

## Lutheran Westland boys look to fill leadership gap

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

### PLYMOUTH

## CSX announces fix for downtown rail crossing

Laura Colvin [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The good news: CSX Railroad has finally announced plans to repair the crossing on N. Main Street in downtown Plymouth. Work is scheduled to begin 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29.

The bad news: Both directions of Main Street will be closed during the repairs, which could take up to two weeks to complete.

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said he's hopeful the work will be completed earlier, but remains cautious because of the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

The city has received numerous complaints from

motorists about the condition of the tracks.

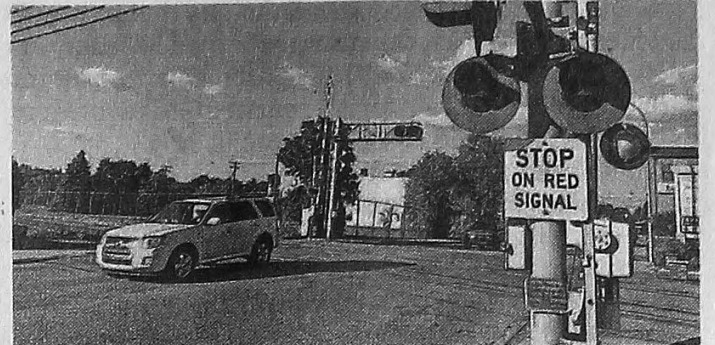
"If you're traversing southbound on Main Street you better be in the number one lane doing about 10 miles an hour," Sincock said. "If you're in the number two lane, the passing lane, you better be crawling over the tracks. The condition is that bad."

CSX recently repaired several other crossings in the city, including those at Ann Arbor Trail, Mill Street South, Starkweather and Holbrook.

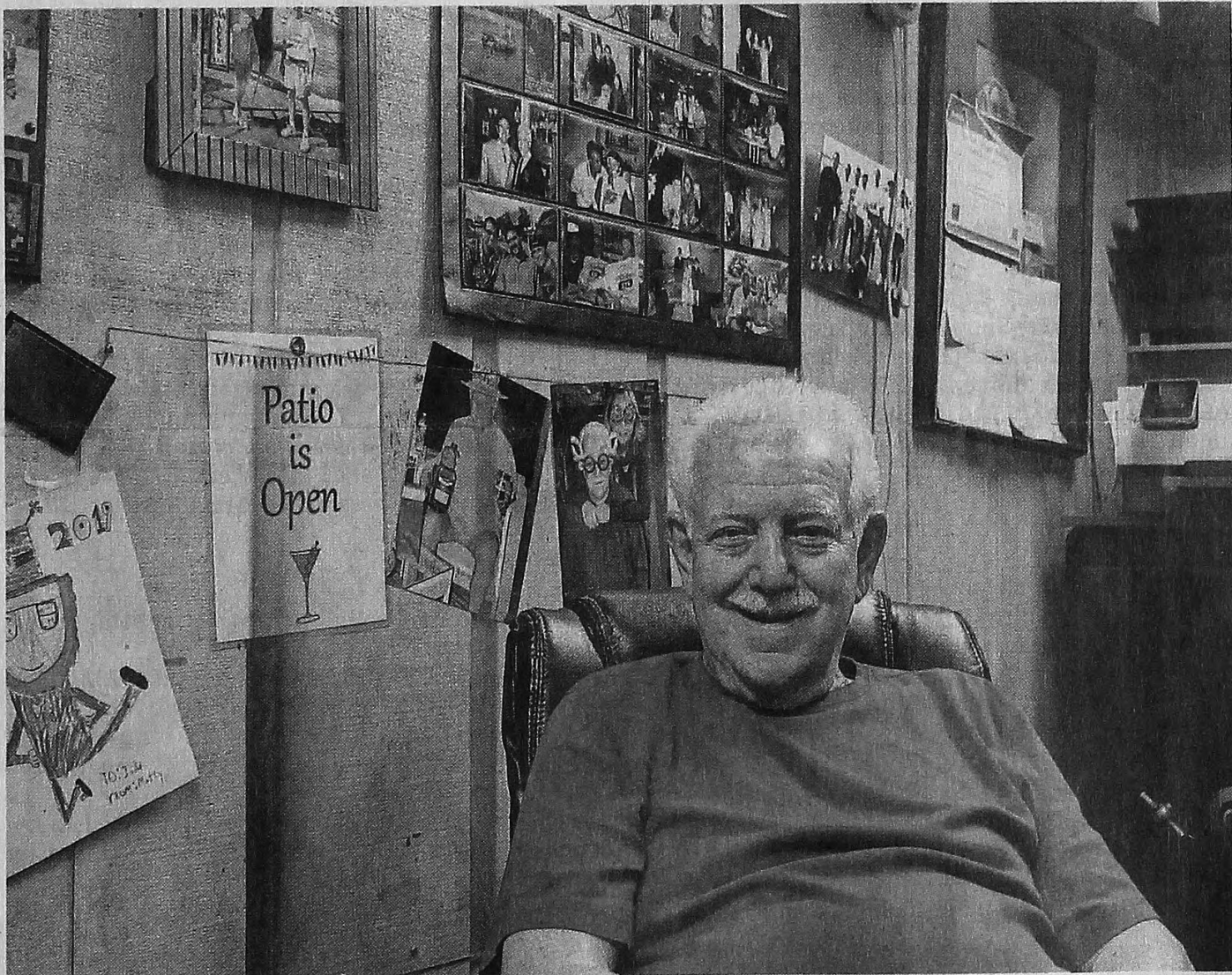
"We're happy they are coming back and doing the main street crossing," Sincock said.

The posted detour will take motorists from Theodore to Farmer, then Farmer to Amelia back to Main.

Contact reporter [Laura Colvin](mailto:Laura.Colvin@hometownlife.com) at [lcolvin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lcolvin@hometownlife.com) or 248-221-8143.



"If you're in ... the passing lane, you better be crawling over the tracks," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said of the railroad crossing on N. Main. LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ron Abraham in his office at Stables Bar and Grill in Livonia. Abraham recently celebrated his 80th birthday, complete with a surprise event at the bar on Middlebelt. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Longtime Livonia bar owner honored with birthday bash

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Despite recently celebrating his 80th birthday, Ron Abraham still loves coming into work.

The owner of Stables Bar and Grill in Livonia since 1988, he cleaned up the bar's reputation and continues to stop by the establishment regularly.

But for his birthday, the tables were turned: instead of him celebrating others, he was the one being honored.

The staff of the bar at 14950 Middlebelt organized a surprise birthday celebration for him, complete with cake and a singer belting out songs by Frank Sinatra.

"It was a surprise. I didn't expect it," admitted Abraham, a Dearborn resident. "Everybody was here. My family's here, my friends are here."

Abraham said he got his start in the industry while attending Eastern Michigan University and decided he liked it enough to return as an owner.

"I started working in the bar when I was going to college. That's how I got into it," he said. "I liked it and it was good money."

See BIRTHDAY, Page 2A



Michael Carluccio performs songs by Frank Sinatra during Abraham's 80th birthday celebration.

## Smart technology hotspots part of Farmington, Hills internet project

Shelby Tankersley [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In a few years' time, Farmington and Farmington Hills will start looking more like cities of the future.

The newest perk from an ongoing partnership between the two cities to create a fiber optic internet network is new infrastructure for smart technology. Access points around both cities will allow officials to install smart signage, smart lighting, kiosks and internet hotspots at key locations.

"It's going to provide opportunities to make the city smarter and take advantage of technology in ways we haven't been able to before," said Kelly Monico, Farmington Hills director of central service.

Farmington Hills recently approved a lease agreement with SiFi Networks, the company that will build and operate the fiber optic network, to house infrastructure huts on city property. Instead of paying a lease fee, SiFi offered the 188 access points for free.

Farmington Hills offered 50 internet access points to Farmington, which the smaller community recently accepted.

See HOTSPOTS, Page 2A

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# Roundup: Recent business openings and closings in Detroit's northwestern suburbs

David Veselenak [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Summer heat means of changes in the business landscape.

Plenty of local shops opened and closed their doors recently. Here's a non-comprehensive list of businesses in the Hometown Life area that saw changes.

Are we missing one? We certainly try to catch as many openings and closings as possible, but it can be tough. If there's a shop worth listing in a future update, feel free to send us an email and we'll consider it for a future roundup.

## Livonia

A longtime shop closed its doors after decades of business this summer.

Roger and Rod's Barber Shop shuttered its doors after 58 years in business in July. The shop, located at 36232 Five Mile, was known for its casual atmosphere for a haircut, as well as the wall of memorabilia. It's had plenty of visitors over the years, including one special one: Muhammad Ali swung by the shop several decades ago when he was in the area.

Another longtime business closed its doors as well last month: Old Mexico restaurant served its last meal at its former home at 28407 Five Mile. The restaurant served Mexican dishes for 45 years before its owners decided to retire and close its doors in July.

Open in Livonia this summer is Urban Air, a place for grabbing big adventures for kids young and old. The entertainment zone provides plenty of fun, including climbing walls, trampolines, bumper cars and plenty more. Located in a new building at 30090 Plymouth Road, the center provides plenty of space for single families stopping by, as well as birthday parties and corporate events.

If staying still and playing video games is more your thing, there's also a new place for that in town as well. Arcade 707 aims to entertain and scare its guests a little bit. Open in a strip mall on Ann Arbor Trail between Newburgh and Ann Arbor Road, the arcade has plenty of retro games from the '80s and '90s to play, all in an environment that was make Freddy Krueger happy.

Before heading out to get scared, be sure to go on a full stomach. That can be done by visiting the new Tubby's sub shop that recently opened at 37621 Five Mile in the New Five Village Shopping Center. A metro Detroit classic, the shop specializes in both hot and cold subs as well as sides.

If you're looking for a way to get around town to all these shops, be sure to check out the new home of Dick Scott Freedom PowerSports. The motorcycle shop recently moved from its former home on Plymouth Road to the Mid 5 Center on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Middlebelt.

## Novi

There's a new concept bringing sushi into the future open in Novi.

Kura Sushi recently opened at 26425 Novi Road in the former T-Mobile storefront. The restaurant utilizes technology to serve up sushi and other dishes via a revolving conveyor belt. In addition to the constantly-moving belt, a robot serves drinks to customers at their booth.

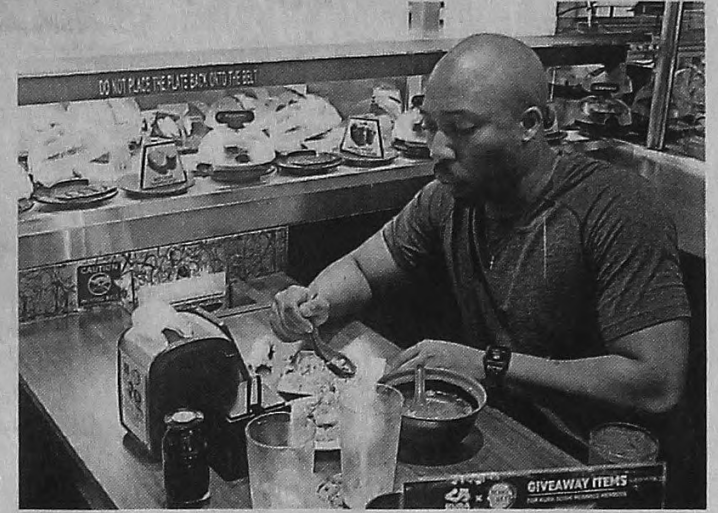
## Garden City

A new place for kids to have fun has arrived in downtown Garden City this summer.

Play Mania opened in the former Napa Auto Parts space earlier this summer on Middlebelt. The center



The dining room of Sweetgreen, located on Old Woodward in downtown Birmingham.



Food influencer Chester Walker eats during a media event July 19 at Kura Sushi in Novi.



Dick Scott Freedom PowerSports relocated to the shopping center at Five Mile and Middlebelt from its previous home on Plymouth Road in Livonia. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

offers several entertainment options, including video games, bumper cars and inflatable play structures. The center expects to bring in more permanent play structures in the coming months.

## Farmington Hills

A local pet supplies company has closed one of its locations on the north end of Farmington Hills.

Livonia-based Pet Supplies Plus has closed its location at 3113 Orchard Lake. Located south of 14 Mile, the store closed earlier this summer. Other locations in the area remain open, including those in Livonia, Novi, Canton Township, Redford Township, Milford, South Lyon and Bloomfield Township.

## Birmingham

After months of closures, cupcakes and cider are back in downtown Birmingham.

Bakehouse 46 has reopened, albeit in a new space. Now, the shop is located at 250 W. Maple. A creation of Blake's, Bakehouse 46 specializes in baked good, doughnuts and drinks at each of its locations. It also has storefronts in Plymouth, Rochester and Ann Arbor.

After indulging in some baked goods, head down the street and grab a salad. Michigan's first Sweetgreen opened in early August, serving up healthy food for lunch and dinner. Other locations are expected to

open in Troy and Ann Arbor at a future date.

## South Lyon/Lyon Township

A pair of longtime businesses have recently closed their doors in South Lyon.

The Lyon's Den bookstore recently closed its doors in downtown South Lyon. The store, located at 116 E. Lake St., closed down this summer after selling books for several decades.

Also closed is Wrapped and Sent, a shipping service shop located at 21204 Pontiac Trail. Known for connecting customers with shipping through several delivery services, as well as mailbox rentals and other logistics services. The shop closed earlier this summer after being open 11 years in the community.

## Farmington

A longtime drive-in has returned after being closed for nearly a year.

A&W reopened at its longtime home at 30732 Grand River in early August after being closed for the season. Now operated by a new owner, the drive-up serves all the classic A&W foods such as burgers, fries and the classic root beer float.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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## Birthday

Continued from Page 1A

He acquired some bars in the Dearborn/Dearborn Heights area before purchasing Stables, whose name harkens to the former racetrack nearby on Middlebelt.

There, he began working on making the bar an attractive place to visit, even expanding it to include the patio, which was added in 2017.

He is also a part owner of the Crow's Nest Bar and Grill in Canton Township.

Paulette Townsend, an employee who's worked for Abraham for nearly 50 years, said the staff wanted to do something special for his birthday. Given his

love of Sinatra, they thought a performer and celebration were the perfect fit.

She said they wanted to do something for him after all he's done for the staff over the years.

"If somebody had a problem and he could help, he would help," she said. "He's such a good man."

Abraham doesn't intend to stop coming into the bar any time soon. He visits less often now than he did years ago, which he attributes to the solid staff he's hired over the years.

"I tell everybody, as long as my health holds up, I'll come to work every day," he said. "I don't work hard anymore, I have good help, and I come and it keeps me busy."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

## Hotspots

Continued from Page 1A

"It was very generous of them to remember us and get us involved in that and get us these 50 access points," Farmington City Manager David Murphy said.

Both communities can request more access points as needed, but extras will carry a \$40 monthly fee. Communities will have to pay for any amenity built on an access point.

Farmington is looking to install access points at city hall, the Civic Theater, the Warner Mansion and its parks. In Farmington Hills, leaders are looking at city-owned facilities, parks, electric vehicle charging stations and major intersections for smart technology.

Monico said creating access points on roadways will help keep drivers better informed.

"Right now, you have the boards for construction,"

he said. "But, if you have a smart sign that's managed by Farmington Hills, we can connect those signs to the city to say 'road flooded' or 'construction ahead.' It can be real-time information to people as they're driving through the city."

SiFi hopes to start putting fiber optic cable in the ground next spring. After that, access points and the network will gradually go live in both cities over a two-year period.

SiFi will lease its network to internet providers, meaning any company that wants to do business in Farmington or Farmington Hills won't have to pay to build their own network.

"Once SiFi comes in, I think you'll also see more competition from the bigger players because people are going to have more options," Monico said.

Aside from creating more options, the city expects competition will drive costs down and quality up. Monico expects the network will make both communities attractive to new residents and businesses.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448.



# Northville Twp. police lieutenant has sweet hobby

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

No joke. Northville Township Police Lt. Christopher Rowley finds beekeeping relaxing.

Professionally trained to work the most hair-raising cases, he finds some positive symbiosis between policing and beekeeping.

Responsibilities that come with wearing a badge apparently helped him understand the patience needed for hive tending, and curiosity about his bee colonies deflates any carryover job issues.

"It's a calming experience to know that they all work toward one common goal," Rowley said of his two hives and approximately 10,000 bees. "Everything is done for the group. It's a very humbling experience because, if one gets into your suit, it can cause a lot of havoc.

"You just gotta be careful, calm, patient and let them do their thing."

He's lost hives and suffered few bee stings, including one that swelled his thigh so severely he could barely fit into a pair of work pants. And there's the fact that he's allergic to the busy, buzzy critters, requiring trips to urgent care when he agitates a colony member just enough.

And, at this point, some of his traffic stops and pursuits as a police officer may seem like cakewalk compared to the traffic hazards that go with his pastime.

"It was very nerve-racking the first time I drove home with bees in my car because I literally had packages in the back seat," Rowley said.

Bzz. Bzz. Bzz.

Rowley joined the Northville Township Police Department nearly a decade ago, after getting a degree in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University and graduating from the police academy.

The Salem High School graduate had spent some years keeping the township safe when his parents - retired Southfield Deputy Chief Shawn Rowley and his wife Beth Rowley, a landscape designer - bought him a bee kit for Christmas.

He'd always been curious about bees, and colleagues eventually began finding



Northville Township Police Lt. Christopher Rowley is a beekeeper. The Salem High School graduate had spent some years keeping the township safe when his parents - retired Southfield Deputy Chief Shawn Rowley and his wife, Beth Rowley, a landscape designer - bought him a bee kit for Christmas. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP POLICE LT. CHRISTOPHER ROWLEY

out about the garden, wildflowers and hives on his Fenton-area homestead.

Word got around the department like, you know, a bee in a bonnet. Rowley's honey began sweetening township law enforcers' teas, salad dressings and whatnots.

"It's natural," he said. "I don't add anything to it. I take it right from the bees. Yeah. That's it. It's all straight from the comb."

Rowley still has about four gallons of honey in his basement. His 3-year-old daughter likes to put the goeey stuff on her toast, and he likes to experiment with making mead.

He's committed to the hobby that can be comparatively pricey, requiring, according to The Old Farmer's Almanac, about \$150 for a new hive, \$160 for clothing and gear and \$125 to \$150 for a package of new bees.

There's a few given jokes at work, but the asides barely sting.

"People like to tell me that they're a

beekeeper, where, if they see a bee, they keep it," he said before starting to laugh. "It's not the best joke in the world but numerous people have told me that."

He shares hive-tending duties with his mom. Beth Rowley has shared her middle child's fascination with bees and told him she'd love to help.

They both have their humbling bee suits and are in the hives once every two weeks, or maybe just once a month, depending on the time of year.

Temperature and moisture are persistent challenges.

During the harsh Michigan winters, bees mainly cluster around the queen to keep her warm and only leave the hive on warmer days to remove dirt from their home. The Rowleys supply them with honey for those colder months.

"It's very tricky and you have a pretty high loss rate here in Michigan," Beth Rowley said. "We are at about 60% right now for hives that we've lost in the winter months. But, you know, we invest

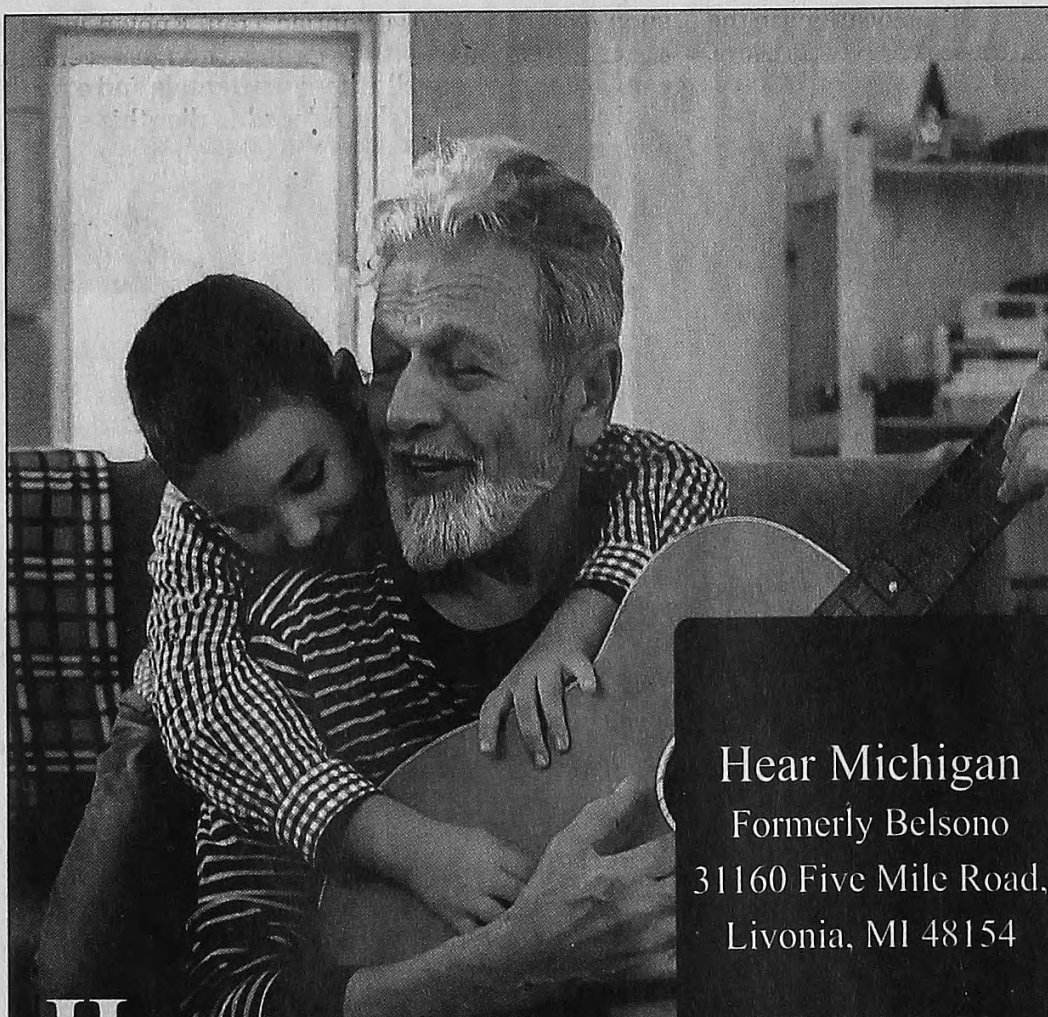
and start again. We have all the equipment. We enjoy doing it, so we keep investing and keep doing it.

"The way they survive, take care of each other, (and) cooperate with each other to do what they need to do is amazing. Oddly, it's relaxing. I just find it really fascinating."

Because of their busy schedules, they've taken a year off. Otherwise, they are experienced beekeepers. While beekeeping isn't for everyone, they urge those who can afford the hobby to give it a try.

"It's a very calming hobby once you figure out that they're not out there to hurt you," the police lieutenant said. "They want their home. They want to be left alone. As long as you do everything right and you take the time, use patience, it can be very rewarding."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



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# Wayne, Oakland counties' home prices rose in May

Sean Lahman [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The median sales price for a single-family home sold in Wayne County during May was \$185,000. That's an increase of 5.1% compared with May 2021, according to a USA TODAY Network localized analysis generated with data from Realtor.com.

On a year-over-year basis, prices have been rising for 33 consecutive months. May's median sale price represents an all-time record in a database that covers 89 consecutive months. May prices are up from \$177,000 the previous month.

The number of houses sold rose by 8.9% from a year earlier. A total of 1,687 houses were sold countywide during May. During the same period a year earlier, 1,549 single-family homes were sold.

Oakland County's median sales price for a single-family home was \$323,000, up 5.4% from a year earlier. Prices have

been rising for 24 consecutive months on a year-over-year basis. May's median sale price represents an all-time record in a database that covers 89 consecutive months. Some 1,028 houses were sold in May, down 5.4% from a year earlier.

Real estate sales can take weeks or months to be recorded and collected. This is the latest data made available through Realtor.com to the USA TODAY Network.

Wayne County condominiums and townhomes sold in May had a median sales price of \$275,000. That figure represents a 22.5% increase year over year. Some 302 were sold, up 20.3% from a year earlier.

## How hot is Wayne County's real estate market in Michigan?

Information on your local housing markets is available through the USA TODAY Network, with more data from Realtor.com.



A home for sale in Tennessee in late July. Home prices and demand are still high in most of the nation, though there are signs of slackening.

CAITIE MCMEKIN/USA TODAY NETWORK

In Wayne County the top 10% of the properties sold for at least \$457,000, up 1% from a year before.

In May, 17 properties sold for at least \$1 million, consisting of 14 single-family homes, two condominiums or townhomes and one other property.

In Oakland County the top 10% of the

properties sold for at least \$670,660, up 10.7% from a year before.

Michigan's median single-family home sales price was \$222,500 in May, up 15.6% from a year earlier. The state reported 10,129 single-family homes sold, down 7.8% from a year earlier.

The median home sale price — the midway point of all the houses or units sold over a period of time — is used in this report instead of the average home sale price because experts say the median offers a more accurate view of what's happening in a market. In finding the average price, all prices of homes sold are added and then divided by the number of homes sold. This measure can be skewed by one low or high price.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Realtor.com. Localized versions are generated for communities where the data quality and transaction volume meets Realtor.com and USA TODAY Network standards.

# Don't delay discussing estate plans with your children



## Money Matters

Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

I recently had a conversation with a longtime client and his spouse about their estate plan. One of the questions I asked them was how familiar their children were with their estate plan.

My clients are in their late 80s, and their children are in their 60s. They assured me their children were aware of their estate plan and, in addition, knew where all their documents and assets were located. Because one of the changes we were making required me to get some information from their children, the parents gave me permission to talk to their children about their estate plan.

When I called the children, not sur-

prisingly, they had no idea about their parent's estate plan, and they had no clue as to where their documents were located or what assets they had. Unfortunately, this did not surprise me. In my career, I have learned that sometimes there is a disconnect between parents and adult children, particularly when it comes to estate planning.

There is no doubt that when parents talk with their adult children about estate planning, it is a very difficult conversation. I know, personally, how difficult and emotional it was when I had to have this conversation with my parents. The reality of the situation is that there is no alternative; it is vital to have this conversation. I think it is important to remember why we do estate planning. Many people believe that the reason we do estate planning is because we want to save on taxes and avoid probate. Although those are noble goals, it is not the main reason to do estate planning.

Most people do estate planning simply because they love their families, and they want to do whatever is necessary to make life as easy as possible for their loved ones when either they pass away or when there is a family emergency.

We all know that eventually we are going to pass. There is nothing that we can do to prevent that. Knowing what is in your estate plan and where valuable information is located can make things easier during a very difficult time for the ones you love. That is why it is important that parents have that difficult conversation with their adult children.

The question is when to talk to your adult children about these issues. Of course, every family dynamic is different, but I encourage you to talk to them sooner rather than later. It is a very easy conversation to postpone; however, we all know how uncertain life is and we never know when a family emergency will occur. Therefore, don't delay; the

time to have that conversation is now.

Several years ago, I lost my parents. The fact that I had this conversation with my parents made things immeasurably easier in handling their affairs. I know that if I hadn't had this conversation with them, it would have made things much more difficult on me and the rest of the family. One of the greatest gifts you can give to your family is to make their lives easier upon your death.

As adults, we all must do things we are not comfortable with. Sometimes in life we must swallow hard and do what we know needs to be done. I encourage you to have those conversations, and never forget that you're doing it not because it's for your benefit, but rather, you're doing what's right for your family.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [bloomadvisors.com](http://bloomadvisors.com). Email your questions to him at [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).



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## Obituaries

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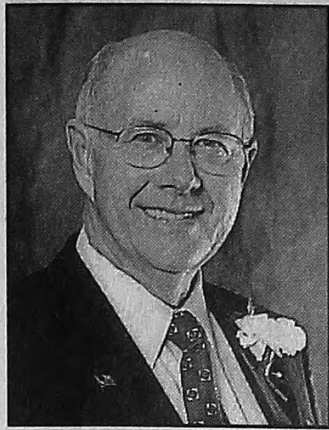
### Joan Kathryn Courville

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Joan Kathryn Courville (nee Hoffman) of Farmington Hills, Michigan passed away peacefully on August 18th in her home at the age of 94. She was born in Des Moines, Iowa and later moved to the Detroit Metro area in the 1950s following college graduation. Beloved wife of the late Frederick (Fred) Louis Courville, for 59 years. They lived in the Rosedale Park area of Detroit before moving to Farmington Hills in the early 1970s. Joan was a member of the Bushnell Congregational Church in Detroit and then, later Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. In the early 1960's, Joan was hired as the first Speech & Language Therapist in the Farmington Public School District. She was responsible for establishing policies and practices of the Speech Department and served as Chairperson for several years. As a Speech & Language Therapist, she helped build the self-esteem for many elementary school aged children. During her tenure, Joan was invited by her peers to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International which promotes professional and personal growth of exceptional woman educators. After her retirement, Joan served as President of the Farmington Area Association of Retired School Personnel for several years and worked tirelessly to support and meet the needs of retired educators. And she continued to tutor children with special needs for many years. Joan also volunteered with the Birmingham Musicales Outreach Program, Music in Schools which provided monthly music programs to local area schools for children with special needs. She especially enjoyed dressing up as "Frosty the Snowman" during the Christmas programs. Joan is survived by many nephews, nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews, great grandnephews and great grandnieces. Funeral services for Joan have taken place, with interment at Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills, Michigan. Memorial donations in memory of Joan may be made to the Michigan Humane Society. [www.thayer-rock.com](http://www.thayer-rock.com)



### Gordon W. Kettler

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Age 82, of Naples, FL, formerly of Farmington Hills, retired Executive Director of Global Security for General Motors Corp., passed away Saturday, August 20, 2022. Born June 19, 1940 in Flint. Beloved husband of Fran; loving father of Molly Kettler, Michael (Maria) Kramer, David (Wendy) Kettler, Kelly (James) Knight and, Susan (Matthew) Maine; cherished grandfather of Jacob Stille, Nathan Kettler, Stuart Kettler, Alex Knight, Zachary Kramer, Kayla Knight, McKenna Kettler, Teagan Kettler and Madeline Maine; and, fond brother of Linda Barkley. Funeral services were held Wednesday, August 24th, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. Private interment Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Memorial tributes suggested to Therapaws of Michigan: Therapy Dogs at Work. [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)

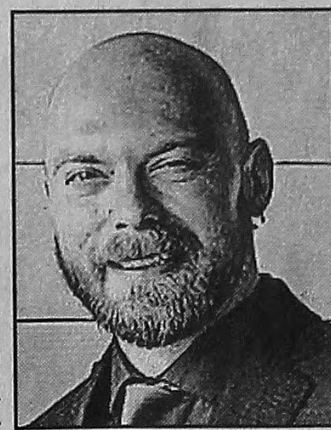


HEENEY-SUNDQUIST



### Robert Anthony Limauro

Robert Anthony Limauro, 36, returned to the Lord, August 1, 2022, in Boerne, TX. He was preceded in death by his mother, Robin (Labo) Limauro. He is survived by his father Michael Limauro, step mother Martha, brothers Jacob Bloomhuff (Taylor) and Lucas Limauro, sister Chloe Byington (Brent), nieces Aisley and Giavanna, and nephews Bronson and Brooks.



Rob graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2004, and received his BA from Florida State University in 2008. After graduating college, he moved back to Michigan to be close to his family. Rob always had a love for Texas and moved to Conroe near Houston in 2019. He then moved to New Braunfels for work and then to Boerne, Texas. He enjoyed bowling and played in numerous leagues throughout his life. He loved God, humor, automobiles, NASCAR, Indy and Formula 1 racing, cats, golf, nature, Star Trek, politics, Texas BBQ, music, and singing.

Rob loved people, and many remember him for his energetic laugh and big smile. He had a friendly personality and cherished his life-long friendships. He was intelligent and funny. Rob had a big heart and a gentle soul. He will forever be remembered and dearly missed.

A celebration of his life will be held September 24, 2022, at Pray Funeral Home Gardens, 401 W. Seminary Street, Charlotte, MI 48813 at 12:00 noon.

Donations in his honor can be made to the Crosswalk Teen Center, 103 W. Lawrence, Charlotte, MI through [www.crosswalkteencenter.org](http://www.crosswalkteencenter.org).

The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Robert's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone).



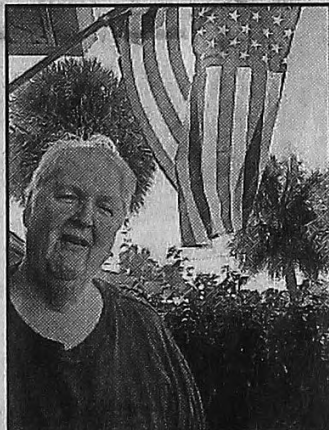
### John Allan Virley

**PORT CHARLOTTE, FL** - John Allan Virley, 71, of Port Charlotte, Fl, previously of Granada Hills, CA, and earlier Farmington, MI passed on 8/16/22 after a short illness. Born on 3/3/51 in Detroit to John William and Irene (Howie) Virley. Brother to Karen Virley.

John graduated from Farmington H. S. in 1970. He attended WSU and OCC. He worked in marketing research, formed John Virley and Associates -- a complete advertising/public relations group -- and The Video Group, Inc.. He also worked/interned at SWOCC (local cable commission) where he was known to be a perfectionist and innovative in his quality work. At SWOCC, he produced multiple cable talk shows like "In One Ear" and community services documentaries. One of these on fire protection had John and a local fireman unexpectedly trapped in a fireman pre-set burning building until the fireman was able to "mule kick" a way out. John took much pride in his creation and development of the annual Farmington's Halloween Fest -- a much looked-forward-to and a very well-attended event which brought thousands of people to the downtown. He was called by many Mr. Halloween.

John was an ardent patriot -- never afraid to state his considered opinions, but also willing to listen to those who opposed his views. He always wanted to discuss the issues. He was a conservative and had his political writings read and used by many including national commentators/journalists. He was followed on Facebook by many including Bill Hemmer.

John loved involved, in-depth discussions. His interests were broad -- politics to out-of-body experiences (which he had experienced himself). These



experiences led him to a firm spiritual belief that we "go on" after death. He also was an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church.

He loved music and knew the lyrics to almost everything ever recorded. Through his love of music and their love of the USA, he became the patriotic/religious/ country singer Joyce Shaffer's friend, manager and promoter.

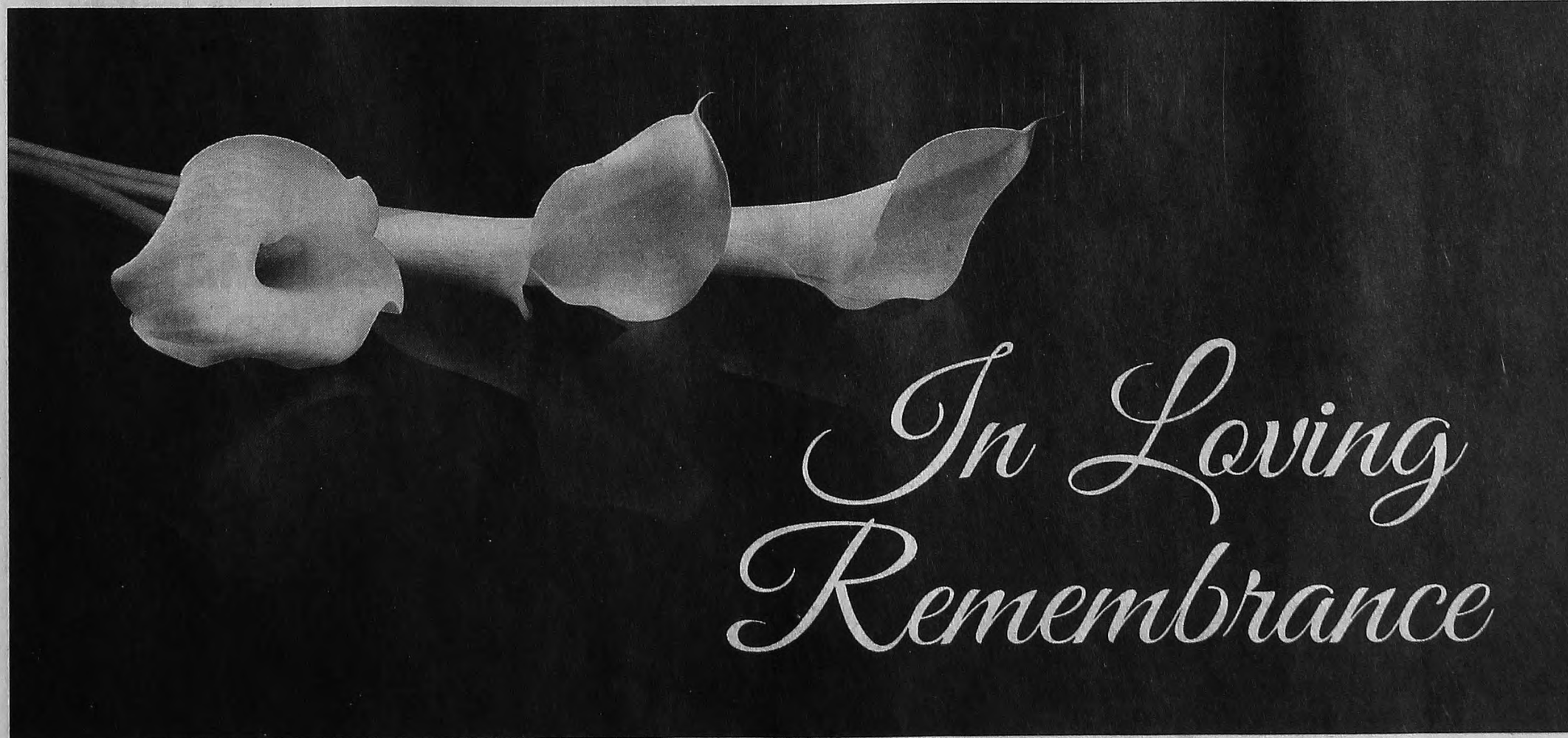
He supported Toys For Tots and animal (no kill) shelters. He never met a dog he didn't love. Despite having been born in snow country, he hated snow/cold which prompted moves to warmer areas. As a child, he saw his first palm tree and knew he had to live in a place with them. He loved all palms. On his passing, there were over 90 palms in his yard. John loved being by the water. The bigger the water, the better. He said it was calming/soothing to close his eyes and hear the surf gently hit the beach.

With his great sense of humor, John loved jokes and funny stories -- even better if they were true. He said he "invented" the tongue twister, "toyboat".

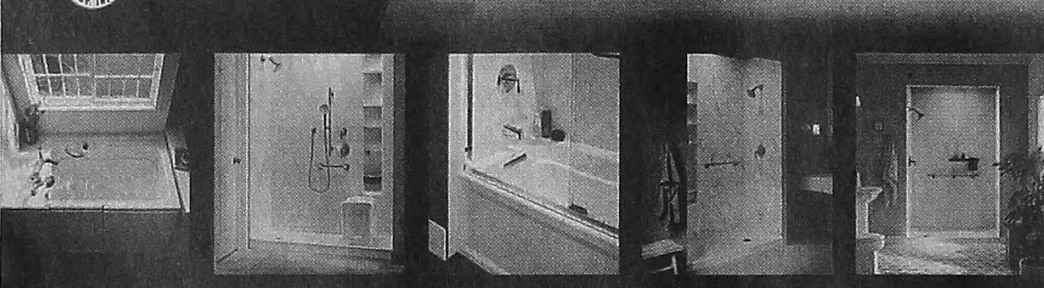
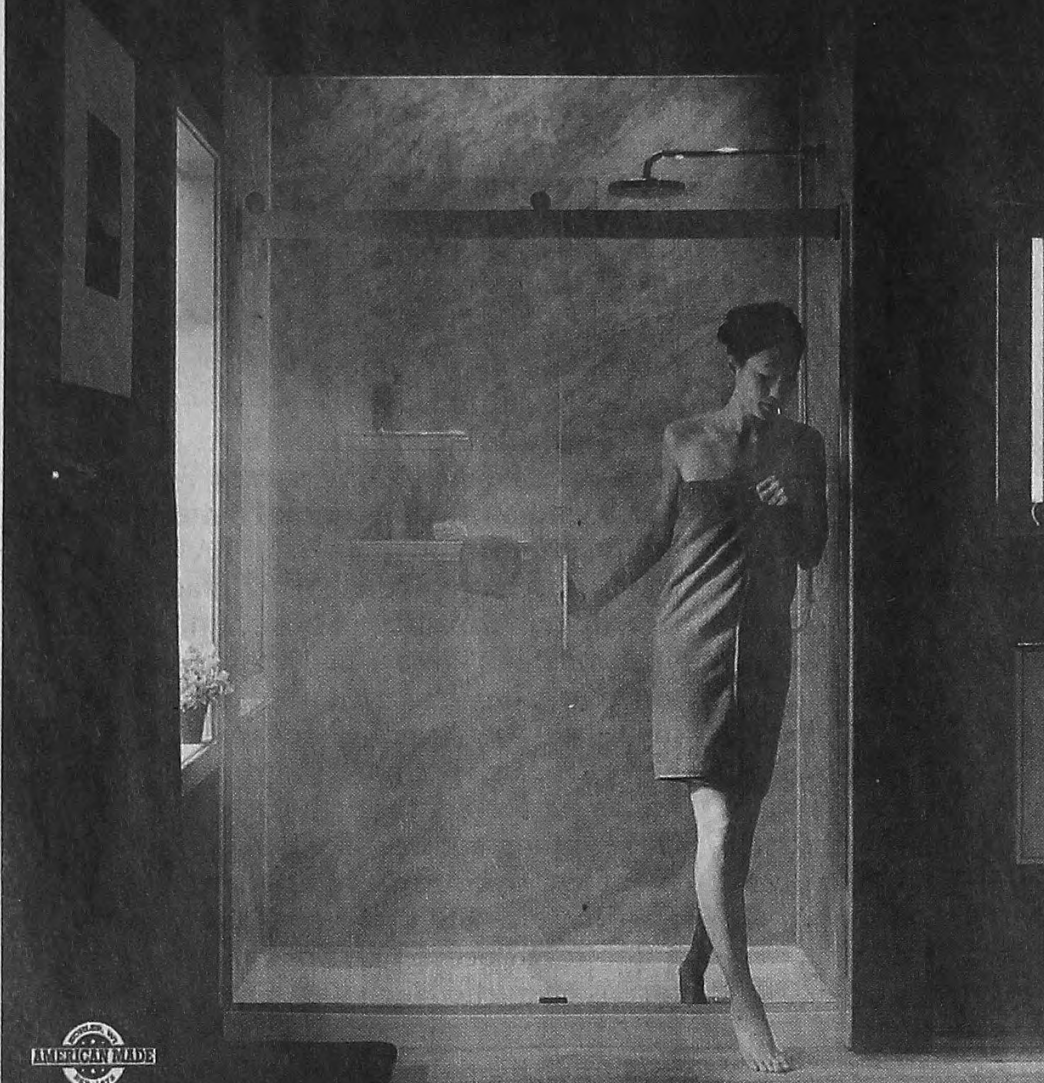
John wrote poetry and short stories. Many were about family members and John's interaction with them or his dogs. He frequently wrote about universal truths -- family, heroism, transitioning from life to death and gifts we are given such as health, abilities, kindnesses and what we do with them. With others, there was a basic lesson in humanity or humbleness to be reflected on. These were all very thoughtfully and almost understatedly done.

He could not have been a better, more loving, kind brother or true friend to his sister, Karen, who will miss him deeply. Those who knew John will miss him for multiple personal reasons. Just being around him made you feel better. He loved life and you are better for having known John.

In lieu of flowers, you may want to donate to one of the organizations above. Kays & Ponger and Uselton (Port Charlotte, FL) are caring for him. No service is planned.



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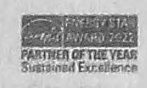
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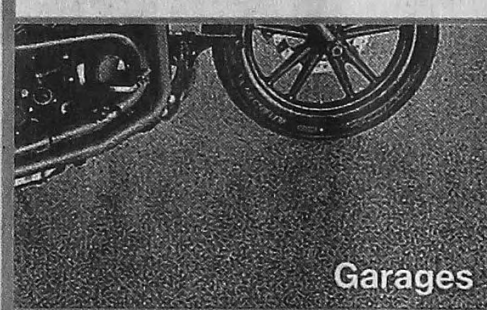
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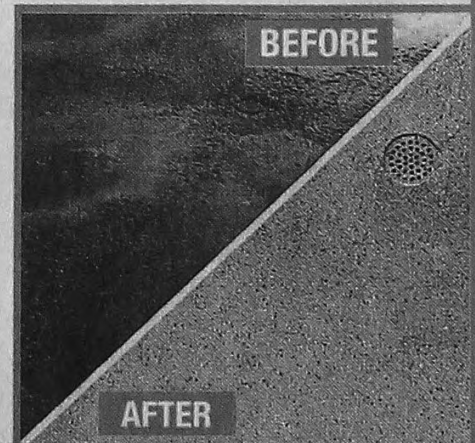
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# SPORTS

## LAMPLIGHTER INVITATIONAL

# Two from Livonia Stevenson take 1st place

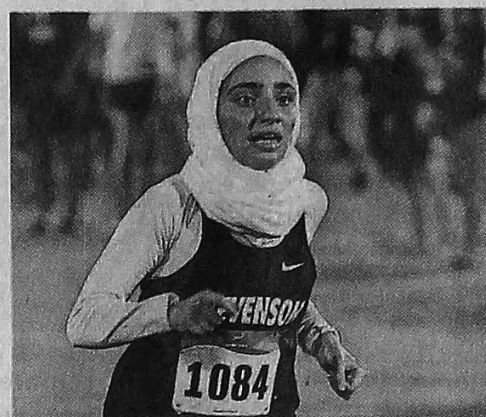
**Brandon Folsom** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Layla Krayem is finally running carefree. A year ago, the Livonia Stevenson cross country runner put too much pressure on herself. Pressure to perform well at meets. Pressure to set personal bests. Pressure to do better every time she laced up her spikes. So it wasn't a surprise she wasn't necessarily happy with how well her fall went. That all changed this past off-season. With the help

of family and friends, she's worked on limiting the stress in her life. She's given up negative self-talk. And she's trusting her body to do the best it can on the course.

The Lamplighter Invitational at Ford Field in Livonia was her first shot at putting that newfound confidence in herself to the test, and it absolutely paid off. She crossed the finish line in 19 minutes, 58.2 seconds to win her flight of the meet and push the Spartans to a second-place finish as a team. Only Fraser scored better than them.

See **TWO**, Page 3B



Livonia Stevenson's Layla Krayem won the Lamplighter Invitational on Aug. 19. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

## Junior could be next leader for Lutheran Westland boys basketball

**Brandon Folsom** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Not much was expected of the Lutheran Westland boys basketball team a year ago. The Warriors had a brand new coach in Dymetrius Ware, and their best returner was a better football player than he was a point guard. Yet there they were, competing in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference-Blue and almost winning the whole thing. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest edged them for the title by one game in the final standings, as Lutheran went 9-3 in the conference and Northwest was 10-2. While the Warriors have graduated five seniors, they're back to make another run for a league title, and they just might do so if they can overcome one key loss in the lineup. Plus, they might even have one of the best up-and-coming juniors in the state on their roster. Here are three questions surrounding Lutheran entering the 2022-23 season:

### How will the Warriors fare without the league MVP?

At the end of last season, Ware asked his players to give him an honest answer. He said to his guys, who were sitting in a circle on the court, "Who here really loves the game of basketball?" Most of the Warriors raised their hands. But not senior Paul Davenport. "I was totally shocked," Ware recalled of the moment. "He said, 'Nah, Coach.' I was like, 'Oh my goodness,' because he was like one of those once-in-a-generation guys for us." So, naturally, Davenport went on to be named the MIAC-Blue MVP, just a few months after the wide receiver/linebacker was named the league MVP for football as well. The 5-foot-6 point guard totaled 342 points, 113 assists, 71 rebounds and 56 steals. Not only was he named the league's MVP but he was also all-conference and he made the league's dream team. "I've been coaching for 30 years at different levels, and Paul was a once-in-a-generation kind of player," Ware added. "He played as if his life depended on it. Against Cristo Rey, before the playoffs, I had to tell him to stop being so aggressive. He was diving and

See **LEADER**, Page 4B

## BOYS SOCCER



Birmingham Groves' Mori Miller pushes the attack during a non-conference match against Novi on Aug. 19. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Groves senior already looks like one of the OAA's top midfielders

**Brandon Folsom** [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Twice, Mori Miller had opportunities to win the game against Novi. And Birmingham Grove's reigning all-state boys soccer player missed them both. First, he smacked a crossbar, mere inches from being a gimme goal, in the 64th minute. And then he missed a penalty kick, which sailed just over the right post, with fewer than 15 minutes left. Instead of the Falcons celebrating their second

win, Friday night's non-conference matchup went down as a 1-1 tie. Surely, Miller hung his head and pouted about the misses after the match, right? No, no he didn't. That's because Miller's built differently. Whether it's his playing style, college prospects or leadership, he takes a non-conventional approach when competing in the beautiful game. Afterward, he was already focused on the next

See **SENIOR**, Page 2B

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# Former Vardar Academy star scores 2 goals as Cougars down Chargers

Brandon Folsom [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Luke Nicholson lined up for a free kick just in front of the South Lyon East boys soccer team's bench, took a deep breath and then raised his right arm to signal he was ready.

The senior proceeded to boom a 35-yard shot over a scrum of defenders, get it past Livonia Churchill goalkeeper David Kmetovski and smash it into the back of the net.

The effort gave the Cougars (1-0-1) the go-ahead goal in the 60th minute of their 4-1 victory, and it resulted in coach Pete Stoyanovich celebrating as if he had just won the Super Bowl.

"What else can you say about the guy?," said Stoyanovich, who actually did play in the NFL for 11 years. "He's a tremendous player. He's a huge asset to our team. It's great to have him playing for us.

"This is his first season with us, and he's been nothing short of spectacular. Last night, he played terrific (in a 2-2 tie at rival South Lyon). And, again tonight, he poured it on with the goals and the assists. I hope he can continue to do that for us all season long."

That's right.

The Cougars' newest addition might just be their best player.

Nicholson has played on the club circuit throughout his career. He's never actually competed at the high school level. He's played for the prestigious Michigan Wolves with some of the best players around. And, most recently, he's suited up for Vadar Academy, which is arguably the best club in the state.

He's been invited to camps for national teams and has played in the most-intense atmospheres you could think of.

And now he's suiting up for East, the high school he attends.

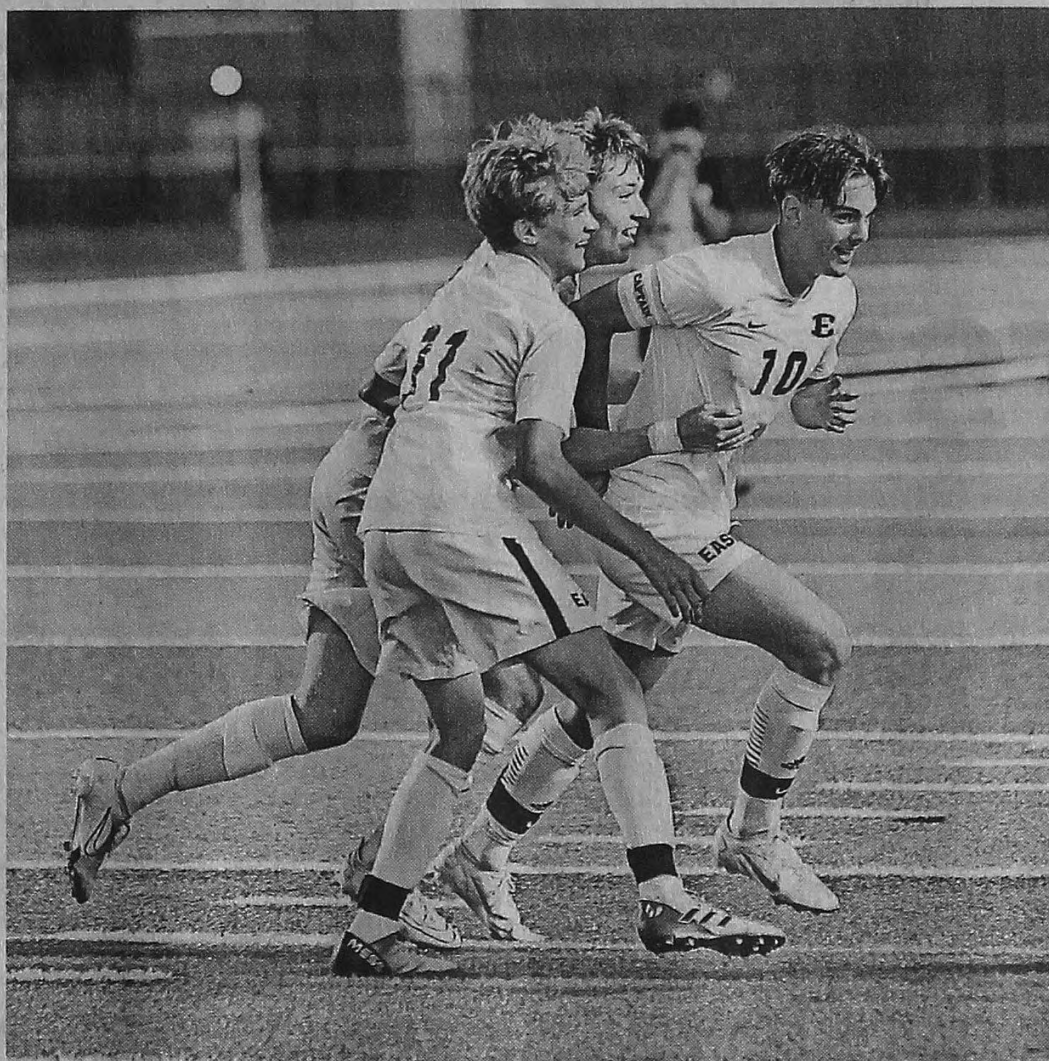
Why?

His college recruitment is coming to a close.

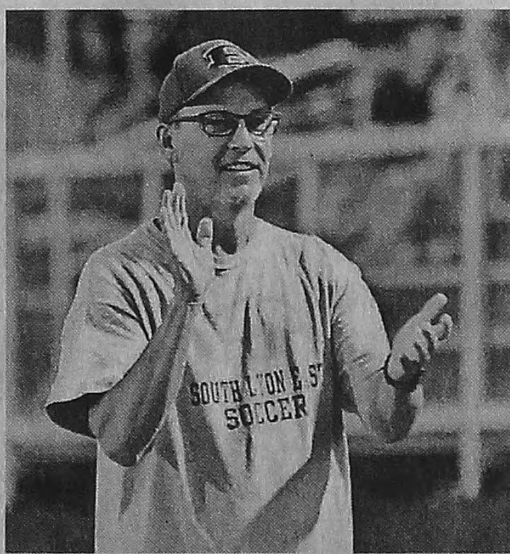
He's narrowed down his final five schools to Akron, Army, Dayton, Kentucky and Wisconsin. He expects to verbally commit to one of those colleges in the next few weeks.

So that means he no longer needs to play at the highest club level possible. College is basically taken care of. Now he can finally enjoy just being a kid while playing alongside his best friends on East's squad.

"It's a lot more fun," said Nicholson, who scored two goals and had two assists at Churchill. "The speed of play is obviously different. There are good players everywhere you go, and I came



South Lyon East's Luke Nicholson (right) celebrates scoring a goal during a non-conference match Aug. 18 at Livonia Churchill. South Lyon East won, 4-1.  
PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



South Lyon East coach Pete Stoyanovich celebrates a goal.

into this thinking it'd be easier but it's been a challenge, and I'm up for it, for sure. Vadar and Michigan Wolves, nothing compares to that.

"But it's my first year playing high school, and I'm just out here doing what I can do for the team, ya know? I just

want to have some fun with the team and do what I can do to help them out."

East wasn't expected to be some middle-of-the-road team by any means.

But he certainly did help them out against the Chargers.

Churchill striker Orfan Adil went on a breakaway and beat East goalie Aaron Walenciak to the left post to give the Chargers a 1-0 lead in the first half, one that stood for almost 3/4 of the match.

Stoyanovich admitted the Cougars looked sluggish, especially coming off a battle with South Lyon the night before.

But then Nicholson turned it on midway through the second half.

East pushed the attack heavily in hopes of knotting the score. On one shot attempt, Churchill failed to clear the ball. And there was Nicholson to corral the rebound and blast home the tying score from 15 yards out in the 57th minute.

Four minutes later, he boomed in that free kick near the sideline that had Stoyanovich wildly pumping both of his arms in the air and clapping in disbelief. Nicholson was also in on East's final

two goals in the last 16 minutes. Michael Chilumula headed in a ball for a much-needed insurance goal, and then Lucas Bogard iced the win on a breakaway attempt to the left post.

"He brings up the expectations," Stoyanovich said of Nicholson. "He highers the expectation for the team. A guy like him can make the players around him even better, and that's what the great players do. He's a great player, and he makes players around him better. If we can feed off of him and his energy and the way he plays and feeds the ball, we'll be successful. It's not only scoring goals. It's the way he feeds the ball. The assists he's going to have and the way he'll create opportunities for our team. He's a terrific player."

What's more, Stoyanovich also named Nicholson one of his four captains, along with seniors Trevor Atkins, Evan Miller and Dylan Ruschak.

Nicholson, despite being brand new, has already earned the respect of his teammates.

"It's great he put the responsibility and leadership on me," Nicholson said. "He thought I could come in here and make a difference on the team and be a leader in that sense, which is great, and I really appreciate it."

Added Stoyanovich: "When you've got a kid like that on your team, he's a team leader, and he's got those credentials. The guys love him. They're all high school friends and neighborhood friends. They've been friends for some years now. He's a great leader on the field, along with the other three guys who are captains, and all four of them do a terrific job."

Stoyanovich was both a soccer and football star at Dearborn Crestwood in high school, and he even went on to play both sports in college at Indiana. But he'll be most remembered for his NFL career, as he finished in the top 35 all-time of every kicking category by the time he retired in 2000. And he kicked some record-setting field goals while playing for the Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs and, briefly, St. Louis Rams.

So that's why it was great when Nicholson celebrated his first-career high school goal. After escaping a mob of hugs from his teammates, he jogged over to the corner of the end zone and raised both arms over his head to signal a touchdown as a referee would after a score. No wonder Stoyanovich was excited about his newest player.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for *Hometown Life*. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

## Senior

Continued from Page 1B

match, which was against Sterling Heights Stevenson, and he was recalling how the Titans put five goals on Groves in a three-score loss a year ago.

He had no time to complain about shots not going his way because, honestly, he knows those shots will go in as long as he keeps putting them on frame as the season pushes forward.

"It was just unfortunate," Miller said of his missed penalty kick. "I'm trying not to think about it too much and let it go for the next game."

Miller enters his senior season as one of the best midfielders in the Oakland Activities Association.

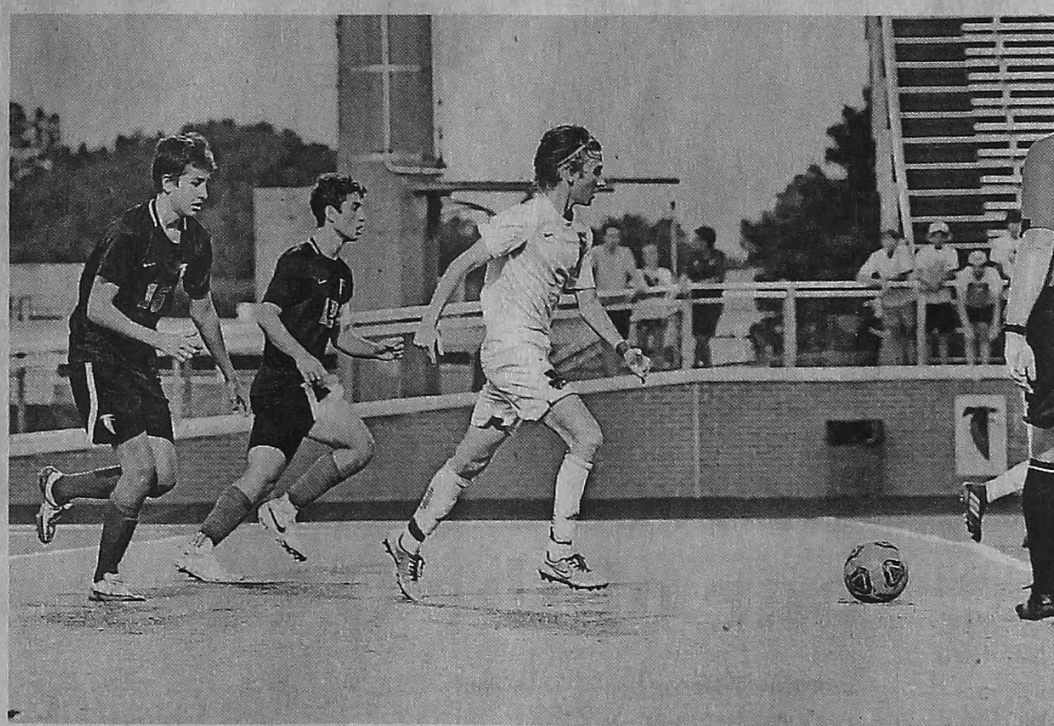
What makes him special on the pitch is how creative he gets when making scoring opportunities for both his teammates and himself.

Like how he instantly banged in a cross pass to give the Falcons a 1-0 lead over the Wildcats about 6 minutes into the second half, which gave him his second goal already this fall (he scored once in a 4-0 victory against White Lake Lakeland earlier in the week).

He sees the field in a different way. Not only can he predict his teammates' movements, but he can also utilize their spacing in ways most defenses aren't prepared to stop.

"I like to think of myself as an attacking midfielder that plays the game more creatively," Miller said. "I don't like to just turn a one-touch pass. I like to play the game in my own way with my own spin on it. I look to find players wide. (I like using) through balls. I like to play direct and 1-v-1 players. That's kind of my main focus of the game. I like to get the ball in the midfield and be able to create chances."

The Wildcats' defense dealt with Mil-



Novi's Jaiden Lunga looks to pass during a non-conference match Aug. 19 at Birmingham Groves. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ler outworking them in the attack almost all night.

But that hustle didn't lead to just his shots. He created shots for his buddies as well.

On the defensive end, he's just as annoying. You can ask the Wildcats about that. When Novi's Jaiden Lunga finally scored the equalizer in the second half, he ran back to midfield while shushing the Falcons' bench. Clearly, Miller's gnat-like tenacity had rubbed Novi the wrong way.

"He's just the greatest teammate," Groves coach Paul Thomas said. "He leaves everything on the field. But then he also has the quality and the skill and the individual ability to break players down 1-v-1 and be able to score goals like you saw today. For us, he's got everything. It's not just the attacking piece. He also works tremendously hard defensively as you saw today. I think that's

why the rest of the team is that way (playing with some tenacity) because of the example that he and Max (Cherrin) set."

Despite already being an all-stater, Miller has improved his game even more. He played for Birmingham Seaholm coach Greg Perkins and United FC Michigan during the club season. That competition helped him grow.

But he also spends every waking minute working on his craft in solo practices. Doing so has allowed him to add to his scoring abilities.

"I've really been working on picking the ball up outside of the box and getting a shot off," Miller added. "Last year, I kind of had my head down and was dribbling too much. Now I can pick it up and look for goals. I'm trying to do better with that and it's shown in the first two games. I've scored two goals, which is great. I'm just looking to grow from

here."

Thomas said the skies are the limit for Miller as far as recruiting goes. He could see Miller catching on with a Division I team or helping a college in a lower division. But he knows Miller will be successful at the next level.

Of course, with Miller being of a different mind, he's not focused on catching on with a D-I school.

During spring break last school year, he visited D-III Pomona-Pitzer in California and has fallen in love with their program, which is a co-op squad between Pomona and Pitzer colleges.

"I've been talking to coaches about getting the right opportunity," Miller said. "I like to think I would not play soccer at a school I wouldn't attend normally. So I'm more focused on going somewhere that fits me as a person instead of somewhere I just want to play soccer but not be able to enjoy my college experience. ... Pomona-Pitzer is a unique place, and that's the one place I would say I definitely would enjoy playing for. It's definitely not something you'd typically hear a Michigan player say they want to attend."

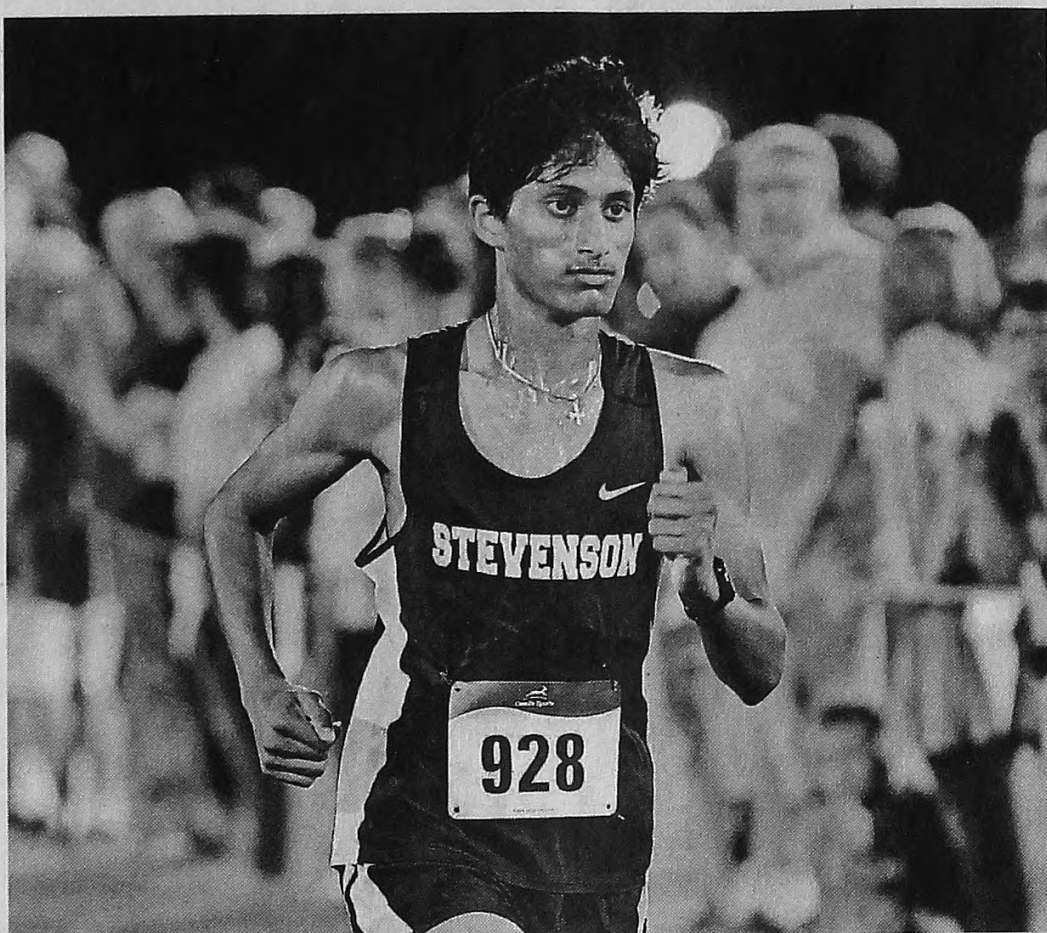
The OAA is always stacked each season, from Clarkston to Troy, Troy Athens and a handful of others in the mix. And Miller is trying his best to make sure the Falcons are competing for championships by season's end.

He might have missed his scoring opportunities against Novi, but he's unfazed by it. Which is how he felt when Groves lost to Clarkston in the regional opener a year ago.

"In the game against Clarkston, in the playoff loss, I actually hit the crossbar," he said. "So it's good we're getting these chances and getting close enough to be that close to scoring goals. Ultimately, tonight, we didn't end up with the score, but they're going to come."

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.





Livonia Stevenson's Reuben Philip won the Lamplighter Invitational on Aug. 19 at Ford Field in Livonia. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Two

Continued from Page 1B

"Mentally, I used to put a lot of pressure on myself," the junior told Hometown Life. "Now I'm controlling that. It made doing this race a lot easier, and I came out a lot stronger. I did OK last year, but it was a stressful season, so I didn't do as good as I wanted to. Coming out here today was really great."

"With both of my coaches together, my teammates and my family, and even my friends who don't run, they've all been really supportive. The change I've made in my everyday life is that no matter how hard I go out, I now feel like it's the best I can do."

Krayem's time was almost 12 seconds from the PR she set at last fall's Kensington Lakes Activities Association Championship. Which is good news because The Lamplighter isn't set up for speed. It's a glow-in-the-dark experience held late at night, many hours after normal meets are held. A more traditional course should help her trim more time.

She said she started pushing herself harder about a 1/2 mile after the starting gun.

"Anytime I heard someone say how far behind the next person was, I made sure to push it just a little more," said Krayem, whose goal is to break 19 minutes sometime soon.

Helping the Spartans were Kaelin Hughes (21:05.2) in sixth place, Elaina Braunscheidel (22:23.9) in 19th, Katherine Sullivan (23:27.8) in 36th and Michelle Wesenberg (24:34.1) in 54th.

### Senior's extensive training yields first-place finish for boys

Reuben Philip's smile at the finish line couldn't hide his sense of relief.

The Stevenson runner put an emphasis on his training this past summer. He wanted to set up himself for a competitive senior year and, hopefully, help the Spartans win some meets.

He did tempo runs. He raced up hills. He ran in the streets and even on trails in West Bloomfield.

His training started with running 20



Livonia Stevenson's Kaelin Hughes competes during the Lamplighter Invitational.

miles a week. And then he slowly built up his endurance to 30 miles. And then 40 miles, which is the mileage he's currently maintaining each week.

So when he won his flight of The Lamplighter, finishing in 17 minutes, 29.9 seconds, he couldn't believe he had won. But he had a sense of relief that all those hours of training weren't wasted. They really meant something.

"That was really surprising and shocking," he said. "I trained all summer for this. It was a good feeling. It was good taking home the win, and I can't wait to get back to work. It was a lot of hard work, dedication over the summer. Just never giving up and having that mentality that I wanted to get better every single day."

The Spartans actually won the meet, as Philip's effort wasn't the only big performance of the night. Ryland Hughes (17:53.8) placed third, followed by Alex Eplin (18:22.8) in seventh, Chase McDougall (18:24.4) in 11th and Jacob Anderson (19:19.0) in 28th.

*Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.*

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Each year, Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offer career-technical programs to the high school districts of Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren, Plymouth-Canton, Northville, and area private schools. These programs are designed to prepare high school students for a broad range of employment and training services and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers, counselors, and cooperative education coordinators. For more information, please call (734) 419-2100 or visit our website: [wwcsd.net/ford](http://wwcsd.net/ford)

#### Career-Technical Programs offered for High School Students 2022-2023

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Engineering & Robotics	Welding Technology
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	

The William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offers 20 state-approved Career and Technical Education programs along with mathematics requirements for high school graduation. Admission to the Career-Tech center is based on student progression in their high school graduation curriculum as well as student interest, 11th and 12th grade status and counselor recommendation. All career and technical education opportunities will be offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. A lack of English Language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical educational programs.

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LO-GC10229670-01

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#### Carrera Técnica Programas de High School Secundaria Estudiantes 2022-2023

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Tecnología automotriz	Diseño de juegos y programación
Diseño de ingeniería arquitectónica	Ocupaciones de salud
Tecnología de construcción	Calefacción, aire acondicionado y refrigeración (HVAC)
Artes culinarias	Producción de medios
Piratería ética	Asistencia médica
Tecnología de medios digitales	Acondicionamiento deportivo y ciencia del ejercicio
Arte digital y diseño	Profesor Cadete
Ingeniería y robótica	Tecnología de soldadura
Técnico en emergencias médicas (EMT)	

El Centro de Carreras Técnicas William D. Ford ofrece 20 programas de Educación Técnica y de Carreras aprobados por el estado junto con los requisitos de matemáticas para la graduación de la escuela secundaria. La admisión al centro Career-Tech se basa en la progresión del estudiante en su plan de estudios de graduación de la escuela secundaria, así como en el interés del estudiante, el estado de los grados 11 y 12 y la recomendación del consejero. Todas las oportunidades de educación profesional y técnica se ofrecerán independientemente de la raza, el color, el origen nacional, el sexo o la discapacidad. La falta de habilidades en el idioma inglés no será una barrera para la admisión y participación en programas educativos técnicos y profesionales.

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LO-GC10229670-02

### City of Plymouth Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - 7:00 p.m. City Hall & Online Zoom Webinar

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
Website: [www.plymouthmi.gov](http://www.plymouthmi.gov) Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. located at City Hall & online Zoom webinar to consider the following:

- Text Amendments to B-2, Central Business Districts
- Text Amendments for Impervious Surfaces
- SP22-04: 900 N. Mill Special Land Use and Site Plan Review

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie,  
ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

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# Leader

Continued from Page 1B

scrapping, and we were up by 15 points. I had to tell him that we had the state playoffs coming up.”

Obviously, replacing a player like *THAT* would be tough for any team in Michigan to do.

But that’s the position the Warriors find themselves in entering Ware’s second season on the bench.

“My biggest concern is just replacing his leadership,” Ware continued. “For us to continue what we were doing, we’ve got to do things the right way, and to be successful in our conference, we’ve got to be able to adapt. And he helped us with doing that. We see a lot of different kinds of teams. There’s a lot of zone defense and a lot of man-to-man and a lot of ball screens. There are different types of offenses and defenses. Last year, we were able to handle those types of situations, and now I’m working as best as I can to develop more leaders to replace a guy like Paul.”

### Can All-Dream Team, first-team all-league player live up to the hype?

Davenport’s leadership might not be replaced by Christian Fontaine.

But his offensive output will be because, well, Fontaine actually led the Warriors in scoring as only a sophomore.

The All-Dream Team and first-team all-league small forward scored 337 points and added 81 rebounds, 31 assists, 30 steals and 13 blocks. He’s well on his way to becoming a 1,000-point career scorer.

And Ware thinks he might also be well on his way to a Division I college in three years.

“Paul wasn’t even our leading scorer. Christian was, and he’s got a really good upside,” Ware said. “I believe he can play D-I. He has to get stronger, and I want more leadership from him. But with a couple of guys returning, I think he’s going to be one of our best, and he’s definitely one of those guys taking the off-

season the most seriously.”

If anyone can take the reins from Davenport, it’s going to be Fontaine, who has a great outside shot and plenty of finesse when it comes to finding ways to score.

“He puts the work in,” Ware added. “He’s our leading scorer. He averaged 16.5 points and shot 35% from the field and 40% from 3. He’s going to be a guy everyone looks up to. He was a quiet assassin a year ago, so he needs to be in a leadership role this year.”

### Who will round out the Warriors’ lineup?

Counting the freshmen and JV levels, Ware expects to have 42 players in the program this winter.

That means competition in tryouts will be fierce. And some spots on the varsity might be earned by players who are relatively under-the-radar within the program right now.

However, Lutheran does have a few guys returning who have the potential to make them one of the top teams in the MIAC again.

Aside from Fontaine, expected returners include seniors Dominic Catallo and Luke Witte, juniors Nate Rooker and Justice O’Brien and sophomore Nathan Yakobe.

Others who contributed during Lutheran’s Summer League were sophomores Tom Shafer and Simon Hoeft, who were JV players last winter. They could make a push for a varsity spot as well.

“We just got to hire a freshmen coach to come in and help, and we’re looking forward to that,” Ware said. “It’s great to have one extra staff member now that we can have both a freshmen team and a JV team.”

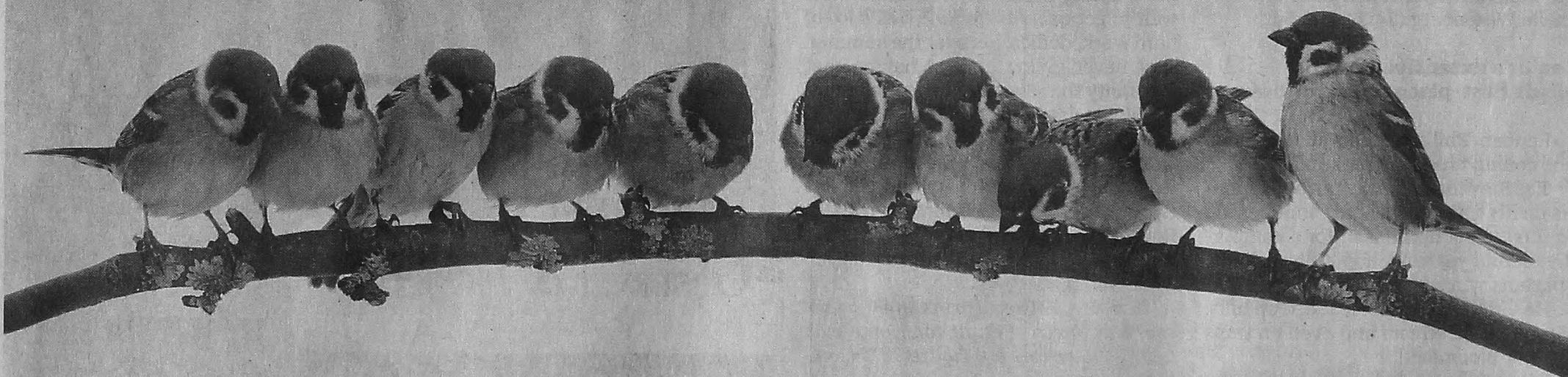
“It’s been a big off-season for us. We’re gonna be pretty young, and we’re going to have about two seniors, two or three juniors and the rest will be sophomores. When you lose five good seniors, it has an impact on you. So going into my second year, we made sure we got those young guys as much development as possible this summer.”

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.



Lutheran Westland’s Christian Fontaine shoots during a summer league game against Garden City on July 26. The All-Dream Team and first-team all-league small forward scored 337 points and added 81 rebounds, 31 assists, 30 steals and 13 blocks as a sophomore last season. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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**FIND THE WORDS**

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated at right. Find the listed words in the grid. They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once. Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. [australianwordgames.com.au](http://australianwordgames.com.au)

- |           |         |        |          |
|-----------|---------|--------|----------|
| Alva      | Capes   | Mario  | Rock     |
| Avoca     | Cootee  | Miami  | Safe     |
| Beauty    | Corio   | Noosa  | Sarina   |
| Bega      | Eden    | Nowra  | Shells   |
| Bikini    | Glenelg | Palm   | Squeaky  |
| Billgola  | Hyams   | Parade | Surr     |
| Bondi     | Iluka   | Perth  | Swimsuit |
| Bowen     | Jet ski | Plalba | Tide     |
| Broomie   | Lizard  | Pinky  | Urunga   |
| Bunbury   | Island  | Play   | Wave     |
| Byron Bay | Main    | Rest   | Woolf    |
| Cable     | Manly   | Robe   | Yeppoon  |

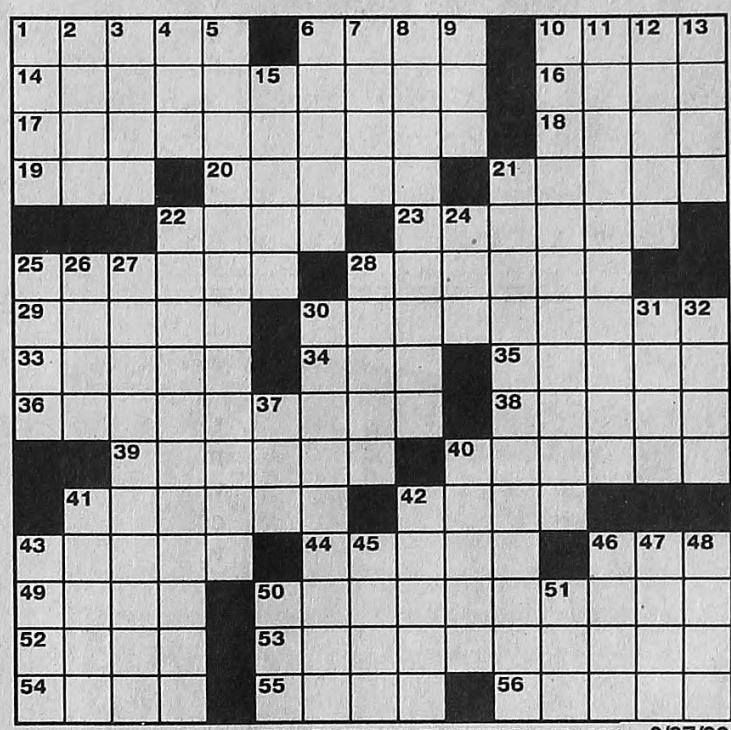
**TODAY'S ANSWER**  
Relaxing in the sun

**Beaches and sunscreen**

BUNBURYIKSTEJRN  
RTYKNIPNMARLOEY  
OIERSSSEIMLCWLO  
ODPEEAWKIYKONI  
MEPEXMPIALBAVZR  
EAORABIBMNMOFAO  
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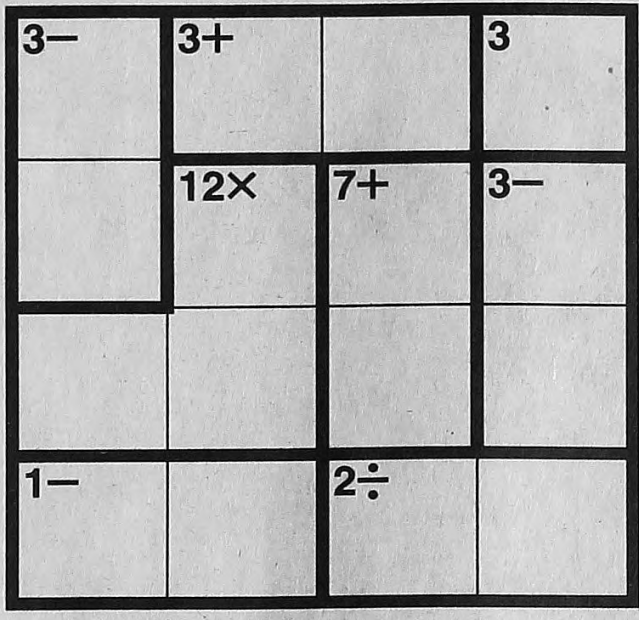
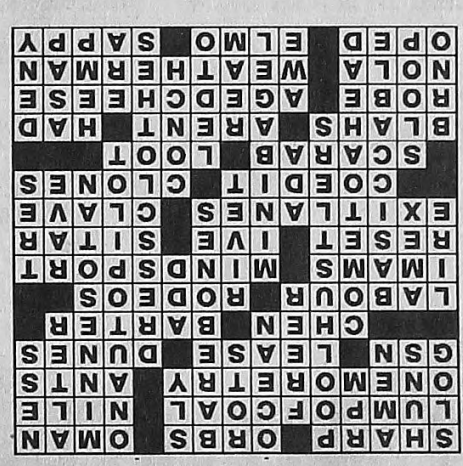
**NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Above what is orally correct
  - 6 Round figures
  - 10 Gulf War ally
  - 14 Traditional stocking stuffer
  - 16 Where Poirot cruises on a steamer
  - 17 Pre-quitting comment
  - 18 Queens, e.g.
  - 19 *Tug of Words* venue
  - 20 Take a letter
  - 21 Buggy places
  - 22 Common Taiwanese surname
  - 23 Trade agreement
  - 25 They're left in London
  - 28 Employers of protection athletes
  - 29 Some sermonizers
  - 30 Olympiad game
  - 33 Turned back
  - 34 Direct connection
  - 35 Source of pear-shaped tones
  - 36 Turning points
  - 38 Reggae stick
  - 39 Share the polishing
  - 40 Knockoffs
  - 41 Ancient African artifact
  - 42 Hot stuff
  - 43 Blue state
  - 44 Is not for you
  - 46 Underwent
  - 49 \$500+ Versace attire
  - 50 Product collected from caves
- DOWN**
- 1 Slow stretch
  - 2 Whom a European nation is named for
  - 3 Encouraging word
  - 4 Record number
  - 5 Parlor game experts
  - 6 Main thing
  - 7 Biodegrades
  - 8 Elemental
  - 9 Calculating
  - 10 Unthinkingly
  - 11 F. Scott Fitzgerald, by birth
  - 12 Take out, perhaps
  - 13 Ending like -acity
  - 15 Not as constrained
  - 21 Wear for awards shows
  - 22 Become unavoidable
  - 24 Put on
  - 25 They had Marconi, Montessori, etc.
  - 26 \_\_\_ card
  - 27 8 Down entertainment
  - 28 Completely fix
  - 30 Part of a small breakfast
  - 31 Show anger or appreciation
  - 32 *Los \_\_\_ mosqueteros*
  - 37 SmileCon organizer
  - 40 *Lord of the Flies* trumpet
  - 41 Cutter's cousin
  - 42 Occasioned
  - 43 Home of the Czech Supreme Court
  - 45 Sheet set
  - 46 Biodiesel source
  - 47 Rush order
  - 48 "To \_\_\_ the facts would be illogical": Mr. Spock
  - 50 Extreme admiration
  - 51 Big stretch



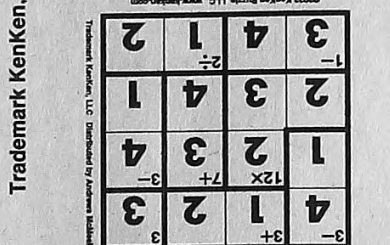
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**TODAY'S ANSWER**



**KENKEN**

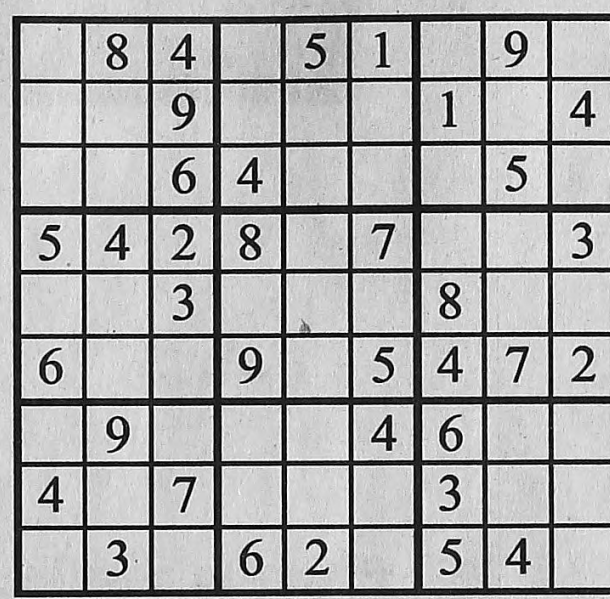
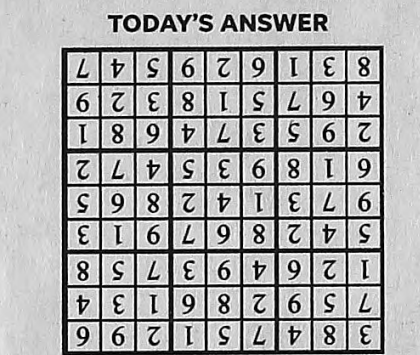
- Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**



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