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Grosse Pointe News

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

GPPSS, GPEA reach tentative agreement

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System and Grosse Pointe Education Association reached a tentative agreement on a new contract shortly after midnight Thursday, Oct. 1.

The previous two-year agreement expired Aug. 15.

"The GPEA is very pleased that, on behalf of almost 460 professional GPPSS staff, it reached a tentative agreement with the Grosse Pointe Public School System," GPEA Co-Presidents Taryn Loughlin and Jackie Shelson said in a statement. "The GPEA extends much gratitude and appreciation to all the stakeholders who supported our efforts to reach a fair and equitable successor contract, including our members and the GP community. We look forward to continuing to provide an unparalleled education to our Grosse Pointe students as we begin the 2026-27 school year."

GPEA members will start voting to ratify the agreement Wednesday, Oct. 14. The GPPSS Board of Education is expected to approve it at its meeting Monday, Oct. 19.

"It has been a long process and I want to thank the GPEA bargaining team and our district bargaining team

See AGREE, page 9A



COURTESY PHOTO

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Deaville and his fiancée, Mickayla Balser, received the most votes in The War Memorial's Weddings for Warriors contest.

Couple win all-inclusive wedding at War Memorial

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — When Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Deaville and nurse Mickayla Balser got engaged in September 2025, Deaville's first thought was to look into The War Memorial for their wedding venue.

Financially, they knew they had to look elsewhere — until they caught wind of the organization's inaugural Weddings for Warriors giveaway.

The couple, who live in Troy, received the most votes in a public online contest last month and will be gifted an all-inclusive wedding and reception, worth $90,000, at The War Memorial.

The giveaway includes not only the venue, food, beverages and service by The War Memorial, but a plethora of donated services from outside vendors that will take care of the bridal gown and groom's suit, wedding planning, floral arrangements, photography,

See WEDDING, page 2A

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Rec millage for capital improvements only

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A number of recreation assets are on their last legs without reconstructive surgery in the form of funding through a temporary millage, according to officials making the diagnosis.

The prescription is softened by the proposed seven-year millage being less costly to taxpayers than a 20-year bond that is being retired.

If passed during the Nov. 3 election, the new measure would result in the typical property owner paying $308.75 per year, a nearly $80 savings compared to the bond cost.

In the spirit of, "Honey, look at how much money I saved you by buying a fur coat on sale," the offer is presented as an opportunity hard to pass up.

"The millage being proposed is 0.65 mills for seven years of capital improvements to our recreation facilities," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

The recreation millage is $79.94 less per year than the current 2007 general obligation debt service millage ending this year.

"This capital improvement funding is only for park assets, which include the pool, playground, splash pad, boardwalk, ice rink and other major park improvements — the Lavins Center, Tompkins Center and more," Sizeland said.

"If it doesn't happen, we have to start reassessing which (recreation) amenities we keep," said Councilman Patrick Gleason, liaison to the recreation commission. "The only thing I can guarantee at this point is the pool (at Windmill Pointe Park). Everything else is up for debate."

"If we don't secure significant funding, there is going to be further deferred maintenance on

See MILLAGE, page 5A

Village tailgate offers tons of family fun this weekend

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The Village kicks off its inaugural Fall Family Tailgate noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, just before kickoff of the Detroit Lions away game versus the Arizona Cardinals.

"It's a late Lions game," said Cindy Willcock, executive director of Main Street Grosse Pointe, "so you can come in and actually tailgate before you either hopefully go to our local establishments to watch the game or go home and watch the game and pick up something to eat and take home with you."

Set up on the block of Kercheval between Notre Dame and St. Clair, festivities will get going with a Pure Barre pop-up class at noon.

Tailgate games will include a 60-foot inflatable obstacle course, QB Blitz, fowling, cornhole, KanJam, Connect Four and Jenga.

For the kiddos, The Friendship Factory will have a station to make a plush lion stuffy, as well as a customization station with iron-on patches.

The event also features Kids & Play face painting and a photo booth, a Mini Picassos slime and Play-Doh station and an Apple Blossom Baby and Kids activity tent.

Treats will come from local businesses, including Village Nutrition and Bakehouse 46, in addition to Loop Social District stops at Whiskey Six and Old Pony.

Magic Mornings Vacations, Extreme Gym and KydVenture and the Grosse Pointe Public Library will join the festivities as event vendors.

"It's an opportunity to come out (and) get in the fall spirit in The Village," Willcock said.

Event sponsors are the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, Giving Tree Montessori, Lifetime Orthodontics, Realtor Charlene Williams, Nathan Steiner with Guaranteed Rate and Elevate Health.

— *Laurel Kraus*

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Pointer of INTEREST



Chris Stanley
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Educational technology expert

See story, page 4A

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Outdoor art lined up for Charlevoix

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In the same way a string of pearls sets off a little black dress, the Charlevoix streetscape is being primped for its debut with outdoor sculptures.

They're intended to draw attention to the four-block commercial district between Alter Road and Beaconsfield, plus attract customers to its businesses.

Artwork completes the streetscape's new look, a $3,184,739 refinement of the district's infrastructure and amenities, from installation of a first-ever water main to sidewalk facilities intended to encourage pedestrian access.

The figure came from a city council resolution passed last March.

City officials refer to the project as "reimagining" the district.

Featured improvements include a curbless, narrowed roadway intended to slow motor vehicle traffic; wider sidewalks to encourage pedestrian access and sidewalk dining; safer crosswalks; pocket parks; benches; public art; trees and landscaping; shaded areas; environmentally friendly, runoff-capturing bioswales and water features that many residents and business owners support as conducive to modern lifestyles and community standards.

Topping the transformation, a sculpture artist from Blissfield has been contracted to daub the streetscape with accoutrements of inviting interest.

"We're excited to unveil the Midwest Sculpture Initiative by artist Ken Thompson," Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said. "He has a catalog he (uses) with municipalities for rotating works of art."

Sizeland learned of the initiative from the people behind the Moross Greenway public art project in Detroit between Mack Avenue and the I-94 expressway.

"We were able to get some first picks on art," Sizeland said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled late this month.

"It's amazing to create an art corridor that gets people talking," Sizeland said. "It's a conversation starter. This streetscape is an investment in the community and businesses. Art adds to it. It gets people talking. We want kids to touch the art and families to take selfies with it to keep them in the district."

Some $1.8 million to pay for construction came from a state Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.

"The city and community contributed $800,000 for resurfacing Charlevoix and adding a new water main down the Charlevoix business district," Sizeland said.

New and larger water mains are lifelong benefits to the neighborhood, he said.

"The homes have more flowing water," Sizeland said. "It's better for public safety and public works. Everything around that, we've seen from our studies, has made a tremendous improvement by adding that water main."

"The improvements, along with the water main connection on Beaconsfield and Charlevoix, will result in fire flows that are more than double what they had been previously along Charlevoix," said Jim Bostock, director of public safety. "There is certainly a noticeable difference in the volume and flow of water compared to the past."

The balance of construction was funded by the Tax Increment Finance Authority in accordance with its mission to enhance the TIFA district.

The authority is self-funded by retaining future anticipated increases in tax revenue generated within the TIFA district that would otherwise go to other taxing jurisdictions.

Funds are to be spent for the benefit of the district, bounded by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham.

TIFA Chairman Curt Ralstrom thanked property owners and merchants for putting up with construction.

"Everything was torn up; their lives were disrupted by construction six days per week, from 7 in the morning until 7 at night with big trucks and things like that," Ralstrom said. "But it's turning out nice. The TAP grant put this project in motion and allowed us to do what we wanted to do. Another highlight was just two weeks ago — getting notified by the (Grosse Pointe) Chamber of Commerce they wanted to do the (outdoor) speaker project. It was a nice touch no one had planned for."

Speakers are designed to broadcast ambient music. The chamber and TIFA split the $53,000 installation cost.

See ART, page 3A

WEDDING:

Continued from page 1A

wedding cake, DJ, hair and makeup, stationery and much more.

"I don't really have words, honestly," said Balser, the day after The War Memorial staff organized a surprise reveal over video call with the couple. "I think we were both just in shock. It took us a minute to even realize what was happening. We could not be more honored and just thankful and grateful."

Deaville, an active-duty aviation maintenance technician and basic air crewman, has served in the U.S. Coast Guard since 2018, following a long family legacy of U.S. military service.

His maternal great-grandfather served during World War II and his paternal great-grandfather also served in the U.S. Air Force.

"One of my favorite parts of our family history is that he met my great-grandmother while stationed at Pearl Harbor, creating a connection to a place that holds such significance in our nation's history," Deaville said, adding his grandfather and uncle served in the U.S. Navy, his aunt in the Air Force and he has cousins currently in the Navy and Coast Guard. "Because of the examples set by my family, I grew up understanding that service was about much more than wearing a uniform. It was about sacrifice, commitment, teamwork and taking care of others. As Mickayla and I begin our marriage, we hope to honor that tradition by continuing to live with the same values."

The two met through a mutual connection in 2022, when Deaville was stationed in San Diego and Balser was working as an oncology nurse.

"Our first date, I think when I knew that she was super special, I took her to a wing spot in San Diego — it's a very nice wing spot — and when we went to sit down, she brought playing cards," Deaville recalled. "I'd never had that before on a date."

It can be challenging to date when in the military, they said, "but I think we just both knew it was special and knew that we wanted to make it work no matter what."

Together, they navigated multiple moves, the uncertainty that comes with government shutdowns and military pay and the reality of Balser leaving her family and making a new life in a new state.

"Mickayla is the most caring person ever and she's got so much patience and is very thoughtful," Deaville said. "I love the way she is with my family and obviously with her family. I just love her very much."

Balser shared similar sentiments.

"Any room that he walks into, he lights everyone up around him," she said. "I feel really like the most special person when I'm around him. It was just very refreshing when I met him because I just felt like everything that he said and he did matched up. I couldn't love him more, honestly."

The couple came to Michigan in July 2025, when Deaville made rank and was stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Balser took a position in the medical-surgical telemetry department at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

They got engaged two months later at a lighthouse in Grand Haven.

"The sunset was gorgeous," Deaville said. "Mickayla got her phone out to take pictures of the sunset and the lighthouse. I got down on one knee and when she turned around, I asked her to marry me. But the funny thing is, I had the ring box upside down. I didn't even realize it."



COURTESY PHOTO

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Deaville and Mickayla Balser are planning to have their wedding next fall.

They hope to have their wedding in August or September 2027. The money they're saving now can go toward purchasing their first home.

"I think the biggest thing for us is just having all of our closest family and friends there," said Balser, as the couple's loved ones are spread throughout several states. "I think that's really what we're excited for, just to have everybody in one place together celebrating our love. And knowing that it's going to be in Michigan, where we're starting our new life together, is really special."

More than 6,000 votes were cast by individual voters in the Weddings for Warriors giveaway.

"Really, truly, the voting was down to the wire," War Memorial Chief Operating Officer Nikki Charbonneau said.

The two finalist couples who did not win the all-inclusive wedding still will be offered a free wedding shower worth up to $2,500 at The War Memorial or a $2,500 discount off a wedding, on top of discounts the venue already offers to those in the military.











PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Ride to Read

The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library hosted the second Ride to Read Book Crawl for the community Wednesday, Sept. 2. Everyone who joined on their bike met at the Central Library plaza at 5 p.m. to register and get ready for the 5:30 p.m. rollout. From Central, participants biked down to Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe and then back to Flyleaf bookstore on The Hill. The event was held to promote reading and healthy lifestyles and to highlight some of Grosse Pointe's libraries, locally owned bookshops and bike shops.

Local girls have new scouting option

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Girls across the Pointes who want to participate in Scouting America, formerly Boy Scouts of America, may now join Troop 96, chartered by Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

"As the first and only family troop in Grosse Pointe, Troop 96 brings boys and girls together to take on new challenges, learn practical skills and serve their community," according to its press release. "We invite middle and high school students of all backgrounds, both boys and girls, to explore the outdoors, build confidence and have fun in a safe, welcoming community."

The "family troop" designation was approved by Scouting America last December, six years after girls were first allowed to join the organization in what are known as "linked troops."

"The main difference is that a family troop shares the same leadership structure," said Karl Koto, Troop 96's committee chairman. "The boys and girls work together and grow together. They meet in the same place and go on the same outings."

There are linked troops in the Pointes, Troop 86B and Troop 86G, which the Grosse Pointe News wrote about last year. In a linked troop, while they may meet together at the same time and place — although sometimes having separate breakout sessions to work on projects and merit badges — and attend the same outings, each has its own scoutmaster, committee and separate patrol leaders' councils.

> 'As the first and only family troop in Grosse Pointe, Troop 96 brings boys and girls together to take on new challenges, learn practical skills and serve their community.'

"A dad of one of the boys in our troop said his daughter wanted to join, but her only option was Troop 86," said Frank Senter, scoutmaster for Troop 96, regarding the change. "It wasn't possible for the family to split their time that much."

Both troops meet at 7 p.m. Mondays. The only other family troop in the area is located in Warren.

"In a family troop, a girl or boy can be senior patrol leader," Koto added. "A male or a female can be scoutmaster."

Kurt Newman, Troop 96's assistant scoutmaster, said it's about expanding opportunities and allowing girls and boys finishing Cub Scouts to decide what the best fit is for them.

Senter said the troop typically has one weekend campout per month and a weeklong summer camp. It also does a high-adventure outing each summer, which can include backpacking in New Mexico, canoeing in Minnesota or sailing in Florida.

Jeff Lincicome, pastor at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, welcomed the change.

"We value the troop as an important partner in caring for and nurturing young people in our community and we're proud to support them as they continue to grow, adapt and carry their important work into the future," he said in the press release.

For more information or to arrange a visit to a troop meeting, email family96troop@gmail.com.

ART:

Continued from page 2A

Although visitors to the revamped Charlevoix will be sure to notice the artwork and pedestrian-friendly additions, Ralstrom cited infrastructure upgrades as lasting investments in the community.

"It was nice being able to coordinate with the city because look at the infrastructure we got done with the new water main and other things," he said. "It's a 100-year-old district. Look at the things we were able to modernize and bring up to speed."

Artwork will be installed before the ribbon cutting, according to Sizeland.

Farms Autumn Harvest is Saturday

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As temperatures cool, the annual Autumn Harvest at Pier Park will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

The fun this year encompasses a magician, face painter, doughnuts and cider, a candy hunt where kids can search through hay for up to five pieces of candy and a petting zoo.

"We haven't had a petting zoo for this in a long time," said Lynn Roose, event organizer.

Ongoing major pool construction will mean the festivities will take place entirely in the park's picnic area.

"Normally we'll do the candy hunt over toward the pool, so it's going to be on the other side of the park," Roose said. "We don't want the kids getting near the construction."

The Autumn Harvest is free for Farms residents and two guests per park pass.

— Laurel Kraus

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, OCT. 12
- Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13
- Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- Main Street Grosse Pointe Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14
- Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT. 15
- Grosse Pointe Farms Election Commission Public Accuracy Test, 2 p.m.
- City of Grosse Pointe Election Commission Public Accuracy Test, 2 p.m.
- Grosse Pointe Shores Election Commission Public Accuracy Test, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 16
- Grosse Pointe Woods Election Commission Public Accuracy Test, 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17
- Grosse Pointe Woods Hazardous Waste Day, 9 a.m., for residents only.





It's all about education for this Pointer

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

While he may not be among the teaching ranks these days, education is still top of mind for Chris Stanley.

The former assistant superintendent for curriculum and technology for the Grosse Pointe Public School System is now putting his expertise to work for school districts, colleges and universities as senior education strategist for Barton Malow. The company, which dates back more than a century, provides a range of design and construction services across multiple industries.

"The company took a look at what other services it could offer and instructional technology in education was one of them," Stanley said. "It's been really fun being able to create the role."

The Woods resident grew up in the Plymouth-Canton area.

"I come from a family of educators, so the last thing I wanted to do was go into teaching," he said, laughing. "But around junior year of high school the calling was there. I thought I'd be good at it because I'm good with relationships."

Stanley got a bachelor's degree in English from Michigan State University and a master's degree with a teaching certificate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He started his teaching career in Redford Union Schools and spent time with Fraser Public Schools.

"That's where I first got into tech as an instructional technology coach," he said. "Then, the administrative side called."

He was assistant principal at L'Anse Creuse North High School while working on his doctorate in education at Oakland University.

"Sara Delgado (GPPSS assistant superintendent for teaching and learning) was a classmate of mine at Oakland and told me Grosse Pointe was looking for a tech director," he added.

While at MSU, Stanley met his future wife, Katie, who is the administrator for the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and grew up in St. Clair Shores.

"I married an east sider, so I became an east sider," Stanley joked. "I'd heard of Grosse Pointe, but I had no idea where St. Clair Shores was."

The couple moved to the Woods in 2008, then spent a few years in St. Clair Shores before moving back in 2018.

They have four daughters: Mae at Grosse Pointe North High School, Hazel and Jo at Parcells Middle School and Emme at Monteith Elementary School.

"That was a big discussion, public versus private, because Katie went to Catholic school through 12th grade," Stanley said. "But you can't beat Grosse Pointe schools."

The girls are heavily involved in volleyball and softball, both through school and travel programs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Clockwise from top are Chris, Katie, Hazel, Emme, Jo and Mae Stanley.

"I think we spent five straight weekends over the summer staying at Holiday Inns," Stanley said.

He also has his own business called Pointe Tech Connect that offers in-home technology and troubleshooting.

"It's perfect for, say, a retiree who had an IT department while they were working but now needs help with certain issues," Stanley said.

When he left GPPSS in May 2025 after eight years, Stanley said he wasn't looking for a new job.

"Barton Malow reached out and I just felt like it was something I needed to try and see where it could go," he said. "It's cool to be part of the vision building in a new role."

He'll also be doing work soon through Barton Malow for GPPSS.

"It's nice because I have historical knowledge of their operations," Stanley said. "I'm still close to a lot of people in the district and I cheer them on. We love the Grosse Pointe community because it's the perfect place to raise a family."

Voters need to get in the game

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Elections go more smoothly when voters do their part.

The works get gummed up by voters pushing boundaries and violating procedures.

A common infraction is last-minute submission of absentee ballots. So is registering for the absentee list but showing up at the polls to vote.

A representative of the city clerk's office said problems start with voters submitting carelessly penned registration forms.

"In the last two to three weeks, I've received quite a few voter registration forms I can't read because the writing is so sloppy," said Danielle Caudill, deputy clerk.

She attempts to track down the voters by deciphering telephone numbers and whatever contact information is available, but often forms are so jumbled she has to give up.

"I try to reach out," Caudill said, putting palms up. "Other than that …"

Poor penmanship can make applications impossible to process, costing voters their chance to vote.

Another issue is last-minute submission of absentee ballots.

"In the primary election, we got swamped on Election Day with everyone turning in their ballots at the last minute," Caudill said.

Results weren't totaled until early morning.

"We didn't leave here until about 4 a.m.," she said. "It was a very late night."

Another issue involved voters who requested absentee ballots but then showed up at the polls. Poll workers had to stop and straighten things out, delaying in-person voters. The same with people who signed onto the permanent mail ballot list.

"I'd like to stress that if you don't want to vote absentee for every election, don't go on the permanent ballot list," Caudill said.

Testing

To ensure the city meets its obligation to run an accurate Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, technicians from ElectionSource were scheduled earlier this week to conduct public tests of voting machinery and related equipment.

Such tests are routine and open to the public.

"Four or five people attended last time," Caudill said.

ElectionSource is based in Grand Rapids.

"We stress the importance of our clients' responsibility in ensuring fair and secure elections," according to its website, electionsource.com.

"ElectionSource comes in and under our supervision; we keep an eye on them," Caudill said. "They test our machines to see if they are working properly — so, for instance, a Precinct 2 ballot can't go into a Precinct 6 tabulator — and to make sure everything runs properly; that marks on the ballots are working properly so there shouldn't be any issues on Election Day."

The focus in the clerk's office these days is next month's election. Local components to be decided are the Park's seven-year millage request to refurbish and repair parks and recreation assets plus a Pointe-wide public school millage.

"We're in the process of getting ballots together and getting everything ready," Caudill said. "We're rockin' and rollin' trying to be ahead of the game."

Absentee ballots can be returned any time before 8 p.m. on Election Day. The sooner the better.

"It's never too early to hand it in," Caudill said, "preferably the day you vote on it."

A nine-day period of early voting in the Park runs Oct. 24 through Nov. 1, including weekends, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Poll workers will be stationed in the lower lobby of city hall to hand out and receive ballots. Voters can insert their ballots directly into a tabulator on site.

Distinctions

Absentee voting isn't the same as early voting.

◆ "Absentee voting uses a ballot issued to the voter in person at the clerk's office or by mail," according to information on the clerk's portion of the city website, grossepointepark.org. "Absentee ballots are returned in a specially designed envelope that requires the voter's signature and are tabulated by trained election inspectors after the commencement of early voting."

"Also, if you received an absentee ballot, you can convert it to an early-vote ballot," Caudill said. "People can vote absentee at home, come in during early voting and put their absentee ballot directly into the tabulator."

◆ Early voting follows the same process as on Election Day, according to the city site. Voters mark and tabulate their ballots in person at one designated early-voting location. Ballots cast in person by the voter during early voting cannot be retrieved or spoiled once accepted by the tabulator and the voter cannot vote again.

There's also a distinction between voting absentee and being on the permanent mail ballot list, according to the same source.

◆ The absentee voter list consists of voters who asked that an absentee ballot application be mailed to them every election.

◆ Voters who ask to be placed on the permanent mail ballot list will complete one application that remains on file permanently. They automatically receive an absentee ballot each election.

Where to vote

The Park has six voter precincts. In-person voting for all of them is at Windmill Pointe Park at the foot of Windmill Pointe Drive.

Voting for Precincts 1 and 2 is in the Tompkins Community Center.

Voting for Precincts 4, 5, 6 and 7 is in the Lavins Activity Center gymnasium.

It's time again for us to search for the reader photos that best capture the spirit of the Pointes — for our upcoming 2027 calendar!



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Grosse Pointe News

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Grosse Pointe News
USPS 230-400

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Park

There and gone

A 20-foot section of steel angle iron worth $2,000 was reported missing Thursday, Oct. 1, from a lawn in the 900 block of Berkshire.

"The beam was delivered on the easement," according to police. "After delivery, the beam was missing. Unknown who took the beam."

— Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Extortion

A resident filed a report around 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, after her juvenile son confessed that he sent naked pictures of himself to someone he met on chatib.com and was told to send the person $200 or the pictures would be posted online.

Making it easy for them

Two vehicles were stolen over the weekend.

The first was reported around 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, after a 2021 Jeep parked at Lochmoor Club was stolen sometime earlier that day. It was unlocked with the key fob inside.

The second was reported around 9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, after the owner left a 2022 Toyota Tacoma running while inside a store in the 19000 block of Mack. After leaving the store, the owner told officers they saw the vehicle driving southbound on Mack.

The report said there also was $2,000 worth of tools in the truck.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Close call

A 78-year-old Farms woman was scammed into taking phone calls, sometimes three times a day, from someone she believed to be an FBI agent, spanning late August into mid-September.

The incident began with a claim she had a violation fee for having a firearm without a license, but the woman never gave the scammers any personal information, including bank account or card numbers.

Identity theft

A 79-year-old Farms woman recently received a $270 bill for two months of Xfinity service to an address in Detroit with which she has no affiliation.

The woman also received a $1,818 tax refund check from the state that she was not owed.

Not customs

A 32-year-old Detroit man handed an officer his passport when pulled over at Mack and Gateshead for a defective muffler at 4:16 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

The man told the officer he did not have a driver's license, for which he was arrested.

Stolen Jeep

A gray 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from the 300 block of McKinley between 11 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, and 7 a.m. the next morning.

The owner had the set of keys but was unsure if the vehicle was unlocked. A second set of keys was lost in St. Clair Shores approximately a year ago.

— Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Going nowhere

All four wheels were stolen from a 2020 Ford EcoSport that was left on cement blocks in the 600 block of Notre Dame and discovered at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

Stolen truck

A 2026 Ford F-150 was stolen from the 800 block of Washington between 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, and 10:30 a.m. the next morning. It was recovered later in the day in Hamtramck.

Nice try

Two suspects attempted to open, but did not get inside, two cars parked in a driveway in the 400 block of University Place at 4 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEVIN EZOP

Big winner

Finn Ezop of Grosse Pointe Farms won the honor of Biggest Catch during Grosse Pointe Farms' End of Summer Bash Fishing Rodeo Saturday, Sept. 5. He reeled in a 13.5-inch smallmouth bass with 10 minutes left in the contest.

MILLAGE:

Continued from page 1A

these assets," Sizeland said. "We have options of asking the community for donations or a millage. We cannot live off donations. At the end of the day, we're looking at an estimated revenue of about $3.9 million that would be invested over the millage's seven years."

Analysis done in concert with the city's engineering consultants, OHM Advisors, concluded it will cost $6 million to tend deteriorating equipment and infrastructure cited in the recreation department's five-year maintenance and improvement plan.

"A great example is our pool pump room," Sizeland said. "It's near the end of its life. It's over 50 years old. Relining the pool is probably going to cost $1.7 million. But, not only would (the millage) allow the updating of existing assets, we need to put up more shade structures. We need to buy new chairs. Maybe add a small slide."

The five-year plan was prepared, ruminated, discussed and drafted with both fanfare and handwringing for more than a year.

Councilman Tom Caulfield started warning about pool costs during his tenure as recreation liaison in 2021.

"The millage (request) is the compilation of work that went in the parks and rec five-year plan put through by the recreation department, recreation commission, the community through feedback from almost 1,100 residents and an open house," Gleason said.

It also was discussed and decided upon during multiple city council meetings.

"With the consultant's help, we took a list of amenities and those in dire need of being fixed," Gleason said. "We figured the best way to produce that, from a financing standpoint, would be to tie it into the (debt service) millage that was ending and replace it with a recreation millage."

Even if the millage passes, the future of some recreation assets is in doubt, such as the rarely used putting green at Patterson Park.

Instead, in triage fashion, proceeds will be put toward fixing and improving existing features, plus building new ones for which the community has shown interest.

"We've heard from the community that they want more shelters for picnics that face away from the sun," Sizeland said. "We're looking at the possibility of a golf simulator, improving workout equipment on the Patterson fitness trail. And we can integrate amenities, such as the Patterson splash pad and playscape as one whole, seamless project."

Fixing and updating recreation assets is being folded into the city's newly established, overall capital improvement strategy.

Yet revenue from the recreation millage would be a separate, dedicated source of funding that can't be diverted to other municipal operations, projects, wages or benefits.

"This is strictly for capital improvements," Sizeland said. "Parks and recreation is funded out of the general fund. Our biggest expense is public safety, which takes over 60 percent of the budget. Second is parks and recreation, over $2 million. It is bigger than our public works budget. So, without this dedicated funding, other projects — public safety, roads, public works, buildings — compete for those same dollars.

"The city does not take lightly asking for residents' confidence," he said. "However, we did our due diligence with the recreation plan. We asked the community what it would like to see. And we're asking for its support in a reduction in tax rates."

Like many residents who grew up in the Park, Gleason values memories of spending his youth at the city's two lakeside municipal parks.

"The park system is one of the cornerstones and core foundations of our individual communities," he said. "Right up with public safety, our parks represent the best of who we are because it's a place where all residents from all across town can come together and share their love of being outside, friends and family. We have a gift with two different parks to choose from."

Therapy Ranch hosting fundraiser

Therapy Ranch will host a fundraiser called Diamonds & Denim at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at the White Horse Inn in Metamora.

Therapy Ranch provides trauma-informed, ground-based, equine-assisted psychotherapy in Ortonville, where a mental health therapist, certified equine specialist and horses work together to help clients develop skills that can support emotional regulation, confidence, communication, boundaries, self-awareness, trust and resilience.

"Horses have an incredible ability to bring us into the present moment and help people discover things about themselves that can be difficult to find through conversation alone," said Therapy Ranch Executive Director Lindsay Pennington of Grosse Pointe Park. "Our goal is to help people recognize their own strengths and develop skills they can carry with them long after they leave the ranch."

See RANCH, page 8A

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The Grosse Pointe Public Library is asking voters to approve a renewal of 0.6432 for 15 years and would expire in 2042. Failure to renew the millage will reduce the Library's overall budget by 30%, which would result in cuts to staffing, hours and services.
Learn More. GPLibraryYes.org
Paid for by the 2026 GPPL Millage Renewal Committee

POINTES OF VIEW

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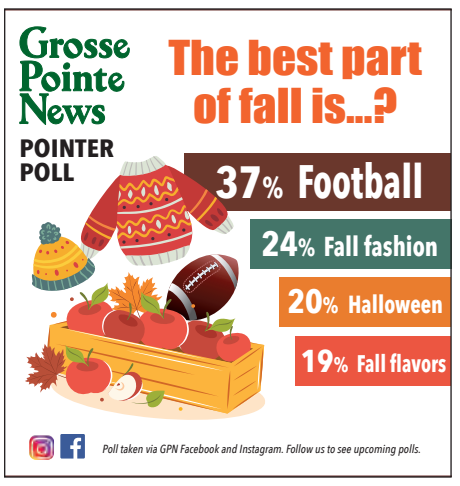
OUR VIEW

Fall has fell

While it may not have the same ring to it as "spring has sprung," and unfortunately means winter is coming, there is plenty to like about the onset of fall and we have all the bases covered for you.

As the graphic (below) shows, the favorite thing about fall, according to our readers, is football, which 37 percent of respondents to our survey picked. That was followed by fall fashion at 24 percent, Halloween at 20 percent and fall flavors at 19 percent.

From our award-winning Kickoff! special section that got the high school season rolling through homecoming coverage and into the playoffs, we have all the action of our three local high schools.



As for fall fashion, last month's Sweater Weather magazine — formerly called Fall Style Guide — had all the colors and trends in clothing, shoes and outerwear for the season and where to shop for them.

As it happens, Halloween falls on a Saturday this year. Just last year in this space, we reported that 57 percent of respondents to a reader poll said they supported a growing push toward holding trick-or-treating on the last Saturday of October, regardless of the date, while 43 percent said they preferred sticking with the traditional Oct. 31.

A Saturday certainly would be more convenient. Kids wouldn't be rushed after school — although we realize it is a half day here in the Pointes — nor would parents, for the most part, be in a rush after work. The hours could be expanded and moved up so everything would be done in the daylight, which would be far safer.

Trick-or-treating on a Saturday afternoon also would allow for an extended celebration, perhaps with neighborhood or family cookouts afterward or costume parties for the grown-ups. And then there is the dreaded sugar buzz. A Saturday celebration would avoid bedtime disruptions and school the next day.

Adding to the festivities is a visit to the Haunted Garage, which we previewed last week. Entering its 19th year, it has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support PTOs and schools.

As for fall flavors, our Food Gossip column in the Sept. 17 issue featured all sorts of pumpkin flavors from local eateries and coffee shops in everything from lattes to bagels to cocktails.

In another reader poll we posted, however, respondents put pumpkin spice as their second-favorite fall flavor, at 35 percent, just behind apple crisp at 38 percent. Salted caramel and brown butter came in at 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

But back to football. A good tailgate or watch party has to include food. Lots of food. Asked their favorite football food (right), 29 percent of respondents picked chicken wings, followed closely by chili at 28 percent and nachos at 26 percent, with sliders at 17 percent.

The Oct. 1 Food Gossip column outlined not just the best chili around but other favorites like chicken noodle, cream of mushroom and corn chowder soups to keep you warm as the temperature drops.

On another note, when you finish your Halloween festivities Oct. 31, do not forget to set your clocks back an hour, as daylight saving time ends Nov. 1. Changing clocks twice a year, however, might become a thing of the past if the Sunshine Protection Act — which would make daylight saving time permanent — is signed into law.

Year-round daylight saving time was used during World War II and again during the 1974 energy crisis, but both times it was repealed. Congress passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, standardizing daylight saving time start and end dates across the country but allowing states to opt out. Those dates were expanded to the current second Sunday in March through the first Sunday in November by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The House passed the Sunshine Protection Act earlier this year and it has the support of President Donald Trump, but there are several detractors in the Senate.

If it were to become law, Michigan would not see the sun rise during winter until close to 9 a.m. Even later on the west side of the state.

That sounds like a dangerous environment for students walking to school and people commuting to work.

In the meantime, enjoy all that fall has to offer, be it Friday night lights, a color tour or a visit to a cider mill. Take a moment to stop and smell the cool, crisp air.

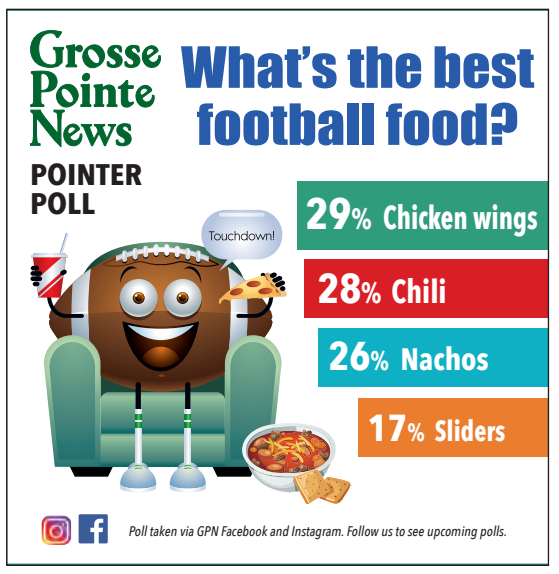




PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

The George Lee Ellis Butterfly House on the Ford House grounds sits along a natural path between the Tribute Garden and the Wooded Wetland & Boardwalk. It is an enclosed habitat where live butterflies inhabit the space every spring and summer, moving through the plants and flowers planted specifically for them. The space also includes a bench that was handcrafted from a 100-year-old elm tree that once stood on the property.

GUEST VIEW By Jeffrey D. Brasie

Make it a safe hunting season

Bow season in Michigan began Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 14, pauses by firearm season Nov. 15 to Nov. 30, then resumes Dec. 1 through Jan. 1.



The Mayo Clinic offers the following guidelines for hunter safety:

Watch for heart attack warning signs.

One study of middle-aged male deer hunters found that the activities inherent to hunting — walking over rough terrain, shooting an animal and dragging its carcass — significantly increased their heart rates. Although opinion varies, many health care providers caution that exercising at more than 85 percent of a person's maximum heart rate increases the risk of heart attack. Hunters unaccustomed to the strenuous hikes involved should take several

See GUEST, page 7A

LETTERS

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

Still have questions

To the Editor:

We attended the League of Women Voters Board of Education candidate forum Sept. 16 and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the candidates. However, we were concerned by several statements made by Michelle White.

Regarding the parental rights policy, Ms. White said it was about situations in which "a child might want to identify if he's a boy by biology, wants to identify, wants to be called a she, for instance, in class. I wouldn't want that teacher to be required to go back

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST October 8 – 14 — LOCAL 4 Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
67° / 46°	66° / 45°	67° / 51°	72° / 52°	69° / 53°	72° / 59°	78° / 64°
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Cloudy
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 7:37 am SUNSET 7:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:38 am SUNSET 6:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:39 am SUNSET 6:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:40 am SUNSET 6:56 pm	SUNRISE 7:41 am SUNSET 6:54 pm	SUNRISE 7:42 am SUNSET 6:53 pm	SUNRISE 7:43 am SUNSET 6:51 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima

Dysfunction within Red Wings starts at the top



I have been a faithful and devout Detroit Red Wings fan as long as I can remember. Hockey is my favorite sport and the Red Wings will always be my favorite team. Even after some disappointing seasons in the past decade, I always try to enter a new season with hope and optimism. However, this is the first time I have ever had so little excitement and hope for a Red Wings season because the dysfunction within the organization has turned what once was one of the greatest franchises in major American sports into a complete disaster.

I was critical of Steve Yzerman in his tenure as general manager of the Red Wings and how long the organization continued to bring disappointing results. However, in the months since Yzerman left as general manager, the dysfunction has continued and only gotten worse. That makes it even more clear that Yzerman may not have been at fault. Instead, the blame for the Red Wings becoming the laughingstock of the hockey world should be placed on the man truly in charge — Christopher Ilitch.

When his father, Mike Ilitch, was running the show for the Red Wings and the Detroit Tigers, he did what he could to deliver a winning product to fans. He put money into the Tigers to make them competitors who reached the World Series twice in my lifetime and turned the Red Wings into one of the greatest hockey dynasties of a generation.

Mike Ilitch knew what it took to win. It takes being proactive and making the decisions that turn good teams into great teams, no matter the cost. For Chris Ilitch, it seems that what is more important is his own bottom line.

Last week, an anonymous letter addressed to Chris Ilitch and signed by "Concerned Detroit Red Wings and Tigers Fans and Concerned Michigan Taxpayers" was published as a full-page ad in the Detroit Free Press and online at concernedredwingsfans.com. The author of this letter seemed to sum up the feelings of fans like myself better than I could.

The author outlined the mishandling of the Red Wings' offseason, from the search for a new general manager to the ongoing saga of now-former captain Dylan Larkin requesting a trade. The letter suggests the Red Wings have become an organization that appears "directionless, unprepared or unserious," and what the author of the letter seems to want most is transparency from behalf of the organization and Ilitch himself.

The Red Wings have woefully mishandled the Larkin situation to the point it is now believed a reconciliation between the two sides is nearly impossible. The organization is being further humiliated by contract negotiations with young star defenseman Simon Edvinsson, who went back to his home country of Sweden last week, just days before the Red Wings' season opener in Detroit. Add to that the fact the search for a new general manager lasted two months before the organization panicked and appointed Shawn Horcoff interim general manager the day before training camp was set to begin.

All of this really shows one thing: The Red Wings are no longer an organization people want to be a part of. If being the general manager of the Detroit Red Wings were a desirable job, it would not have taken over two months to give someone already within the organization the title of interim general manager. If this were a team people wanted to play for, the captain and face of the franchise would not publicly request a trade and a rising star who could become a cornerstone of the team would not be holding out for a new contract and flying back to Sweden 72 hours before the first game of the season.

I feel like I owe my childhood hero Steve Yzerman an apology. I criticized your tenure as general manager pretty harshly toward the end, but it is clear to me now that you may not have been the problem at all. Yes, you were one of the people at the top who needed to be held accountable for the failures of this team in recent years, but the person at the very top clearly deserves much more scrutiny.

The letter from Concerned Detroit Red Wings and Tigers Fans and Concerned Michigan Taxpayers also mentions a large issue outside of sports that Ilitch also is responsible for: the failure of the District Detroit project. The people of Detroit were promised a vibrant arena district with housing and social spaces around the arena to benefit the community in the surrounding area.

Instead, anyone who goes to an event at Little Caesars Arena can clearly see the vacant lots and run-down buildings in the surrounding area that have gone undeveloped, with seemingly no clear plans for construction. For a project that had public support and used public funding, why have the results been so disappointing? And why has there been a lack of transparency into the reasoning behind why the project that was promised is taking so long to come to fruition?

The lack of transparency surrounding much of what Ilitch controls perhaps is the biggest thing that upsets me and many others. Doing interviews with The Detroit News and giving answers that sound mostly like

See I SAY, page 8A

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

rest breaks.

Falls tend to be the most common cause of injuries.

Falls often happen when a hunter is up in a tree stand and startled by animals or another distraction. Pay attention to your surroundings at all times.

Always check equipment and stands and use safety belts to prevent falls.

Avoid permanent tree stands, as they are more likely to deteriorate. The average fall from a tree stand is about 15 feet. Injuries suffered from those heights can cause broken bones, paralysis or death.

Avoid alcohol and drug use while hunting.

Hunters are more susceptible to injuries, including frostbite and hypothermia, if they've been drinking.

Let family members know where you'll be hunting and take two-way radios or loud whistles along in case help is needed.

A surprisingly large number of hunting accidents involve family members and friends who have gone out together, but they do not remember or know where their party has gone.

Learn some basic first aid before heading into the woods.

Basic first aid that you should know includes how to administer hands-only CPR, which consists of chest compressions, should a hunting partner have a heart attack. Consider having a first-aid kit available. Also, know where the closest emergency services are located.

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.

Never assume a firearm is unloaded. Place your finger on the trigger only when you're ready to shoot. Keep your muzzle or barrel pointed in a safe direction and remember that wherever it points is in the crosshairs. Don't overlook the possibility of a ricochet.

Be sure of your target.

You are responsible for knowing what's in front of your firearm or bow target, near your target and beyond your target. If you aren't certain about any one of the three, absolutely do not take the shot.

Wear protective gear.

Hunters' eyes and ears are vulnerable to a number of potential hazards, so it's important to protect them. Firearms create a high-decibel sound that can damage hearing. The firearm also discharges small particles of the projectile, burning gas and other residues that can damage your eyes. Always wear safety glasses and ear protection.

Don't forget the blaze orange clothing.

Blaze orange has made hunting safer. Michigan law requires hunter orange to be worn as an outermost layer of clothing and be visible from all directions. Options include hats, vests and jackets.

Sportsman's Warehouse (sportsman.com) offers a hunting guide link for each state. The site offers insight into when and where to hunt, licensing fees, hunter education, youth hunting, trapping and hunting seasons.

The International Hunter Education Association – USA (ihea-usa.org) offers a wealth of informative websites and videos.

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

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

to a parent and tell that parent what the student required of them."

This raises an important question about the role of parents in their child's education and well-being. Ms. White's statement appears to support allowing a student to keep this information from their parents, placing the teacher in a position to determine what parents should or should not be told. We believe parents should remain informed about significant issues involving their children, particularly when a child may be experiencing confusion or distress.

Consider this in the context of your own child. Would you be comfortable with the school withholding such information from you? More importantly, if a child were experiencing significant emotional distress or engaging in self-harm without the parents' knowledge, what responsibilities and challenges would that create for the school and teacher?

We were also concerned about her appearing to favor locating preschool programs centrally rather than placing them within each elementary school. We understand the goal of promoting diversity, as touted by Ms. White. However, the location of preschools influences whether families choose to school their children within the district or enroll in private schools, due to convenience or inconvenience, as it may be.

Families in the Trombly area may also want to consider Ms. White's comments about walkability. She said, "I wouldn't want to reopen and make our kids have to not have certain programming that they want or be able to give teachers raises." We believe this overlooks the potential long-term financial impact of retaining families and students within the district. Keeping more students enrolled increases enrollment-based revenue and, in turn, supports programming and staff compensation. At the same time, it allows more students the option to walk to their neighborhood school.

These comments left us with important questions about how Ms. White would balance parental involvement, student well-being, accessibility, enrollment and the district's long-term financial interests.

KAROLE AND TOM STEEN
Grosse Pointe Park

Wake up

To the Editor:

From all Grosse Pointe parents who support public school choice: Thank you, Michelle White!

Michelle's public statement that school employees are justified in excluding parents from helping to manage personal issues their children are facing only reinforces what many of us have known for a long time. Many public school officials believe that their worldview justifies their efforts to displace parents' primary role in raising their children.

If you believe that "the state" and its employees should exclude parents from making major life decisions with your child, vote for Michelle. If you believe that parents know their children best and should be the primary decision-makers involving their children, it's time to wake up.

Charter schools offer parents who can't afford a private-school education a way out of the public school district monopoly that promotes policies that Michelle White and her supporters on the GPPSS school board will implement.

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Pointer pens new book

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — As with many things during this semiquincentennial, a book released earlier this year by Pointer Peggy Stanton also has a 250th theme.

"The United 'Saints' of America: On Pilgrimage With Our Mother Mary From Sea to Shining Sea" highlights 250 Catholic shrines and basilicas across all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

"It was actually my editor's idea," Stanton said. "He wanted to do something that would coincide with the 250th birthday of America. I thought it was a fascinating idea, because the Blessed Mother has been involved in our country's development ever since Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492."

Although this is Stanton's fifth book, she joked this is the first travel guide she's written.

"As I dove into the information my researcher, Rachel Salvetti, put together, I realized there are so many great stories of marvelous people who came to this land who were so brave and courageous," she added. "The missionaries and explorers who came here to spread the faith."

Going through each state alphabetically, the book recounts how Catholicism reached each, such as Spanish missionaries in places like California and Texas and French missionaries here in Michigan.

"Paring the list down was difficult because there are so many different shrines," Stanton said. "Some are well known and some not, but they all have great stories as to how they came about and the people behind them."

In the chapter about Michigan, Stanton writes about St. Isaac Jogues, who visited the Upper Peninsula in the mid-1600s, and the Rev. Jacques Marquette, who arrived in the U.P. in the late 1600s and celebrated Mass daily for fur traders, settlers and Native Americans.

Stanton highlights the Shrine of Bishop Baraga in L'Anse, the Shrine of Jesus the Divine Mercy in Clinton Township and

See BOOK, page 10A

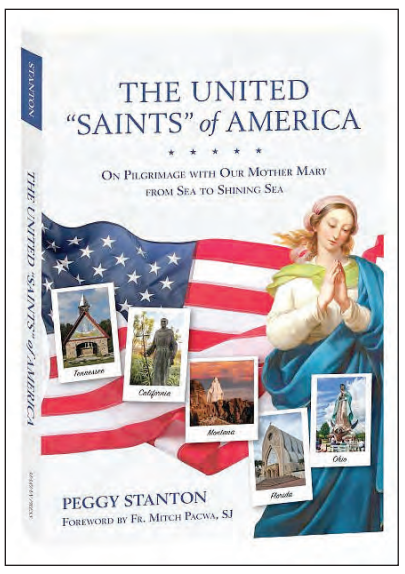




PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. STEPHEN THIEL

After finishing the 5K, Grosse Pointe Park Lt. Colin Connaire, left, and Public Safety Officer Chad Gump stand with the banner honoring New York firefighter Stephen Siller.

Park pair participate in Tunnel to Towers 5K

The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety recently recognized the dedication of its personnel who go above and beyond — both on and off duty.

On Sept. 12, Public Safety Officer Chad Gump and Lt. Colin Connaire completed the Tunnel to Towers 5K run, honoring the sacrifice of New York firefighter Stephen Siller and all the fallen heroes of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Grosse Pointe Park officers ran the 5K wearing their firefighter gear, after training in it for two months.

"Events like the Tunnel to Towers 5K embody the core values of our department — community commitment, service, dedication and never forgetting those who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Sgt. Stephen Thiel, the Park's public information officer. "We congratulate Lt. Connaire and PSO Gump for carrying forward the legacy of never forgetting and for proudly representing the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety."

The story of Tunnel to Towers began Sept. 11, 2001, when Siller, who was off duty after finishing his shift at Squad 1 in Brooklyn and was headed to play golf with his brothers, heard reports of a plane hitting the World Trade Center. He turned around and headed to the scene, but security closures already had shut down the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel to vehicles.

Refusing to be stopped, Siller strapped 60 pounds of firefighting gear to his back and ran through the closed, nearly two-mile Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel to reach the Twin Towers, where he ultimately gave his life saving others. Siller left behind a wife and five children.

To honor him and all the first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11, his family established the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The organization hosts an annual 5K run and walk in New York that traces Siller's final path through the tunnel to Ground Zero. The foundation has grown into a major national nonprofit that builds mortgage-free, accessible smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders and pays off mortgages for families of fallen line-of-duty heroes.

There were 92 Tunnel to Towers 5K run/walk events held across the U.S. this year. The Michigan event took place at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

I SAY:

Continued from page 7A

word salad is not enough. Ilitch needs to step up to the podium in front of the media and give real, honest answers as to why everything he runs seems to slip into dysfunction and what he can do to fix it.

If that is too much for him to handle, maybe it is time for Ilitch to hand over the reins to somebody who can. Find somebody who truly cares about the success of two great organizations, the Tigers and the Red Wings, and also the city itself.

The worst thing that can happen to a sports franchise, especially one as great as the Red Wings once were, is for a loyal fan base to fall into apathy. That is the way I feel as this hockey season begins: apathetic. I feel little to no excitement for what this season might bring and very little desire to drag myself to Little Caesars Arena to watch the product on the ice and give my hard-earned money to an organization with an owner who clearly is not interested in investing that money back into a good product.

Employees get loan program

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The municipality's employee compensation package now includes a loan program that benefits the borrower coming and going.

Interest payments on the loans boomerang back to borrowers for deposit in their retirement accounts.

"Loans are funded out of their vested retirement proceeds," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "Employees pay back the balance over time with interest that gets added back into their account."

City council members last month approved the terms. Loans themselves are managed by the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan.

"The monthly loan payment is taken out of the employee's paycheck," Sizeland said. "Under current IRS rules, employees with retirement plans can take out loans against their account balance. I believe the interest rate is based on the Federal Reserve interest rate, plus 2 percent."

Council action Sept. 14 unanimously approved the loan program as part of the city's 401(a) defined contribution retirement plan, also under MERS, according to Mayor Michele Hodges.

Implementing the program doesn't cost the city anything, Sizeland added.

"The financial arrangement is between MERS and the employee," Sizeland said. "Adding this provision to the MERS deferred compensation plan provides employees with extra financial flexibility with no cost to taxpayers and allows the city to continue to retain and attract talent for serving its residents."

Park employees already have a loan program through deferred compensation accounts.

"In 1997, the state of Michigan adopted the 401(k) Defined Contribution Plan," according to information on the state website, michigan.gov. "Participants in this plan receive a 4 percent gross pay contribution by the state of Michigan. In addition, participants can contribute their own money to the plan. The first 3 percent participant contribution is matched by the state with another 3 percent."

"This is now allowing anybody, 2023 moving forward, under the defined contribution plan to be able to have a loan program they do not currently have," Sizeland said. "We provide in-house consulting with our providers. They come in two or three times per year to work with staff."

RANCH:

Continued from page 5A

Diamonds & Denim also will highlight suicide prevention and the importance of connection, early support and access to professional mental health care. Funds raised will help provide scholarships to youth and adults who may otherwise be unable to access services.

The evening is sponsored by TD Bank and the White Horse Inn and will feature horse experiences, dinner, a presentation, live music by Katelyn Vallier, dancing, raffle baskets and more.

"Events like Diamonds & Denim allow our community to come together not only to raise money, but to start conversations," Pennington added. "Mental health affects all of us. When we create communities where people feel seen, supported and connected, we create more opportunities for hope."

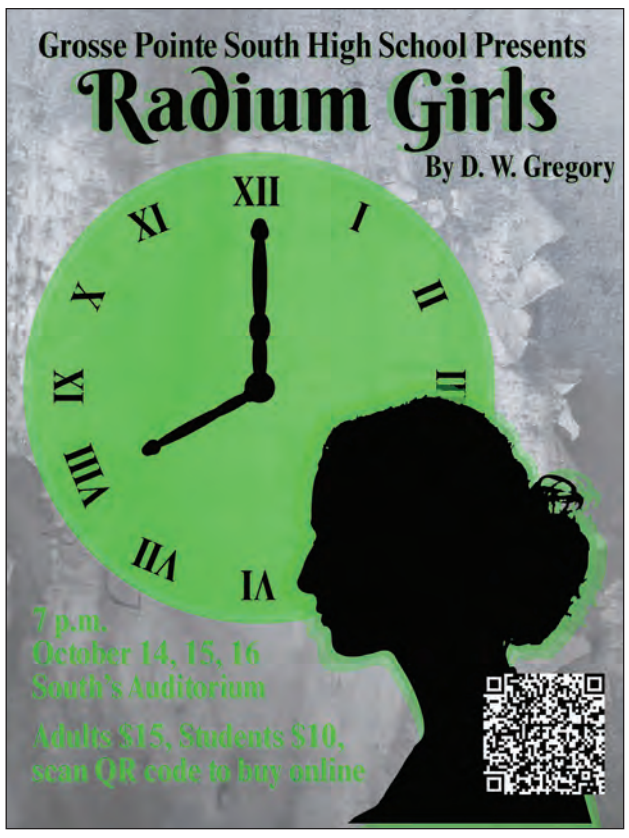
Visit therapyranch.org for more.





South to perform 'Radium Girls'

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor



GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Director Dan DeMarco said the upcoming performance by the Pointe Players of "Radium Girls" at Grosse Pointe South High School will be different from past plays for one important reason.

"It's a true story, whereas our other plays were works of fiction," he said. "This is a true story about real people using their real names."

It was written in 2000 by D.W. Gregory and has been performed more than 1,800 times across the United States and Europe. Runtime is a little over two hours with an intermission.

It tells the story of women who worked in factories during the 1920s applying luminous paint containing radium to watch faces so they would glow in the dark. They were told to moisten their paintbrushes on their lips to give them a fine point.

Radium was discovered in 1898 by Marie and Pierre Curie and originally was used as a cancer treatment. It also is highly toxic and can cause anemia, bone fractures and necrosis of the jaw. By 1924, some 50 women doing the job at a plant in Orange, N.J., became ill and a dozen had died.

"Although the play is linear, there also are little vignettes," DeMarco said. "You learn about some of these women's backgrounds and life at home. It has 25 scenes."

DeMarco said one of the reasons for choosing this play is because he has more girls in the Pointe Players than usual.

"It's a heavily female script," he said.

There are 21 cast members, with several playing multiple roles, and 20 crew members.

"That is a pretty large crew," DeMarco added, "which is a great problem to have."

Performances are 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 14 to 16, in South's auditorium. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students and can be purchased via the QR code in the flyer above.

The cast includes Reese Straske, Julia Guyon, Verity Suson, Audra Caster, Ben Copus, Elliott Franzinger, Charleigh Miller, Amelia Kozlowski, Madelyn Henke, Ryn Fultz, Bentley Karcher, Delaney DeMarco, Victoria Porter, Lucy Nyenhuis, Cat Showalter, Tatum Gustafson, Skylar Boomhower, Caroline White, Alexandra Walczy, Sylvie Wilberger and Jasmine McKay.

Maire to mark 90 years

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Maire Elementary School is celebrating its 90th anniversary with a homecoming noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

"We're really excited," said second-grade teacher Sarah Neely, who is helping coordinate the day in conjunction with the PTO. "We've tried to contact as much of our former staff as possible and we have six decades' worth of principals who will be there."

Fourth-grade students will give tours, which will end in the school's new history museum.

"We have the original landscaping plans and the photo of the World War II plane," Neely added.

The plane was known as "The Old Gray Maire" because students at the school raised money to build it. It was piloted by longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Lionel Montagne, who died in September 2025, at age 105.

Dennis Orlowski, who painted murals inside the school to mark previous anniversaries in 1986 and 2011, will be there doing sketches of attendees. A historian from Eastern Michigan University will be on hand to record oral histories and give a presentation at 1 p.m.

"We'll have bounce houses and food trucks and classic games from when we used to have the Maire Fair such as a cakewalk and duck pond," Neely said.

Footage will be available to watch of the building's construction in 1936, plus yearbooks dating back to 1945.

"The highlight has been so many stewards of history who thought to archive items over the years," Neely added.

The school is named for Dr. Lewis E. Maire, who moved to Grosse Pointe in 1899. He was part of a group in 1921 that pushed to consolidate five local school districts into what is the Grosse Pointe Public School System. He also served on the board of education for a dozen years.

People petitioned to have the school named for him after his death in 1935.

A get-together for adults takes place 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. Tickets are $35 and include feather bowling, appetizers and one drink. Tickets may be purchased at the QR code below.

Catholic high school information night planned

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School hosts Catholic high school information night from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at its Canfield Center.

Families of seventh- and eighth-graders can meet representatives from Catholic high schools including Austin, Bishop Foley, Brother Rice, Chesterton, De La Salle, Divine Child, Marian, Mercy, Regina, Shrine and U of D Jesuit.

Find more details online at stpaulonthelake.com.

AGREE:

Continued from page 1A

for the countless hours, late nights and energy they put into reaching this agreement," Superintendent Roy Bishop said. "I'm grateful we found common ground on an agreement that provides meaningful improvements for our teachers while supporting the district's long-term needs."

The two sides held more than 20 bargaining sessions and multiple meetings with a mediator.

The board earlier this year approved four-year agreements with the Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association, Grosse Pointe Educational Plant Association (maintenance) and Grosse Pointe Educational Office Association that include 3 percent raises each year, step increases for eligible employees and hourly longevity raises for paraprofessionals after their fifth year of employment.

Details of the new GPEA contract won't be made public until after both sides approve it.





Undercover car being sold

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — You know a car is rotten when it can't meet the standards of junkers used for undercover law enforcement.

The public safety department's 2012 Kia Forte is among municipal vehicles and equipment being put up for auction because they no longer pull their weight.

"The Kia has been used for surveillance operations, but its age and condition have deteriorated to where the vehicle is no longer effective in its designed role," according to a memo Jim Bostock, director of public safety, co-authored and submitted to city council during its meeting Monday, Sept. 14.

Council members responded by agreeing to consign the car and two worn-out police cruisers to Detroit Metro Auctions. A piece of mechanized equipment used by the public works department will be sold directly to another city.

Selling the items not only raises money, but also saves the city from paying liability insurance, City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

He added, "With the purchase of two new Chevy Tahoes (customized as police cruisers) that were approved in the budget this fiscal year, we need to rotate two vehicles out of the public safety fleet."

Terms of sale include buyers paying a 15 percent premium added to the winning bid.

"The standard commission and fees for the consignment is zero percent of the winning bid," according to the city's agreement with the auction company. "The consignor's proceeds will be based on the sale price, excluding buyer's premium."

"To reduce cost and best utilize taxpayer dollars, city administration has identified several vehicles that no longer provide use to city operations," said Ethan Haan, finance director, in the co-authored memo.

Other vehicles auctioned are a 2019 Ford Explorer and 2021 Ford Explorer. They were used as police cruisers.

"In addition, the Department of Public Works is requesting the sale of a 2016 Morbark chipper that is no longer used by the department," DPW Director Tom Jenny said in the same memo.

The chipper, which is towed behind a DPW truck, isn't being sold as junk. It still has value.

"The city purchased a new chipper last year," Jenny said. "Harper Woods has expressed interest in buying our chipper for $20,000."

Park officials acquired the Kia through a state law enforcement seizure program, according to Sizeland.

Proceeds from the sales will be put into municipal coffers.

"Sales will be recorded as revenue in the general fund for the Kia and police interceptors and the chipper into the rubbish fund," Haan said.

Culling municipal assets via auctions is established practice.

"We have used Metro Auctions for several vehicles," Sizeland said.

In August, city officials retained the company to sell a sewer-cleaning vacuum truck that was worn out and needed an estimated $40,000 worth of repairs.

In 2024, Park officials unloaded a corroded dump truck, vacuum truck with electrical problems, dump truck with a worn-out transmission and more.

More volleyball

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A new session of coed drop-in volleyball began Tuesday, Oct. 6, and runs until Dec. 15.

Drop-in times are 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in the Lavins Activity Center gymnasium. There is no drop-in play Tuesday, Nov. 3. Recreational drop-in play is on Court 1. Competitive play is on Court 2.

◆ Court 1 recreational play is for lower-skill-level players ages 12 to 18. No spiking allowed. There's no fee for substitute players.

◆ Court 2 competitive play is for higher-skill-level players ages 12 to 18. Spiking is allowed. There's no fee for substitute players.

The sessions are new to the city's fall recreation schedule. For six-on-six matches, a minimum of 12 people is needed each night for both divisions.

Register online at secure.rec1.com/MI/grosse-pointe-park-mi/catalog. In-person registration is available at the Lavins Activity Center front desk. The session fee is $100 per person.

BOOK:

Continued from page 8A

the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit.

"This is something you could keep in your car in case you're ever close to one of these churches," she said.

Stanton moved to the City of Grosse Pointe in 2008 to be closer to her daughter, local author Kelly Fordon, and her four grandchildren.

The Grosse Pointe News interviewed Stanton in 2022 after she released "From the White House to the White Cross: Confessions of a TV News Correspondent." She was the first female White House correspondent for ABC News, covering the administration of Lyndon Johnson in the mid-1960s before marrying U.S. Rep. Bill Stanton, an Ohio Republican who was in office from 1965 to 1983.

The white cross refers to a 14-ton cement cross in Medjugorje, a village in Bosnia and Herzegovina where it is said people have seen apparitions of Jesus' mother, Mary, since 1981. Stanton first made a pilgrimage there in 1988 and has returned several times.



COURTESY PHOTO

Garden Center winners

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center recently selected the winners of its 2026 Trial Garden competition. The Deeplands Garden Club placed first, the Grand Marais Garden Club placed second and the Grosse Pointe Farm & Garden Club placed third. Pictured, from left, are Anita Sandercott of the Grosse Pointe Farm & Garden Club, Adrienne Gregory of the Grand Marais Club and Debbie Rowe of the Deeplands Club.





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Moross Greenway update underway

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Passersby on Moross between I-94 and Mack are in store for a treat as the artwork along the Moross Greenway gets an upgrade.

Ten sculptures have been removed and one relocated, while nine new massive pieces are being installed over the next couple of weeks.

"Four of the new pieces are still in other exhibitions," said Roger Garrett, a Grosse Pointe Park resident and arts committee chairman, who oversees the installation. "One is at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids for another week or 10 days."

He said the delay is a good news-bad news scenario. The wait, of course, is the bad news.

"But more and more communities are looking at public art," he said. "That's the good news."

Garrett said it's been difficult locating pieces large enough to be noticeable along the stretch of Moross.

"There aren't that many sculptors building large sculptures," he said. "... Hopefully, if more cities get involved, that will provide incentive to the artists."

The size of the sculptures is evident in the number of haulers and equipment needed for this year's project. Seven crew members used two flatbed trucks — each with a crane and large trailer — one van hauling a trailer and one flatbed semi transporting a large front loader.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

"Homage to Matisse III" by Mike Sohikian.



"Circle, Zig and Wiggle" by Ken Thompson.

Fall cleanup is Oct. 10

The Moross Greenway Project is looking for volunteers for its annual fall cleanup, which takes place 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Volunteers are asked to bring a good pair of work gloves; boots are recommended as the islands may be wet. Trash bags and buckets, trash pickers and traffic safety vests will be provided.

Volunteers will:

- weed garden beds to prepare islands for winter,
- divide perennials and
- collect trash along the seven greenway islands.

Volunteers will gather next to Grace Community Church, 21001 Moross. Parking is available in the church lot.

Board members will be available to guide volunteers and answer questions.

More details may be found at morossgreenway.org

The pieces are being installed by Ken Thompson, one of several artists whose work is on display along the Moross Greenway. Once installations are complete, 23 sculptures will grace the area. Moross Greenway Project owns three of them; the others are for sale.

"We get a 20 percent commission on pieces sold," Garrett said. "We've sold three pieces so far.

"... I've been an art collector most of my life," he added. "I know a lot of artists. Through Moross Greenway Project exposure, artists are contacting me now. ... This really is a who's who of Michigan sculptors."

The caliber of artwork doesn't get past passersby, who tend to honk, wave or give a thumbs up to crew members when the work is being installed, he added.

"One of the pieces is a figure on a bench. We installed a real-person bench on the other side of the street. Just yesterday, someone was sitting next to the figure on the bench and someone else was taking their picture."

It's an occurrence he sees regularly. It's partly what's intended through the project — not only to enhance the stretch of green space, but create a space for the public to enjoy and even critique.

"This whole thing is due to Sheila O'Hara, who's the founder and was the president until a year ago," Garrett said.

During her commute home one evening, O'Hara was particularly bothered by the unkempt area — grass that was 2 to 3 feet tall, trash everywhere. She began raising money and getting people involved, including enlisting the help of Master Gardener Mil Hurley.

"Slowly we began land-

See MOROSS, page 3B

The artists

Sixteen artists have pieces in the Moross Greenway. The artists, and the titles of their sculptures, are:

- Mark Chatterley — "Human Column," "Bound Monolith" and "Three Muses"
- Scott Hocking — "Birth of Venus"
- Ray Katz — "Around the Gate" and "Skywalker"
- Mike Sohikian — "Homage to Matisse III"
- Kenneth M. Thompson — "Once Bitten, Twice Shy," "Circle, Zig and Wiggle" and "Panel, Form and Arch"
- Carl Billingsley — "Tri Comet"
- Samuel Soet — "Hardwood"
- Tina Tabbi — "Catch My Drift" and "Driftwood Dragons"
- John Stephenson — "Determinant"
- Jonathan Bowling — "Richmond" and "Barrel Chest"
- Jim Collins — "Audubon Watcher"
- Robert Garcia — "Live Broadcast"
- Jim Gallucci — "Oak Leaf Arch VI"
- Ian Thompson — "Giraffe"
- Rob Onnes — "Three Bears"
- John Adduci — "My Pi"



"Three Muses" by Mark Chatterley.



"Tri Comet" by Carl Billingsley is among the new pieces being installed.

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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.



Gerald Lester Abel



Jenny Wojcik

Gerald Lester Abel

Gerald "Gerry" Lester Abel, 89, passed away Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, in Grosse Pointe. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Dorothy (née Aberlin), who passed away in June 2024, and by his sister Joyce Frydel.

Born Dec. 7, 1936, and raised in Lansing, Gerry was the son of Lester D. and Florence (née Hunter) Abel. He is survived by his sisters, Joanne Smith of Caro and Barbara Lindsay of Dimondale, as well as his nieces and nephews, Scott Smith, Wayne Smith, Joseph Frydel, Nathan Lindsay, Cynthia Flory and Abigail Lindsay.

Gerry graduated with a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, where he proudly competed on the wrestling team. The determination and discipline he developed as a student-athlete remained evident throughout his life.

After retiring from a successful career at Ameritech, Gerry devoted his time to the people, places and pursuits he loved most. He and Dorothy shared a passion for travel, making numerous trips to Europe and spending 37 memorable years vacationing in Barbados. Those experiences brought them great joy and led to many lasting friendships and cherished memories.

A talented woodworker and enthusiastic cook, Gerry took pride in creating things with his hands and sharing them with others. Whether building a piece of furniture, preparing a favorite meal or simply enjoying good conversation, he found happiness in life's simple pleasures.

Gerry will be remembered as a kind, thoughtful and genuinely caring man with an easy warmth, a quiet sense of humor and a gracious way with people. His life was marked by integrity and an appreciation for the people and experiences that enriched it. His friendship, generosity and gentle spirit touched many lives, and he will be deeply missed.

A memorial service takes place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will be interred alongside Dorothy at Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in Gerry's memory to Michigan Humane, michiganhumane.org.

Jenny Wojcik

Jenny Wojcik, 86, of St. Clair Shores, died peacefully Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at Meadows Assisted Living and Care Campus, after a yearlong battle with blood clots and heart failure.

Jenny was born Feb. 4, 1940, in Waregem, Belgium, to George and Josephine Tack, both now deceased. In 1951, her family immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Detroit. Jenny graduated from Southeastern High School in 1958 and completed some coursework at Macomb Community College. She met Richard Wojcik at Metropolitan Beach on Aug. 15, 1957. They were married June 27, 1959, and enjoyed 67 years of marriage. Jenny was a homemaker, poet, painter, collector of art, lifelong volunteer and animal lover.

Jenny was predeceased by her parents; older brother, Walter; and sister-in-law, Theresa Tack. She is survived by her dear husband, Richard; children, Michelle (David Andre), Mark Wojcik (Carol) and Robert Wojcik (Debbie); grandchildren, Allison (Andrew Cracchiolo), Kimberly (Jeff Sherwood), Carolyn (Seth Ingram), Lindsey (Jimmy Konarske), Nicole Wojcik, Danielle Wojcik, Colette Wojcik and Blake Wojcik; as well as eight great-grandchildren, loved ones and friends.

Jenny donated her body to Wayne State University's School of Medicine. A memorial gathering will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, until a 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Michigan Humane, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Suite 800, Detroit, MI 48202, michiganhumane.org; or the Body Bequest Program at Wayne State University, 540 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201, bodybequest.med.wayne.edu.

Two award-winning authors coming to Grosse Pointe



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrew Sean Greer's latest book is "Villa Coco."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CIVITELLA RANIERI FOUNDATION



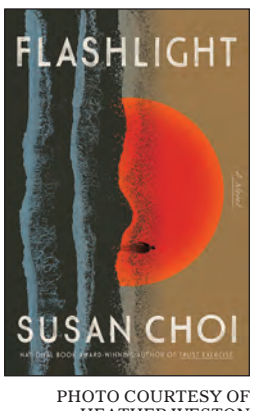

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER WESTON

Author Susan Choi's latest book, "Flashlight," was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

The Grosse Pointe Public Library welcomes award-winning authors Andrew Sean Greer and Susan Choi to Authors to the Pointe, which takes place 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, at The War Memorial.

Greer won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for "Less" and Choi won the 2019 National Book Award for "Trust Exercise."

"Andrew and Susan are friends, so we're looking forward to hearing them share their history and stories with us," said Jessica Keyser, library director. "We've transitioned to this conversational format for our recent author events, including the 2026 Books on the Lake program with Virginia Evans and Lily King. The audience really enjoyed the easy flow of ideas and the mutual admiration between the authors. We are expecting another great conversation between Andrew and Susan."

Greer is the author of eight works of fiction including the bestsellers "The Confessions of Max Tivoli" and "Less." His latest novel, "Villa Coco," was an instant New York Times bestseller. He taught at several universities, including the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He also was a "Today" show pick, a New York Public Library Cullman Center Fellow, a judge for the National Book Award and winner of the California Book Award and New York Public Library Young Lions Award. He also is the recipient of an NEA grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Choi has written six novels and one children's picture book. Her first novel, "The Foreign Student," was described by the Los Angeles Times as "a novel of extraordinary sensibility and transforming strangeness." Her latest book, "Flashlight," published in 2025, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction and chosen as a Best Book of the Year by the Chicago Public Library, Kirkus, NPR, The New Yorker and Time. It also was a Washington Post choice for a Notable Work of Fiction from 2025.

Tickets for Authors to the Pointe go on sale 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, for $30 each. A cash bar also will be available.

To purchase tickets online, visit grossepointelibrary.org.

Authors to the Pointe is sponsored by the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library and the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

Eastside Republican Club to host lieutenant governor candidate

The Republican candidate for Michigan lieutenant governor, Jay DeBoyer, will speak at the next Eastside Republican Club forum Tuesday, Oct. 20, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We are thrilled to host Jay DeBoyer, who was chosen by John James as his running mate for governor and unanimously backed by the Michigan Republican Nominating Convention this past August," said Renee Strobl, chair of the Eastside Republican Club.

DeBoyer has been a member of the Michigan House of Representatives since 2023, representing the 63rd District. As of 2025, he has been part of the Republican leadership serving as associate speaker pro tempore. In addition, he serves as chairman of the House Oversight Committee.

Also in attendance will be candidates from races at the local and state levels. They will make their final campaign pitches before the Nov. 3 general election.

The candidates and their races are Casandra Morse-Bills, Michigan Supreme Court justice; Sarah Colegrove, Wayne County probate judge; Mike Bouchard, U.S. House, 10th District; Terence Collins, State Board of Education; Julie Maday, Michigan State University Board of Trustees; Andy Anuzis, Wayne State University Board of Governors; and Ginny Jeup, Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

Doors to the forum open at 7 p.m. All are welcome. A $5 donation is suggested for nonmembers.

For information, visit eastsiderepublican.club, Facebook.com/Eastside-RepublicanClub or EastsideGOP on X.

Men's Club welcomes Free Press reporter Oct. 13

The Men's Club of Grosse Pointe will meet at noon Tuesday, Oct. 13, in the ballroom at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The club has added a social half-hour beginning at 11:30 a.m. for members and guests to gather for coffee and camaraderie before the luncheon, which costs $25.

Detroit Free Press investigative reporter Violet Ikonomova, who focuses on the systems of power in Detroit, will discuss some of her findings and who they benefit or hurt. Her coverage areas include Detroit City Hall, Detroit Police Department and the philanthropic sector.

Since joining the Free Press in 2022, her reporting has helped prompt new safeguards in Detroit's demolition program, proposed changes to Detroit policing practices that lead to shootings of civilians and reforms at a major Detroit nonprofit following oversight failures tied to a $44 million embezzlement case. She also recently examined local police cooperation with President Donald Trump's deportation campaign and ethics problems in Detroit city government.

Before joining the Free Press, she was an investigative reporter at Deadline Detroit and Metro Times and a general assignment reporter covering national news at the Associated Press broadcast headquarters in Washington. She has an undergraduate degree from Emerson College, where she studied politics and journalism.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

◆ Phil Hale and His Orchestra, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Albert Kahn: Transforming Detroit Through Design & Innovation, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

◆ Meet Up & Make, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park

◆ Brave Belle's Book Club, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

◆ Storytime Shuffle with Miss Mo, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 13.

◆ Crafternoon @ the Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Gettin' Crafty with Miss Mo, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods

◆ Fall Magic Show with Jeff Wawrzaszek, 10 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

◆ Sensory Friendly Movie, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.

◆ Playtime Pop-ins, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Albert Kahn in WWII, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Library Bigs & Littles, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

◆ Teen Tabletop Game Club, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

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.

◆ DIA Behind the

See EVENTS, page 4B

Tender Beginnings helps new parents find their way

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The joy, excitement and precious moments of being a new parent often mingle with stress, fatigue and juggling a seemingly endless list of tasks.

Kendra Milantoni knows from experience. That's why the Michigan-licensed registered nurse and mother of three — ages 9, 4 and 14 months — launched Tender Beginnings Newborn Care six months ago.

Milantoni, who worked in pediatrics and labor and delivery at Henry Ford St. John Hospital, said the business developed out of seeing the newborn stage from both sides.

"As a nurse, I understood the clinical side of caring for a newborn, but as a mother, I understood the emotional and physical exhaustion that comes with bringing a baby home," she said. "I realized there are families who don't necessarily need medical care, but they do need help. They need someone they can trust in those overnight hours."

The Grosse Pointe Shores resident said the response has been strong.

"I had a lot of people reach out and say they wish they had this when their kids were babies," she said. "The newborn stage is exhausting."

Her primary service is overnight newborn care.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kendra Milantoni created Tender Beginnings Newborn Care to assist new moms.

"I come into the home, follow the family's established preferences and take over the newborn care for the night," she said. "That can include feeds, diaper changes, soothing, settling, bottle care, baby laundry and keeping the nursery organized. I also try to anticipate what the parents will need in the morning. The goal is that they wake up feeling like someone took care of the night for them."

She also offers daytime newborn care, postpartum support for mothers and help for families with a sick baby.

"I don't provide medical services, but with my nursing background, I'm comfortable with noticing when things are not what they should be and when the parents should reach out to their pediatrician," she said.

She said that background also helps parents who are wary of letting someone else care for their child.

"I was never comfortable with people watching my child," she said. "I know there are lots of babysitters and nannies out there, but with my pediatrics and labor and delivery background, I know what to look out for."

Her clients range from nervous first-time parents to families with multiples and parents recovering from delivery. Each starts by filling out an online form that assesses their needs.

Next comes a consultation and an in-person meeting to build a care plan and make sure it's a good fit.

Tender Beginnings serves Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and beyond, typically for up to six months, though Milantoni said that's negotiable. Pricing depends on the services needed.

"If somebody needs me, I'm not going to turn them away," she said. "We can always work something out."

Above all, Milantoni said parents shouldn't wait until they're completely overwhelmed to ask for help.



Milantoni and her husband are parents of three children, ages 9, 4 and 14 months.

"I think we've normalized exhaustion during the newborn stage," she said. "We sometimes act like being sleep deprived is just something parents are supposed to endure. I don't believe parents should feel guilty for needing help. Having support doesn't make someone a less capable parent. Sometimes having support is exactly what allows a parent to be more present, patient and emotionally available for their baby.

"… Accepting support doesn't mean you're not capable of caring for your baby," she added. "It means you're recognizing that you deserve care, too. Your baby is only a newborn for such a short amount of time. I want parents to be able to remember those days for the beautiful moments, not just how tired they were."

For more information, visit tenderbeginningsnbcare.com.

SIGP to offer awards to women seeking financial assistance for educational or training expenses

Women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families and seek financial assistance to continue their education or receive training may now apply for the Soroptimist Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women. The application deadline is Sunday, Nov. 15. Applications are available online at grossepointesoroptimist.org and soroptimist.org.

The Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe club will provide cash awards of $5,000, $4,000, $3,000 and $2,000 to the top four award recipients. The top winner will then advance to the Soroptimist Midwestern Region level, where she may receive an additional cash award. The program culminates with three finalists at the federation level, each receiving up to $10,000 in awards.

Recipients can use the Live Your Dream Award to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. This includes tuition, books, childcare, transportation or any other

See AWARDS, page 4B



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

"Driftwood Dragons" by Tina Tabbi.

MOROSS:

Continued from page 1B

scaping," Garrett said. "It's an ongoing project.

"… This is our seventh year," he added. "We started with 10 sculptures. In all that time, not one piece has been vandalized. Two pieces were hit by cars, but in both cases, the artists came and fixed them."

Moross Greenway Project is a 501(c)(3).

"We are always looking for money," Garrett said. "We are 100 percent run by volunteers and charitable contributions.

"We basically have two pools of money," he continued. "One is for maintenance of the lawn and plantings. The other is strictly for the art. Every penny in donations goes into the project. Ann and Jim Nicholson and Anne and John Roberts have been and continue to be major supporters of the art project."

The organization hosts cleanup days each spring and fall; the public is welcome to help pick up trash, pull weeds and tend to some light gardening.

Its fall cleanup takes place Saturday, Oct. 10 (see sidebar, page 1B).

"The object every year is to upgrade and improve the landscaping," he added. "My job is to improve the quality of the art. I'm constantly searching for new artists."

For more information or to support the Moross Greenway Project, visit morossgreenway.org

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Ambrose

St. Vincent de Paul hosts its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, in the ARK at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

The meal includes all-you-can-eat pasta with three choices of sauces, as well as breadsticks, salad, dessert and coffee. A cash bar offers soft drink and wine options as well.

Tickets are $25 per person, $10 for children ages 8 to 14, and free for children younger than 8. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Those unable to attend are welcome to show their support through donations. Checks, made payable to "St. Ambrose SVdP," may be mailed to the rectory, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. Donations also are accepted online at stambrosechurch.net by selecting "Make a Gift to St. Vincent de Paul."

For more information, call (313) 822-2814.

Grosse Pointe Unitarian

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts "From Mozart to Mercury" at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10. The showcase celebrates the range and versatility of live music, taking audiences on a musical journey from classical to folk, from jazz to Broadway — and even featuring Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Headlining the concert will be Hans Barbe, musical director of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, and pianist Anne Roberts. They will be joined by special guests.

Tickets are $25 regular admission and $50 VIP, the latter of which includes front-of-the-room seating. To purchase tickets, visit gpuuc.org or find the event on the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Facebook page. Tickets also will be available at the door.

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn program at noon Thursday, Oct. 15.

During the program, "Walking the Labyrinth: 4,000 Years of Contemplation," the Rev. Michael Bradley will explain the history and development of labyrinths in religious and secular use. Participants also will get a chance to walk the church's labyrinth.

The event is open to the public; freewill donations are accepted at the door.

Reservations are required by Tuesday, Oct. 13. Call (313) 884-4820 to leave a name, phone number and how many will attend.

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

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park
MASSES
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
(313) 822-2814 • stambrose@comcast.net
• stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish

100826



From left, Rebecca Fannon, Rotary Club President Dave Colton, Rotarian Kim Towar, exchange student Carlotta Perrone and her host family, the Smolenskis.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYLA KIM

Rotary Youth Exchange takes center stage

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is about more than just traveling to another country. It gives students the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone, experience life in a new culture and create meaningful relationships with people from around the world. Students learn how to adapt to new environments, communicate with people from differing backgrounds and gain a better understanding of the world. The program offers experiences that help students become more confident, independent and open-minded to the possibilities that surround them.

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe's exchange student is Carlotta "Lola" Perrone. Her time here has been filled with new experiences and opportunities. She has been working hard to improve her English while learning about American culture and traditions. Whether that's trying chicken nuggets for the first time or searching for the best local coffee shop, she has been adapting to her new lifestyle and willing to try new things. She has been staying with a host family and getting involved in the community. Recently, she tried out for the Grosse Pointe South High School cheerleading team. Although being away from her home in Italy can be challenging, having supportive people around her has helped make the experience easier and meaningful. Though her journey has just started, she shows how an exchange program can create lasting connections and memories that can last forever.

Rotary also demonstrates how small acts of kindness can make a big impact. Welcoming an exchange student, helping someone feel comfortable in a new community, volunteering or simply taking the time to get to know someone can make a meaningful difference in a person's life. Rotary Youth Exchange is sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries, creating opportunities for students to learn from one another and gain a greater appreciation for different cultures.

Grosse Pointe Public School System Community Relations Director Rebecca Fannon updated the club about Perrone; the club will hear from Perrone herself at its next meeting.

Ford House welcomes new director of finance

Ford House has named Adam Kotas its new director of finance. He will lead the historic estate's operational finance strategy, systems, reporting and long-term financial planning.

Kotas brings a strong background in public accounting, with specialized experience working with not-for-profit organizations. Throughout his career, he has supported mission-driven financial initiatives, regulatory compliance and effective resource management, with an emphasis on helping organizations make thoughtful and sustainable use of their resources.



Adam Kotas

"Adam's experience in nonprofit finance and his thoughtful approach to financial stewardship make him a valuable addition to the Ford House team," said Mark J. Heppner, president and CEO of Ford House. "Strong financial leadership like what Adam brings is essential to preserve this extraordinary estate, serve our community and plan responsibly for the future. That he loves our mission and is passionate about what we do is icing on the cake."

As director of finance, Kotas will oversee key financial operations and help strengthen the systems and strategies that support Ford House's mission. His work will contribute to the organization's continued financial sustainability while supporting Ford House's preservation, programming and public experiences.

"I look forward to strengthening the financial foundation that supports Ford House's mission and helping position the organization for continued growth and long-term sustainability," Kotas said. "It's an exciting opportunity to steward our resources in a way that honors and respects the estate's legacy."

Candidate visits AHGP



COURTESY PHOTO

John Goldwater, who is running for state Senate, stopped by the American House in Grosse Pointe Farms last week. He sat and talk with residents, shared stories and experiences, as well as talked about his wife and their six children. He also took the time to listen to the stories and experiences of residents. Pictured with Goldwater are staff and residents of American House Grosse Pointe Cottage.

AWARDS:

Continued from page 3B

education-related expense.

Founded in 1956, SIGP club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, specifically those facing significant obstacles to their education.

Soroptimist, a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on charitable donations to support its programs, also powers LiveYourDream.org — an online community offering offline volunteer opportunities in support of women and girls.

For more information about how Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls, visit soroptimist.org. For more information about SIGP, visit grossepointesoroptimist.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Scenes: Through Her Eyes II: Women Photographers, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9, with DIA docent Vernice McDaniel.

◆ Field Trip to IKEA in Canton Township, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13. Cost is $15 and includes transportation.

◆ Lunch & Learn: GLP-1s Explained, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, with Dr. Robin Samyn. Cost is $12.

◆ Beginning Spanish, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 15. Cost is $40 for the series.

◆ Continued Spanish, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 15. Cost is $40 for the series.

◆ Watercolors, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to Dec. 8.

◆ Out to Lunch Bunch, Shores Inn, St. Clair Shores, noon to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15.

◆ Halloween Twilight Bingo, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. Cost is $2 for two cards, pastries and refreshments.

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.

◆ Paint What You Love: Independent Painting Study with Liz Frankland, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 9 to 23.

◆ Cloudscapes with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 22 and 29.

◆ Learning Portraiture from the Old Masters with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 5 and 12. This is the second of three two-session workshops.

Ford House

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

◆ Storytime: "Stumpkin," by Lucy Ruth Cummins, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in October.

◆ Bird Walks, 8 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

◆ Trivia Night — '80s Theme, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. Admission is $10 for Friends, $12 for the public.

◆ Autumn Shoreline Guided Tour, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. Cost is $10 for Friends, $20 for the public.

◆ Little Goblins, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Admission is $7 for adult Friends, $15 for child Friends, $10 for public adults and $20 for public children.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

The War Memorial

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

◆ Second Saturdays: Not-So-Spooky Halloween, 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

◆ Silent Book Club at The War Memorial, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13.

◆ Young Athletes Showcase, for children ages 2 to 7 of all abilities, 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Oct. 18.

◆ Fold & Relax Origami, 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23. Cost is $30.

◆ Fourth annual Halloween Spooktacular, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. Tickets are $10, plus fees.

POST Detroit

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

◆ Screen Print Workshop: Tea Towels with Scarlet Crane, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10. Cost is $75.

◆ Drop-In Flower Crown Headbands, 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10. Cost is $15.

◆ Natural Ink Workshop: Forage + Create Plant Based Inks, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. Cost is $60.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Festive Trees, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. Cost is $80.

◆ Puppy Paw Print Tiles, Sunday, Oct. 11. Appointments are available until 1 p.m. Cost is $65.

◆ Ceramics Workshop: Clay Curio Shelves, 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. Cost is $95.

◆ Intermediate Knitting Workshop: Bridge Skills, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. Cost is $50.

◆ Beginner Quilting Workshop: Your First Quilt, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 14 and 21. Cost is $100.

◆ Beginner Sewing Workshop: Crossbody Zipper Bag, noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16. Cost is $85.

◆ Upholstery Workshop: Dining Chair Makeover, in the evening Fridays, Oct. 16 and 23, or afternoons Oct. 18 and 25. Cost is $125.

Garden Center

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center presents "Where Structure Meets Stem," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Laura Deluge, AIFD, will share her creative and artistic arrangements. Her designs focus on exploring a perfect balance between natural movement of late-season blooms and architectural form. Registration is free for members, $10 for nonmembers. Advance registration is required at gpgardencenter.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Roy Bishop speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Historical Society

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society opens the exhibition, "Robert O. Derrick: Architect of Dreams," Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the Grosse Pointe History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. The exhibition features historic photographs, personal clippings, blueprints and curated objects from the society's permanent collection. Gallery hours are 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday or by appointment. Learn more at gphistorical.org.

Optimists

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tatiana Hull, CEO of Arts and Scraps, speaks. Guests are welcome to hear the speaker and learn about the club.

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.

◆ Community Yoga takes place at 7 p.m. Tuesdays during October.

◆ Mental Health Matters takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14. The book "Stop Caretaking the Borderline or Narcissist" by Margalis Fjelstad will be discussed. Panelists are social workers Susie Rohde and Frank Wilberding.

◆ Health for Her — Hair, Skin and Nails takes place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at The Helm, with panelists Dr. Robin Samyn, Dr. Meredith Price and Kristen Giancola with iCRYO.

◆ 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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 12:45 to 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

LIFE & LEISURE



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Spooky Skate is Oct. 11

'Spooky-not-scary' fundraiser benefits C.S. Mott

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Audrey Eckert Foundation is hosting its annual Spooky Skate fundraiser from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at University Liggett School's McCann Ice Arena.

"We're very excited," said Madison Dettlinger, the foundation's marketing director. "Kids and families — whoever wants to skate — can come. Bring your own skates and helmets; there's plenty of room on the ice."

Adults will monitor and assist young skaters with balance, though all ages are welcome to take a spin on the rink.

Those who'd prefer to keep their feet on the ground will have plenty to keep them busy during the event.

"We'll have glow sticks and an area outside of the rink for crafts," Dettlinger said. "There will be pumpkin decorating, pizza and other food, temporary tattoos."



Robert Eckert and Albert Eckert got into the spirit of the event.

Costumes are encouraged; Dettlinger and her family choose a theme each year. Her young nephews will be Mario and Luigi, while the rest of the family will dress as other Mario Cart characters.

"This is a great opportunity to get an early start on spooky season," she said. "Kids are excited to wear their costumes and excited for Halloween. As the weather cools, this is a nice indoor activity to get the kids out of the house and have fun and raise money for a really good cause."



Rachel Hathaway, center, and Emery and Riley Hathaway, were all smiles during a previous event.

Proceeds from the skate — tickets are just $10 at the door — benefit C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, where Dettlinger's niece, Audrey Eckert, was cared for.

Audrey Eckert was born in May 2020 and underwent three open-heart surgeries before she was three weeks old. She died in June 2020, but during her short life was cared for by the team at C.S. Mott. Her parents, Raleigh and Robert, as well as Dettlinger, are passionate about carrying on her legacy by helping families who receive care at the children's hospital.

Their foundation also increases awareness and supports research efforts for congenital heart defects, as well as raises funds for children undergoing longterm treatment.

"In recent years, we've been giving some of the money to help with researching the connection between HLHS — hypoplastic left heart syndrome — and Jacobsen syndrome, which is what my niece, Audrey, had," Dettlinger said. "It's very rare and we've only found one person studying it, so we've connected with him as well to help him with that."

In its brief history, Spooky Skate has raised approximately $15,000 for the hospital and for research.

"Every year we're so grateful to this community for showing up," Dettlinger said. "It's a really joyful family event for everybody."

To learn more about the Audrey Eckert Foundation, visit audreyeckertfoundation.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADISON DETTLINGER

Stephanie Dettlinger and Drew Dettlinger get ready to hand out sweets during a past Spooky Skate.

LWV GP to present ballot proposal info

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe will host an educational presentation at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The program will focus on the two statewide ballot proposals appearing on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The presentation will cover:

◆ Proposal 2026-1: Constitutional Convention. Voters will decide whether to convene a convention of elected delegates in 2027 to draft a general revision of the Michigan Constitution. Any proposed revision would be presented to voters for approval or rejection.

◆ Proposal 2026-2: Campaign Finance and Political Communications. This proposal would restrict campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities, government contractors with more than $250,000 in annual contracts and their affiliates. It also would expand disclosure requirements for political communications, including those identifying candidates or ballot questions without explicitly supporting or opposing them, and certain internet communications.

The program also will provide important voter and election information for the November election.

Those who have questions about the statewide ballot proposals or need information about voting in the upcoming election are invited to learn the facts and get the information needed to make informed decisions at the polls.

For more information, email LWV Grosse Pointe at lwvgrossepointe@gmail.com.

The Family Center visits Lakeshore Optimists

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe recently welcomed The Family Center Executive Director Jen Bingaman and MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration. For more than 24 years, The Family Center has provided programming and resources to empower families and enrich lives.

The two gave the club an update of the programming the Family Center creates. There is a wide range of programs and resources offered to families and individuals of all ages that target current issues and needs within the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

The Family Centers's programs are free and often hosted in partnership with schools, libraries and other community-minded establishments. The homegrown nonprofit has helped thousands of individuals and offered hundreds of programs, serving as a valuable resource to the community. For more information, visit familycenterhelps.org.

The Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend, listen to interesting speakers and learn what the club is about. Visit gpoptimists.com for locations, dates and times each month. Follow the club on Facebook at facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, The Family Center's MaryJo Harris and Jen Bingaman and Lakeshore Optimist Club President David Franks.

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Not every opinion needs an audience



Dear Gabby: Our block has a neighborhood text thread that was originally created for important information. Now it's filled with political opinions, complaints and debates over everything from fireworks to lawn care. Is it rude to leave? — Annoyed in the Shores

Dear Annoyed: Neighborhood groups work best when they bring neighbors together, not drive them apart.

If the conversation no longer adds value, quietly leaving isn't rude. Neither is muting notifications while remaining in the group.

Communities are healthiest when disagreements happen face-to-face instead of through endless text messages. Save the group chat for information that genuinely helps everyone; not every opinion needs an audience.

— Gabby

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

Group gift busts the budget



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR ANNIE: My siblings and I usually go in on gifts for my parents for birthdays and holidays. Since there are five of us, we can pool enough for something really nice, such as new golf clubs or a weekend away, rather than five smaller separate gifts.

My dad's birthday is coming up, and my sister sent around her usual text to coordinate. The problem is my finances are especially tight this year. My car needed a ton of work last month, my landlord just raised the rent, and I'm still paying off student loans.

I don't want my dad to think I care less, and I don't want my siblings to see me as the one who bailed. At the same time, it hurts to think about forking over that much money right now. How do I handle this without it becoming a whole thing? — Tapped Out

DEAR TAPPED OUT: Why not be honest? A simple text such as "Budget's tight this year, I'm going to do my own thing" says everything that needs saying. Then you're free to do something small but meaningful for your dad: a book, a framed photo of you two, a heartfelt card.

If your siblings really want you in on the gift, maybe they can cover part of your share this year and keep your name on the card. I'm sure you'll have an opportunity to make it up to them down the line.

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

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Poster for the 2023 movie "The Great Escaper," staring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. Written by William Ivory and directed by Oliver Parker.



Glenda Jackson plays Irene Jordan.



Sir Michael Caine plays Bernard Jordan.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



MOVIE REVIEW
"The Great Escaper"
2023 - Not Rated
1 hr 36 min
★★★★½

What a beautiful and fitting swansong for two legendary British actors — Glenda Jackson and Michael Caine. If you grew up in the 1960s and 70s, or you're a fan of films from that era, you're no doubt familiar with their work. This heartfelt movie is an excellent showcase for the singular talents of both of these iconic stars.

Glenda Jackson is best known for dramatic films like "Women in Love," Elizabeth R" and "Mary, Queen of Scots." Surprisingly, she took a hiatus from acting and served as a highly respected Member of Parliament from 1992 to 2015. She eventually resumed her career on stage and the silver screen and won a Tony for her role in Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women." "The Great Escaper" was Ms. Jackson's final movie. Sadly, she died shortly after filming.

Sir Michael Caine is an actor who certainly needs no introduction. His long and distinguished career spans 70 years and includes 170 plus films as well as over 100 TV dramas. He's known for a wide range of movies including "Alfie," "Funeral in Berlin" and "The Man Who Would be King." While making this movie, he caught everyone off guard by announcing that it would be his last. Let's see if that turns out to be the case. I have a feeling that actors of his calibre just have to keep working.

"The Great Escaper" is based on actual events that took place in 2014, and revolve around the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of France, which marked the turning point in WWII. The film was directed by Òliver Parker ("The Importance of Being Earnest" "Othello") and was penned by William Ivory ("Made in Dagenham").

We meet the 89-year old war veteran Bernie (Caine) and his wife Irene (Jackson). They're an elderly couple residing in an assisted living facility. Bernie is a spry old gent who gets around with the aid of a walker. His wife is in poor health, but manages to stay in good spirits. You can tell they're a happily married couple and enjoy each others company immensely. They're still in love after all these years.

Bernie applies too late to join an official tour to France to join in on the commemoration of the D-Day landing. So he does the next best thing. With the encouragement of his wife, he buys a ticket to France, then sneaks out of his care facility early in the morning and hops on a boat. En route, he befriends another vet, Arthur Howard-Johnston (John Standing, "V for Vendetta") He's a gregarious chap and they hit it off immediately. Since Bernie has no place to stay for the event, Arthur invites him to share his hotel room.

As the movie progresses, the two trade war stories. Then we're treated to a series of flashbacks. These cover the period when Bernie and Irene first met and started courting. The younger versions of the pair are played by Will Fletcher ("Icefall") and Laura Marcus ("Death by Lightning"). We also witness the horrors of war as the ships land on the beaches of Normandy and we observe Bernie's best mate getting killed. It's a horrible scene that resulted in Bernie blaming himself for the death. After he recounts this incident, Arthur shares a similar experience where he reflects on the loss of his brother. It causes the two of them to realize the absolute pointlessness of war in general.

There's a haunting scene that occurs about halfway through the film. It takes place at sunrise on the storied locale. Several of the vets are quietly walking along the beach. Each one is by himself, engrossed in his own thoughts, reminiscing about that fatal day. It only lasts a short time and could easily have been twice as long. But it was still a powerful image which could apply to looking back on just about any military action, during any time period in history.

When it's discovered that Bernie has gone missing, there's an uproar at the assisted living facility. Irene slyly waits a bit before disclosing what her husband is up to. Then the press finds out and they make a big story about "The Great Escaper" as they dub Bernie. Instead of taking it over the top, as Hollywood would have done, here he becomes a quiet hero. Bernie doesn't enjoy being in the limelight — he simply isn't the type to play up his story. He's a gentleman through and through. Which adds to the charm of this lovely movie.

While I thoroughly enjoyed the film, I felt a bit sad watching it, knowing that Ms. Jackson is no longer with us and that we may never see anything new from Sir Michael. But what a way to bow out for the two of them. Brava and bravo!

Note to parents: The film is unrated but I'd give it a "PG-13" due to a few intense war scenes.

Currently streaming on PBS Masterpiece with a subscription, and to rent on YouTube, Fandango, and Amazon Prime.

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

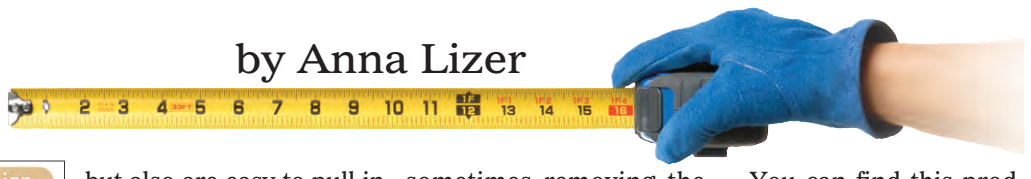
Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Bernie at the commemoration.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



As usual, while scrolling through fall fashion inspiration online I came across something interesting. I don't know if it's actually "cool" or not, but it seemed somewhat chic as the model was in Paris and the product looked functional. If you haven't seen Bandolier phone cases with straps — like a little purse — take a look at the photo we've provided.

I liked the idea, but given I had no idea if the product would actually be something I like, I wanted to try something similar at a lower price point. Amazon has something that looks pretty good for a quarter of the price, so I pulled the trigger.



The Bandolier phone case retails for about $125.

The product is by Lameeku and is a phone case with a wallet on the back. The wallet part zips open and closed and has little pockets with elastic that keep your cards snug, but also are easy to pull in and out. One of my biggest complaints about phone wallets is it's annoying to find and pull out your cards. This is a big improvement from what I've had in the past.



This dupe retails for about $35.

The case has a long purse-like strap, as well as a hand strap you can use to hold your phone. I don't really use the hand strap much, but it looks stylish so that's OK by me.

I actually think I like this dupe better than the inspiration, due to the wallet function. I have used it daily for months — even sometimes removing the shoulder strap and just carrying it around. As we all know, ApplePay and cards are pretty much all you need when you go out, so if I have my phone, I'm pretty much set without needing a purse in most cases.

Because of the function and the fact it doesn't look cheap, I am giving this a full 5 alligators. It gets bonus points because I can go to any sporting event or concert without issue and hands-free. I just throw a lip gloss in my pocket and I'm good to go!

You can find this product here: tinyurl.com/4d857s8c.

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.

5 Out Of 5



Crispy gnocchi and sausage with delicata squash and kale

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

This past weekend I had a beautiful fall salad with golden beets and delicata squash. I noticed right away that they served the squash with the skin still on. And it was delicious and tender. It got me thinking about why I've never cooked with it. I came to the conclusion that it looked too much of a hassle to peel because the outside has grooves. The second I realized no peeling needed to be done, I had to use it in my next recipe.

The skin is thin enough to leave on where it becomes soft and almost creamy in the oven. Leaving the skin on actually adds to the dish. Delicata slices much easier than a butternut squash as well which makes prepping this meal a snap. They can be found with the other winter squash in the grocery store.

For this recipe, I roasted delicata squash with dollops of hot Italian sausage, kale, sun dried tomatoes and sage. Everything cooks together in the same pan and becomes golden brown and crispy on the bottom.

The gnocchi becomes pillowy soft with a caramelized crunchy bottom. How can gnocchi turn soft and tender without boiling it? Prepackaged gnocchi is already cooked. Roasting them softens the middle while the dry heat of the oven crisps the outside from the sausage fat and olive oil. I'm hooked.

Take note that this method works best on prepackaged gnocchi that you store at room temperature. Do not use frozen gnocchi for this as they could become mushy. Use sweet Italian sausage if you prefer but we loved the kick. And the tender squash cut right through the heat.

This recipe could easily be a 40-minute meal. It's flavor intensive and so cozy. And obviously the best part is there is hardly any clean-up. So skip the boiling next time you cook with gnocchi and make this instead.

Cheers, Mombeau

Gnocchi and Sausage with Delicata Squash and Kale

1 lb dried gnocchi

1 lb hot Italian sausage

1 bunch Tuscan along with the kale

1 small delicata squash

½ cup sliced sundried tomatoes

2 tbsp fresh sage, torn

2 tbsp olive oil

Salt and pepper

Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Break apart the gnocchi and spread in an even layer.

If the sausage is in casings, remove the casing and drop 1-inch pieces evenly over the top. Next sprinkle over the sage and sundried tomatoes along with some of its oil. Wash the squash and slice off the stem. Cut in half lengthwise and remove the seeds. Slice into half moons about one-half inch thick. Add them to the pan torn into bite-sized pieces.

Drizzle everything with olive oil and a big pinch of salt and pepper. Gently toss everything together and spread out into an even layer.

Roast for about 25 to 30 minutes or until the gnocchi and sausage are browned and caramelized on the bottom and the kale is crisp around the edges. Spoon into bowls and enjoy.

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Grosse Pointe News



Cabernet franc

One of the world's greatest wine grapes is cabernet sauvignon, a variety native to Bordeaux, where it produces some of the finest wines ever made. The variety can make a wine that lasts 30 or 40 years and still delivers character.

This variety does have a few drawbacks, however. It is relatively astringent and can produce red wines with copious tannins, which can be gritty on the tongue and bitter in the aftertaste.

Even so, modern winemaking techniques have been employed for the last 30 or 40 years and have succeeded in producing cabernet sauvignon wines that are drinkable when they are young, do not require much aging in a cellar, and still may be purchased for reasonable prices.

Unfortunately, there is another drawback with cabernet sauvignon. Many are being produced that do not smell or taste much like cabernet. For people who aren't all that picky, this isn't a huge problem. I've tasted dozens of these wines and don't love them, but they serve a purpose. Many people do like them.

There is a grape variety that has some of the same characteristics as cabernet sauvignon but often has a little more personality and a little less tannin. It seems to work at least as well with red meats as cabernet sauvignon does.

This grape is cabernet franc. Genetically, it is one of the two parents of cabernet sauvignon. The other is sauvignon blanc.

California has an overabundance of cabernet sauvignon planted around the state in hundreds of locations. It seems to do exceedingly well in the Napa Valley, where it is warm, which the variety really likes.

Cabernet franc, by contrast, is a blue-fruited, small-berry version of cabernet sauvignon. I have found it far more interesting than many of the red wine grapes that are planted in the state. However, franc (some people call it by its last name) can be more expensive than cabernet sauvignon.

Cabernet franc also grows beautifully in France's Loire Valley, where it became popular with French kings who built summer castles in that region that today are still worth visiting. Several different Loire districts produce cabernet franc wines.

One of the most successful is Chinon (sheenohn). Wine lovers who really appreciate distinctiveness often look for red wines with the Chinon name as an alternative to the roughness of cabernet sauvignon.

I first discovered Chinon when it was recommended to me 45 years ago by a wine server who suggested it would go well with my grilled king salmon. It did. Most franc wines don't need much barrel aging because of their silky structure.

Decanting a franc an hour before serving often helps develop its aromatics. Several California wineries produce a varietal cabernet franc. The best sell for $50 to $75 per bottle, with some even pricier than that.

Fortunately, most Loire producers have kept their prices reasonable, and good-quality cabernet franc wines can be found for between $15 and $35.

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

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

THIS WEEK: October 8, 2026

1. 204 Grosse Pointe Blvd., GPF
2. 1201 S. Renaud, GPW
3. 1297 Lochmoor, GPW
4. 2121 Stanhope, GPW

= YARD SALE = ESTATE SALE

See Classifieds for more details

Weekly Challenge

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

10/8

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Previous puzzle solution

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

10/1 Solution

Pointe Word Search

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

APPLE
BARN
BRATWURST-
BUSHEL
CANDY
CIDER
CROPS
CORN
DONUTS
FARM
HOT DOG
ORCHARD
PONY
PORCH
PUMPKIN
SCARECROW
WAGON

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

Contract Bridge

GOOD TECHNIQUE EXERCISE

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 4 2
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ 9 8

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

EAST
♠ 8 3
♥ A K Q J 7 5 2
♦ Q 10 9
♣ 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 5
♥ 10
♦ A K
♣ A K Q J 10 6 3

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	Dble	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♥	5 ♣	Dble	

Opening lead — four of hearts.

It's not difficult to make five clubs on this deal if you can see all four hands. All you have to do is to time your plays properly to avoid losing two spade tricks.

But to make the contract without seeing the opposing hands is quite a chore, since it requires visualizing the East-West cards precisely and then taking advantage of that knowledge.

This is by no means an impossible task, however. The bidding speaks for itself, and the missing cards are likely to be exactly where the bidding indicates they are. As play begins, East is virtually certain to have seven hearts for his leap to four, and West's treasures, considering his bidding, probably consist of a spade suit headed by the A-J. If so, the play becomes merely an exercise in good technique.

East wins the heart lead with the jack and continues with a heart, which you ruff with the ten as West, as expected, shows out. Taking a long-distance view of the situation, you cash the A-K of diamonds before leading a club to the eight. Next you ruff a diamond high, lead a club to the nine and ruff dummy's last diamond in order to run West out of diamonds.

Having attended to these preliminaries, you draw West's last trump, reducing his hand to the A-J-9-7 of spades. You are down to the Q-10-5 of spades and a trump, while dummy has the K-4-2 of spades and a heart.

You now lead the queen of spades, and West has had it. If he takes the queen, he must return a spade, allowing you to score the ten and king. If he ducks the queen, you simply play another spade toward the king to bring about the same result.

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by Steve Becker

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Caution! Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions all day today. The Moon is in VIRGO.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, October 8, 2026: You're clever, idealistic and optimistic. You pursue your dreams with charm and logic. This is the final year of a nine-year cycle for you. Take inventory of your life. Let go of the people, places and things from the past that held you back. Do some internal and external housecleaning.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today you might have to put your own emotional considerations second to those of someone else. An element of service is a theme for you. You also might explore ways to improve your health, especially through diet. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is a wonderful, creative day! If you're involved in the arts or a creative project, you can use your artistic talents because this entire day is a Moon Alert, which means your mind is free, floating like a helium balloon released in the sky. Tonight: Socialize!.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Focus on home and family. Cut yourself some slack, because it's hard to crank up ambition today. Take it easy. Enjoy the company of others, but don't agree to anything important. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

This is a great day for a short trip. Or you might want to relax and learn something new. Conversations with daily contacts will be a pleasant way to pass this day. There's a Moon Alert all day, avoid shopping. Tonight: Learn something

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

The entire day is a Moon Alert, which is a poor day for shopping or making important decisions. This Moon Alert is taking place in your Money House, which means financial matters. Caution! Tonight: Check your belongings.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today the Moon Alert is taking place in your sign, which might make you feel more emotional. However, it can also make you feel relaxed. Relax and socialize with others. Tonight: You're in charge.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is the perfect day to be low-key and hide somewhere (with good food and drink). Lower your ambitions when it comes to what you want to accomplish today. Shortages and a lack of focused energy might slow you down. Go gently. Tonight: Peace and quiet.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a lovely day to schmooze with others! With Venus and Mercury in your sign, you'll enjoy talking to people. In turn, people will be attracted to you because you're charming. Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This entire day is a Moon Alert, which is pleasant, creative and great for schmoozing, but poor for important decisions and spending money. For your sign, the Moon Alert is taking place at the top of your chart, which means people notice you. Tonight: Be modest.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might have some feelings of escapism today because you want to do something different. You want a change of scenery. Keep things light. Restrict spending to food and gas because there's a Moon Alert all day. Tonight: Explore and learn.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Be careful because today there's a Moon Alert in effect all day, and it's taking place in one of your Money Houses. Therefore, postpone decisions about inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and insurance issues. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

You have to be accommodating when dealing with others today. In fact, you might have to go more than halfway. Don't agree to anything important, because this entire day is a Moon Alert. Enjoy schmoozing with everyone. Tonight: Be friendly and cooperative.

BORN TODAY

Actor Matt Damon (1970), actress Sigourney Weaver (1949), science-fiction author Frank Herbert (1920).

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg October 8, 2026

ACROSS
1 What a mathematician or detective seeks
6 It can be found on Safari!
9 "Frozen" queen
13 Two-gender pronoun
14 Hindi for "tea"
15 Attaches the binding to a quilt, say
16 Warren Buffett's Nebraska hometown
17 Foamy drinks made with plant-based milk
19 "So there!"
21 Alpaca relative
22 Australian gem
23 No more than
25 Type "typo" rather than "type," e.g.
27 Oscar winner Brie
29 Wilson of the WNBA
30 Certain songbird
32 It's not working!
35 Touch on the shoulder
36 Causes of icy postgame interviews?
39 Like Adam (age redacted), but not Zachary (age 17)
40 Idle of Monty Python
41 Agenda entries
42 Don't squander
43 In a ___ of speaking
45 Soccer coach Guardiola
46 Park, e.g., in Manhattan
48 They may bruise when they clash
52 Indian wedding dye
54 "See you then!"
56 Warning to stay in one's lane
58 Line between two cities in Ticket to Ride
59 Result of beehiving yourself?
60 Mid
61 Red emotion in "Inside Out"
62 Piece of office furniture
63 Flat fish
64 Ales and lagers

DOWN
1 Snapchat story part
2 Change, as keyboard assignments
3 Tennis player Naomi
4 "Absolutely not!"
5 Guinness entry, say
6 Exasperated cry to a relentless arguer
7 Have some kolacky or doughnuts
8 Banknotes
9 Is, in Ibiza
10 "I wanna fight those guys!"
11 They benefit from curses!
12 Really bad, in slang
14 Nail polish layers
18 Dump account, perhaps
20 Response to a groan-worthy dad joke
24 White Monopoly 8-Down
26 Many songs on the 2026 Drake album "Iceman"
28 Lot measure
30 Unrealistic expectation
31 "Could be yes, could be no"
33 Radiates
34 NPR bag
36 Ascend
37 Coin with a 2026 "Liberty Over Tyranny" version
38 "This relationship is SO over!"
44 A little loco
46 Insect in a hill
47 What e-cigs don't produce, technically
49 Dashboard device
50 Playful water mammal
51 Futures experts?
53 Cozy place to solve crosswords
55 Omani, typically
56 Palindromic flop
57 Lucius Best, ___ Frozone

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

10/1 Solution

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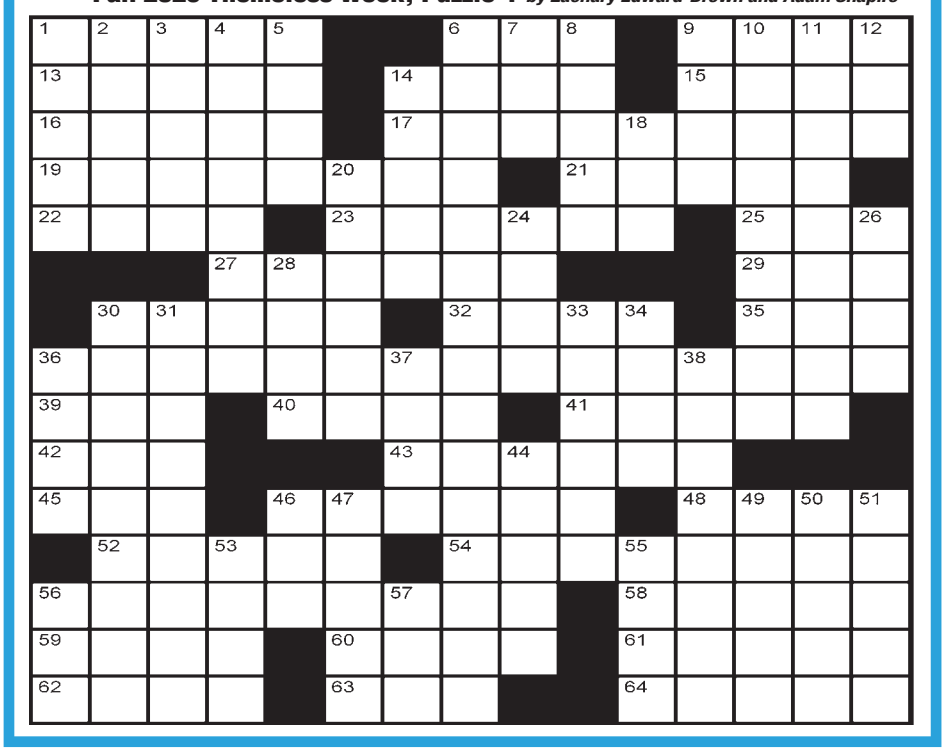
10/8 **Fall 2026 Themeless Week, Puzzle 4** *by Zachary Edward-Brown and Adam Shapiro*



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2D LIGGETT FOOTBALL | 3D SAILING | 4-5D COMICS

Blue Devils pull off stunning comeback against Dakota

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South senior quarterback Sam Rouleau sprints past Dakota defenders on his way to the end zone to score a go-ahead touchdown in the final minute of South's 28-21 win Friday, Oct. 2.

With less than two minutes left in regulation Friday, Oct. 2, the Grosse Pointe South varsity football team was in danger of suffering its second consecutive loss as it trailed Dakota 21-14 with time ticking away. Instead, South's biggest playmakers on offense and its stout defense came up big when it mattered the most, fighting back to beat the Cougars 28-21.

"Even though it didn't work out last week the way that we wanted, the same mentality and attitude of being able to get it done, even if there's just one second left on the clock, carried over into tonight and that's what got us over the hump in the end," South football head coach Chad Hepner said.

Friday's game looked at first like South would be in control. The Blue Devils moved the ball easily on their first drive of the game and finished it with a 40-yard touchdown run from senior quarterback Sam Rouleau to take an early 6-0 lead, following a missed extra point attempt.

South's lead grew early in the second quarter with another touchdown, this one by Charlie Michelotti on a screen pass from Rouleau that the senior back then took 17 yards to the end zone to make it 14-0. However, the Cougars were not content to let South roll into their home field on homecoming night and come away with an easy win.

Dakota answered back with its first score of the game, a touchdown pass from Owen Thomas to Santino Vitale on a flea-flicker play that cut South's lead in half. The Cougars tied things up in the final minutes of the first half, with Thomas running it in for another touchdown to even the score at 14-14 going into the break.

South grabbed back some of the momentum early in the second half with an interception by Ethan Morgan on Dakota's first possession after halftime, but was unable to capitalize on it and turned the ball over on downs. The third quarter saw the teams trading possessions without points for a while, but Dakota took advantage of a mistake and used an interception of its own to set up a 22-yard touchdown run by Andrew Rivera to take a 21-14 lead late in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was a defensive stalemate for much of the time until the thrilling final minutes. The Blue Devils finally found themselves close to the end zone and close to tying the game, but a fumble near the end zone gave the Cougars the ball. South's defense came up big again, though, with Cole Wortman intercepting a Dakota pass to give

See SOUTH, page 2D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Costello leads the pack for South girls XC

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Morgan Costello
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Cross country
Sponsored by Ray Laethem Buick GMC

Cross-country teams can have large rosters filled with athletes each doing their jobs to help the team achieve its goals. Morgan Costello knows her job this fall as a senior captain for the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls cross-country team is one of the most crucial.

Costello's leadership does not come just from the fact she is often near the front of the pack in races, but from the respect she has earned in South's program over four years. She joined the cross-country team as a freshman and has been dedicated to improving consistently during her high school career. Costello's work ethic and abilities as a runner have made her one of the Blue Devils' top athletes and someone the entire team trusts as a leader. And she is more than willing to accept the responsibility.

"I've always loved connecting with everyone on the team," Costello said. "It was so much fun to become friends with all sorts of people. This year, as a captain, it's been an amazing experience to meet all of the freshmen and get to know them and form deeper connections with all of the girls on the team. I'm more involved with leadership and seeing them every day. It's been so much fun to build those relationships and get to know all of the girls better."

South knows Costello's leadership in races and in practice has played a huge role in the team's success so far this fall. The Blue Devils have gone a perfect 9-0 in league competition and earned the MAC White Division title. The team also has finished in the top two in four different invitational races.

In those invitationals, Costello consistently finished within the top 20 runners in the field. She even made it into the top 10 at the Algonac Classic Run and the MAC White Jamboree in September.

It is not just Costello's own achievements that have helped the team find strong results this fall. Like any good veteran captain, she knows it is a team effort and has seen everyone on the roster doing their part to help South have a great season.

"The girls have been working especially hard all season," Costello said. "Everyone is putting in 110 percent and it's really special to see. I think that it's been building up the team a lot. It's exciting and the community and attitude around the team is very vibrant."

It is all leading up to one thing the Blue Devils, and Costello especially, want to see: a return to the Division 1 state finals as a team qualifier. South came close last year, but Costello and her teammates believe this could be the year the Blue Devils finally send a strong group to the state meet rather than just a

See ATHLETE, page 6D



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls cross-country senior captain Morgan Costello.

Magnificent Morgan

- Top 20 finishes at 6 different invitationals this XC season
- Helped South varsity girls XC to an undefeated MAC White record
- Senior captain of South varsity girls XC



ULS football shifts momentum with back-to-back wins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After starting the season with a win in late August, the University Liggett School varsity football team struggled for a few weeks. The Knights suffered three straight losses, two of which were shutouts, but have turned things around the past couple of weeks with back-to-back wins, including a 26-22 victory over Lincoln-King Academy on the road Friday, Oct. 2.

"We've got a young football team with only just over 20 kids and not a lot of seniors, so the biggest thing for them is just learning how to really play high school football," Liggett football head coach Vincent Phillips Jr. said. "Executing and understanding that you have to play at a high level every single play — that's the biggest thing that we have to get across to them. A lot of them didn't have much experience playing in games because they're so young."

The win over Lincoln-King last week followed the Knights' Week 5 victory against Detroit Loyola. Both wins have helped Liggett climb back to .500, sitting with a record of 3-3 with just a few weeks remaining in the regular season.

Sophomore quarterback Jason Rascoe threw for 110 yards and one touchdown, caught by Devon Abbott, in last Friday's win, while also rushing for 80 yards and another touchdown. Junior running back Shelby Jones also had a big day for the Knights, carrying the ball 20 times for 120 yards and finding the end zone twice.

"He's a workhorse and a kid who can get so many touches and run downhill," Phillips said about Jones. "The kid executes at a high level. … He's a worker and the guy that you can lean on."

The Knights believe the momentum from their most recent wins could help put them back in a position to make the playoffs. However, some tough tests for Liggett lie ahead, like the one it has in Week 7 at home against Everest Collegiate (5-1). With a largely young and less experienced team, Liggett is focused on consistent progress and has seen the results start to show on the field.

"Continue to progress with purpose," Phillips said. "We're a small group, so we don't have much contact in practice. … Our attention to detail and focus and dedication have to be at an all-time high if we want to see this thing through."

Kickoff between Liggett and Everest is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at Liggett.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett running back Shelby Jones, pictured in a game against Bradford Academy, ran for 120 yards and two touchdowns in the Knights' 26-22 win over Lincoln-King Academy Friday, Oct. 2.

SOUTH:

Continued from page 1D

South another shot at a comeback.

The Blue Devils got the big play they needed shortly after. Rouleau found Trey Grabowski downfield for a 46-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 21 with 1:12 left on the clock. South's defense then got the stop it needed to force Dakota to punt and give the Blue Devils a chance to win the game without needing overtime.

Once South got the ball with just over 30 seconds remaining in regulation, it only took one play for the comeback to be completed. Rouleau took off on a 55-yard run to the end zone to give South the lead, 28-21. The Blue Devil defense stopped Dakota's final drive as time expired, and South escaped with the win.

"(Rouleau) is a special player and he's not afraid of big moments," Hepner said. "He made some mistakes, but he didn't shy away from them. He owned it and his message to his teammates is that they can always make a play. That positive mentality and short memory that he has as a quarterback is fantastic."

Rouleau finished the game with 262 yards passing, going 24-of-36, with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also was South's leading rusher with 12 carries for 150 yards. Grabowski caught seven passes for 117 yards and a touchdown.

The win improved South's record to 5-1 and helped the team bounce back from its close loss to Romeo the week before. After two weeks on the road, the Blue Devils return home in Week 7 for homecoming.

South will host Utica Eisenhower on homecoming night, with the Eagles entering the matchup at 1-5 after a loss to Stevenson last week. Kickoff at South is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South running back Charlie Michelotti prepares to give a stiff arm to a Dakota defender.



PHOTO BY GRABS BY GATT

South volleyball gets back in win column

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls volleyball team took the court twice last week, and saw a nearly three-week long losing skid come to an end in one of those matches. The week began with a loss to Eisenhower last Tuesday, Sept. 29, in which South fell in three sets. However, the Blue Devils bounced back with a victory in five sets over L'Anse Creuse North last Thursday, Oct. 1. South lost the first set 25-22, but came back to win the second 25-20. The Blue Devils dropped the third set 25-22, but rallied for a 25-18 win in the fourth and took the decisive fifth set 17-15.
South hosted Romeo after press time Wednesday, Oct. 7. The Blue Devils are in action again on the road Tuesday, Oct. 13, traveling to face Romeo.
Pictured: The South varsity volleyball team celebrates after scoring a point in a match against Eisenhower Tuesday, Sept. 29.



Swimmers show up strong at Wayne County meet

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity girls swim and dive teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South made their way to one of the biggest competitions of the season yet Saturday, Oct. 3, swimming in the Wayne County championships. The Blue Devils and Norsemen proved yet again to be some of the best the region has to offer, with both squads finishing the meet among the top five in a field of 17 teams.

South finished in second place, coming in just behind Northville. South's swimmers won five individual county championships along with three victories in the relays. One of those relays was the 200-yard medley relay, which was won by Ella Woodburn, Anna Cooper, Olivia Bellanca and Mia MacGillis with a time of 1:50.01, setting a record at the Trenton High School pool.

Quinn Ryan, Corinne Stencel, Nicole McEnroe and Caroline Bryan set another pool record with their first-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay, coming in at 1:37.53. The same four Blue Devils also took the top spot in the 400 freestyle relay at 3:31.22.

Bryan (2:05.02) took first place and set another pool record in the 200 IM, with her teammate McEnroe (2:12.34) finishing just behind in second place. Bryan had another top spot on the podium in the 100 butterfly, finishing with a time of 55.27, exactly one second ahead of her teammate Stencel in second place.

Stencel had a first-place finish in the 100 backstroke with a time of 58.61. McEnroe (59.62) finished second and Woodburn (1:01.80) made it all Blue Devils in the top three. Ryan added another victory for South in the 100 freestyle with a time of 52.08, while Cooper (1:06.43) took the top spot in the 100 breaststroke.

While the Norsemen did not finish the day with any individual county champions, the team's overall performance was strong enough to put North in fifth place by the end of the meet. One of the Norsemen's best finishes of the day came in the 100 freestyle, with Ada Cavanagh finishing fourth with a time of 55.06. Hadley Beal took eighth place for North in the event at 56.33.

Emma Stepulla had another one of North's best finishes, coming in sixth place in the 200 IM with a time of 2:17.55. Stepulla, Cavanagh, Beal and Ava VanBecelaere brought North a fourth-place finish in the 200 medley relay, finishing at 1:55.36.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls swim and dive team finished second at the Wayne County championships Saturday, Oct. 3.

South sailing reclaims state title, advances to Great Lakes Championship

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Representing a place where sailing is like second nature to some, a four-year championship drought for the Grosse Pointe South varsity sailing team can feel like far too long. The long wait ended Sept. 27 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club when South clinched first place at the 2026 Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA) the title by scoring 33 points across two divisions in the two days of competition. South took the crown in the field of 10 teams sailing in 420E boats.

"We were able to get off a total of 24 races, which was great for a two-day event," South sailing coach Christina Noland said. "The team performed so well. One thing that we have on our team that I think really helped is our depth of talent. It's so helpful to have so many kids who can sail really well."

The Blue Devils won State Championships & NE Great Lakes Qualifier.

One thing South believes gives it a big advantage is its wide range of talent. The team includes four seniors who have helped mentor the group of younger sailors to bring the entire team together to perform at a championship level. In the end, it culminated with everyone getting to share in the excitement of bringing home the title.

"It's sometimes kind of hard to think of sailing as a huge team sport," senior captain Ana Kozak said. "When you're sailing across two divisions, it's all about working as a team and doing what's best for the team, and that was a huge part of the buildup and being able to win states. ... It was awesome to be able to see everybody soak in the accomplishment that we had been working toward for so long."

Winning the state championship also means South has qualified for the 2026 MISSA Great Lakes Championships. It is another chance for the Blue Devils to make their mark on a bigger stage when the competition begins Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Chicago Yacht Club, but South knows it will have to work to be at its best when the time comes.

"We have our work cut out for us," Noland said. "... This was basically like the first step in our march to seeing how far we can go this fall. The work isn't done and the next level will be even more competitive. The Chicago schools are very competitive and there are some schools from Minnesota that really get in there toward the top. The scores will be tight."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grosse Pointe South sailing team celebrates its state championship victory at the MISSA State Championships & NE Great Lakes Qualifier Sept. 27. From left: Ryan Ridgeway, Cooper Riley, Ana Kozak, coach Christina Noland, Will O'Neil, Jack Horst and Bobby Cooper.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – 2026 SEWER REHABILITATION BY FULL LENGTH C.I.P.P. LINING & 2026 SEWER REHABILITATION BY OPEN CUT REPAIRS– AEW PROJECT NUMBERS 0160-0508 & 0160-0516. Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Lining project consists of over 2,700 feet of full-length lining of sewers ranging from 12 to 18 inches in diameter. The Open Cut project consists of 8 open cut sewer repairs at 7 different locations throughout the city. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Tuesday, October 6, 2026. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 10/8/2026

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, 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 Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) for the purpose of considering a special land use (fitness studio, Peach Lab) at 20485 Mack Avenue. The subject site is zoned the C, Commercial Business District.

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

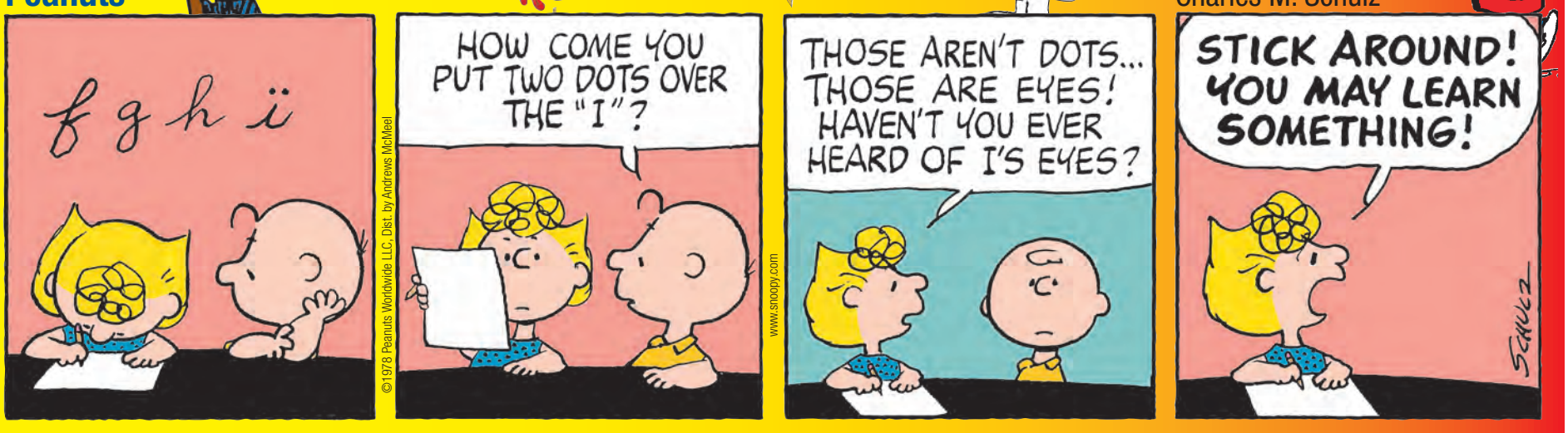
G.P.N.: 10/08/26

Grosse Pointe News

THURSDAY COMICS

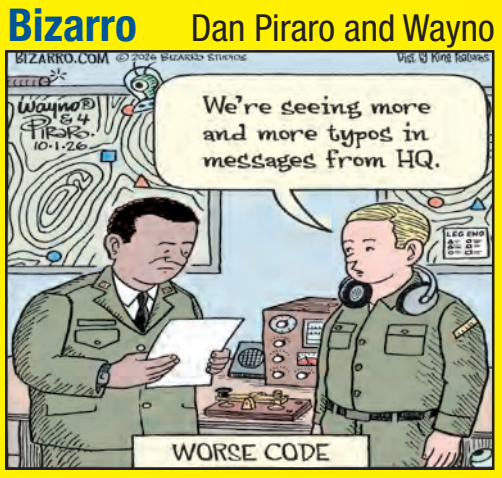
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



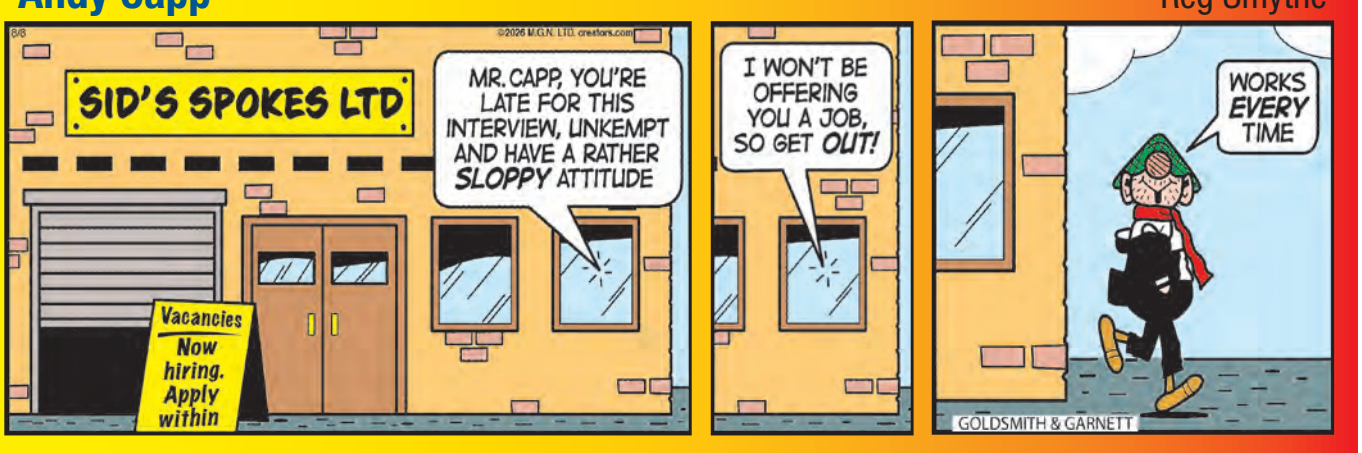
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



The Flying McCoys

Gary & Glenn McCoy



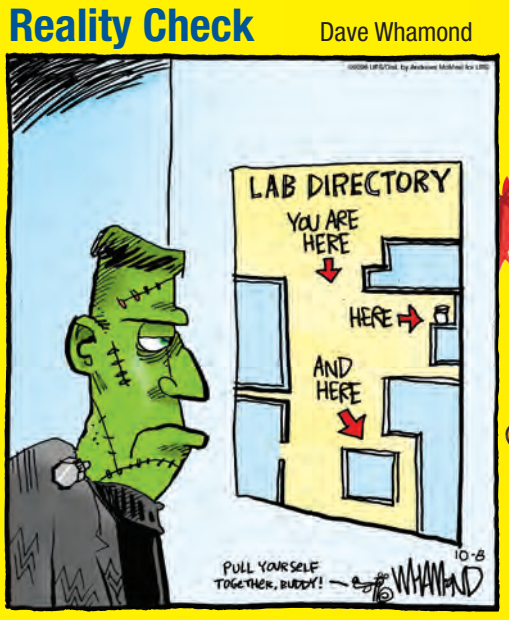
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Mother Goose & Grim

Mike Peters



The Lockhorns

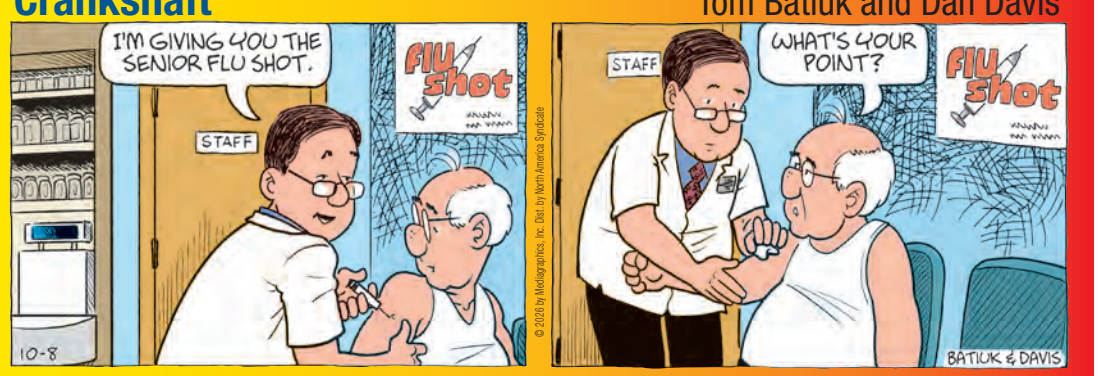
Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"I REALLY DIDN'T MIND THE MOVIE BEING THREE HOURS... IT WAS THAT HALF OF IT WAS CREDITS."

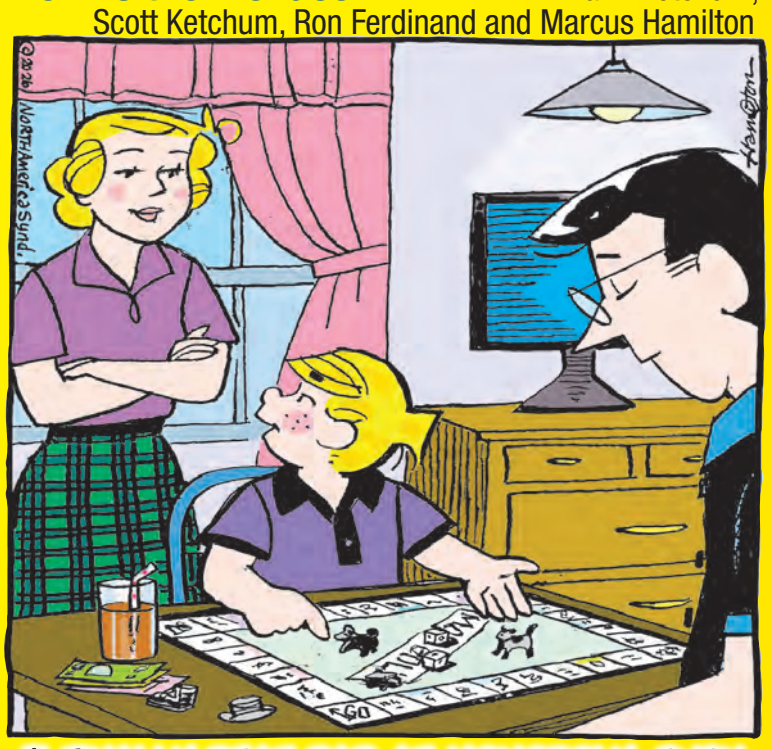
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



"I FINALLY BEAT DAD AT MONOPOLY, EVEN THOUGH HE PRETENDED TO FALL ASLEEP."

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)



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Close To Home

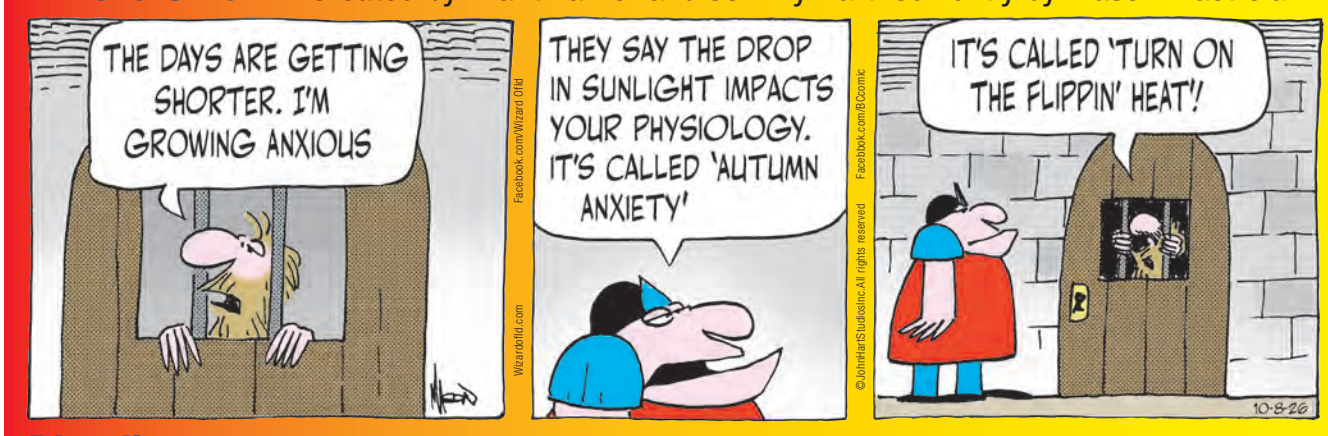
John McPherson



"Wonderful. Our mortgage was purchased last week by a guy named Benny the Squid, in Bayonne, New Jersey."

Wizard of Id

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



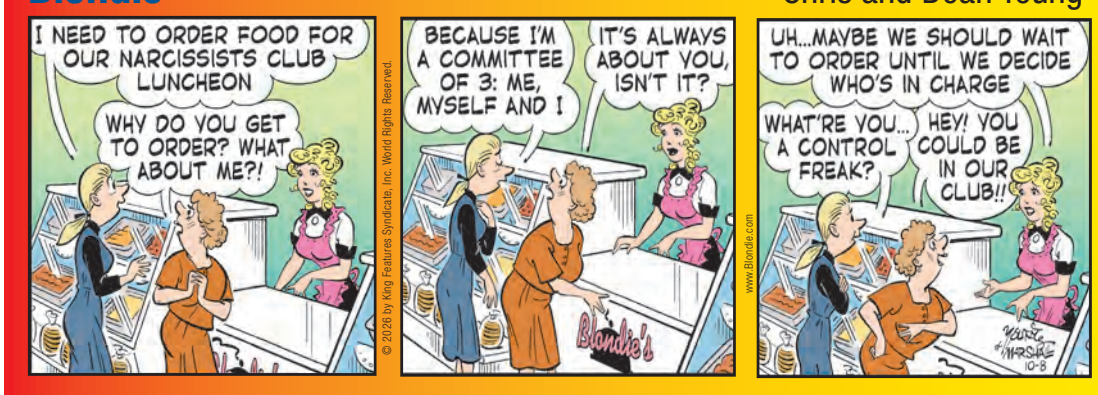
Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



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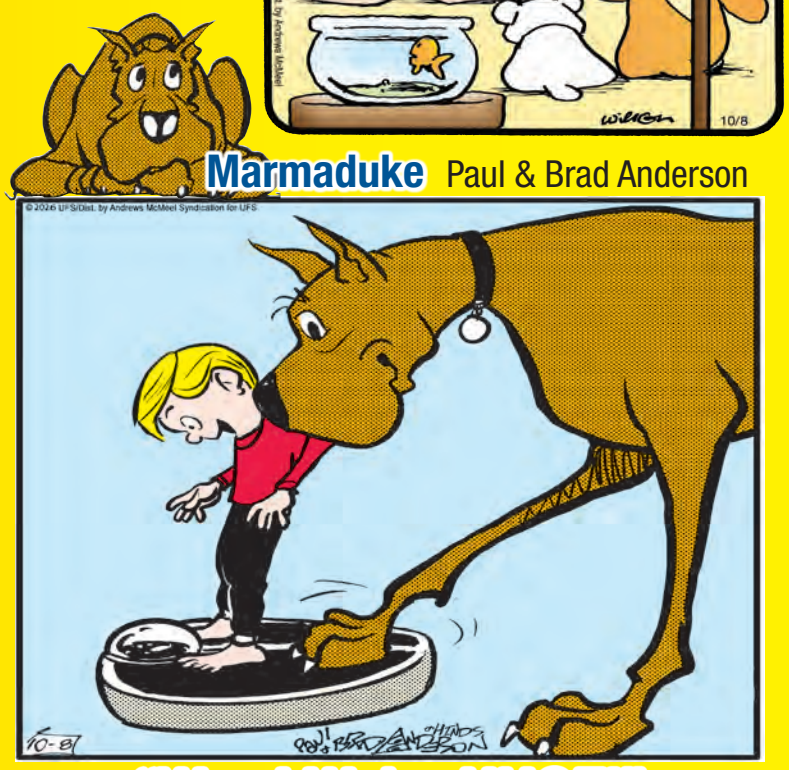
Marmaduke

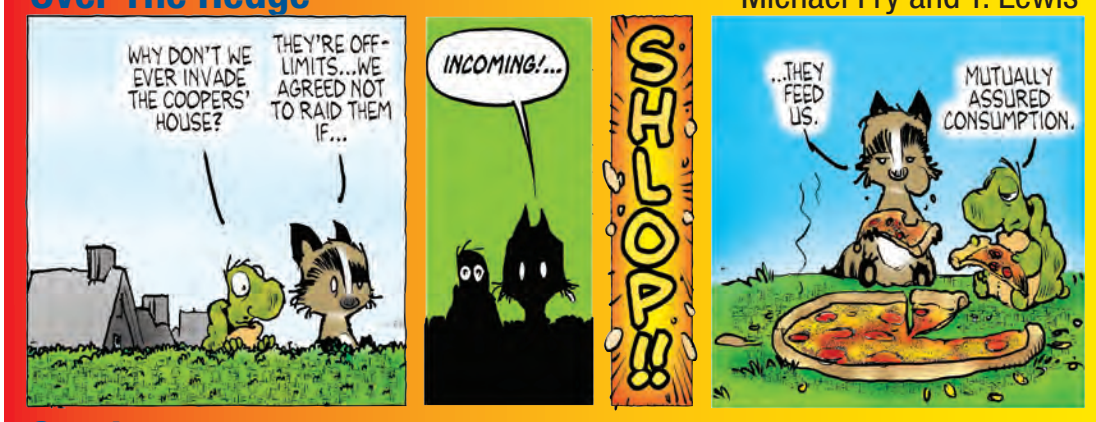
Paul & Brad Anderson



"Wow! We're HUGE!"

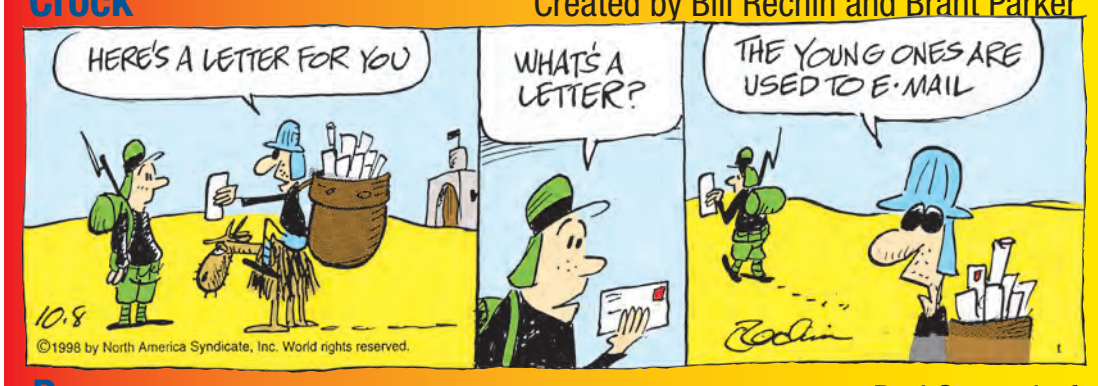
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



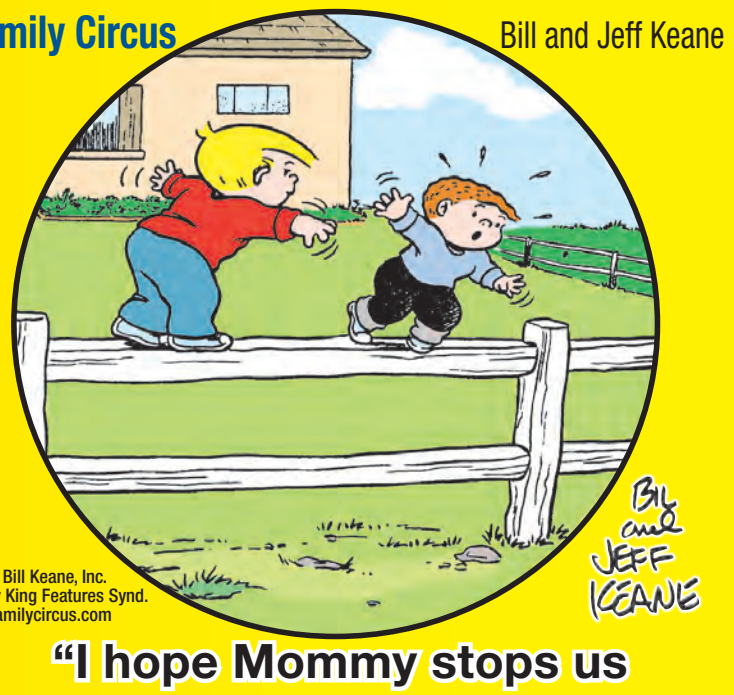
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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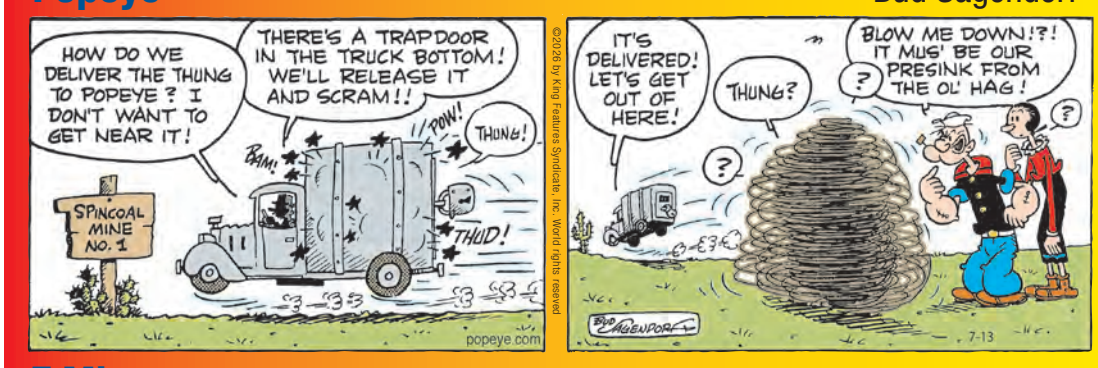
"I hope Mommy stops us before we get hurt."

Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



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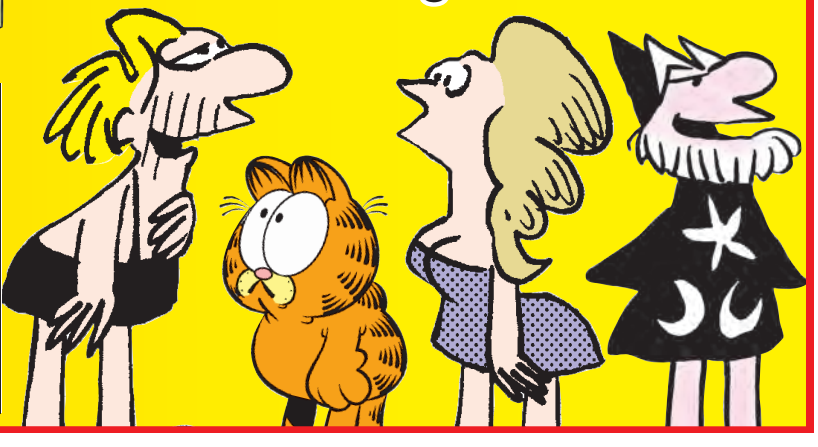
F Minus

Tony Carrillo





Marysville's rushing attack spoils North football homecoming

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Homecoming night in high school football is always a celebration. However, the pageantry of homecoming for the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team Friday night, Oct. 2, was overshadowed by Marysville's relentless rushing attack, which forced North to give up nearly 400 yards on the ground in a 28-25 loss to the Vikings.

"Our guys did what they could, but Marysville found a hole in our defense and exploited it," North football head coach Joe Drouin said. "It could have been a personnel thing or a scheme thing, but when you give up almost 400 yards of rushing, it's not a fun night."

North started the night ahead on the scoreboard, with senior quarterback Edward Macaulay throwing a touchdown pass to senior receiver Peter Rheaume to put North up 7-0, the only points of the first quarter. The QB-receiver duo had another touchdown in the second quarter, but Marysville's rushing attack was starting to roll, finding the end zone three times in the quarter to put the Vikings in front 21-13 at halftime.

Macaulay and Rheaume's third touchdown came in the third quarter to bring North closer, with the score at 21-19. Later in the third quarter, the Norsemen got a big break when Marysville was close to taking back the lead. The Vikings fumbled on the North goal line and North's Shawn Davis recovered the ball and ran it 100 yards the other way for a touchdown that put the Norsemen ahead 25-21.

The Vikings' rushing attack continued to be too much for North to handle in the fourth quarter; however, another rushing score for Marysville's Ty Busen ended up being the decisive score in the final frame that gave Marysville a 28-25 lead. The Vikings' defense stopped North's comeback bid after that and sealed the win.

By the end of the game, Marysville had amassed 387 rushing yards to beat North, while finishing with no passing yards.

Macaulay finished the game for North with 166 yards and three touchdowns while going 13-of-25 passing. Rheaume caught all three touchdowns, tallying 86 yards on five catches. North's own ground game was fairly quiet in the loss, with Brayden Kozlowski leading the team with just 52 yards on 12 carries.

The loss drops North's record to 4-2 this season. A second loss in MAC Gold Division play may have hurt the team's chances of competing for a league title, but there still is time for the Norsemen to achieve other goals like reaching the playoffs. The team believes it has the right mindset to do great things as the season goes on.

"We have a great vibe with this team," Drouin said. "They have a great attitude and they really support each other and play as a team. I can't ask any more from them. We preach playing hard and being hard to play against. Every time they go into a game, they want to play hard and make it tough for opponents and they continue to do that."

North will host Sterling Heights in Week 7 for the final matchup of MAC Gold play. Sterling Heights enters the matchup with a 0-6 record this fall following a 64-6 loss to Lamphere last week. North and Sterling Heights will kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.



GP basketball icons honored

Two longtime varsity basketball coaches from the Pointes received honors from the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan at the annual BCAM Hall of Fame Banquet Sunday, Oct. 4. Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball coach Gary Bennett, right, received the John Wooden Legacy Award. The award is given each year by the National High School Basketball Coaches Association to an active, longtime coach in each state who also serves as an outstanding educator and embodies the characteristics and legacy of coach John Wooden — excellence, longevity, character, leadership and service.
Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball coach Kevin Richards, left, was honored with the Thomas Hursey Distinguished Service Award, recognizing a BCAM member who goes above and beyond the organization's expectations.

COURTESY PHOTO

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

few individual qualifiers.

"It's been a while since our team of seven has made it (to states)," she said. "It's usually just some individuals. At the end of last year, we were just a couple of spots away. This year, I can see us being even closer, so it's super exciting."

Strong leadership could be one big thing that helps the Blue Devils finally reach that goal. Costello has taken on her role of captain with pride and is excited to lead alongside a great group of coaches who have helped her become the athlete she is.

Costello is especially grateful for the guidance of Steve Zaranek, who has been her head coach in both cross-country and track and field throughout her entire high school career. Even before she got to high school, Costello learned what a great mentor and leader Zaranek is from her three older sisters, who all ran for him at South as well. Now, Costello has had the opportunity to learn from Zaranek over four years and knows everything she has learned from her coach will stick with her long after she leaves South.

"He is truly the best coach I've ever had," she said. "Starting freshman year, I had heard from my sisters how incredible he is. He treats everyone on the team with the same respect. ... Every day is about hard work and he's always pushing everyone to their potential and that if you're not doing something the right way, then it needs to be redone. ... Having him instills in all of us that everyone has to work equally as hard to gain the respect of their teammates."

The respect between coach and athlete goes both ways, too. Zaranek has watched Costello improve in everything she has done across both sports the past few years and knows how dedicated she can be when it comes to pushing herself to reach her goals, like her goal this season of running the 5K in less than 20 minutes. Zaranek has strong faith in Costello's ability to lead the South girls cross-country team to big things this fall and knows she has earned the respect of teammates and everyone in the program.

"For four years, Morgan has been one who understands the value of total effort and commitment each and every day," Zaranek said. "Morgan never lets up during a race and her performances keep improving. She is on a personal mission and at the same time, provides the perfect example to her teammates. She's positive, hard working, goal driven and the ultimate teammate."



COURTESY PHOTO

Senior Morgan Costello has been a member of the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls cross-country and track and field teams since she was a freshman.

Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, scan the QR code or visit our website.

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week