and a voracious consumer of books. A staunch progressive voice, her political actions were inspiring, from donating her DPSCD life insurance to the Black Panthers to countless volunteer hours for just causes to her hilarious Spiro Agnew watch. She was active with the Junior League of Detroit, volunteered with the Grosse Pointe Public School System and sponsored many young artists.

She did not suffer fools, "BS" or people snobbier than her. Her loved ones said they have a big hole in their hearts.

A viewing and service will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. She will be interred at Northlawn Cemetery in North Adams.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Junior League of Detroit, 17108 Mack, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230, detroit.jl.org/support-us/; or the Detroit Public Schools Community District Foundation, dpscdfoundation.org/donate/.

Patrick Glenn Higgins

Patrick Glenn Higgins, 38, of Grosse Pointe Park, died peacefully surrounded by his family Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026, following an eight-month battle with glioblastoma.

Born Aug. 24, 1987, Patrick grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Lutheran High School Westland and Northern Michigan University. He had a rich 15-year career with Echo Logistics.

His greatest joy was his family. Patrick married Kelley Tilma in 2019, and they welcomed two sons, Theodore in 2021 and Rory in 2024. Patrick embraced fatherhood wholeheartedly and dreamed of a childhood for his boys filled with family, exploration and adventure.

Patrick approached life with intention, generosity and humor. He loved hiking, camping, travel, Detroit sports, great food and bringing people together. He was endlessly curious and believed that things worth doing were worth doing well. Whether planning an adventure, preparing the perfect meal, finding exactly the right gift or introducing someone to his beloved city of Detroit, Patrick made experiences better simply by being part of them.

Patrick is survived by his wife, Kelley; sons, Theodore and Rory; parents, Randall and Kathryn Higgins; sister, Carly Davis (Jason); brother, Jameson Higgins (Karla); nieces and nephews, Avery, Callan, Nolyn and Daniel; parents-in-law, Andrew and Kim Tilma; sister-in-law, Allison Tilma; and Allison's daughter, Elaina.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Robert and Beverly (nee Richards) Higgins and Glenda (nee May) Everts.

While 38 years was nowhere near enough, Patrick did not waste the life he was given. He loved people deliberately and generously, pursued adventure, worked hard for the life he wanted and brought people along with him.

Memorial donations may be made to a GoFundMe for Patrick's sons, Theo and Rory, gofund.me/bc2aeb016; or Stache Strong for brain cancer research, stachestrong.org/donate/.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Pamela Barthel

Pamela Barthel, 82, of Grosse Pointe, passed away Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026.

Pam was born Sept. 22, 1943, in St. Louis, Mo. She was the beloved daughter of William and Lorraine (nee Schlingwein) Glynn.

Pam graduated from St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School before earning bachelor's and master's degrees in speech therapy and early childhood education from Marygrove College.

Pam met the love of her life, Dave Barthel, and they married in 1965 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Pam's life was firmly anchored in her faith; she was an active member of the church parish and led the catechism program for many years to help provide all children with a solid upbringing in the church.

A lifelong member of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Pam answered its call to lead the creation of its preschool in the early 1980s. She built the curriculum and intentionally designed each area of her classroom, while Dave brought her vision to life with paint and ladders. Pam had a profound and lasting impact on thousands of children over her 25 years of teaching. She loved nothing more than seeing those children at church and in the community as they grew. They were always excited to tell her about their latest accomplishments.

Pamela was, first and foremost, a devoted mother and grandmother. She took great joy in following her grandchildren's interests. Whether attending lacrosse games in the freezing rain, an awards ceremony or every showing of a school play, she was always their most reliable and loudest cheerleader. Her grandchildren knew they could count on her encouragement, sugar cookies and unwavering support. She found deep joy in watching their lives unfold and being a constant source of love and reassurance.

Pam's happiest moments were when she was surrounded by friends and family. She loved entertaining, especially hosting parties and holiday dinners where everyone was welcome. She took great pride in bringing everyone together around the table. Her meals and thoughtful attention to detail made all those family events fun for everyone; she could turn any event into a party. She took every opportunity to celebrate with her family and friends. Pam also spearheaded and planned many family vacations in Michigan and South Carolina to ensure her children and grandchildren had plenty of fun and time to enjoy being together. Her love for her family gave her grandchildren incredible memories, shared experiences and, more importantly, cousins and siblings who became lifelong friends and forever family.

Pamela also was generous in spirit and action. She cared deeply about helping others and gave of her time and talents, including delivering for Meals on Wheels, knitting baby hats for Pregnancy Aid or rocking babies at Henry Ford St. John Hospital. Her kindness extended beyond her own family and she lived in a way that reflected compassion for those in need.

Pamela was the beloved spouse of David Barthel for 61 years. She also was the cherished mother of Carolyn "Carrie" Stover (Michael), Elizabeth "Betsy" Gross and David Barthel (Jennifer); the proud and loving grandmother of Jonathan (Abigail), Charles, Connor (Jenna), Andrew, Lauren and Meghan; and dear sister of Patricia Haarz and Laura McKenna.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, until a 10 a.m. memorial Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Pregnancy Aid of Eastern Wayne County, 15847 E. 8 Mile, Eastpointe, MI 48021, pregnancyaiddetroit.org/support.

Arrangements entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Mary Jeanne Finlan

Mary Jeanne Finlan, 81, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026.

Jeanne was born April 24, 1945, in Escanaba, to Joseph and Margaret "Peggy" Poffenberger. She graduated from Holy Name Catholic School in Escanaba and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Michigan. Jeanne devoted her life to nursing and took deep pride in her work. For decades she cared for patients in hospitals, homes, clinics and communities. She continued to learn and grow throughout her nursing career and used her knowledge, experience and compassion to make a difference in the lives of others.

Outside of work, Jeanne was an avid reader. She was exceptionally well-read and often had the latest New York Times best-sellers on order. She also was a talented seamstress and put her heart into every pillow, dress, quilt and Halloween costume she created for family and friends. She was a perfectionist and it showed in her incredible attention to every detail. During quiet times, she found great pleasure in birdwatching and had an overall love for all animals.

Jeanne is survived by two loving daughters, Anne Ugval (Jonathan) of Grosse Pointe Farms and Amy Mayes (Jeffrey) of Los Angeles; adoring grandchildren, Evelyn Ugval of Detroit and Thomas Ugval of Madison, Wis.; devoted sister, Patricia Maslowski of Drake, Colo.; and nephews, David Maslowski Jr. and Daniel Maslowski of Colorado.

Jeanne was predeceased by her brother-in-law, David Maslowski; and beloved son, Thomas Patrick Finlan Jr.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Tom Finlan Scholarship, c/o Preble High School, 2222 Deckner, Green Bay, WI 54302. This scholarship was established in memory of Thomas Patrick Finlan Jr., following his tragic passing in 1987.

Share a memory at wujekcalcaterra.com.

See OBITS, page 3B

Holiday deadline

Deadline to submit obituaries for the Sept. 10 edition of the Grosse Pointe News is 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, due to the observance of Labor Day. Submit obituaries directly to Kyla Bazzy at kbazzy@grossepointenews.com

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Randy Lee Kozicki



Randy Lee Kozicki

Randy Lee Kozicki, 71, of Harper Woods, passed away Monday, Aug. 17, 2026.

Randy was born July 25, 1955, in Detroit. He made his home in Harper Woods, where he centered his life around his family and the people he loved.

On June 19, 1975, Randy married his beloved wife, Delia "Dee" Kozicki, at St. Ambrose Parish in Grosse Pointe Park. Together, they shared more than 51 years of marriage and built a loving family that remained at the heart of everything Randy valued.

Randy cherished being involved in the lives of his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed attending games and following his favorite teams as a lifelong Detroit sports fan, but he especially loved cheering on his grandchildren from the sidelines. Some of his happiest moments were spent watching them grow, supporting their passions and being there for the moments that mattered.

Randy was a devoted husband, father, brother and uncle. He is survived by his loving wife, Dee; their three children, Randy Kozicki (Adrian Dianat), Shannon Bunch (Dan) and Todd Kozicki (Karen Wells); beloved grandchildren, Isabel, Emma, Ava, Ryan, Charlie, Ellie, Connor, Owen, Vivienne and Liam; siblings, William "Bill" Kozicki (Renee), Trisha Jar (David), Jack Spiegel, Norma Jean Mitchell (Jim), Norman Spiegel and Steve Spiegel; sisters-in-law, Christine and Katie; and many loving cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family members who will cherish his memory.

Randy was predeceased by his parents, Elsie and Norman Spiegel; beloved grandparents, Jack and Blanche Green; and siblings, David Kozicki, Douglas Spiegel, Kenny Spiegel and Marianna Spiegel.

Visitation will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 28, until a noon funeral Mass at St. Ambrose Parish, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

Art Takeover Project returns

More than 85 artists displayed at 38 locations

Art once again is taking over The Village.

The fourth annual Art Takeover Project returns to The Village business district this September, transforming 38 local businesses and locations into a walkable community-wide art exhibition featuring the work of more than 85 juried artists from throughout southeast Michigan.

Art Takeover Project kicks off 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, with live performances, demonstrations and interactive experiences throughout The Village, including:

◆ The Amazing Flec

◆ acoustic performances by local musician Eugene Stobe

◆ a live band performance at the Kressbach Fountain

◆ live painting demonstrations by local artists throughout The Village

◆ live caricatures by artist Emad Tammy

◆ a trumpet performance by James Golden

The exhibition will be displayed Sept. 3 to Sept. 30, during which time visitors are invited to explore The Village, meet participating artists, take part in the official scavenger hunt for prizes, vote for their favorite artist and discover artwork displayed throughout the business district.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors can expect to discover a diverse collection of artwork, including painting, sculpture,

See ART, page 4B





Left, a piece by Torrey Gagnier, whose work will be displayed at J. McLaughlin. Below, Will Schippert's art will be hosted by Maple & Mill.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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 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 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

◆ The Return of the Bald Eagle in Michigan: A presentation by Carl Palazzolo, DVM, 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.

◆ Fold & Relax Origami, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28300 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, VFW Post 1146, 28404 E. Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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.

◆ Outdoor Summer Concert: The Dave Hamilton Band, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18. Ticket prices vary.

◆ Bird Walks, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. Admission is $10 for Friends, $12 for the public.

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. For more information, visit benefitonthebay.org.

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.

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

◆ Crafternoons at The Helm, noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, with instructor Carian Taylor.

See EVENTS, page 4B

BETTER:

Continued from page 1B

ing will include a speech pathology practice.

Naber said her hope is to form unique partnerships that allow businesses to gain more exposure to better serve the Grosse Pointe community. She has seen such partnerships form.

"We have a graphics company that has no home location; they have pickup locations instead," she said. "At our last roundtable, there was the opportunity for them to have pickup locations at other businesses in the roundtable."

Others are partnering for specialty product launches, spotlighting one another in monthly newsletters and offering discounts for unrelated services to expand reach.

Though Naber strives for no duplicate businesses and to keep attendance low, there is room for growth.

"If there's broader interest, we'll host more groups," she said. "This is different than a peer advisory group. There's a different focus at every meeting. We're expanding on the way business owners see value in meeting with others, so they don't feel like they're operating in a silo."

Meetings currently take place 9:30 to 11 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Country Club of Detroit.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Meetings take place at an actual round table so participants aren't boxed out.

"I hope people do reach out and there's a larger interest so new groups can form," Naber said. "I want this to evolve and grow and enhance our collective thinking and how we can better serve the community together.

"It's important as you evolve in your entrepreneurial journey to remember that what got you here won't get you there," she added. "You've got to expand and shift your perspective. Ask yourself, am I challenging myself? Am I thinking outside the realm of what I normally think of? We all, as human beings, sometimes tend to limit ourselves and create fences. I hope we notice the fences in our day to day and challenge them. Think bigger and broader. That's when we grow."

For more information or to attend a GP Owner Roundtable, email liz@hummilitas.com.

HUMMILITAS

2

Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, Pastor

Making New Disciples-Building Stronger Ones

082726

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

◆ Lunch & Learn: Travels with Rufus, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, with presenter Rufus McGaugh. Cost is $10.

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

◆ Second Annual Ride to Read Book Crawl, 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2.

◆ Make Comics Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 1.

◆ Acting with Shawntay Dalon, 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3.

◆ Yoga Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

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

◆ Teen Anime & Manga Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2.

◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 3.

◆ Sensory Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4.

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.

◆ Learning Portraiture from the Old Masters with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 10 and 17. This is the first of three two-session workshops.

ENGAGEMENT



William Leonard III and Kendall Volpe

Volpe — Leonard

Jamie and Fay Volpe of the City of Grosse Pointe announce the engagement of their daughter, Kendall Elizabeth Volpe — the daughter of Jamie Volpe and the late Tracie Lynn Dold Volpe — to William Dennison Leonard III, the son of Bill and Meg Leonard of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Miss Volpe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Miami University in 2023 and is pursuing a master's degree in counseling from the University of Detroit Mercy. She currently works as a fitness instructor, nanny and server.

Mr. Leonard earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Miami University in 2023 and is a full-time student pursuing an MBA at Wayne State University.

A July 2027 wedding is planned.



Roy O'Brien Ford hosts food drive Sept. 14-28

This September, Ford dealers around the world are coming together to share in meaningful community work with local nonprofits.

As part of this effort, Roy O'Brien Ford is partnering with Oak Park-based Forgotten Harvest to collect food donations that directly support local needs.

The mission of Forgotten Harvest is to fight food waste and hunger by distributing nutritious food to people across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Residents and customers are encouraged to drop nonperishable food items at the dealership, from Monday, Sept. 14, to Monday, Sept. 28.

Nonperishables being collected include:

◆ Peanut, almond or cashew butter — reduced sodium and low sugar

◆ Canned soup, chili, pasta and stew — reduced sodium

◆ Canned vegetables and beans — reduced sodium or water packed

◆ Canned tuna, salmon, chicken or turkey — reduced sodium or water packed

◆ Pasta sauce or canned tomatoes — reduced sodium or low sugar

◆ Pasta, barley or rice

◆ Canned fruit — 100 percent juice or lite syrup packed

◆ Dried beans, peas and lentils

◆ Whole-grain cereal — unsweetened or low sugar

◆ Oatmeal or Cream of Wheat

◆ Nutritious snacks — dried fruit, nuts, trail mix and granola bars

"At Roy O'Brien Ford, we are proud to be a part of Ford Building Together because it lends to supporting our neighbors in southeastern Michigan," the dealership said in a statement. "This food drive is about taking action and helping local citizens in a meaningful way.

"With four generations of the O'Brien family onsite every day, we aim to be more than a dealership. This is truly about helping the community we have been an active part of for 80 years."

Roy O'Brien Ford is located at 22201 E. 9 Mile Road, St. Clair Shores.

ART:

Continued from page 3B

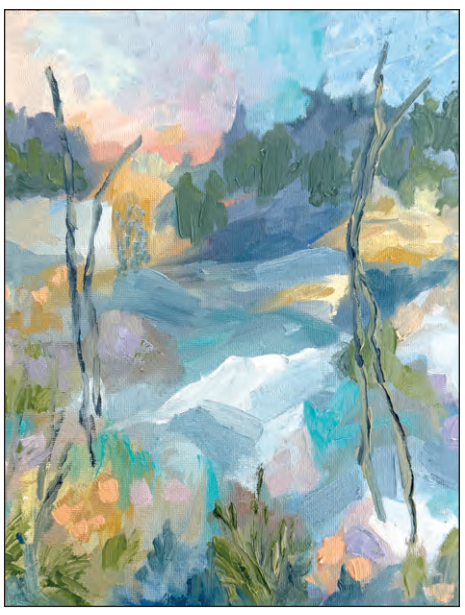
photography, mixed media, 3D artwork, digital art, interactive pieces and more.

One hundred percent of all sales go directly to local artists.

Visitors can pick up a complimentary Art Takeover Project map at participating businesses or access the map through the Posterity Gallery website, posterityartgallery.com. The map highlights all 38 participating locations and helps guests navigate the exhibition.

Created as a way to bring artists, local businesses and the community together through art, Art Takeover Project is designed to encourage visitors to explore the entire Village business district, discover a new shop, interact with local artists and enjoy the last days of summer while strolling the downtown district.

For more information, visit posterityartgallery.com.





COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Ellen Doyle's work will be found at Village Palm. Right, one of Laura Gabriel's sculptures, which will be housed at Posterity Gallery.



Last year's top vote-getter, Tim Burke, stands with City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak and Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcox.

CLASSES:

Continued from page 1B

dents discover their strengths, make informed choices, solve everyday challenges and develop confidence.

Planners looked at preexisting college courses, as well as what courses could be developed to offer a selection of opportunities for young adults. The level of interest among young adults to become college students and receive certification also was gauged.

"Course options vary and continue to grow," Klein said. "Kudos to Wayne Community College and Denis for having wide open and willing conversations about how to make this work for more students."

In addition to Thriving on Your Own, over the course of four semesters, students must take 10 electives, two cooking classes and one digital literacy class, as well as complete an independent life plan that takes into account housing, household routines, transportation, work, volunteering, wellness, finances and other facets.

"The new certification program runs two years and it's built around independence," Karic said. "Students come in Monday through Friday and work on things like reading comprehension, digital literacy, personal finance, cooking and staying healthy. At the end of it, they get a certificate of completion. Our mission at WCCCD is to help people reach their education and career goals through accessible programs and this program is a real example of that. When a student finishes and gets that certificate, that's what we're here for."

In addition to WCCCD, Michael B's and young adults with special needs also have benefited from partnerships with the likes of Ford House, Grosse Pointe Theatre and The Helm. The course offerings have made a real difference.

"We've been doing this two years now through the goodness of Wayne Community College," Carlisle said. "They believe in our students and are willing to give good quality programming, classes and opportunities."

"This partnership means a lot to us," Karic added. "Alicia and Michael B's came to us wanting to build something real for students with learning disabilities and that's exactly the kind of partnership WCCCD wants to be part of. Seeing students grow, build friendships and earn something real for themselves — that's what success looks like."

To learn more or register for the fall semester, visit michaelbcafe.com/wcccd.

Fall classes

THRIVING ON YOUR OWN

◆ Tuesday through Friday

Empowers students to build confident, purposeful and increasingly independent adult lives through practical life skills, including personal finance, home management, health and safety, digital literacy, relationship-building, career exploration, job training and community engagement. Cost: $100

DRUMS, MOVE AND GROOVE

◆ Tuesday and Thursday

A fun, energetic fitness class where participants use drumsticks to tap rhythms on large exercise balls set on buckets while moving to upbeat music. No musical experience necessary. This class improves coordination, balance, strength, endurance and focus while providing a workout. Cost: $40

YOGA

◆ Wednesday and Friday

Participants learn gentle stretching exercises for vitality, strength and flexibility. Each yoga sequence builds strength, improves posture and reduces stress. Cost: $25

DIGITAL CONTENT

◆ Tuesday and Thursday

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of digital content creation. Participants learn the fundamentals of creating engaging content across various digital platforms. Course topics include understanding target audiences, content planning, design principles, privacy and security, critical thinking and communication. Cost: $50

PHOTOGRAPHY

◆ Wednesday and Friday

Provides students with an introduction to current digital imaging technologies. With use of digital cameras, printers and photo imaging software, students learn the functions of their camera and basic steps for Photoshop. Cost: $45

COOKING

◆ Monday

Teaches the fundamentals of simple cooking to create tasty fast meals at home. Cost: $50

ART (COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES)

◆ Tuesday and Thursday

Offers participants a chance to gain confidence in their skills and acquire new ones as they build friendships and create artwork. Cost: $45

NAIL IT

◆ Wednesday and Friday

A hands-on home repair workshop where everyone learns confidence-boosting fixes for everyday home problems. Cost: $50

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GP Rotary thanks community for garage sale success

By Jackie Dale
Guest Writer

Grosse Pointe Rotary would like to thank the Grosse Pointe News for the informative article about our third annual Community Garage Sale, which appeared in the paper July 30, 2026.

We asked for donations, volunteers and shoppers — and we were fortunate to receive all three.

We would also like to recognize the outstanding assistance we received from many members of the Grosse Pointe South High School Interact Club, as well as members of the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club. Their support helped make this event a success.

A special thank-you goes to DTE for serving as a corporate sponsor of this year's event.

The funds raised through the garage sale will be used to provide high school scholarships, support ongoing service projects and continue our commitment to making a positive difference in our community.



Members of the cleanup crew, from left, are Rotarians President Dave Colton, Kevin Cox, Lynn Gadzinski, Diane Strickler and Ron Strickler; Hayden Drouillard from Interact; Rotarian Jackie Dale and Caden Schmidt from Interact. Also contributing to the cleanup effort, but not pictured, were Patrick Gleason and Dean Valente.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKIE DALE

Left, President Dave Colton served up hot dogs. Right, new member Lynn Gadzinski helped by baking and selling delicious baked goods, as well as volunteering to clean up.

Rotary is a global network of community-minded individuals dedicated to "Service Above Self." Through volunteer service, fundraising, scholarships and community projects, Rotary members work together to make a positive difference locally and around the world. Grosse Pointe Rotary is proud to be part of this worldwide organization while focusing on the needs of our local community.

If you have ever visited or used the Tot Lot, you have experienced one of the ways Grosse Pointe Rotary has made a difference in our community. We are proud to support projects that bring people together and make Grosse Pointe a better place to live, work and play.

If you are interested in joining our group, we invite you to come to a meeting and learn more about what we do. You can also email us at GrossePointeRotary@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, shopped, sponsored or otherwise supported this year's event. Grosse Pointe Rotary is grateful for the generosity and community spirit that made our third annual Community Garage Sale such a success.

Grosse Pointe Rotary meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Grille.

ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

When will I be able to trust him again?

Dear Jeff and Debra,

My husband has been sober for four months after years of drinking and lying about it. He is doing well and keeps asking why I still don't trust him. I feel guilty because I know I should encourage him, but I still check the bank account and wonder where he is if he's late coming home.

How long am I supposed to feel this way?

— Still Wary

Dear Wary:

You don't need to feel guilty. Four months of sobriety is wonderful, but it also is a very short time compared with years of broken promises. One of the realities of early recovery is that sobriety begins immediately, but trust takes time to rebuild.

People in early recovery sometimes want to oversimplify the process. They say, "I've stopped drinking. You should trust me now." Family members see things differently: "You've told me countless times that everything was fine when it wasn't. How do I know this time is different?"

Both people may genuinely want the relationship to heal, but they are living in different realities. The real question isn't whether you should trust him. The real question is about what he must do to regain your trust.

Trust is something we extend to another person. No one can make a person trust them. Trustworthiness is something we earn through our own actions, which is something we can control. For the recovering person, trustworthiness means staying sober today, following a daily recovery program, telling the truth, admitting mistakes and so on.

As Debra writes in "It Takes a Family: Creating Lasting Sobriety, Togetherness, and Happiness," 2nd ed. (Hazelden, 2021), "Alcoholics and addicts must realize that they no longer have the right to ask, 'Do you trust me?' The only question they can properly ask is 'Am I being trustworthy today?'"

That shift — from asking for trust to practicing trustworthiness — is one of the most important changes in early recovery. And trustworthiness becomes easier to see when recovery has structure. Families no longer have to become detectives.

But trustworthiness isn't only an issue for the recovering person. Family recovery has its own responsibilities. Constant interrogation, surveillance and suspicion won't create happiness, but neither will pretending that years of negative experience have magically disappeared. That's why family members need their own program of recovery.

We recommend families approach the first year of recovery together, with a structured plan. Family members can have their own Twelve Step meetings (Al-Anon), sponsors and recovery activities, while also meeting regularly as a family to talk about how their individual recovery plans are going. This helps everyone move in the same direction without making the recovering person the center of every conversation.

There's another side to this story, too. Addiction can make the whole family less trustworthy. Family members sometimes make threats they don't keep, hide information from one another or make secret deals with the addicted person.

One parent says no while the other quietly says yes, then everyone gets pulled into the chaos. Family recovery asks the same question of everyone: Am I being trustworthy today? That is a much more useful question than, "Do you trust me yet?"

Your husband's four months matter enormously. Celebrate them, notice what he is doing right and tell him when you see evidence of change. But neither of you can force trust to happen faster than it naturally does.

Trust is a little like a savings account. Addiction makes withdrawal after withdrawal until the account is empty. Recovery starts making deposits. At first, the balance still looks pretty small. But if the deposits keep coming — day after day, month after month — the balance grows. One day, you realize you haven't checked the bank account lately. You didn't need to.

Jeff and Debra Jay are the authors of "Love First: A Family's Guide to Intervention," 3rd ed., (Hazelden, 2021) and other books. They help families find lasting solutions to addiction and they live in Grosse Pointe Farms.

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

The shared bushes fight over the fence line

Dear Gabby: We share a backyard fence with our neighbor and they have a massive row of bushes. Over the last couple of years, the branches have completely spilled over the top of the fence and now are hanging into our yard, blocking the sunlight to my garden.

When I hired a landscaper to trim back the branches that hang onto our property, the neighbor came out, annoyed, saying we ruined their privacy screen and should have paid to trim their side, too, if we were messing with the bushes.

Who is actually responsible for paying for yard growth? And how do we handle this without turning our backyard into a blood bath? — Overgrown on the Fence

Dear Overgrown: Property lines and boundary plants have been causing neighbor drama forever. Legally and practically, the rules are surprisingly straightforward.

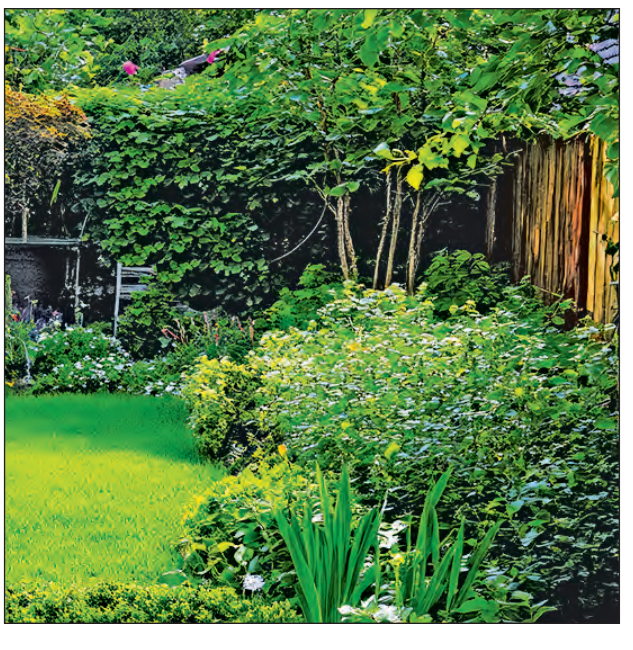
You have every legal right to trim any branches that cross over your property line, right up to the exact fence. However, you are only responsible for paying for the trimming done on your side of the fence. You do not owe them a dime toward maintaining the plants on their side and they don't owe you for taking care of what invades your space.

To smooth things over before the next yard maintenance day, walk over with a heads-up before the trimmers come out: "Hey neighbor! My garden isn't getting enough sun, so I'm having my crew trim back the branches that hang over onto my side of the fence next Tuesday. Just wanted to give you a quick heads-up so nobody is surprised by the noise."

Giving simple notice keeps things lighthearted, protects your garden and keeps the backyard peace intact.

— Gabby

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



Is her drinking my business?



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: I'm 74 and just moved in with my younger sister. Since I've been here, I've noticed she's drinking more than I remember her drinking before, close to a bottle of wine nearly every night. She otherwise seems fine. She's still doing her gardening, cooking meals for herself and meeting up with friends.

But still — this can't be good for her. I'm hesitant to critique how she lives when she otherwise seems fine, especially when it's something she's doing in her own home. Do I say something, or is this none of my business? — Newly Moved In

DEAR NEWLY MOVED IN: It's not none of your business. It's your sister, and protecting her health is worth an uncomfortable conversation.

Raise it gently: "I've noticed you've been drinking more, and I wanted to check in." You don't need to monitor her from here on out; just make sure she knows you noticed and that you care.

DEAR ANNIE: Seven years ago, my husband died from Parkinson's. It was a long and nasty way to die and, to say the least, heartbreaking for me and our children.

Throughout the ordeal, my senior ladies' group was a source of comfort and stability. They all knew what my husband was going through. For one hour a week, I absorbed the love of true friends, and it gave me strength.

Now, a newer member of the group's husband has been diagnosed with Parkinson's. My heart goes out to her. She wasn't here during my husband's long journey, so she may not know how he died.

Is it possible to offer her support without sharing too many specifics? I don't want to compare her husband to mine. Every case is unique, and he may well have a very different experience.

The Parkinson's Foundation (https://www.parkinson.org/) and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (https://www.michaeljfox.org/) were wonderful sources of information and support. I plan to refer her to both. They also helped connect me with a local support group that was so good for me.

Is there anything else I can do to guide her toward the support she needs? — Been There

DEAR BEEN THERE IN: You know firsthand what helped you most: having people around who cared.

You don't need to tell this woman every detail of your husband's illness to offer her the same comfort. Simply tell her you've walked this road before and are there if she ever wants to talk. Then let her decide how much she wants to know and when. Pointing her toward the organizations and support group that helped you is a wonderful start, too.

Beyond that, just keep showing up for her. You know better than most how much that means..

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

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Sweet rewards at the Cheesecake Shoppe



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Small towns bring family businesses to the forefront. It's what our cities are made of.

In May 1980, the Cheesecake Shoppe was founded by a local Grosse Pointe family who opened the original location on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods. They sold the business, which relocated to Greater Mack in St. Clair Shores in the early 1980s. Over the decades, ownership has changed three times, ultimately landing with current owners, Sandy Kravitz and Jimmy Mazzola, who are siblings.

They became owners just before COVID and added the cafe early on to reflect Jimmy's extensive experience with premium coffee shops. He gained his expertise when Coffee Beanery first opened in Michigan and was part of the founding team. Jimmy now enjoys Saturday mornings chatting it up with his coffee regulars, while Sandy stays more behind the scenes with their baking team, keeping the business running smoothly. Together, they have grown this business significantly and have mastered their signature New York-style cheesecakes, premium coffee blends and much more.

With four bakers on staff, head baker Michelle focuses mostly on cheesecakes, while assistant baker Annette handles the majority of new recipes and all other types of baked goods, such as cookies, coffee cakes, sweet breads, brownies and more. Both ladies tend to be in house Tuesdays and Thursdays, their biggest baking days, while the rest of the crew — bakers Sam and Lauren — keep things moving smoothly Tuesday through Saturday.

The shop bakes approximately 50 flavors throughout the year. A growing menu of cheesecakes is offered in just about every size imaginable, from whole cakes to slices, cupcakes to tartlets and "babycakes," which are three-inch cakes I'm told are perfect to share for a quick treat. With so many to choose from, their original NY-style cheesecake reigns as a crowd favorite and is at the heart of many different recipes in the bakery.

Their particular style of cheesecake is temperamental, requiring careful attention from beginning to end, from mixing the batter and monitoring its temperature to managing the oven temperature and overseeing the entire cooling process.

"Our little cheesecakes demand, perfection, otherwise they will easily split or collapse," the siblings said. These are some high-maintenance cakes. Even the shop's more unusual cheesecake flavors begin with that classic NY-style cheesecake at their core.

Seasonal flavors customers wait for every year include pumpkin, apple, lemon, key lime, bumpy cake and cherry. Pair a slice with one of the shop's cold brews or a cup of its signature Santa's Magic Dust coffee. I'm told you'll then have a combination of the bakery's top sellers. We'll circle back to that magic dust shortly.

Cupcakes and babycakes are regularly available in the bakery, although flavors rotate as well. What about the cookies, you ask? Here's the lineup: almond joy, oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip and peanut butter, along with gluten-free snickerdoodle and chocolate chip. Annette loves experimenting with recipes. Her creations have included lemon crinkle, cheesecake and red velvet cookies — and, most recently, an Oreo cookie bar. The bakery also has a following for its cakes. Carrot cake, bumpy-style chocolate cake and seasonal pumpkin cake are their most requested.

"We enjoy making cake pops and trying out different cakes for special events like the St. Clair Shores downtown social districts or their Sunday markets," they said.

The shop extends its hours for Social District Saturdays to keep everyone fueled on sugar and caffeine. The siblings said in recent years they've added sweet breads and coffee cakes to the regular lineup. Customers now can enjoy blueberry cream cheese coffee cake by the slice (order a whole cake online), as well as bourbon chocolate cream cheese sweet bread or banana cream cheese sweet bread, both as mini loaves. And since it's zucchini season, it sounds like they'll be making loaves of that too.

All these sweets making you thirsty? The coffee at The Cheesecake Shoppe isn't an afterthought. Cold

See CHEESECAKE, *page 5C*



Cheesecake Shoppe storefront.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Cherry cheesecake, carrot cake and bumpy cake.

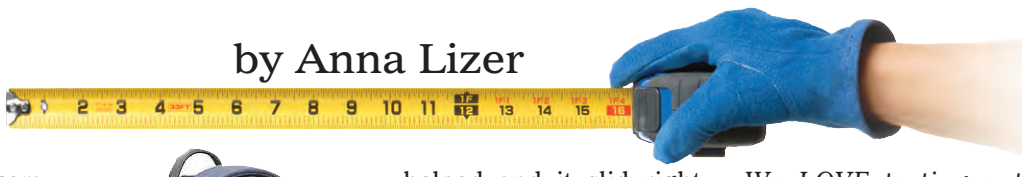


Turtle cheesecake, NY-style cheesecake, Oreo and cherry babycakes.

Blueberry cream cheese coffee cake.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer





As a chronic over-packer, airport travel is my personal nemesis. I am always trying to avoid paying $40 extra for a carry-on while also trying to squeeze six different outfits for a two-day trip into a standard tote bag.

When I saw people packing two weeks' worth of clothes into the Traveler's Choice Travel Backpack, I figured there was no way it actually unzipped like a suitcase and fit under an airline seat.

I finally caved and bought one for a quick budget airline getaway and am officially hooked. This bag opens completely flat like a mini hardshell luggage piece, which means no more digging down to the dark crevices of your bag to find one pair of socks. The compression straps inside locked all my clothes down and the built-in laptop sleeve kept my tech completely safe. I managed to fit six outfits, my makeup bag, a pair of shoes and a laptop without the zippers busting at the seams.

The only slight downside is if you pack it to absolute max capacity, it can get pretty heavy on your shoulders while walking through long terminal gates. But the padded straps definitely helped and it slid right under the seat in front of me without the flight attendants batting an eye.

I would rate this backpack a 4.9 out of 5 alligators. It completely eliminates airline baggage fee issues and makes packing feel organized. I found mine at TJ Maxx, but you can also find it here: tinyurl.com/2fx4emfa

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.

4.9 Out Of 5



Easy chicken skewers

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I sit here writing this on the eve of dropping my firstborn off at college, and to say it feels surreal would be an understatement. She's off to do great things, independently for the most part, at a school she worked incredibly hard to get into. I couldn't be prouder of her, or more excited for her.

I can relax a little knowing that she has a few important life skills under her belt. She can make a mean bowl of ramen, incredible brownies and a perfect bowl of buttered noodles. Does a college freshman need to know more?

This week, I've been making all of her favorite things for dinner. I just want to fill her up on Mom's cooking before the reality of dorm food sets in. We've had Bolognese, Thanksgiving dinner in August and lots of grilled steak. If she has ever mentioned loving a meal, there's a good chance I've considered making it this week.

My love language is cooking and there's something about feeding your kids that feels especially meaningful when they're about to leave home. But mostly, she'd better not like dorm food better than mine. I know she's going to be fine. More than fine, actually. She'll make friends, figure things out, have adventures, make mistakes, and learn how to navigate the world on her own. That's exactly what she's supposed to do. But knowing all of that doesn't make it any easier to watch her leave.

So, for now, I'm feeding her.

This recipe wasn't on her requested list, but she absolutely loved it. These chicken teriyaki skewers with scallions were an instant hit. The chicken is coated in a savory teriyaki sauce and grilled until the edges become caramelized and sticky. The scallions are threaded throughout the skewer and become tender and slightly charred, adding a little smoky flavor to every bite. I saw this recipe from Joanna Cismaru and had to give it a try. A homemade teriyaki sauce is so easy and flavorful to throw together. But, it has sugar in it so it will stick to the grill if you baste it too early. The key is to cook one side, flip and then brush on the glaze.

It's simple, flavorful and exactly the kind of dinner that disappears quickly from the table.

It may not have been one of the meals she specifically requested before leaving, but it definitely earned a spot on the list. And I suppose that's how it goes. There's always time for new memories.

Tomorrow, I'll drop her off and come home to a house that feels a little different. And yes, there are still four children remaining who will miss seeing her immensely every day too. We will just have to keep her dinner seat dusted off and ready to fill her up with her favorites when she comes home.

Cheers, Mombeau

Teriyaki and Scallion Chicken Skewers

8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs

8 scallions, cleaned and trimmed

1 cup soy sauce

1/4 cup rice wine vinegar

1 tsp chili-crisp oil

2 tbsp brown sugar

2-inch piece of ginger, chopped

2 garlic cloves, smashed

1 tbsp canola oil

Sesame seeds

Metal or bamboo skewers (soaked)

Cooked jasmine rice on the side

Start by making the teriyaki sauce. In a saucepan over medium heat, add in the soy sauce, rice wine vinegar, chili-crisp oil, garlic, ginger and brown sugar. Whisk together and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and reduce for about 10 minutes. Reduce the heat and let cool while you work on the skewers. Cut the chicken into two-inch pieces. They can be strips or squares. Also, cut the scallions into two-inch pieces. Slide a few pieces of the chicken onto the skewer and then a few pieces of scallion. Repeat the process, ending with the scallions, until you've filled up each skewer. Lightly brush the chicken with one tablespoon of the oil and season with salt and pepper.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Preheat your grill to medium-high heat. Reserve about four tablespoons of sauce to pour over the skewers when they come off the grill. Take the skewers and remaining sauce to the grill. Lay down the skewers and grill for about two minutes then flip. Brush the tops with the sauce. Cook for another two minutes and flip to coat the other side. Repeat the process until the chicken is cooked through, about 12 minutes, and the internal temperature is 165 degrees.

To serve, lay your rice down on a platter and spoon over a bed of rice. Lay the skewers over the top and pour over the remaining teriyaki sauce. Garnish with sesame seeds and any extra sliced scallions you have.

Taste buddies! Sponsor Mombeau's Table in this highly-visible spot!
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AVAs: American viticultural areas



More than 70 years ago, on May 3, 1956, a musical opened on Broadway called "Most Happy Fella." It changed the fortunes of the entire U.S. wine industry in a curious way.

The musical had a showstopper song with a line that said, "I'm the most happy fella, in the whole Napa Valley." From that moment, Napa Valley was associated in the minds of many as America's wine country, which was verified for millions 20 years later when a Napa cabernet sauvignon was declared the victor in a heralded Paris tasting.

In 1976, California wine was seen around the world as a novelty. Yet dozens of U.S. areas were developing as wine regions at that moment. Though all the other regions were overlooked, Napa became king.

By contrast, Sonoma County was merely that vast property on the other side of the hill. Napa was compact and easy to understand.

In wine circles, however, Sonoma had vastly more diversity. Part of its attraction was that it was developing a series of distinctive American viticultural areas (AVAs) that would define it: It was diverse.

Sonoma soon developed a reputation for greatness in literally a dozen grape varieties; Napa was seen as a monoculture featuring increasingly concentrated cabernets that could command outrageously high prices.

Sonoma's AVA growth was more rapid than anyone imagined. By the late 80s, the county had expanded into numerous sub-regions, some of which needed to have sub-regional names to make them meaningful.

As a result, the designations Carneros (best for chardonnay and pinot noir), Russian River Valley (best for Pinot Noir and numerous other grapes), the cool Sonoma Coast and the Petaluma Gap, Sonoma Valley and many others began to tell the tale of Sonoma County's diversity.

One relatively new AVA (approved a decade ago) is the Fountaingrove AVA. When it was approved by the government, it created a potentially fascinating growing region, one that will require at least another decade before it is understood.

The area's volcanic soils differ from other nearby regions and give the wines a unique character.

Without significant active participation by growers and wineries in the area, recognition of the area's qualities will be slow. As with all AVAs, broad input leads to members spreading the local message.

With only 600 vine acres and a median parcel size of 12 acres, Fountaingrove is small. It is a relatively cool area that will make some stellar red wines.

Superb winemaker Carol Shelton makes a Fountaingrove red wine blend and a Zinfandel, both of which have won medals at wine competitions.

Most wine lovers know of Alexander Valley, Dry Creek and many of the other well-established Sonoma County AVAs, but know less about Bennett Valley, Moon Mountain, Rockpile and Pine Mountain – some of the more recent additions to the AVA list

Fountaingrove is one of the newest AVAs in Sonoma. Its real meaning to consumers will only become evident after more of its wines are seen.

All it needs now is a Broadway musical to tout its greatness.

Wine of the Week:

2025 Balletto Rosé of Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley ($20): Some of the best pink wines made in the world come from the south of France and are based on Grenache. Russian River Valley specializes in Pinot Noir for its best rosés. This one is delightfully delicious. The winery describes it: "This wine is fun and lively. Savory guava, watermelon and lime combine with a light, delicate texture to make this pretty and delicious wine. It is made from estate-grown Pinot Noir ... It was cold fermented to complete dryness in stainless steel to enhance its focus." Hot day? This is your go-to cooler-offer.

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BBC WALES, BROOKSTREET PICTURES AND FFILM CYMRU WALES.

Above, Harry Lawtey as Richie, reciting poetry to his girlfriend in the 2025 movie "Mr. Burton," written by Tom Bullough and Josh Hyams and directed by Marc Evans.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



MOVIE REVIEW
"Mr. Burton"
2025 - Not Rated
2 hr 4 min
★★★★½

I'm an unabashed fan of the formidable British actor Toby Jones. He's played quite a variety of roles over the past 30 years or so. Checking his bio on IMDb indicates he's been in a mind-boggling 156 titles! They've included everything from "The Empire of Light" and "First Cow" to "The Secret Agent" and "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy." He also starred in one of my all-time favorite and under-appreciated television series, "Detectorists." If you haven't seen it and you like quirky, English humor, I highly recommend it.

Here he stars in a fascinating biopic of one of the 20th century's greatest actors, Richard Burton. I'm not a huge follower of biopics in general, but since it featured Mr. Jones, I felt compelled to watch it. And I must say I was richly rewarded. I knew virtually nothing about Richard Burton, although of course I've seen a number of his movies over the years. He acted in so many memorable films including "Becket," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," and "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold." Growing up, I remember hearing all about his fiery relationship with Elizabeth Taylor.

In "Mr. Burton," Welsh director Marc Evans tells the tale of his formative years growing up in the early 1940s in the rough, coal-mining town of Port Talbot, Wales. Young Richie Jenkins (Harry Lawtey, "Joker: Folie à Deux") was a rebellious youth whose life was pretty directionless. He was raised by his older sister Cis (Aimee-Ffion Edwards, "Slow Horses," "Peaky Blinders") and her husband Elfed (Aneurin Barnard, "Dunkirk").

Jenkins' father Dic (Steffan Rhodri, "Wonder Woman") is a widower and a raging alcoholic who abandoned his family years ago. He spends most of his free time getting plastered in the local pub, where he cajoles his mates with humorous yarns. You get the sense that they've heard his stories dozens of times before and that they're laughing at him and not with him. He was what one would call a "funny drunk." When Richie visits him one day at the pub, he asks, "Which one are you?" It's a sad little scene.

Fortunately, there's an English teacher at the local high school who takes an interest in the young lad. Mr. Philip "PH" Burton (Jones) sees the acting potential in Richie. When things get a bit tough at home, Rich is forced to drop out of school and get a job at a local haberdashery. The family simply needs the money and since it looks like he's never going to escape the mining town, he's better off getting a job.

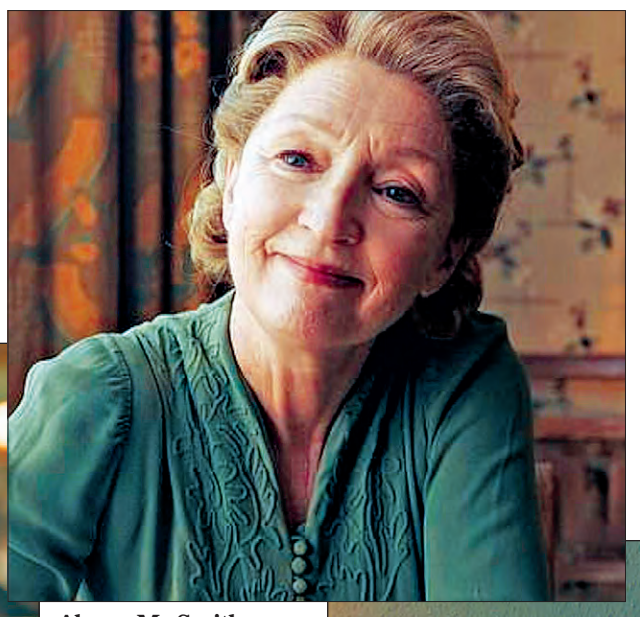
This is where PH comes to the rescue. When he notices Richie's absence from school, he pays the family a visit and convinces them to let him attend classes. In order to stay in school, he's forced to get up before the crack of dawn and do several jobs to help keep the family afloat. It's a grueling routine, but Richie proves up to the task. Meanwhile, PH mentors Richie in all things dramatic. It's hinted that he was once a young prodigy himself, but for some reason, he ended up as a schoolteacher in the Welsh town. PH still writes radio plays, which are produced and aired by the BBC.

PH and Richie spend much of their coveted free time practicing elocution and voice projection in the great outdoors. There's a memorable scene early on in the film, where PH makes his protégé enunciate various phrases on a hillside, with the smoggy factories as a backdrop. To me, it symbolizes the life he needs to escape and begin the life he was destined to live.

To further help Rich develop as an actor, PH convinces the family to let Rich move into the boarding house where he lives. There, the kindly landlady Ma Smith (Lesley Manville, "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris," "Let Him Go") helps look after him. The two work diligently to teach Richie some manners. In a comical bit, they show him how to eat properly and sit up straight. He's slowly transformed from an uncultured rube into a sophisticated, proper gentleman.

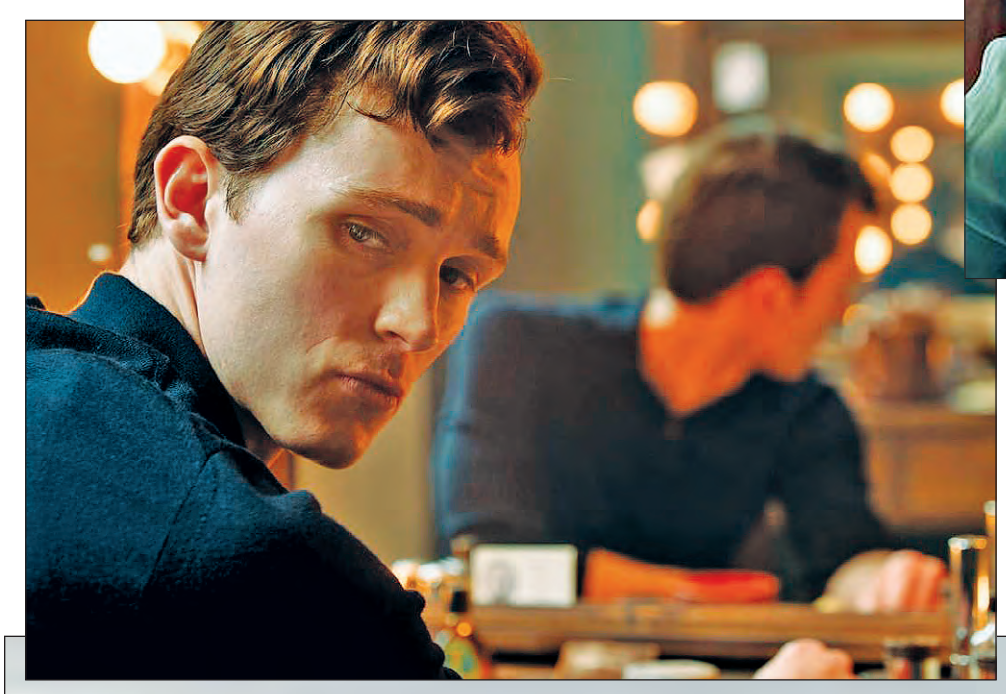
The film explains how Rich Jenkins became Richard Burton. It follows him through his college years and the beginning of his meteoric rise to the upper echelons of Hollywood. It's a moving portrayal of one of the acting giants of the last century. After seeing him in this film, I'm convinced the young

See MOVIE, *page 5C*





The real Richard Burton.



Above, Ma Smith played by Lesley Manville

Left, Richie played by Harry Lawtey.



Right, Toby Jones as Philip "PH" Burton.



The dramatic Welsh countryside.

Ice cream social

Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Officer Charity Vanover hosted a third annual ice cream social at American House Grosse Pointe Thursday, Aug. 20. "I work with such amazing people," she was quick to say. "There are some officers who donated, again, out of their own pocket, funds to contribute toward the ice cream truck rental." She also brought with her Shifty's Balloon Shenanigans, a cotton candy machine and her daughter's pug, Lily. "Lily was a big hit," Vanover said. "Everybody loved Lily."

Vanover began hosting an annual ice cream social in partnership with American House three years ago as a way to further bridge the gap between the community and her department. "One of the main goals here is to let these residents know the department is here for them," she said, "and not only obviously by responding in the criminal aspect but just as humans, too." She intends to continue the annual social for the foreseeable future and, perhaps, expand to meet other community groups as well.

— Laurel Kraus



Happy to see a dog, American House resident Cindy McMahon takes time to pet Alyssa Schanta's dog, Lily, named after Lily Munster, while they spend some time talking.



Jordan Nelson bags up the freshly popped popcorn to have it ready to go while Alina Ewald makes flavored cotton candy, a new addition to this year's social.



PHOTOS RENEE LANDUYT

Sitting, Mary Graham and Sally Van Deventer enjoy some cotton candy. Standing, American House Community Relations Director Britney Mitchell, Grosse Pointe Farms PSO Charity Vanover and American House Life Enrichment Director, Kaitlyn Doran.

CHEESECAKE

Continued from page 2C

brews and lattes are among the current favorites, with latte flavors including brown sugar, tiramisu, hazelnut, vanilla and more. However, the go-to favorite and best seller seems to be Jimmy's special blend, Santa's Magic Dust: graham cracker and cinnamon flavored, served hot or cold, year-round. I don't know how this coffee girl has missed this. The Shoppe also serves cocoa, tea, lemonade and an assortment of sodas and juices for any non-coffee drinkers.

In 2025 the shoppe launched an online store — thecheesecakeshoppe.com — to make pre-ordering for most events, catering and special occasions much easier. If you can't find what you're looking for there, or if you need to be specific in your ordering/dietary needs, call the bakery directly. Some orders may require a minimum of seven days' notice. In a pinch for a last-minute dessert? DoorDash is an option, too.

The shop is expanding in a few directions, including wholesale to reach more local restaurants that want reliable, delicious, affordable options for dessert; its premium coffee for companies looking for client or team gifts; and catering weddings and special events, with a variety of professional and polished treats for everyone's sweet tooth. More hands on deck are needed, too. This place surely has it all. They're not joking when they say they've been "ruining diets for 45-plus years!" Keep up with all the goodies on Facebook: The Cheesecake Shoppe or Instagram: @thecheesecakeshoppe



Cherry crumble cheesecake.



Cheesecake tartlets and iced latte.

• Fun Fact: The shop recently launched its Sweet Rewards program, through which you can earn points and be a part of exclusive giveaways. Enter online at thecheesecakeshoppe.com/loyalty

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

MOVIE

Continued from page 4C

actor Lawtey will undoubtedly become a major star in his own right. I also thought Ms. Manville was a bit underutilized in the film. However, I really enjoyed Toby Jones' nuanced performance. Finally, he got a leading role where he had an opportunity to display his fine acting chops. Not surprisingly, the film was nominated for a BAFTA Award for Best British Film. Hopefully, it will get some much-deserved attention stateside.

Note to parents: The film is not rated, but I'd give it a PG-13. I don't recall anything objectionable in it.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Hoopla and Kanopy. Also on Prime, and to rent on Apple TV and Fandango.

My rating system:

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

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

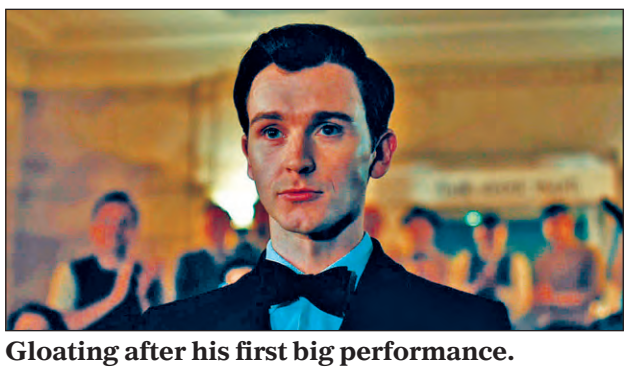
★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually buy it!

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

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



Gloating after his first big performance.



Walking through town.



Movie poster for "Mr. Burton."

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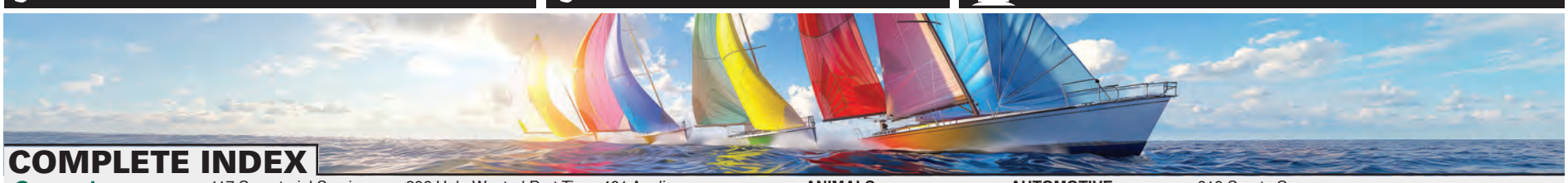

COMPLETE INDEX

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

900 Air Conditioning
901 Alarm Installation Repair
902 Siding
903 Appliance Repairs
904 Asphalt Paving Repair
906 Basement Remodeling
907 Basement Waterproofing
908 Bathtub Refinishing
911 Brick/Block Work
912 Building/Remodeling
913 Cargo/ Auto Transport
914 Carpentry
915 Carpet Cleaning
916 Carpet Maintenance
917 Carpet & Tile Removal
918 Cement Work
919 Chimney Cleaning
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

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100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Starting salary $19.01 per hour

A detailed job description and Employment Application can be obtained at **www.gpwmi.us**.
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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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

THIS WEEK: August 27, 2026

1. 256 Merriweather Rd., GPF
2. 1335 Whittier Rd., GPP
3. 2041 Hunt Club Dr., GPW

= YARD SALE = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

8/20 Solution

8/27

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Pointe Word Search

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

ASTEROID
COMET
EARTH
GALAXY
JUPITER
MARS
MERCURY
NASA
NEPTUNE
PLANET
STAR
SUN
UNIVERSE
VENUS

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

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Wait until after 3:30 p.m. EDT today (12:30 p.m. PDT) to shop or make important decisions.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, August 27, 2026: You are intelligent, tenacious and articulate. You're also inventive, practical and grounded. Let go of people, places and things that have held you back. Do some internal and external housecleaning. Focus on being more compassionate and loving to others.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Even though there's some strong energy with today's Full Moon, you can hustle and get a lot done! Don't go against authority figures. Keep to yourself. Someone younger might help you. Stay busy, and you'll be pleased with the results. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Co-workers are supportive today, which is why you'll be productive. However, romance and dealings with your kids might be challenged because of today's Full Moon, which is an intense Lunar Eclipse. You'll be forthright and direct in all your communications. Tonight: Be friendly.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

You might feel a tug-of-war between authority figures and the demands of home and family. Your choice today has to be in favor of home and family and your personal life. Tonight: You're admired.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Because the Moon is your ruler, naturally you will feel the energy of today's Full Moon. Be careful, because it could introduce an accident-prone tendency. Think before you act. Tonight: Explore and learn.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Something to do with your finances might come to a head today. As a result, you'll see that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's not a train. This can be a productive day! You're charming with everyone. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The Sun is in your sign opposing the Moon in PISCES, creating today's Lunar Eclipse. This could make you feel that something has evolved to a point of fruition. It could pertain to your sense of responsibility for others. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is a productive day! You're ambitious, and the energy of today's Full Moon makes you want to tackle unfinished business because you have lots of brainpower. Tonight: Get better organized.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Issues related to a friend or a member of a group might come to a head today. If so, you can expect a resolution, one way or another. Your reputation is solid this year. Lucky you! Tonight: Socialize!.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Dealings with bosses, parents and authority figures might be challenged because of the Full Moon energy today. You can't ignore their demands. This could relate to a dispute about your property or shared expenses. Tonight: Relax at home.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Pay attention to everything you say and do. This is a mildly accident-prone day for you because of the Lunar Eclipse. Be smart and steer clear of controversial issues. Be patient with spouses, partners and friends. Tonight: Discussions.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Financial matters might come to a head today. This could be about issues related to a residential move, a job change or both. Or it could be about something incidental. But when money is involved, nothing is incidental. Make sure you have the right facts. Tonight: Check your money.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today the Full Moon is in your sign, which can make dealings with those who are closest to you a bit stressed. Be accommodating. But be aware that today you can be productive and get a lot done! Tonight: You win!

BORN TODAY

Actor, producer Aaron Paul (1979), actress Sarah Chalke (1976), actor Patrick J. Adams (1981).

Contract Bridge

PERFECT PLAY BY SOUTH

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K
♥ A 10 8 6
♦ 8 7 6 4 3
♣ K 9

WEST
♠ J 6 5 2
♥ 7 4
♦ K 9 5
♣ J 8 6 4

EAST
♠ 10 8 7 3
♥ 9 5
♦ J 10
♣ A Q 10 3 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 4
♥ K Q J 3 2
♦ A Q 2
♣ 7 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead — four of clubs.

A declarer sometimes is forced to resort to an educated guess when no other options are available. Consider this deal where South got to four hearts and West led a club.

East took his A-Q and shifted to the jack of diamonds, presenting declarer with his first problem. South rejected the finesse and went up with the ace instead. He reasoned that if West had the king of diamonds, playing the queen would surely cost the contract, while if East had the king of diamonds, the queen would still score a trick later on.

Putting off his final decision about how to play the diamonds, declarer first cashed the A-K of spades and A-K of trump. He then led the queen of spades and ruffed it in dummy! A low diamond from dummy came next, and when East followed with the ten, South decided to play West for the king and so played the deuce, rendering the defense helpless. Whether West started with the K-5 or the K-9-5, South could not lose more than one diamond trick.

In the actual case, if East's ten held the trick, he would be forced to return a spade or a club, allowing declarer to discard the queen of diamonds as he ruffed in dummy. Alternatively, if West elected to overtake the ten with the king, South's queen would become the game-going trick. And, of course, if West had started with the K-5 doubleton, declarer's queen would also become good.

Once declarer decided to play West for the diamond king, the defenders had no chance. It is important to note that, along the way to the winning position, South avoided a major pitfall when he ruffed the queen of spades in dummy. Had he instead cashed the queen and then crossed to dummy with a trump, East would have been able to discard his ten of diamonds, and the contract would have gone down the drain.

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by Steve Becker

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 27, 2026

ACROSS
1 Sushi orders
6 Lay eggs, like salmon
11 "___-Hulk: Attorney at Law"
14 Patiently expect
15 Hummus or tahini
16 Yank
17 "The melody seems endless. How can I fix this?"
19 In the past
20 Mermaid habitat
21 Peels, as a potato
22 Designated areas
24 Female animals that cluck
25 Bitter beef?
26 "The jingle feels grim. How do I improve it?"
32 Pyramid scheme, e.g.
33 Roughly
34 Olive seed
35 Take it easy
36 Double-deckers and others
38 Biological pouches
39 Reaction to a heavy blow
40 Cry of frustration
41 In need of a scratch
42 "I want the song to finish with a crescendo. What should I do?"
46 Chooses
47 Backside of a horse
48 Word before "start" or "advertising"
50 Like lizards
52 "Pow!"
55 "How To Love" rapper ___ Wayne
56 Guidance that's well-grounded ... or what 17-, 26- and 42-Across might be taken as?
59 Org. that approves toothpaste
60 Erase with "eye bleach"
61 Images in many copyright lawsuits
62 The "p" of mpg
63 Rats and roaches
64 Votes for the motion

DOWN
1 Tattered tees, perhaps
2 Toddler's "This hurts!"
3 Flow from Mount Etna
4 "I have read the terms and conditions," often
5 Intern's pay
6 Like a desert's vegetation
7 100%
8 Mars, to the Greeks
9 Director Anderson
10 2050 carbon-neutral target
11 Comedy club routine
12 Massive
13 They may be bruised in defeat
18 Sharp flavor
23 Openly gay
24 Heist loot
25 Much ado
26 Sing like Sinatra
27 Largest U.S. coin in circulation, by diameter
28 Mario's dinosaur companion
29 Miner's find
30 Not for the masses
31 Site for handicrafts
32 Arctic ice chunk
36 Some SKIMS undergarments
37 "Gross!"
38 ___-and-go traffic
40 Chips in to the poker pot
41 "Back then ..."
43 Black ___ (covert missions)
44 A, B, C, D and F
45 Dance at a luau
48 Part of a tent
49 Political assistant
50 Figure (out)
51 Site for gadget reviews
52 Unfair preference
53 43,560 square feet
54 Citi Field team
57 The heart of a loner?
58 Contend

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	R	I	M			P	E	C	S			T	U	B
M	A	M	A		D	E	L	H	I		O	H	N	O
W	H	E	R	E	I	T	S	A	T		R	E	D	O
	S	A	L	T	S		E	S	C		A	B	E	T
		N	A	A	C	P		T	O	P		I	R	E
A	F	T		S	O	U	P	E	M	A	I	G	R	E
P	E	W	S		S	L	R		S	I	D	E	A	
R	E	H	A	B		P	O	E		D	E	N	T	S
	L	A	S	E	S		O	R	E		A	C	E	S
I	S	T	H	A	T	A	F	A	C	T		H	S	N
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8/20 Solution

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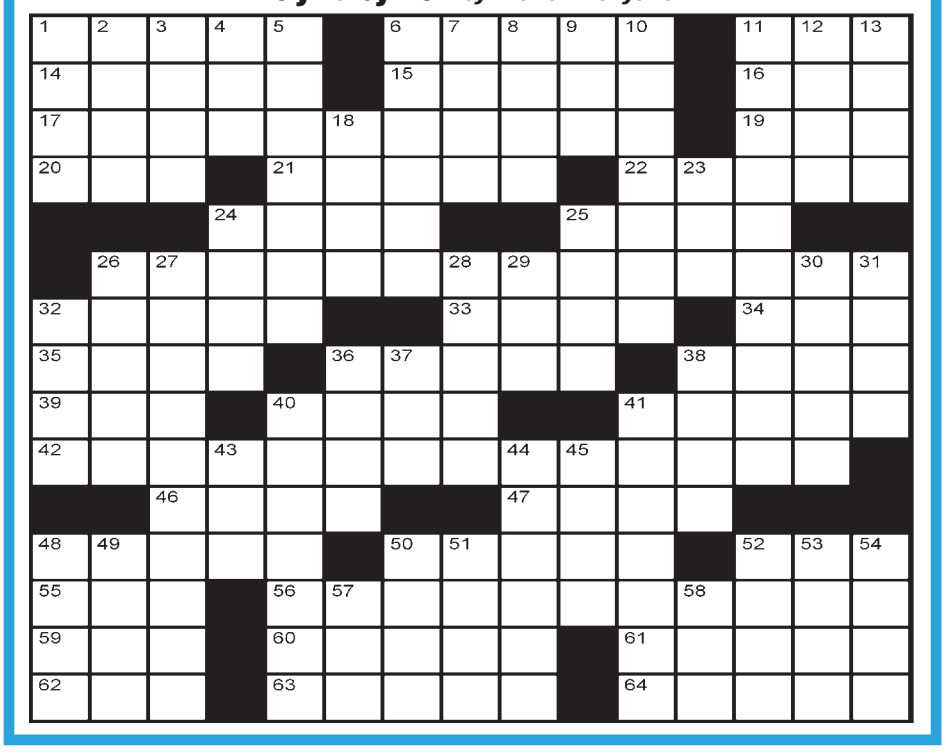
8/27

Play It by Ear *by Pranav Daryanani*



SPORTS



2D VOLLEYBALL | 4D-5D COMICS | 6D BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

South girls swim enters 2026 as hopeful state title contender

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

South junior Nicole McEnroe swims the breaststroke in a race against Ann Arbor Pioneer Friday, Aug. 21. McEnroe is one of multiple Blue Devils who earned All-American honors last season.

Grosse Pointe South's varsity girls swim and dive team enters the 2026 season with the same high expectations that have become the standard for the program. The Blue Devils finished the 2025 season as the Division 2 state runner-up for a second year in a row, finishing only two points behind Mercy for the state title, while having several swimmers win individual and relay state championships.

The Blue Devils also had six swimmers earn National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American honors for their performances last season. Four of them return to the team this fall and hope to go above and beyond what they achieved last season.

"We have some of our All-Americans coming back and they're going to be relied on a lot," South girls swim and dive head coach John Fodell said. "... With All-Americans coming back, they're looking for very big things."

Juniors Quinn Ryan, Caroline Bryan and Nicole McEnroe and sophomore Corinne Stencel make up the All-Americans who are back in the pool with South. Bryan, McEnroe and Stencel were part of the 200-yard freestyle relay team that won last year's Division 2 state title.

McEnroe, Stencel and Ryan also helped South win the 200 medley relay championship, while Bryan was the 100 butterfly state champ and Ryan gave South another title in the 100 backstroke.

South is hoping that core group can mix with some up-and-coming freshmen and others who can fill the gaps left by last year's seniors who have graduated. All of that means South is set up for what it hopes to be another strong campaign contending for a state championship. The team knows exactly what its goals are as the season begins.

"We're already starting to look at the state meet, because that's our main target," Fodell said. "We have a very strong team and I think a trophy is definitely possible. That would mean a top-four finish, which would be great. We have a lot of talent."

South began the season Friday, Aug. 21, with a loss in a meet against defending Division 1 state champions Ann Arbor Pioneer. The Blue Devils are in action again Tuesday, Sept. 1, for a meet at Fraser.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEWS

North field hockey approaches new season with confidence

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

The Grosse Pointe North field hockey team celebrates after its season-opening victory over Grand Blanc Thursday, Aug. 20.

The Grosse Pointe North varsity field hockey team feels like it has grown a lot between last season and this year's campaign. That growth is not necessarily in the number of players, but in the experience and level of play on the field.

The Norsemen see themselves as being able to take a major leap in competitiveness this year. It is the second season under head coach Brenna Marsin, who already has seen some positive changes in how North's players are approaching the game this fall.

"We're spreading out more and making better passes to one another," Marsin said. "Quicker decision-making is another really good skill that we've built up. They're things that can make us win some games that we might have lost last season."

North seems like it has a strong core that has built plenty of familiarity with each other on the field. The team has a large group of senior leaders this year, anchored by Millie Moreland, Belle McKeown, Ellie Darlington and goalie Kinley Arioli.

"Every senior on the field this year is going to be someone to look out for," Marsin said.

The Norsemen believe everyone, from seniors to freshmen, can contribute this year. Freshman Anna Steiger is one to watch. The team thinks she can be a cornerstone over the next four years. North is looking for a strong year from junior Lindsay Stroble as well.

North kicked off the new season strong with a 3-0 win over Grand Blanc Thursday, Aug. 20. The squad has plenty of tough tests ahead throughout the fall with games against formidable opponents like Mercy, Cranbrook-Kingswood and Rockford, as well as crosstown rivals Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School.

No matter who they are up against, the growth and development North has seen year to year has the team confident in its abilities to win more games and compete against teams against which it may be considered an underdog.

"We're very aggressive," Marsin said. "I think that (the girls) stick with the decisions they make. They're not indecisive about where the ball should go. Last year was my first time coaching them and they weren't always quite sure who they should pass it to. This year, they all trust one another and their skills and know exactly what the next play should be. I think that's going to be huge for us."

The Norsemen visited Mercy after press time Tuesday, Aug. 25. North is in action again Thursday, Aug. 27, hosting Northville at 5 p.m.



2026 Fall Sports Previews

North volleyball looks for success with leadership, work ethic

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North volleyball had a strong season in 2025 and is looking to continue building in the upcoming season. The Norsemen will miss some key leaders from the past few years who have now graduated, but seem confident that the players stepping up to fill those positions will be more than capable.

North has five starters from last year returning to the lineup. Those experienced veterans will combine with new faces who are looking to establish themselves, with the Norsemen feeling especially confident in some of the defensive talent it is adding to the lineup. The team is hopeful it all comes together in a way that allows it to compete for titles in the MAC White and the district. The effort the Norsemen are showing in the buildup to the season has the coaches hopeful that will be the case.

"They have work ethic and willingness to grow," North volleyball head coach Chelsea Brozo said. "They're not afraid to try new things, adapt when needed or step outside their comfort zone. They compete hard, stay focused and bring a great energy to the court — and remember to have fun. Most importantly, they're committed to being better than they were the day before."

Seniors Rose Parker and Victoria Mangol, along with junior Madison Jewell, will be looked at as some of the biggest leaders for the Norsemen on and off the court. Harper Dallaire, McKenzie Brozo and Madline Ament are pieces the team hopes can power the offense, while defensive standouts include Phoebe Julien and Avery Janisse.

The Norsemen will need everyone contributing to step up to the challenges that lie throughout its schedule this fall. North has matchups against formidable non-league opponents like Mercy and crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South, whom it will host in a special match commemorating the legacy of longtime coach Charlie Ochylski Thursday, Sept. 10.

North also knows it will be tested in every MAC White Division matchup this year. The Norsemen finished second in the league last season and have their sights set on capturing the title this year, but know it will not be an easy task by any means.

"The MAC White should be a great battle every game night and I'm excited to see how the season unfolds," Brozo said. "We're welcoming Chippewa Valley and Anchor Bay into the White, which will add some new competition to the mix. Fraser, Utica and Ford II are no easy outs either, so every match will be an opportunity for the team to compete, adjust and keep getting better."



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Grosse Pointe North junior Madison Jewell, pictured during a match against Henry Ford II last season, will serve as one of the Norsemen's captains this fall.

North opened the season in a quad match hosted by Divine Child after press time Tuesday, Aug. 25. The Norsemen are hosting the Grosse Pointe North Volleyball Invitational Saturday, Aug. 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Other teams competing include Stevenson, Brown City, Yale, Otsego, Chippewa Valley, Royal Oak, Crosswell-Lexington and Utica.

North volleyball to honor longtime coach during match with South

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North volleyball program will use one of its biggest matches of the season to honor the legacy of a longtime figure within the program. The Norsemen are dedicating their match against Grosse Pointe South Thursday, Sept. 10, to the memory of former assistant coach Charlie Ochylski, who passed away earlier this year. The night will include several opportunities for the community to celebrate Ochylski's impact at North while supporting a good cause.

Ochylski spent more than two decades coaching volleyball, including 18 years coaching alongside his daughter, North varsity coach Chelsea Brozo.

"This game means more to me and my family than I can really put into words," Brozo said. "My dad, Coach Charlie, would be honored, embarrassed and completely full of love to see this happening in his honor. I know he understood that he made an impact, but I don't think he ever truly realized just how much he meant to so many people."

Proceeds from the Sept. 10 game against the Blue Devils at North will benefit two causes. The first is the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, an organization dedicated to research, education and awareness for bile duct cancer. The other is the Coach Charlie Volleyball Scholarship Fund, which was created to continue Ochylski's legacy by supporting volleyball athletes and giving back to the sport and student-athletes to which he dedicated his time.

The Norsemen have designated a "blackout" theme for the night, encouraging fans to wear black to the match to honor Ochylski. Special shirts will be available for purchase. Admission to the match is free, with fans encouraged to give donations instead.

The night also will include a 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets, giving fans the opportunity to win prizes while supporting the cause. There also will be guest speakers sharing information about cholangiocarcinoma and the importance of awareness. Additional special moments throughout the evening will honor the impact Ochylski had on generations of North athletes.

"His dedication, huge heart and unwavering loyalty to the North volleyball program are impossible to measure," Brozo said. "Having the community come together to honor him, especially against South, makes this game incredibly special. It is a beautiful way to celebrate the person he was, the impact he made and the love he had for this community and sport."

The night will begin at North with the Norsemen's JV team facing South's JV team at 5:15 p.m. followed by the varsity match between the Norsemen and Blue Devils at 6:30 p.m.





COURTESY PHOTO

Longtime North volleyball coach Charlie Ochylski, will be honored during North's match against Grosse Pointe South Thursday, Sept. 10. Proceeds from the night will benefit the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation for bile duct cancer research and the Coach Charlie Volleyball Scholarship Fund.

2026 Fall Sports Previews

New era begins for Blue Devils volleyball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Things are looking different than they have the past few years for the Grosse Pointe South varsity volleyball team as it heads into the 2026 season. The Blue Devils have a new head coach stepping up to lead the varsity team and will be without former superstar Gabby DiVita for the first time in four years, but both players and coaches feel the transition to a new era of South volleyball is off to a good start.

Taking over head coaching duties this year is Morgan Boeckholt. While it is her first year with the varsity team, Boeckholt is not a new face in the program, having spent the past two seasons as South's JV head coach and as the freshman coach before that.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior libero Anna Groustra will be one of South volleyball's team captains and veteran leaders this season.

Boeckholt's experience already coaching many of the girls on South's varsity roster brings a level of familiarity in the transition to the new season. She trusts her players and they trust each other, which is helping the team take a positive approach to a new season with a lot of changes.

"They put trust in each other," Boeckholt said. "Gabby DiVita is gone, but it's allowing for these other players to show what they can do and pick up a spot on the court that was occupied previously. In the past, they were maybe expecting her to do everything and if they were struggling, Gabby could handle it. Now, it's putting more responsibility on them and I think they're taking it really well."

Helping handle the responsibilities left by DiVita's graduation are three veteran leaders and captains for South. Junior libero Anna Groustra, along with seniors Ava McMillan and Maddie Roberts, will serve as captains for the Blue Devils. Junior Kalia Bowman and senior Charlotte Kowal are expected to have strong years and lead both on and off the court as well. The Blue Devils also are hopeful that freshmen Mia Fedirko and Hannah Brownsberger can be instant-impact additions to the varsity squad.

The Blue Devils again will compete in the MAC Red Division, where they placed third last season. They also will look to continue their nearly decade-long streak of winning a district championship in the postseason. To get there, the Blue Devils are emphasizing trust and consistency to navigate the beginning of a new era for the program.

"Enjoy the process while staying grounded in their skills," Boeckholt said. "One thing we're going by is, how we do one thing is how we do everything. How we're running practice is just like how we're going to be in game situations. We also want them really trusting each other and working together as a team."

Veteran-led South field hockey team aims to be serious title contender

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity field hockey team often expects to be among the best in the state. The level of talent and experience the Blue Devils have in 2026 has the program even more confident it can be a contender. South has more than a dozen players returning to the lineup this year, including some experienced veterans with valuable leadership.

"We're returning 15 players," South field hockey head coach Jessie Rouleau said. "We should be off to a pretty good start, with most of the team coming back and with more experience."

Some of those key veterans include the team's four senior captains. Maeve Shine, Hannah Agnone, Lauren Crawford and goalkeeper Harriet Kowalski will share captain duties this season as some of the team's members with the most varsity experience. Years of sharing the field have made them a tight-knit group at the core of South's team, which is ready to lead both on and off the field.

"They're very connected to each other and the program," Rouleau said. "They have great heads on their shoulders. They're excited about the season and about doing well. They're great to have from a coaching perspective because they're so great in their leadership roles."

That core group of senior leaders also has some strong younger players surrounding them to complete what the team hopes is a strong lineup. Junior Wells Webber should be another large contributor again, along with sophomore Therese Carron. Junior Mia Rouleau also could be poised for an impressive season.



COURTESY PHOTO

South field hockey stands together after a pre-season camp at University Liggett School.

South will need to fire on all cylinders through what should be a challenging season. The Blue Devils have set themselves up with a gauntlet of a schedule that includes games against other state-title hopefuls such as Detroit Country Day, Dexter, Chelsea, Mercy and more.

The Blue Devils know they will be tested along the way, but the level of experience and familiarity much of the lineup has coming into the season could make it much easier for the team to collect wins.

"As soon as we made our team and started working on the strategy to start strong ... It was apparent compared to other years that we're starting from a point where the concepts are there and everyone understands and is on the same page," Rouleau said. "They came in shape and ready to play. It's exciting for us to start with those refreshers and then be able to dive more deeply into our opponents and strategies and who we're going up against."

South began the season Thursday, Aug. 20, with a road game at Dexter, losing 2-1. The Blue Devils are on the road again Saturday, Aug. 29, playing in the Great Lakes Showcase, hosted by Dexter. South will face Oak Park River Forest from Illinois and Ann Arbor Skyline.

North girls swim eyes top-10 state finish behind strong fresh, returning talent

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

With a roster of upperclassmen leadership and a driven group of freshman, Grosse Pointe North girls swimming head coach Chris Trepanowski enters the upcoming season with high expectations for his team's technical growth and postseason wins.

Trepanowski expressed confidence in the team's preparation and potential to put up fast times early and often.

"Heading into the season, I feel great about our team and our potential for success," he said. "I expect that we are going to have a lot of girls swimming some fast times this season."

Leading the team for the Norsemen is junior Hadley Beal, whom Trepanowski expects to serve as an anchor across multiple events. Seniors Mia Melhem and Elliana Orlando also are going to play crucial roles in setting the tone for the team and driving success both in and out of the water.

"I expect Hadley Beal to be one of our go-to swimmers this year," Trepanowski said. "She has the ability to earn us points in pretty much every event. Also, seniors Mia Melhem and Elliana Orlando are going to be working hard to help the success of the team."

The team's underclassmen are shaping up to be a strength for North this fall, highlighted by a pair of incoming freshmen who already have caught the coaching staff's attention during early practices.

"New Norsemen swimmers that are going to have an impact now and hopefully for years to come are freshmen Ava Cavanagh and Emma Stepulla," Trepanowski said. "They have already shown an incredible work ethic and talent in the pool. One of the strengths this season is our underclassmen. As a whole, they have a fantastic work ethic and are driven to getting better and faster."

A primary focus for Trepanowski this season is expanding the lineup's versatility, ensuring the Norsemen can remain competitive

See SWIM, page 6D

Grosse Pointe News THURSDAY COMICS

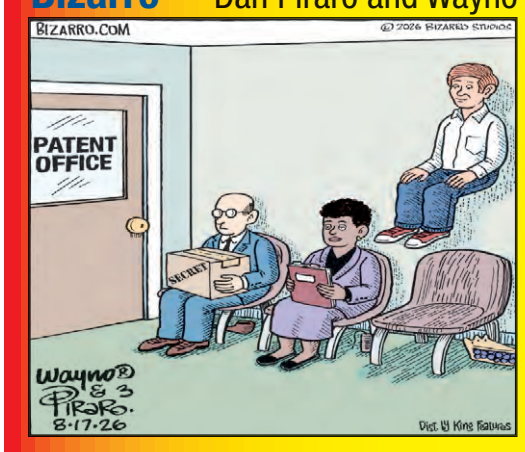
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



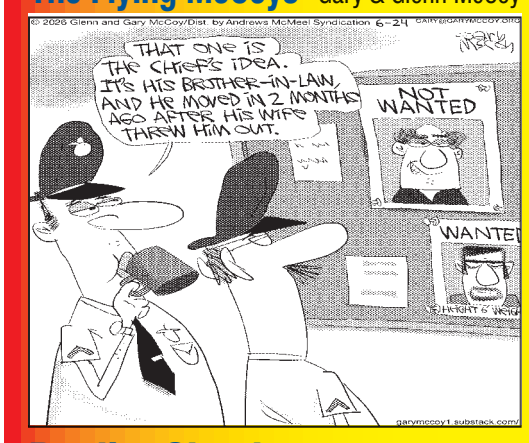
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



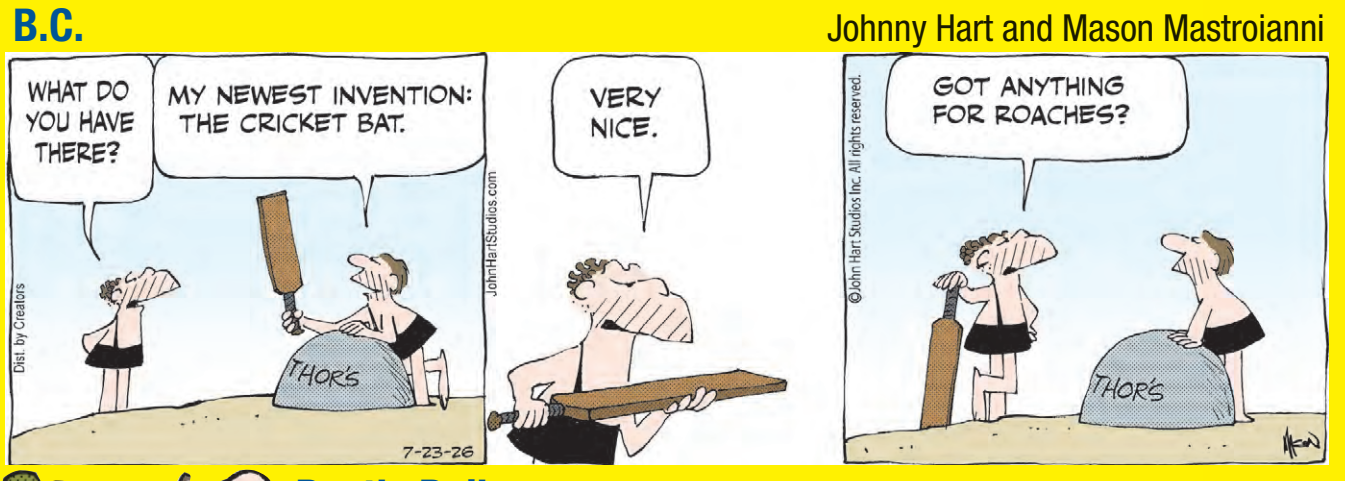
The Flying McCoys

Gary & Glenn McCoy



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



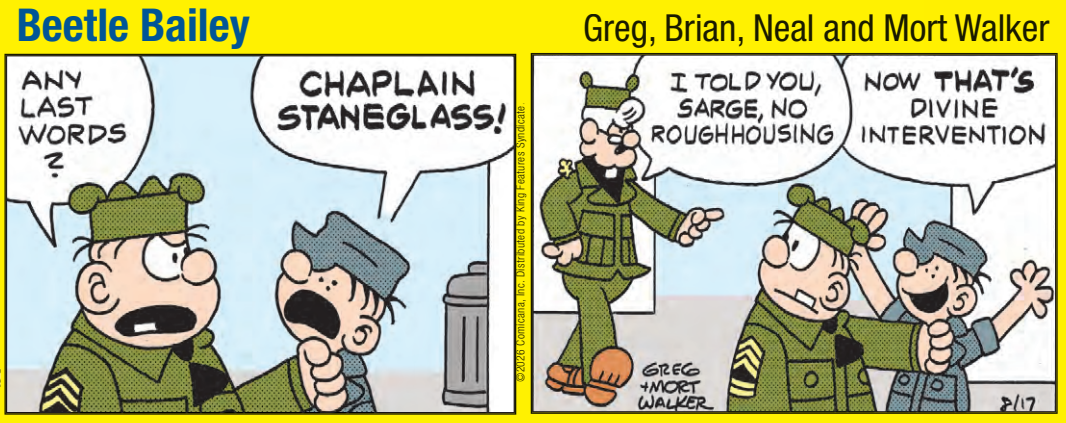
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Mother Goose & Grim

Mike Peters



The Lockhorns

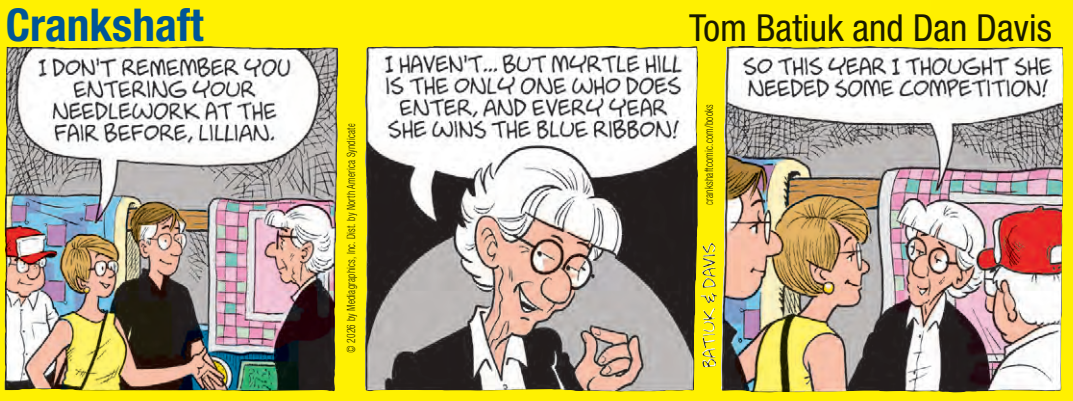
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"LEROY'S THE CIRCUS I RAN OFF TO JOIN."

Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT MARGARET IS TALKIN' ABOUT AND NEITHER DOES SHE."

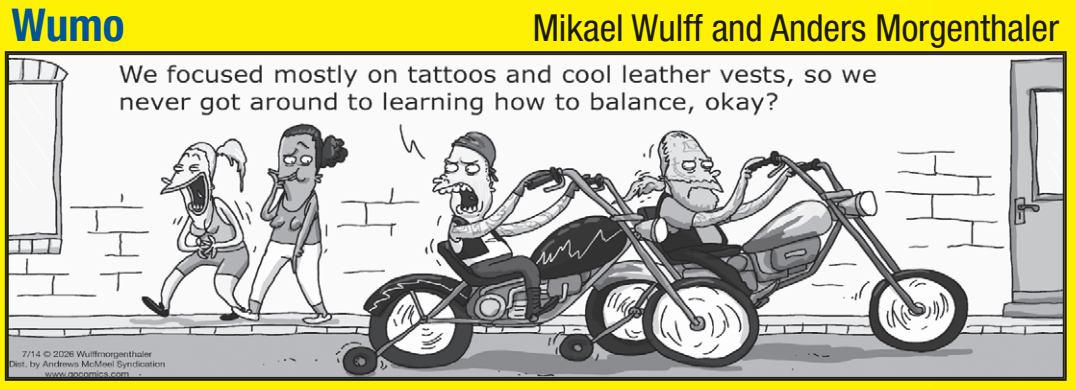
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Grosse Pointe News

THURSDAY COMICS

Garfield

Jim Davis



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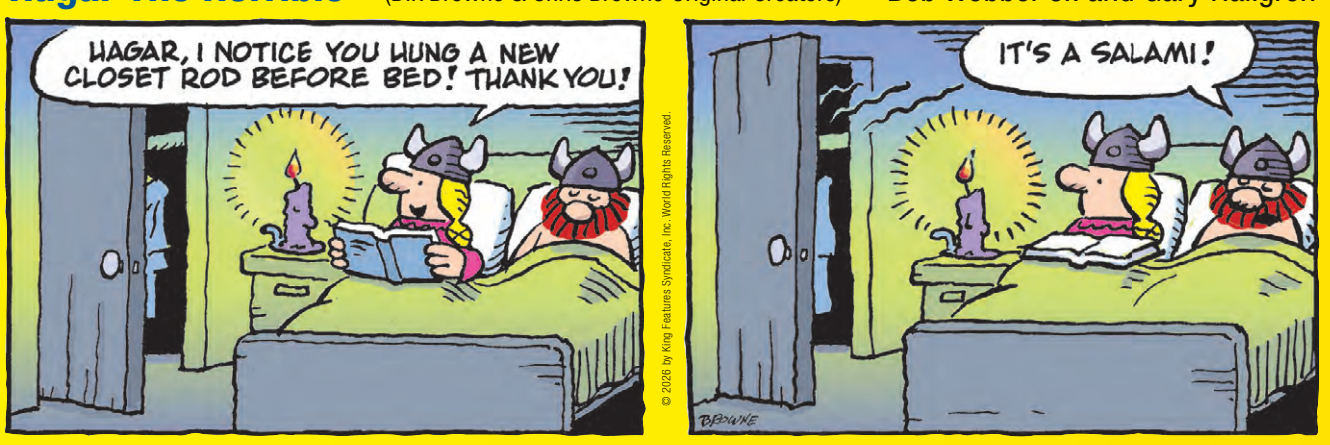
Hagar The Horrible

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



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Close To Home

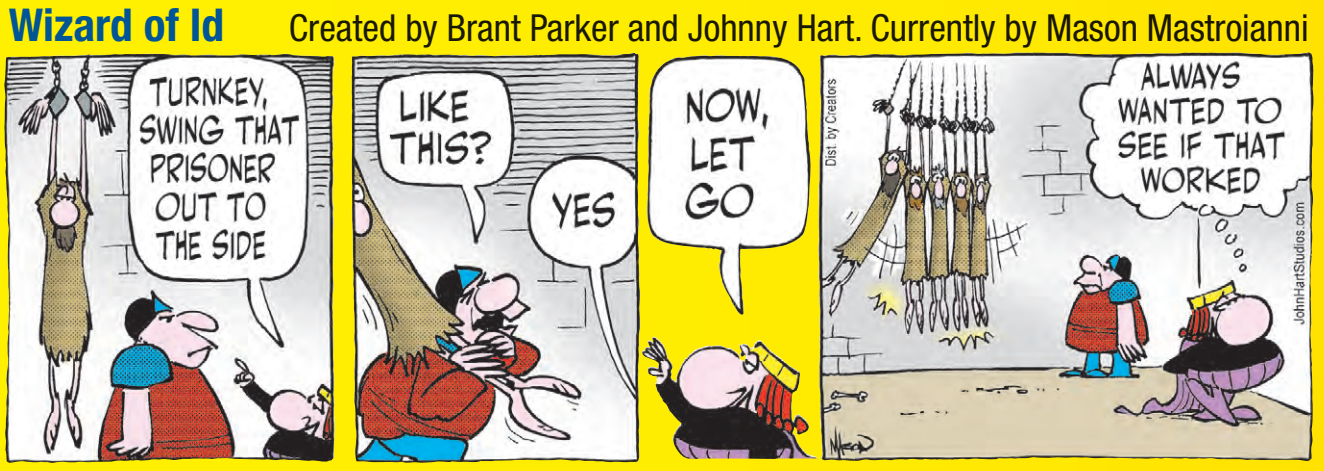
John McPherson



"OK, Ken, do you feel like you can access your inner child now?"

Wizard of Id

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



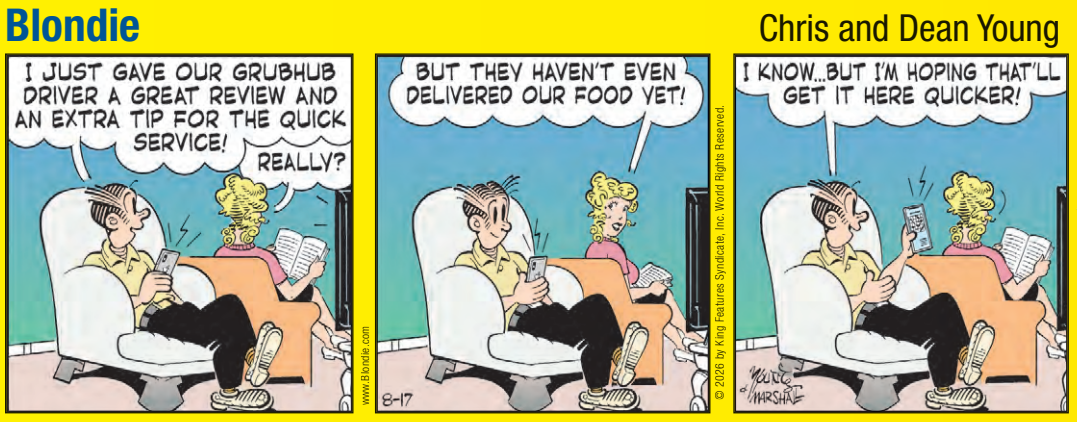
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



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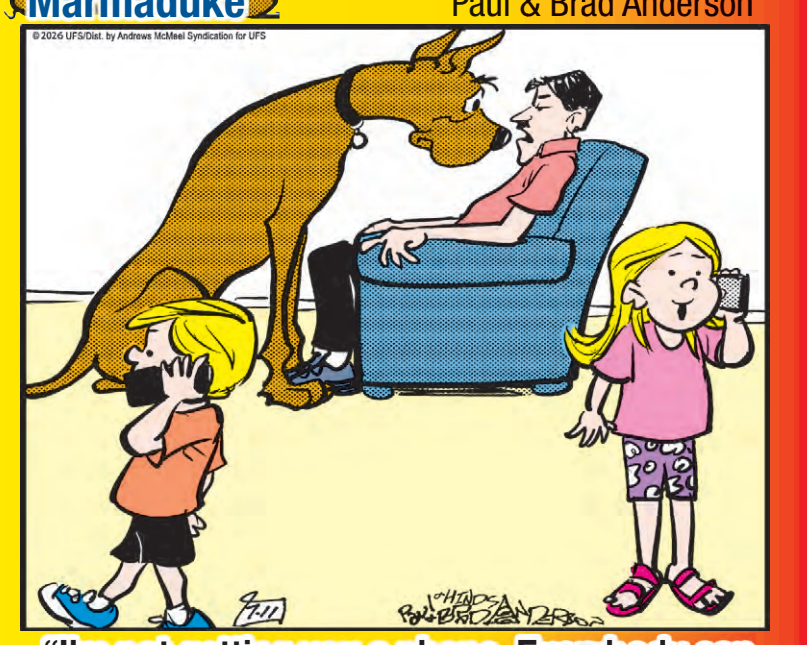
Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"I'm not getting you a phone. Everybody can hear you without one."

Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



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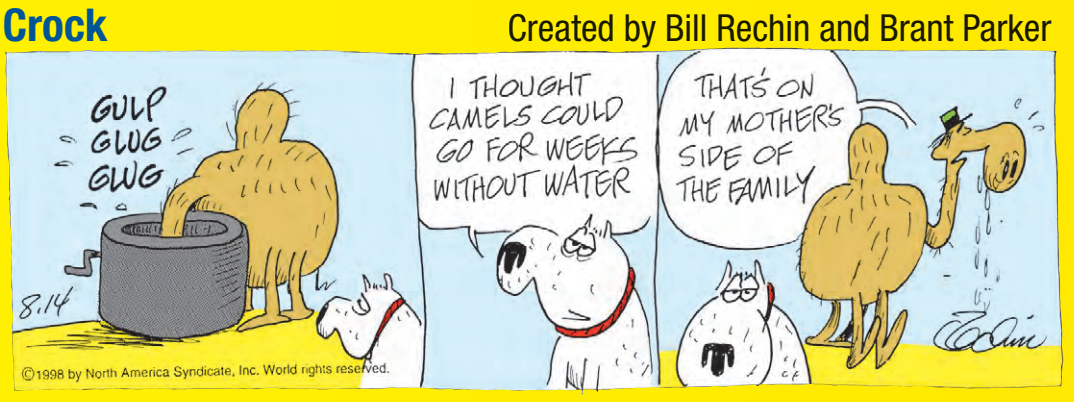
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



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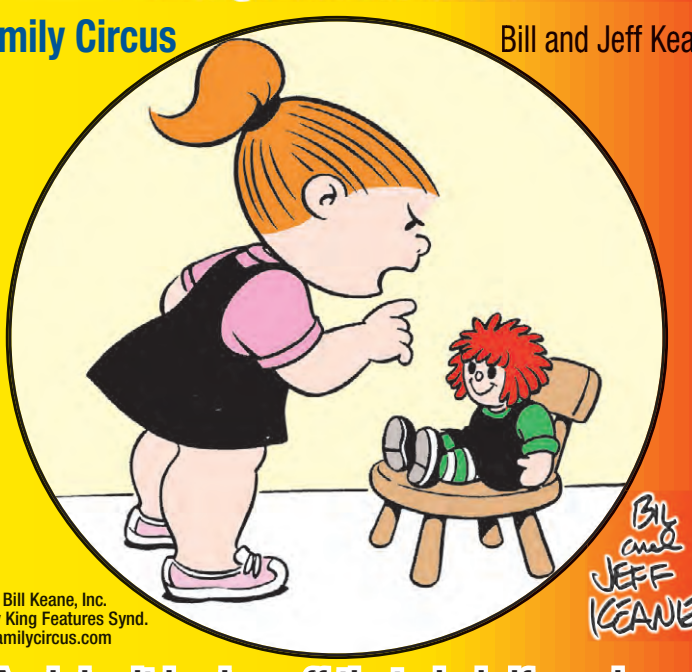
Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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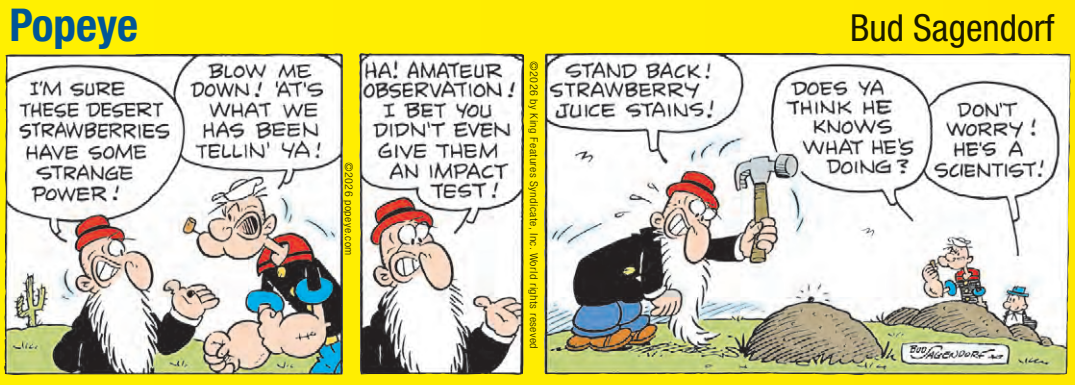
"And don't budge off that chair if you know what's good for you, young lady."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



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F Minus

Tony Carrillo





2026 Fall Sports Previews

North boys XC combines veteran leadership with promising freshmen

By Meg Kelly
Editorial Intern

Following a season where Grosse Pointe North boys cross country slightly missed qualifying for the state meet, the team enters the new season with a fresh mindset, a new league and a hunger for competition.

While the program graduated six seniors, head coach Jim Fisher is energized by the blend of returning talent and a large group of eager underclassmen.

"We have three of our top seven runners back from a team that narrowly missed qualifying for the state meet last season," Fisher said. "We lost six seniors to graduation, but I'm excited about the guys who are returning and the strong infusion of new runners into our program."



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior captain Will Henze is among the leaders of this year's Norsemen squad.

Leading the charge for the Norsemen is three-year veteran and lone senior Russell Warner. As a captain, Warner is expected to set the standard on and off the course while looking to end his high school career on a high note.

Joining Warner in the leadership position are junior captains Jack Bartkowicz and Will Henze. Both bring lots of cross-country and track experience to the table, providing the team with a group of competitors who lead by example.

Fisher also expects sophomores Liam Murphy and Ben Dawson to step into varsity roles after arriving at preseason focused and ready to take the next step.

That foundation will be vital as North integrates an 11-runner freshman class. With several new runners showing dedication over the summer, Fisher anticipates immediate varsity contributions from the group as leaders begin to show themselves.

"We have guys who are very athletic and competitive and who know how to perform at a high level in pressure situations," Fisher said. "We will compete in a different regional this season against some strong teams, so the experience of these upperclassmen will be important."

North will transition into the MAC White this fall, bringing a slate of fresh competition. A key highlight on their schedule is the Grosse Pointe Tri-Meet at Patterson Park Aug. 26, which is a showcase featuring North, Grosse Pointe South, and Brother Rice. The event marks the first local Grosse Pointe meet for the boys in years, which carries special significance as Brother Rice is coached by former Grosse Pointe North standout Scott Collins.

As the Norsemen aim for consistency in each race, Fisher's eye remains focused on the bigger picture of sustained success.

"If we can improve steadily over the course of the season and instill in our underclassmen a passion for this sport and a commitment to uphold the rich tradition of Norsemen cross country, it will be a successful season," Fisher said.

SWIM:

Continued from page 3D

across every individual and relay event on the card.

"One thing we are hoping to work on this year is developing a deeper team where we can take any girl and confidently put her in any event knowing that she will be successful," Trepanowski said.

As always, the annual crosstown rivalry meet against Grosse Pointe South remains a highlight on the schedule. With many athletes from both schools training together on year-round club teams, the dual meet naturally raises the energy level.

"We always look forward to our meet with South," Trepanowski said. "So many girls from both our teams swim on club teams year-round together, so swimming on different high school teams always brings out the extra intensity and drive to succeed. The girls really enjoy it."

Looking toward the postseason, Trepanowski has many goals for his program as they prepare for championship competition.

"At the end of the season, I will be happy if we have a group of girls that have relentlessly pushed through the long season and have been the best swimmers that they could have possibly been," he said. "On a more quantifiable level, I will be happy if we are able to break back into the top 10 in Division 3 at the state finals meet."

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:



GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-country season began for Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South last Friday, Aug. 21, at the Lamplighter Invitational in Livonia. South's girls team began the season strong by finishing first in the standings, led by sophomore Eleanor Pilsner, who finished first overall in a field of over 200 runners. Emma Ford from South also finished 10th, while Olivia Colt, Morgan Costello, Paige Garbo and Ivy Surma all ended up in the top 20. North's girls team finished 13th overall, led by Wilhelmina Vanderwerp and Noelle Lyon, who crossed the finish line 34th and 35th, respectively.

South's boys team came in sixth place overall. The Blue Devils' best finish in the boys race came from Caleb Thomason-Redus, who finished 17th.

COURTESY PHOTO

BOYS TENNIS

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys tennis team had a strong day last Thursday, Aug. 20, emerging victorious in the University Liggett Invitational, with wins over Liggett, De La Salle Collegiate and Stoney Creek. Matthew Bartoszewicz and Oscar DeLuca went undefeated in singles play during the day, while the teams of Max Prather and Henry Logan and Luke Brennan and Nate Yeamans also went unbeaten in doubles competition.

