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OBSERVER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP



The new Henry Ford Medical Center in Plymouth Township will be staffed by more than 120 team members offering services for patients of all ages. COURTESY OF HENRY FORD HEALTH/RAY MANNING

Henry Ford Health opens new outpatient center

Laura Colvin Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The new Henry Ford Medical Center in Plymouth Township is now open, providing patients with access to primary care, specialty care and a 24-7 emergency room.

Located at 40777 Ann Arbor Road at Haggerty, the multi-story, 120,000-square-foot medical center opened Sept. 6.

The new outpatient medical center fills a need in the local area, said Denise Brooks-Williams, CEO of Henry Ford Health's North Market.

"It really is a full service site," said Brooks-Williams, noting patients can expect to find cardiology, derma-

tology, gastroenterology, neurology, orthopedics, a pain clinic and other specialty care. "We did research around the services being provided in western Wayne County and found the emergency department was something that would be beneficial in the community, as well."

Patients will also find a full-service lab, retail pharmacy, mammograms and other radiology services at the new facility. A surgical center is expected to open at the site in the next few months.

"We are now able to do some procedures as outpatient that previously were done in an inpatient setting," Brooks Williams said. "The operating rooms

See CENTER, Page 3A

Wayne County, Oakland County homes for sale fall in price in August

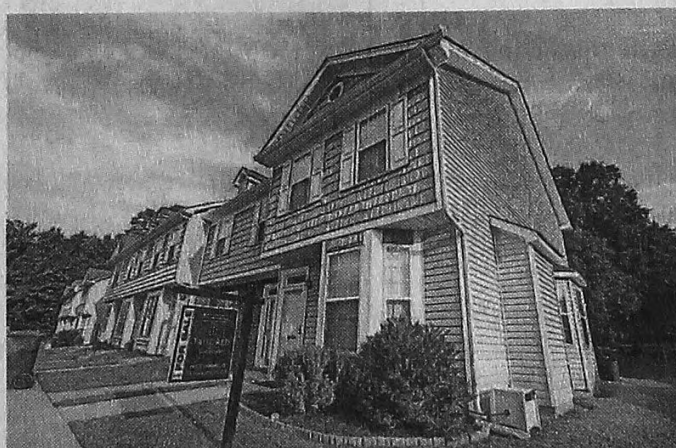
Mike Stucka and Sean Lahman
USA TODAY NETWORK

A typical Wayne County home listed for \$159,900 in August, down from \$160,000 a month earlier, an analysis of data from Realtor.com shows.

The median list home price in August was down about 9.7% from August 2021. Wayne County's median home was 1,265 square feet for a listed price of \$127 per square foot.

The Wayne County market was busy, with a median 36 days on market. A month earlier, homes had a median 32 days on market. The market added 2,384 new home listings in August, compared with the 2,500 added in August 2021. The market ended the month

See HOMES, Page 3A



Median prices in August were lower in 37 states than they'd been a month earlier, Realtor.com data shows. MIKE HENSILL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Ward Church opens second location in Farmington Hills

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The former Grace Chapel in Farmington Hills will reopen later this month as a second campus for Ward Church of Northville.

The old Grace Chapel, 27996 Halsted Road, closed in February for minor renovations after its members voted to merge with Ward Church earlier that month. The church saw a decline in attendance during the pandemic and had been without a pastor for some time.

Ward Church saw Grace Chapel as a good place for a second location because its own members started the Farmington Hills church back in 1983.

"As the church, we've been blessed to be a blessing," Farmington Hills Campus Pastor Sean Carroll said. "We want to get into the community to know the needs of the community and to meet those needs. People have value, and we want people to feel loved and cared for."

The original Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Road, has operated in Northville since the 1950s. Executive Director Kyle Nabors said the church, part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination, plans to expand into a multi-campus operation and hopes to open more locations in future years.

Ward Church Farmington Hills will open 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, for its first services, including programming for kids and a "neighborhood party." The church will also offer group programs that meet

See CHURCH, Page 3A



Ward Church Farmington Hills at 27996 Halsted. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Commission approves Northville Downs project

Plan now goes to city for review and final decision

Philip Allmen HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following months of meetings to discuss details of a city-altering redevelopment proposal for the Northville Downs property, a recommended preliminary site plan has been crafted.

It's still a while before anyone may see the 80-year-old horse racing track demolished and homes, apartments and more rise in its place. That recommendation sends the proposal to the Northville city council, which will either approve or deny that preliminary site plan. But that's not the end of it, either. There's still the final site plan, which goes into even greater detail on the sprawling 48-acre proposal that would create roughly 450 new residences, commercial space and parks intended to give an urban, walkable feel.

The developers have said they hope to begin construction as soon as next summer.

The sheer size and the style of the proposal were among the concerns expressed during roughly three hours worth of public comment at a Sept. 6 meeting. The majority of those residents opposed developer Hunter Pasteur's plans for the property.

While Planning Commission Chair Donna Tinberg said the housing density proposed for the property is allowed under current ordinances, residents repeatedly said "common sense" should

play a factor as the project will drastically change the southern Northville near Seven Mile and Center Street.

"The size and density is not in harmony with the neighboring districts," Michael Lapinski said. "It does not capture the small-town charm."

The influx of traffic was another recurring concern, exacerbated with the downtown street closures on Main and Center streets, first done early in the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently made permanent.

"I don't see how we can possibly proceed without a complete traffic study," Greg Swanson said, arguing for a study that considers other developments in Northville and the surrounding communities, as well as traffic in the extended area.

A few spoke in favor of the proposal, though they were in the minority.

Hunter Pasteur representative Seth Herkowitz has said there are "immense, truly historic public benefits" attached to the developer's plans, including the daylighting of 1,200 feet of the Middle Rouge River that runs beneath Northville Downs property, the addition of multiple parks to the city and a projected annual tax revenue boost of \$2.1 million.

Planning commissioners spent hours discussing road widths and building materials that will be used in the project as part of their months-long review. Roads like Beal Street and Griswold are expected to be slightly wider than some interior roads in the proposal. Commissioners also wanted a variety of building material like brick and stone used on



A rendering of carriage homes Downs developers added to their site plan to provide an additional price point for potential home owners.

COURTESY OF HUNTER PASTEUR HOMES

home facades and assurances detached garages and back sides of homes featured the same details as the fronts of homes, among other things.

Commissioners finally recommended approval of the preliminary site plan with its recommended changes about 7 hours after the meeting started on a 7-2 vote. Commissioners Jeff Gaines and Steven Kirk voted against the recommendation.

Past and current documents related to the Downs project can be found on the city's website at ci.northville.mi.us.

The plan now goes to the city council for approval. The council next meets on Sept. 19, though an agenda for that meeting has not been set.

Philip Allmen is editor for *Hometown Life*. Email him at pallmen@hometownlife.com.

Our favorite North Farmington senior photo IDs

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's no exaggeration to say this is a favorite story of the year.

That's right, folks. The North Farmington senior ID photos have arrived.

If you're new around here, here's the deal: North Farmington High School has this excellent tradition of letting seniors dress up just about however they want for their senior ID photos. Students dress up as TV characters, celebrities and more.

The tradition has garnered national media attention over the years and has spawned copycat traditions at other schools.

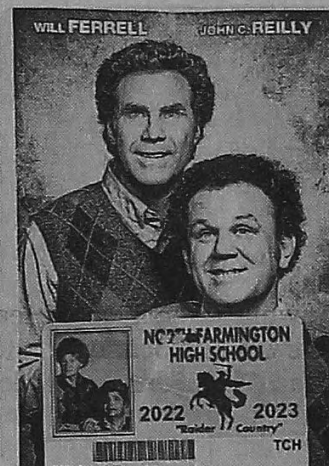
Here are a few of our favorites.



A royal #NFID23 photo. IMAGES COURTESY OF TWITTER



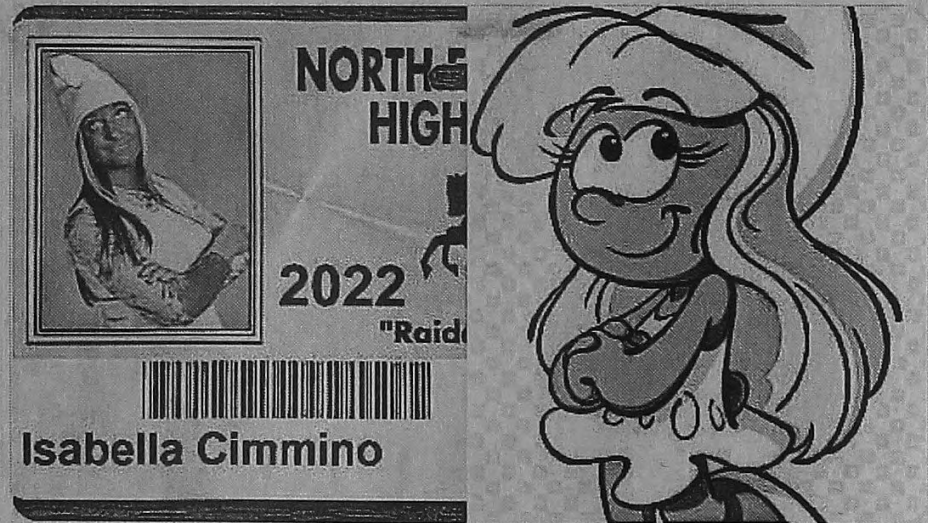
ClayFirmont @ClayFirmont · 21h
#NFID23 request from two of the goats at north, something about being too old for twitter



These two seniors took their cue from the movie "Stepbrothers."



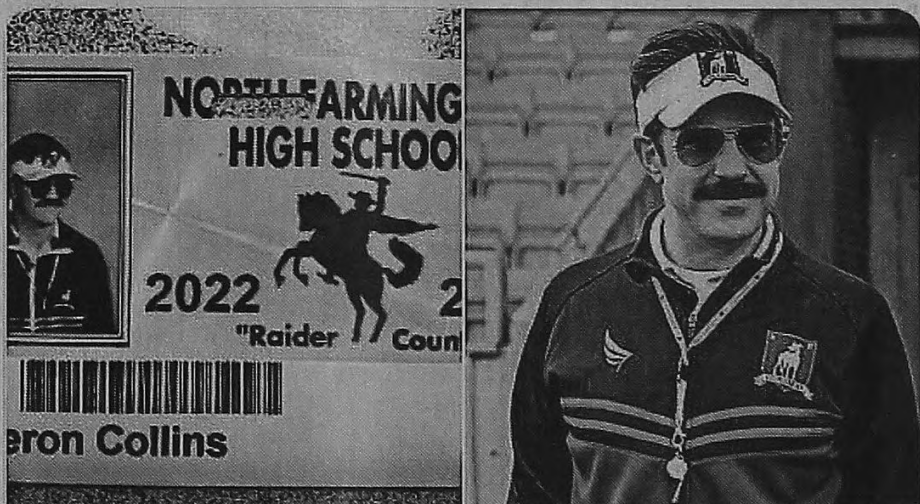
Izzy Cimmino @IzzyCimmino · Sep 13
Holy smurfing smurf it's senior year!!
#NFID23 @SmurfsMovie @Nfhs2023



North Farmington seniors often dress as iconic characters, like Smurfette.



Cameron Collins @Cameron62005 · Sep 13
#NFID23 You know what the happiest animal in the world is? It's a goldfish. It's got a 10 second memory. Be a goldfish. @jasonsudelkis @TedLasso @AFCRichmond



Ted Lasso made an appearance, or at least it appears so on this senior's ID.

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Classical artist to lead Village Arts Factory workshop

Courtesy of Canton Township

Widely-known and respected artist Robert Maniscalco will share over 40 years of experience, inspirational advice, and technical know-how when he presents "The Power of Positive Portrait Painting" workshop 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 7-8 at the Village Arts Factory, 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

Sponsored by the Village Arts Factory, the Partnership for Arts and Humanity, The Livonia Arts Commission, and The Three Cities Art Club, this workshop will feature a live model as Maniscalco discusses his process and painting philosophy while working alongside workshop participants.

Maniscalco will present the fundamentals of value-based painting to intermediate- and advanced-level artists using techniques based on the Frank Reilly Method, which he has adapted into an painting system as a means of creating mood and depicting

Robert Maniscalco's painting method is built on the classical painting traditions of Rembrandt, Velazquez, Hals, and Sargent.

realistic subjects.

Workshop participants will also learn how to think like a master painter, as well as explore value-based "light on form" painting methods to create expressive, colorful, accurate professional-level portraits and fine art.

Maniscalco's painting method is built on the classical painting traditions of Rembrandt, Velazquez, Hals, and Sargent. Like these artists, Maniscalco explores the use of light and shadow and utilizes the power of the master stroke and observable values to achieve powerful form, character, and likeness.

Born in Detroit, Maniscalco is the son of internationally renowned portrait artist Joseph Maniscalco, with whom he apprenticed during the early 1980s.

In 1997, after a three-year portrait residency in New Orleans, he returned to Detroit to found the Maniscalco Gallery, which showcased many local and international artists. As host of Art Beat, the critically acclaimed and popular PBS series on Detroit Public Television, he explored the creative process with his celebrated guests.

Participants of all levels will gain skills and confidence as they'll discover the trick to seeing how an artist sees that will ultimately help them paint like a master. Concrete, practical application will be the focus of the day, with a lot of individual attention provided by Maniscalco.

The workshop fee for both days is \$175, which includes the model fee. Register online. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org/1359 or call 734-394-5460.

Any Lab Test Now opens third location in Livonia

Staff report

A new family business opened in Livonia to provide medical lab tests, including drug tests, hormone tests, allergy tests, weight loss testing, DNA testing, ancestry testing, and COVID-19 tests.

Any Lab Test Now, 37112 Six Mile Road, is the third business for franchisees Tim and Kim Frank of West Bloomfield, who said the company offers convenient and cost-effective lab tests for both consumers and businesses.

The Franks said the lab can help individuals in need of affordable lab services as well as businesses looking for a source of medical testing for employment.

The Livonia location is led by Kim Frank's father, Dr. Ronald Williamson, and offers 8,000-plus standard lab tests, ranging in cost \$49-\$279.

A national franchise with more than 200 locations, Any Lab Test Now provides affordable and confidential lab tests, including general health and wellness panels, ancestry, weight loss, pregnancy, HIV/STD, drug, and paternity tests, along with B-12 shots and pre-employment drug screening.

The Livonia location is just the third franchise in Michigan.

"It's really a perfect solution for individuals with high-deductible health plans, those with no insurance or people who desire confidential testing," said Kim Frank. "Like any medical facility we follow all HIPAA guidelines and state regulations to protect our patients' safety, privacy and confidentiality."

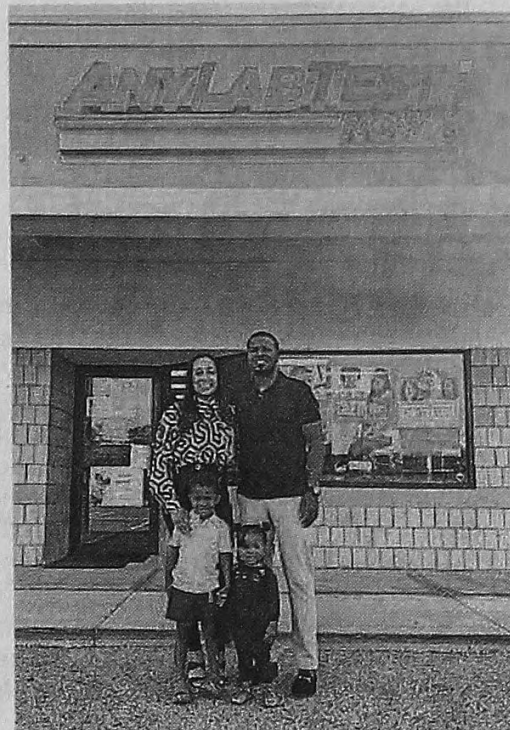
Any Lab Test Now will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting 3:30-6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23. The grand opening celebration includes tours, refreshments, and giveaways.

One percent of patient fees collected during the grand opening will be donated to Healthy Livonia, a local collaboration to make Livonia the healthiest city in the country.

A limited number of complimentary school sports physicals, and free B-12 and immunity boosters, will be offered at the grand opening on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guests touring the facility are requested to wear face masks.

The facility is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Call 734-884-4900 or visit anylabtestnow.com/livonia-48152.



Owners Tim and Kim Frank with their children, Timmy Frank III and Ivory Frank, at the Any Lab Test Now Livonia location. COURTESY OF ANY LAB TEST NOW



The new Henry Ford Medical Center in Plymouth Township was built on a former Kmart site. The Kmart closed in 2017 and was demolished in 2019. COURTESY OF HENRY FORD HEALTH/RAY MANNING

Center

Continued from Page 1A

will be a another benefit to the community."

Meanwhile, Henry Ford Health has closed its Canton location at 6100 Haggerty Road. The pediatrics clinic was relocated to the Beck Road location, while all other services moved to the new Plymouth Township facility.

The new outpatient medical center was built on the former Kmart site. The Kmart closed in 2017 and was demolished in 2019.

"The Henry Ford Hospital project is one of the crown jewels of western

Wayne county," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise. "It is a terrific addition to the Plymouth community and provides world class health care to our residents while at the same time is a incredible redevelopment of the old Kmart property.

"There are literally thousands of communities ... dealing with these old vacant big box retail stores and with no end in sight. For (Henry Ford Health) to them have select this property and redevelop the site ... is a tremendous benefit to the long-term economic development prospects for the Plymouth community."

Contact reporter Laura Colvin at lcolvin@hometownlife.com or 248-221-8143.

Church

Continued from Page 1A

outside of church as well as volunteer opportunities. Carroll will serve as the campus pastor, but the vast majority of services will be broadcast from Northville.

"The message will stay consistent across the different campuses," Nabors said. "Everybody is going through the same series with the same preacher."

The church hopes to welcome 300 people on its first Sunday and plans to be a positive presence in Farmington Hills.

"We really are looking forward to meeting people in the community and partnering with people to meet the needs of the community," Carroll said. "We know there's already a lot of good work going on in Farmington Hills, so we just want to be part of that."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Homes

Continued from Page 1A

with some 4,069 listings of homes for sale.

The median home prices issued by Realtor.com may exclude much, or even most, of a market's homes. The price and volume represent only homes that are single-family homes, condominiums or townhomes. They include existing homes, but exclude most new construction as well as pending and contingent sales.

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

Oakland County home prices drop 3.8% to \$404,120

Oakland County's home prices fell 3.8%, to a median \$404,120, from a month earlier. The typical house was on the market for 31 days, from 24 days a month earlier. The typical 1,976-square-foot house had a list price of \$207 per square foot.

Across metro Detroit, median home prices fell to \$274,500, down 2% from a month earlier. The median home had 1,536 square feet, at a list price of \$174 per square foot.

Across all of Michigan, median home prices were \$275,000, falling 3.5% from a month earlier. The median Michigan home for sale had 1,629 square feet at list price of \$165 per square foot.

Across the United States, median home prices were \$435,050, down 3.1% from a month earlier. The median American home for sale had 1,890 square feet, listed at \$222 per square foot.

The median home list price — the midway point of all the houses or units listed over a period of time — is used more often in this report instead of the average home list 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 listed 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.

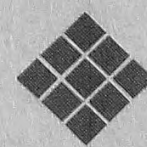
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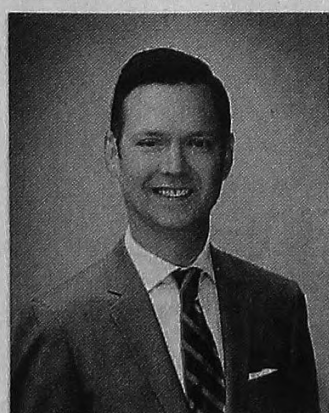
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Wayne County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 15,854 new cases. That's down 17.2% from the previous week's tally of 19,158 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 12th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States decreased 4.7% from the week before, with 507,209 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 3.13% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, three states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

The Labor Day holiday may have altered how many people can get tested and when, and when governments report testing results and deaths. This will skew week-to-week comparisons.

Wayne County reported 2,710 cases and 20 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 3,258 cases and 24 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 477,427 cases and 8,335 deaths.

Oakland County reported 1,947 cases and eight deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 2,211 cases and 13 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 346,266 cases and 4,082 deaths.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 69 counties, with the best declines in Wayne County, with 2,710 cases from 3,258 a week earlier; in Macomb County, with 1,476 cases from 1,752; and in Oakland County, with 1,947 cases from 2,211.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Iron County with 425 cases per 100,000 per week; Huron County with 291; and Shiawassee County with 254. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 2,710 cases; Oakland County, with 1,947 cases; and



Eno Mondesir, board of health executive director for Brockton, Massachusetts, speaks at a news conference announcing a new COVID-19 PCR testing facility. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the U.S. decreased 4.7% from the week before, with 507,209 cases reported. MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

Macomb County, with 1,476. Weekly case counts rose in 13 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Washtenaw, Manistee and Bay counties.

In Michigan, 83 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 129 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,786,213 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 38,121 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 95,250,705 people have tested positive and 1,050,323 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins Univer-

sity coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions staying flat

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, Sept. 11. Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 1,287
- The week before that: 1,292
- Four weeks ago: 1,295

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 60,585
- The week before that: 61,376

• Four weeks ago: 69,436

Hospitals in 16 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 22 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 19 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

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Obituaries

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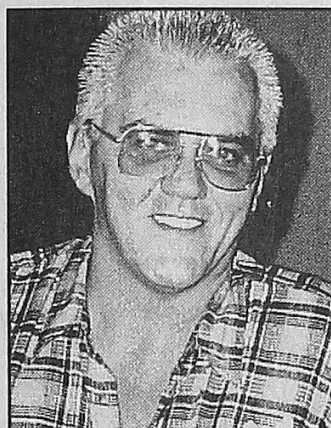
Richard A. Bliznik

NEWPORT BEACH, CA - Richard A. Bliznik of Newport Beach California, passed away at age 78 on March 21, 2022 due to heart complications with his devoted wife Marian of 49 years, at his side. Richard was born in Michigan to Joseph and Helen Bliznik. He is an alumni of Eastern Michigan University. He opened the first Century 21 real estate office in downtown Farmington Mich. in 1974. In 1990 the Bliznik's moved to Newport Beach CA. Richard was the successful author, publisher and CEO of Smooth-Talker Business Scripts for real estate agents and business professionals. His energy, positivity and kindness were life long traits. He would go out of his way to make you feel comfortable with his generous personality. Richard was an avid car collector who loved sports cars and classic automobiles, sharing his knowledge and love of cars with many. A celebration of Richard's life was held on May 7, 2022 in Newport Beach CA. His final resting place will be in Michigan after a service is held there.

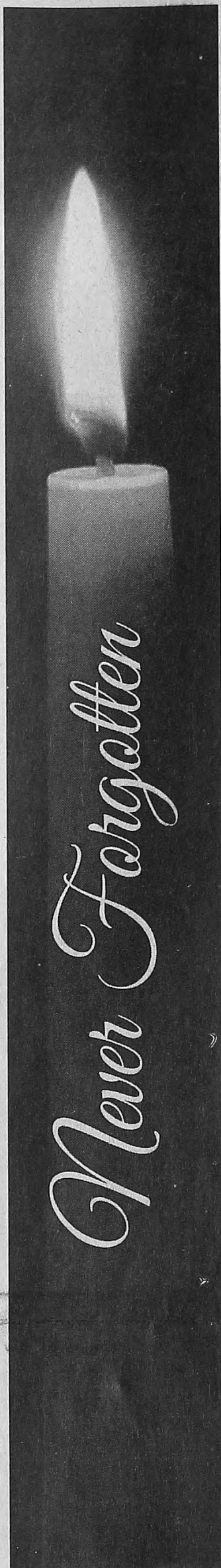


Edward Steve Rice

GARDEN CITY - 5/31/1956-8/26/2022 Edward Steve Rice, 66, of Garden City, Michigan, passed away August 26, 2022, with his loving family at his side.



Edward Steve Rice is survived by daughter Jessica Giles, son Steven Rice, daughter Amy Rice (Celeste), sister Ruth Marie Janowicz (Danny), brother Larry Ferri, sister Joann Wellman (Larry), sister Lori Rice, sister Pam Bell (Jeff), sister Denise Dwyer (Mike), brother Julius Ptak, and many loved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Edward was adored by his grandchildren, Jordan Rice, Connor Giles, Abigail Giles, Dru Seymour, Alexis Selko (Olti), and Austin Lehman. Edward was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, and devoted friend. While we mourn his death we rejoice in knowing that he has been reunited with his soulmate, the love of his life, his late wife Claudia Rice. Edward is also preceded in death by his parents Arson and Frances Rice, sister Flo Ferri, brother John Rice, sister Laura Mae Kaatz, and several more beloved family and friends. Cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Life event being held for family and close friends.



Lorna Marie Nitz

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS - Lorna Marie Nitz, 83, was born on April 20, 1939, in Sturgis, Michigan to Lauren and Esther (nee Holtz) Horrom. She died Thursday, September 8, 2022, at Waverly Inn Memory Care Community, in Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Lorna is survived by her husband of 61 years, Dean Clark Nitz; her children Laurette (Stephan) Petersen, Susan (Joffre) Mishall, and Joel (Kim) Nitz; grandchildren Samantha Mishall, Jacob Mishall, Sarah Mishall, Sabrina Mishall, Joshua Mishall, Annabelle Nitz and Jackson Nitz; and her brother, Roger Horrom.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her sister Janet, and her brother John.

Lorna loved her family, especially all of her grandchildren. Lorna loved to dance and sing, and always enjoyed her cookies and ice cream! Lorna was an avid reader, colorer and game player.

Lorna earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honor in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Education at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, where she also met the love of her life, Dean.

From 1960 until she retired in 2001, Lorna did what she loved to do the most, teach. She was an elementary school teacher with the Lansing, East Lansing, and Plymouth Michigan School Districts. Lorna LOVED being a teacher. She loved her kids, especially those that needed a little extra help or support.

In addition to her career as a teacher, Lorna also liked to volunteer in her community -- some might say she was born with her hand raised.

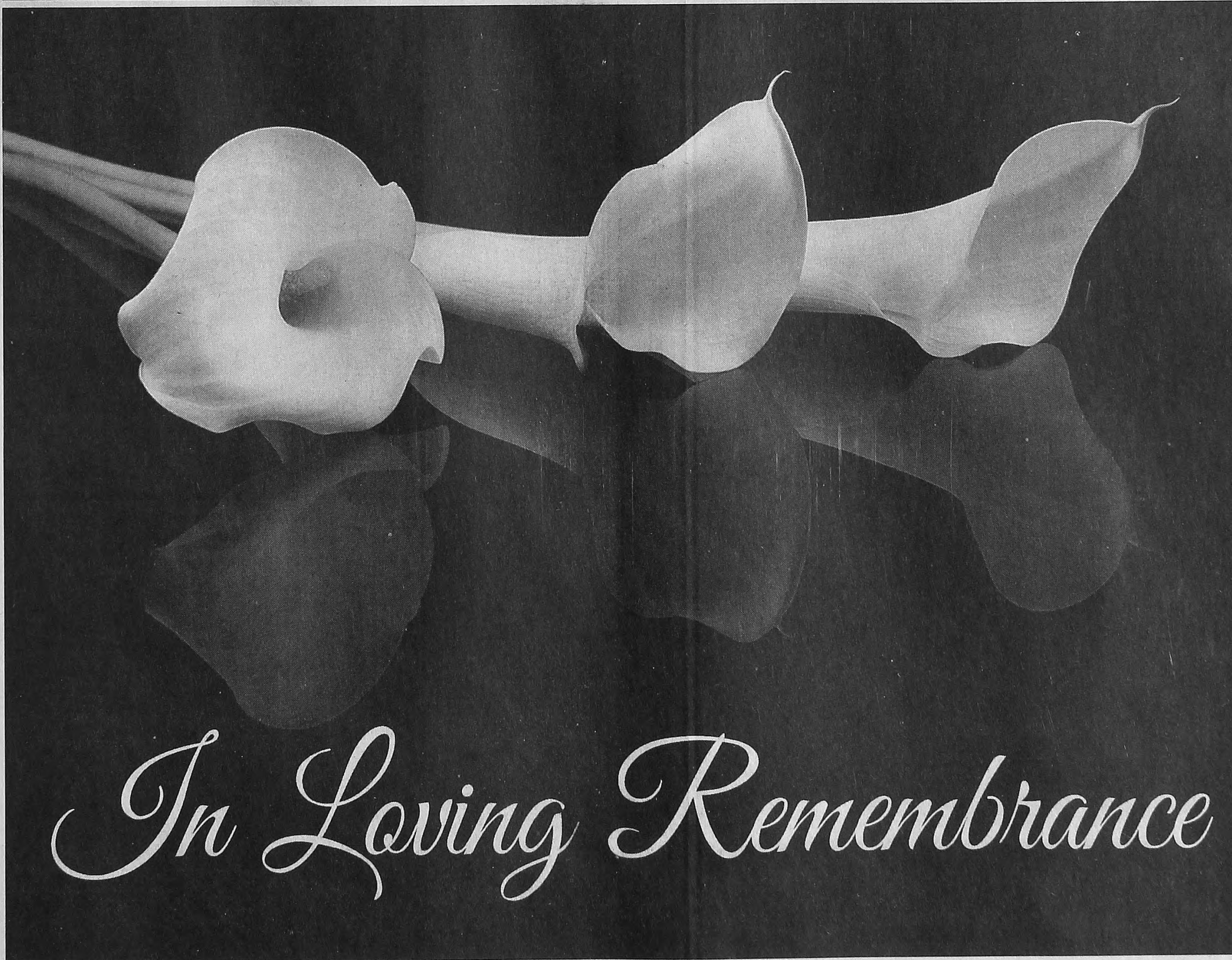
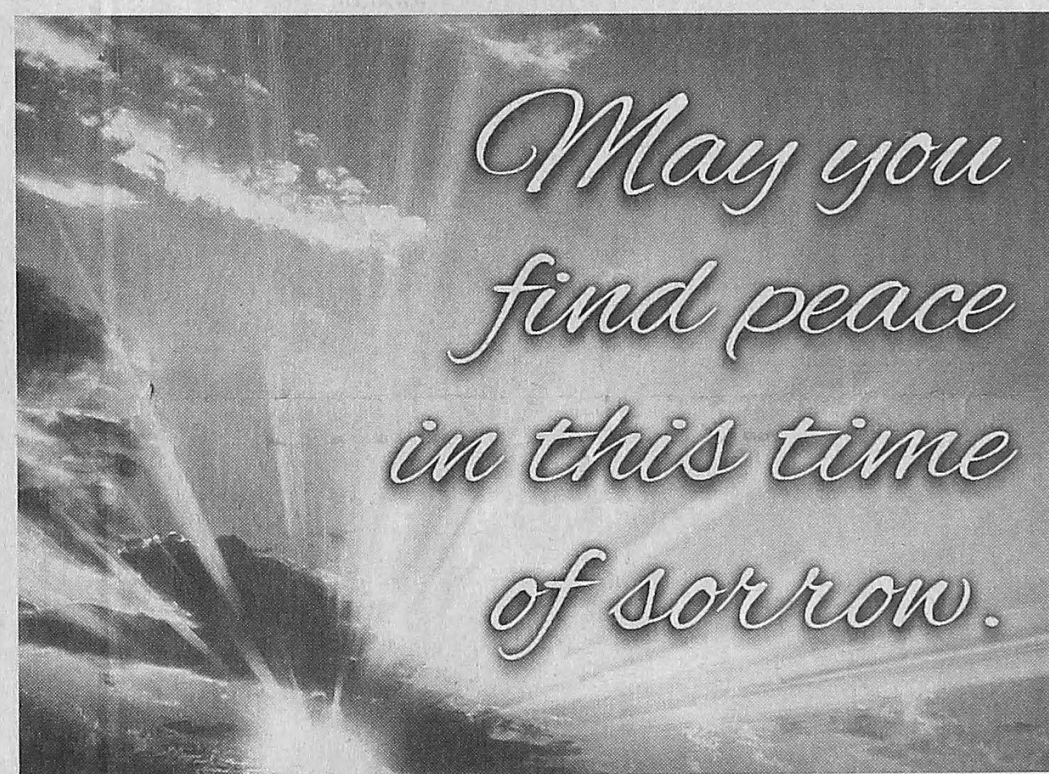
She was a member of AAUW (Association of American University Women), the Plymouth Michigan Historical Society, Plymouth Michigan Arts Council, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia, Michigan and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

After many years in Michigan, in 2019 Lorna and Dean relocated to Arlington Heights, Illinois, to be closer to their family.

Memorial Service scheduled for Friday, November 25, 2022, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter, 8430 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631, https://www.alz.org/illinois?form=alz_donate, or to a local food bank.

Funeral Information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFuneralHome.com or (847) 253-0168.



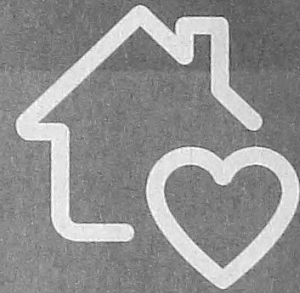


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SPORTS

John Glenn football building family culture

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland John Glenn linebacker Justin Rains jogged off the field after a defensive stop late in the second half Sept. 9

The junior popped off his helmet, took a knee on the sidelines and quickly

tried to catch his breath. Flying around to the ball and making stops against Livonia Stevenson was starting to take its toll on his body.

"Hey, Justin!" first-year football coach Jason Mensing shouted. "Stand up and put your helmet on. If you're hurt, then go see a trainer!"

"No, I'm good, coach!" Rains replied,

jumping to his feet. "I'm good!"

Mensing looked over his play sheet, sent out quarterback Nick Wetmore with a play and then looked back at Rains.

"Hey!" Mensing said. "It hurts to win!"

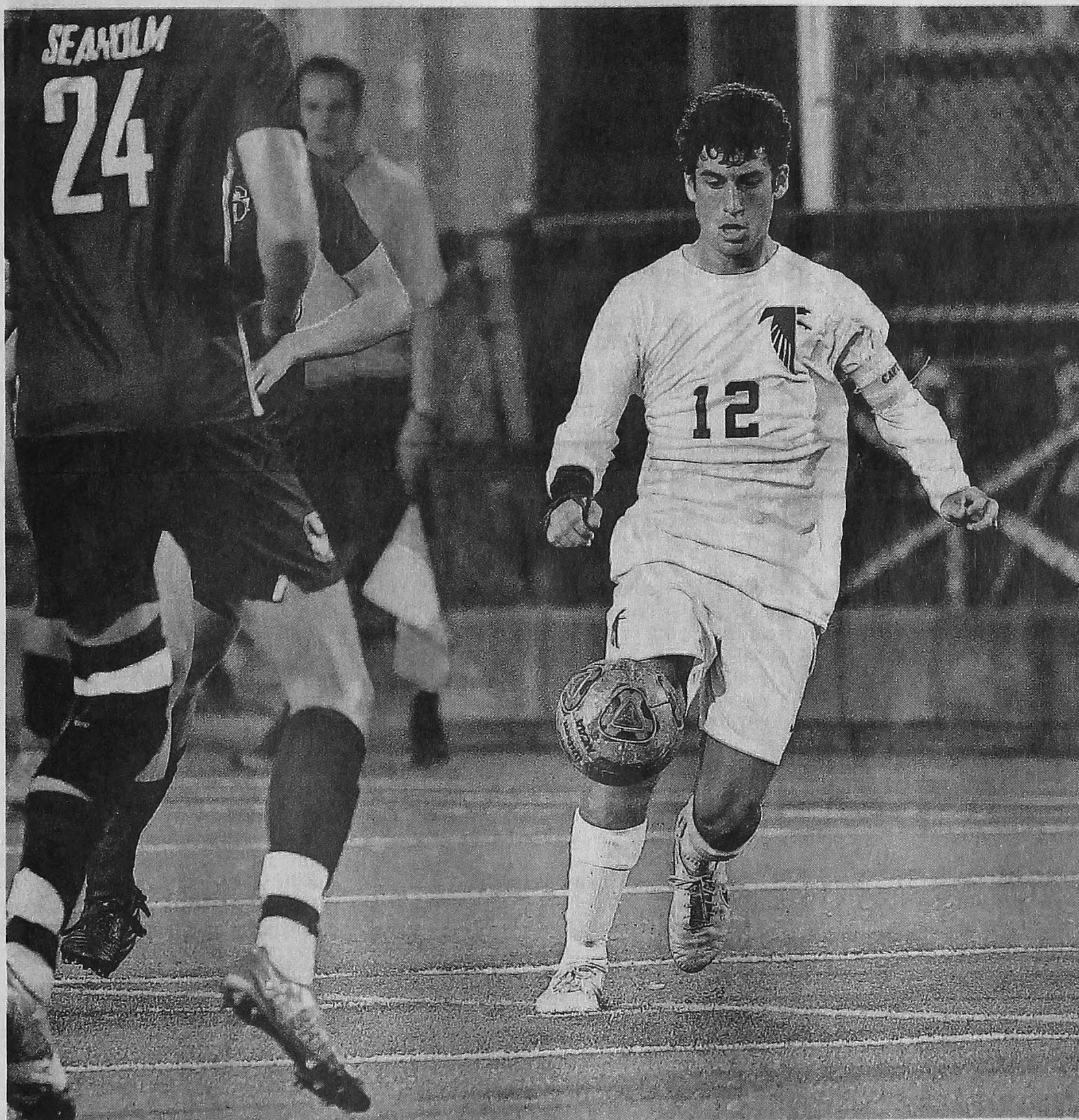
Rains looked at his coach and nodded.

"It hurts to win!" Mensing said again.

Within minutes, back on defense, Rains fell on a fumble at John Glenn's 6-yard line, halting a would-be Spartans' touchdown and, in the process, proving Mensing right: When you sacrifice for your team, your teammates — and in

See **FAMILY**, Page 4B

BOYS SOCCER



Birmingham Groves' Mori Miller, facing, looks to score during a match Sept. 13 at Birmingham Seaholm. Groves won, 3-0.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Groves gets revenge on former coach

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While Mori Miller held an iPhone in his left hand, the senior motioned with his other for his teammates to file in behind him for a celebratory selfie in front of the Birmingham Groves boys soccer team's bench Tuesday night.

"Everyone get in on this," the returning all-stater hollered.

This was definitely a memory the Falcons (4-2-6, 3-0-1) wanted to preserve.

Not only had Groves just made the almost 2-mile trip up Evergreen Road to defeat rival Birmingham Seaholm, 3-0, and remain in first place of the Oakland Activities Association-White but it did

so while facing its old coach.

After leading the Falcons for two years, Greg Perkins left them this past off-season to take over the Maples.

The rivalry match was already heated. Yellow cards were handed out. And both schools' student sections did not

See **REVENGE**, Page 2B

Top performers in Week 3 high school football

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 3 of the Michigan high school football season is in the books.

Let's take a look at the stat leaders around the Hometown Life coverage area.

Is your team missing stat leaders? Encourage your coaches to send stats to sports reporter Brandon Folsom at bfolsom@hometownlife.com.

Catholic League

Detroit Catholic Central 45, DeWitt 38 (F/OT)

LB Brayden Courser came up with the game-saving sack in OT for the Shamrocks (2-1).

Brother Rice 26, Brownstown Woodhaven 0

QB Blake Marrogy rushed for three TDs, including one on a 15-yard option play, and tossed a TD to Henry Garrity. The Warriors are 1-2 overall.

Cranbrook 34, Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes 14

QB Preston Washer was 14 of 25 passing for 139 yards and four TDs for the Cranes (1-2). John Kersh led the defense with 10 tackles (one for loss) and one sack.

Independent

Detroit Country Day 28, Warren Michigan Collegiate 20

The Yellowjackets improved to 3-0 overall.

Livonia Clarenceville 34, Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 23

The Trojans improved to 2-1 overall.

Kensington Lakes Activities Association

Novi 43, Salem 10 (KLAA-West)

QB Caleb Walker was 21 of 32 passing for 408 yards and six TDs for the Wildcats (2-1, 2-0). TeJohn McGowan caught four passes for 123 yards and two TDs, while Boden Fernsler hauled in four passes for 109 yards and two scores. Andrew Kummer and Luke Aurilia each caught TDs. Niko Krall led the defense with 15 tackles (four solo), Thaddeus Lawler and Andrew Abler

See **WEEK 3**, Page 3B

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Northville senior among Miss Volleyball finalists

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Northville senior Abby Reck was driving with her sisters, sophomores Molly and Mallory, to a club practice at Legacy Volleyball Center in Novi when one of them broke the news to her.

The Northeastern commit was recently named one of 10 finalists for Michigan's Miss Volleyball Award.

Which was saying something because that list is a who's who of some of the best players not only in the state but across the country. Six of them are committed to a Division I school.

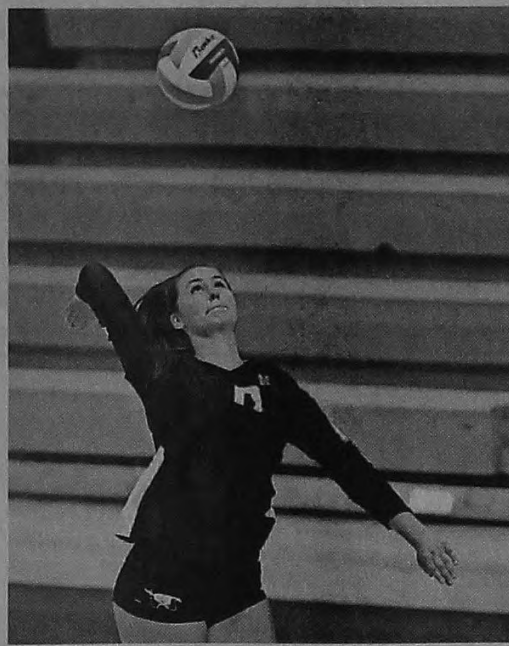
What's more, six of them have been club teammates of Reck's over the past four years. And eight of the 10 have played for Legacy at one point in their careers.

The other finalists included Detroit Country Day middle hitter Laurece Abraham (Yale), Novi outside hitter Sarah Vellucci (Long Beach State), Bloomfield Hills Marian setter Ava Sarafa (Kentucky), Marian OH Ella Schomer (Wofford), Lake Orion OH Nina Horning (Cincinnati), Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern OH Kennedy Louisell (uncommitted), Macomb Dakota setter Erin Madigan (uncommitted), Marshall libero Ella McAllister (uncommitted) and Ann Arbor Skyline OH Harper Murray (Nebraska).

"It's just been a lot of hard work," Reck said following the Mustangs' 3-0 victory Sept. 8 at Plymouth. "It doesn't really matter to me how long you're in the gym. It's how long your mind is in the gym. You could be in the gym for 6 hours but unless you're focused, it's not really doing anything for you."

At 6-foot 2, it's a no-brainer why she made the cut.

When Northville coach Sarah Lindstrom took over the program in 2021, one of the first things she did was move



Northville's Abby Reck serves during a match Sept. 8 at Plymouth.
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Reck from the middle to the outside. Reck brought too much power, verticality and pin-point accuracy to be left as a blocker near the net. Plus, Reck isn't a liability on defense in the back row. She can dig with the best of them, despite being one of the most towering hitters on the floor.

Reck is Northville's first Miss Volleyball finalist since Emily Martin in 2016. But she's Lindstrom's first since she coached Christina Porada in 2013 at Dearborn Divine Child.

Lindstrom, who has coached six of the 10 Miss Volleyball finalists at the club level, first coached Reck when she was a freshman, her first year at the club level. And she's been part of Reck's development for three of the past four years now that she's her high school coach.

"For me, to see her go from her first year playing high-level volleyball to this

(becoming a Miss Volleyball finalist), it just makes me so proud, especially knowing her background, history and worth ethic," the second-year coach said. "She deserves it, and she's more than deserving to be with that group of people."

"Physically, she's gotten faster. She's always been a hard worker and has been very coachable. She was originally in the middle for me, but we moved her to the outside because she scores in high school. And if we're out of system, we can still get her the ball. She's definitely matured a lot. She's worked hard in the weight room and her vertical has increased by a ton, which I think that physical side of the game has definitely changed and has helped her."

While Miss Volleyball is an individual award, how well the Mustangs (9-0, 2-0 KLA-A-West) do as a team will dictate how many votes Reck receives from the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association at the end of the regular season.

And Northville is thinking about winning a Division 1 state title this fall.

In Lindstrom's first season, the Mustangs were two points away from forcing a fifth set against third-ranked Ann Arbor Skyline, the eventual state runner-ups, in last year's state quarterfinal. It was just 17 points away from advancing to the final four at Battle Creek.

Lindstrom admitted some of her players didn't believe they could make it that far a year ago. But now that everyone has been in her system for two full off-seasons, the confidence has grown inside the locker room.

"I think that's a huge difference," the coach said. "We tried to make that present (that Northville is a championship-caliber program) when we came in, but it's hard to get people to buy in to what you're selling. This year it started off from the very beginning. You can see

when we're talking in huddles that they're nodding their heads, and you can see it in their body language. You can tell that they believe in us. And last year, getting that close, that's when they were like, 'Maybe we could get there?' And now that we've gotten that close, and they've gotten that taste of it, we're right there. We were one set away from Battle Creek. Now they know they can do it, and that gives them confidence."

Counting Reck, the Mustangs have just five seniors, but they're chalked full of future college players. From liberos Greta McKee, Ashlee Gnau and Taryn Rice to setters Anna Wilds and Ella Craggs, outside hitters Ava Thomas and Molly Reck and middle blocker Avry Nelson, among many others, they're ready to compete for a state title and help Abby become Miss Volleyball.

And Lindstrom has been the catalyst pushing the team forward.

"Sarah's just been really great, and as soon as she came into the program, she's just set a new standard and made sure practices were intense," Abby said. "She made sure everyone was focused and working hard. She kind of just reset the community we have in the gym. That's been super great for all of us. We hang out all the time. We love our team. It's just been really great to be close with my teammates, and I think that's what makes our team work really well together."

It's taken years of hard work for Abby to be recognized as one of the best players in Michigan. So it wasn't a surprise she heard she had become a Miss Volleyball finalist while she was driving to practice.

If she's driving to practice when she finds out who won the award in mid-November, that's great for the Mustangs. That means they're still alive in the playoffs and likely headed to Battle Creek.

Meet the finalists for Michigan Miss Volleyball Award

Tom Lang Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ten high school players have been named finalists for Miss Volleyball 2022 in Michigan. Only seniors are considered for the award, sponsored by the Detroit Free Press since 2003.

Finalists are selected by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association. This year's nominees include, in alphabetical order:

Laurece Abraham

School: Birmingham Detroit Country Day

Position: Middle blocker

Height: 6-foot-1

2021 stats: 44 aces, 100 blocks, 103 digs, 273 kills

The buzz: Abraham broke the school record with 11 aces in one match. She also has the record for most kills and most blocks in a season. Now a four-year starter, she earned all-region and second team all-state last season. Led Country Day last year to district and regional titles and reached the state quarterfinals in 2021. She carries a 3.5 grade-point average.

College plans: Yale

Nina Horning

School: Lake Orion

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-5

Career stats: 210 aces, 122 blocks, 572 digs, 1,227 kills

The buzz: Horning was second team all-state as a sophomore and first-team last season. She has been in the six-player rotation her entire career and has led the team in kills since a freshman.

OAA conference and district champions last season. She has a 3.67 GPA.

College plans: Cincinnati

Kennedy Louisell

School: Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 5-11

2021 stats: 65 aces, 216 digs, 402 serves received, 589 kills

The buzz: Earned all-region and second-team all-state honors as a junior. She led Forest Hills Northern to a record best of 32-9-3 last year. Career kills total in three seasons is 1,382. Co-founder of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes chapter at her school. She has a 3.87 GPA.

College plans: Undecided

Erin Madigan

School: Macomb Dakota

Position: Setter

Height: 6-2

2021 stats: 31 aces, 779 assists, 60 blocks, 177 digs, 94 kills

The buzz: Last season, Madigan earned all-conference, all-county, all-region and second-team all-state. She led Dakota last year to a 28-3-2 overall record, for championships in conference, district, regional and a state semifinal appearance. She has a 4.1 GPA.

College plans: Undecided

Ella McAllister

School: Marshall

Position: Libero

Height: 5-6

2021 stats: 459 digs; 50.1 dig/set avg. per match.

The buzz: McAllister earned all-region and first-team all-state in 2021. As a sophomore, she led Marshall to a 33-8 record, and last year a 27-19-1 mark, winning district championships all three seasons of her career. She has a 3.83 GPA.

College plans: Undecided

Harper Murray

School: Ann Arbor Skyline

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-2

2012 stats: 82 aces (289 career), 35 blocks, 312 digs, 656 kills (1762 career).

The buzz: Murray was the catalyst to the best Skyline season in the school's short history. The team was the Division 1 state runner-up to Birmingham Marian last season, after a state semifinal appearance in 2019. She has been first-team all-state the past two years, and second-team as a freshman. She has a 3.752 GPA.

College plans: Nebraska

Abby Reck

School: Northville

Position: Outside/middle hitter

Height: 6-1

2021 stats: 50 aces, 33 blocks, 148 digs, 590 kills.

The buzz: Reck led Northville to a 49-5 record, district and regional championships in 2021. She was voted all-conference, all-region and second team all-state as a junior. She has a 3.75 GPA.

College plans: Northeastern

Ava Sarafa

School: Birmingham Marian

Position: Setter

Height: 6-0

2021 stats: 1,444 assists for third consecutive season of 1,000-plus.

The buzz: Sarafa is one of the top setters in the nation. Her set totals each of the last two years led the state of Michigan. Her 1,267 sets in 2020 was No. 1 in the nation in the sophomore class, and her 1,444 last year ranked No. 2 among juniors. Sarafa was the lead setter for the last two Division 1 state championship teams and last season she assisted five teammates to 180 kills or more. She has a 3.8 GPA.

College plans: Kentucky

Ella Schomer

School: Birmingham Marian

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-1

2021 stats: 63 aces, 119 blocks, 522 digs, 439 kills.

The buzz: Schomer was integral part of the last two Division 1 state championship teams. All-region the last two years, and all-state as a junior. Team record last year was 53-1 with a No. 2 national ranking. She has a 3.9 GPA.

College plans: Wofford

Sarah Vellucci

School: Novi

Position: Outside hitter

Height: 6-0

2021 stats: 45 aces, 39 assists, 23 blocks, 307 digs, 362 kills.

The buzz: Novi reached the Division 1 state semifinals in Vellucci's sophomore season and won the conference and district titles the last two seasons. She earned second-team all-state as a junior. She has a 3.8 GPA.

College plans: Long Beach State

Revenge

Continued from Page 1B

disappoint. It was quite the rowdy environment for the season's first meeting between Groves and Seaholm.

But the fact Perkins was hosting his former team made emotions high for Groves' players.

"It was almost impossible to ignore," said Miller, a captain who scored twice. "I completely respect Greg. He's one of the best coaches I've ever had. I love him as a person. I don't think he should have went to Seaholm, but he went there, and he saw his mistake (tonight)."

"We still text all the time and check in on each other's seasons. I have a great

relationship with him. But tonight, we had to put that aside and focus on the game."

Miller actually played on Perkins' travel team leading up to this fall.

And many of the other Falcons have fond memories of playing for him.

But they wanted their revenge.

"It's a rivalry game, so it's going to be more emotional, but we've got to control those emotions and kind of stick to the game plan," first-year Groves coach Paul Thomas said. "For the players, it definitely had a lot more meaning tonight, but I think from an overall program standpoint and as a staff, we tried to keep them focused on the game and tried to take some of the emotion out of it."

The two sides played to a 0-0 tie in

the first half.

At halftime, Thomas made an adjustment on offense to have his attackers utilize the inside space between Seaholm's outside and center backs.

Just 4 minutes into the second half, senior Mario Blum-Alexander got that inside positioning, collected a through ball from the outside and nailed a line drive toward the right post for the winning goal.

Miller provided some insurance by burying a penalty kick toward the right side of the net in the 34th minute.

He added the exclamation point to the victory on a breakaway about 9 minutes later. He received a pass on a line down the near sideline. Then he blasted an opposite-foot shot just over the goalie's head from almost 20 yards away,

handing Seaholm (5-1-2, 2-1), and its new coach, its first loss.

"We put almost a perfect product on the pitch with no goals (allowed)," Miller said. "I'm just really proud of how we were able to keep the game in check and keep our heads up."

Seaholm's post-game talk with Perkins lasted well over 20 minutes. Perkins briefly consoled three players who were visibly distraught afterward. One of them was crying.

When asked to be interviewed for this story, Perkins responded, "Not at the moment. I have loads of stuff to do." Then he beelined to the Maples' bench while waving off the request to talk about facing his former team.

On the other end of the field, Miller was hugging Thomas.

Week 3

Continued from Page 1B

each had eight and Preston Johnston added six. Lawler, Abler, Cole Shires, Niko Hertrich and Austin Washington had one sack apiece and Preston Phimister recovered a fumble.

RB Robert Jones rushed 19 times for 96 yards for the Rocks (0-3, 0-2). Lawson Shields hauled in a 30-yard TD pass from Brayden Alexander, who was 2 of 2 passing for 34 yards. Shields paced the defense with eight tackles (seven solo, 2.5 for loss), and Aidan Moore added seven (four solo). Muhammad Qasim recorded a sack, and Tyler Bond broke up a pair of passes.

Northville 21, Howell 0 (KLAA-West)

QB Luca Prior was 8 of 12 passing for 64 yards and a TD to Angelo Rodriguez. The Mustangs (3-0, 2-0) got 16 carries for 73 yards and two TDs from Caleb Moore and five carries for 68 yards from Prior. Hunter Ladach led the defense with 10 tackles, Cooper Hoffman added eight and Hassan Elzayat totaled seven. Vaibhav Chigullapally and Elzayat each had sacks.

Plymouth 16, Canton 0 (KLAA-West)

RB Jaxon McCaig rushed 28 times for 188 yards and two TDs for the Wildcats (1-2, 1-1). Camden Short caught two passes for 17 yards, and Luc Damiani booted in a 28-yard field goal. Evan Cosgrove led the defense with seven tackles (five solo), Damiani added 6.5 tackles (five solo) and Garard Noel and Orlando Daniels had six apiece.

The Chiefs (1-2, 1-1) got 79 yards rushing from Dillon Calhoun, another 78 from Devon Pettus and 29 from Caleb Williams.

Belleville 59, Livonia Churchill 8 (KLAA-East)

QB Evan Snead was 6 of 15 passing for 75 yards for the Chargers (1-2, 0-2). Jon Lytle-Montgomery rushed 19 times for 55 yards, Massiah Amerson rushed for a 2-yard score and John Palozzi caught three passes for 55 yards. Amerson and Blake Chafin had three tackles apiece, while Chafin also recorded a sack.

Livonia Franklin 50, Dearborn 33 (KLAA-East)

QB JD Bates was 8 of 11 passing for 114 yards, two TDs and one interception for the Patriots (3-0, 2-0). Cordell Mabins



Livonia Stevenson's ArJon Thompson dives for more yards Sept. 9 at John Glenn. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Jr. rushed 29 times for 205 yards and three TDs, Dominic Simpson had six rushes for 51 yards and a score and Tyler Garrett scored on a 13-yard carry and caught three receptions for 53 yards and two TDs. Jacob Gorla led the defense with five tackles (one for loss), and Jon Jasionowski-Anderson nabbed an interception.

Livonia Stevenson 21, Westland John Glenn 20 (KLAA-East)

QB ArJon Thompson rushed for three TDs, including the game-winner on a 1-yarder, for the Spartans (2-1, 2-0). Blake Zoro fell on a game-clinching fumble on the Rockets' final drive.

QB Nick Wetmore rushed for a 7-yard score and tossed a 5-yard TD pass to Connor LeCourt. The Rockets (1-2, 1-1) also got a 1-yard TD from Xavier Spadacini.

Dearborn Fordson 45, Wayne Memorial 0 (KLAA-East)

The Zebras fell to 0-3 overall and 0-2 in the KLAA-East.

Lakes Valley Conference

South Lyon 35, Walled Lake Central 6 (LVC)

QB Braden Fracassi was 4 of 10 passing for 71 yards, one TD and one interception for the Lions (2-1, 2-0). Tommy Donovan rushed 14 times for 121 yards and one TD and also returned a kickoff for a 95-yard TD. Fracassi and Wyatt Douglass each rushed for TDs, and Ben Radley caught a 27-yard TD pass. Zackary Nowell led the defense with six tackles (three solo, one for loss), Radley and Andrew Richards each added sacks and Nicholas Stoyanovich and Ryan Henderson each nabbed interceptions.

Milford 44, Walled Lake Northern 0 (LVC)

QB Ryan Allen was 15 of 22 passing for 190 yards, three TDs and one inter-

ception and rushed 14 times for 81 yards and a score for the Mavericks (2-1, 1-1). Ethan Phipps caught two passes for 98 yards and one TD, while Peyton Chamberlain and Josh Tobias each caught TDs. Tanner Petru rushed for a score. Wyatt Lesnew led the defense with 14 tackles (four for loss), two pass break-ups and a blocked punt, Danny Sternberg had seven tackles (two for loss) and two sacks, Jon Motes and Justin Gross each had five tackles and one sack and Luke Siterlet recorded a safety.

Walled Lake Western 52, White Lake Lakeland 7 (LVC)

RB Mike Mahaney III rushed for a 3-yard score for the Eagles (2-1, 2-1). Braxton Godin returned a kickoff 87 yards to set up Lakeland's lone TD.

South Lyon East 42, Waterford Mott 19 (LVC)

QB Nico Campo was 11 of 13 passing for 178 yards and three TDs for the Cougars (3-0, 3-0). Daedricco Fizer totaled 90 of the team's 179 rushing yards and added two TDs, while Jordan Newbill caught four passes for 89 yards and a TD and also rushed for a 47-yard score. Drew Moyer and Angelo Ljuljduraj each caught TD passes. Jayden LaPerna led the defense with 6.5 tackles, followed by Dante DeGrazia with 5.5. Connor Marsac had 4.5 tackles and a half sack, Nick Dashner added four tackles and one sack, Jack Toth had four tackles and 1.5 sacks and Newbill had an interception and blocked an extra point.

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference

Lutheran Westland 20, Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest 13 (MIAC)

QB Noah Etnyre was 5 of 8 passing for 70 yards and two TDs for the Warriors (2-1, 1-0). Micah Lavigne caught a 49-yard TD pass, while Nathan Klann had an 11-yard TD reception. Aiden Sexton rushed for 47 yards and a TD. Ben Wright and Klann led the defense with seven tackles apiece, Sexton had six and Mark McCormick added five. Lavigne pulled down an interception.

Oakland Activities Association

Birmingham Seaholm 63, Auburn Hills Avondale 19

QB Colton Kinnie rushed for three TDs and threw another to Penn Roberts for the Maples (3-0). Granden Kinnie added two TDs on the ground, while

Sean Emerson, Kyle Robbins and Roberts each rushed for one score.

Farmington 28, Troy Athens 14 (OAA-Blue)

RB Cameron Pettaway rushed for 156 yards and one TD and had 61 yards receiving and two TDs for the Falcons (2-1, 1-0). Owen Matteson caught a 70-yard punt return for a TD, while the defense held the Red Hawks to just 175 yards of total offense.

North Farmington 9, Troy 0 (OAA-Blue)

RB Anderson Sculati punched in a 9-yard rushing TD for the Raiders (1-2, 1-0).

Birmingham Groves 23, Oak Park 18 (OAA-White)

QB Cayden Hardy was 8 of 13 passing for 126 yards and two TDs for the Falcons (2-1, 1-0). Mario Campoy-LoVasco rushed 22 times for 101 yards and one score, Jack Wainer caught five passes for 90 yards and one TD. Braden Hall led the defense with four tackles (one for loss) and a sack, while Josh Woods added three tackles and a safety.

Rochester 41, Bloomfield Hills 20 (OAA-White)

QB CJ Jackson totaled three TDs for the Black Hawks (0-3, 0-1). The senior threw a 20-yard TD to Aaron Zekman and an 18-yarder to Ahmad Taylor. He also rushed for a 5-yard score.

Western Wayne Athletic Conference

Redford Union 21, Dearborn Heights Annapolis 8 (WWAC)

QB Cory Chavis was 9 of 13 passing for 208 yards, three TDs and one interception for the Panthers (3-0, 2-0). Javerious Shepherd rushed 17 times for 149 yards, Kyren Ware added four receptions for 88 yards and one TD and Jerimiah Alston and Dematthew Dixon each caught a TD.

Garden City 29, Melvindale 27 (WWAC)

QB Nathan Wasil punched in a short-yardage TD and tossed a 40-yard TD to Owen McGraw, who also rushed for a 50-yard TD and returned a kickoff 50 yards. Also helping the Cougars (2-1, 2-0) were Kaden Williams with a 2-yard TD plunge and Jessy Chavez with the winning two-point conversion run.

Dearborn Heights Crestwood 35, Redford Thurston 13 (WWAC)

The Eagles fell to 0-3 overall and 0-2 in the WWAC.

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Family

Continued from Page 1B

this case, your family — only benefit. In the end, the Rockets (1-2, 1-1 KLAA-East) didn't win. Stevenson QB ArJon Thompson led a late-game comeback, capped off with the junior scoring the winning TD on fourth and 1 in the final 90 seconds.

But that 21-20 loss to the Spartans showed us at least one thing. John Glenn is leaps and bounds ahead of where it's been as a program in recent history.

It's been eight years since the Rockets have had a winning season. And even those have been hard to come by. They've had only five winning seasons since former Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame coach Chuck Gordon retired in 2003. Gordon, who the Rockets' stadium is named after, won 211 games in 27 years. Coincidentally, Gordon was on hand for Week 3's game against Stevenson, which was played just two days after Sept. 7, a day that has been celebrated as "Chuck Gordon Day" by the City of Westland since 2012.

Not counting the COVID-19-shortened season in 2020, where every team in Michigan qualified for the postseason, they've been to the playoffs only three times in the past two decades.

For years, the Rockets have been the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's punching bag.

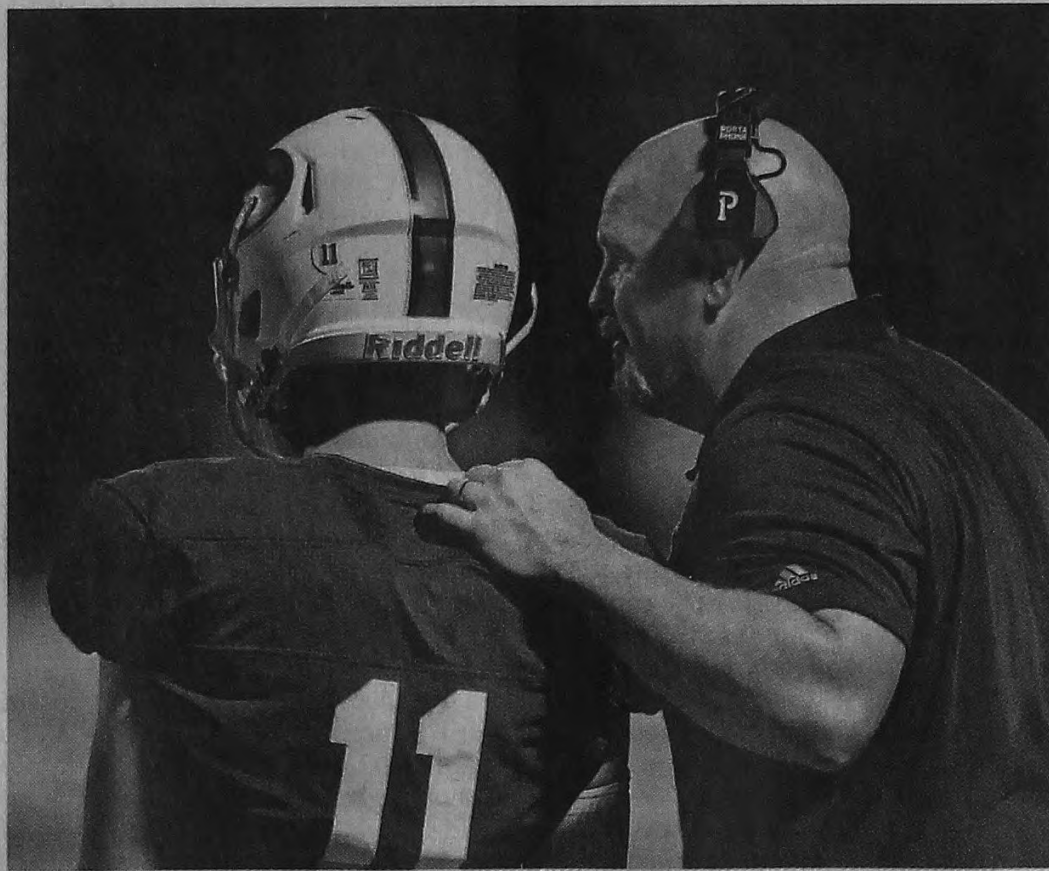
But not anymore. They're no longer an opponent's guaranteed win on homecoming night.

Enter Mensing, who left Division 8 state power Ottawa Lake Whiteford to fix John Glenn's woes.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools hired Mensing in May to replace former coach Calvin Griggs, who had a 4-12 record in two years with the Rockets before being fired following the 2021 season.

Mensing never had a losing season while leading the Bobcats for the past 10 years. He posted a 93-24 record with them. And he led them to back-to-back state championship appearances in 2016 and 2017. That included Whiteford beating Saginaw Nouvel, 42-21, to win the school's first state title in football in 2017.

It hasn't been easy, but Mensing has



John Glenn's Nick Wetmore (left) gets a play from coach Jason Mensing during a game against Livonia Stevenson on Sept. 9. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

already established a winning culture with his new team.

After a tough Week 1 outing against Hartland, the Rockets bounced back with an upset victory over Livonia Churchill. This past week, it led Stevenson 20-7 before Thompson's late-game heroics proved to be too much to slow down.

But at 1-2 overall, John Glenn is playing like a playoff team, not a pushover.

"I don't have a magical formula at all," Mensing said. "I'm just going to pour myself into these kids."

So how has he gotten it done?

Baby steps. From, literally, square one.

During his first outing with the team, he had to tell some of his players to wear proper footwear to practice. He even had to teach the Rockets how to run onto the field as a unit.

He didn't get Day 1 buy-in from every player. But by the middle of the summer, he had almost 100 players showing up for conditioning.

When he asked his players to write their goals on paper, almost every form returned to him mentioned they wanted to build a winning program. And, most importantly, they all wanted to become

a family.

"He's been getting us to really trust him and buy into what he's talking about," said running back Xavier Spadacini, a senior. "If he says something, he follows through. And it really builds trust with us and a lot of these other kids."

"We've been working hard, and that's the only reason we're really here. We've been working hard and playing as a team finally. We're just getting all the right pieces in the right places."

Most big schools use some sort of shotgun spread-option or pro-style offense.

So it's odd seeing a D-1 team employ Mensing's double-wing scheme, but that's what they're doing.

And it's working.

Dives, delays and runs off tackle. Sweeps, fakes and play-action passes. Mensing is giving his best athletes a chance to make plays in a throwback offense.

But a well-structured offense like the double wing has offered the team just that: structure.

"We have the same athletes, but now we have discipline," said Wetmore, also a senior. "We have the same kids. It's

just a different culture. We're playing with discipline and having more fun learning how to be a good football program. It's been a lot to learn in a small amount of time. Other than that, we're all brothers. We're getting it done.

"We all love Coach. It's a great experience. He's bringing John Glenn back to what it used to be. We really all trust in him and believe in him. We all play so hard for ourselves and for him. We love Coach."

John Glenn's best player, running back/linebacker Damon Powers, admitted he didn't fully buy into Mensing's coaching philosophy until the Rockets' pre-season scrimmage.

But what he saw from his coach during that exhibition game gave him a change of heart. The junior saw how Mensing was making John Glenn play as a team. Each player was starting to be accountable for their mistakes.

They were becoming a family, right there in a scrimmage.

"The biggest challenge for us as a program has been coming together as a team," Powers said. "Last year, we didn't really play as a team. We had a losing record. Everybody has been coming together a little more. Little by little, we've been getting better. One of our mottos is, 'My key is our key to success.' If everybody does their assignment, we'll succeed as a team. We're doing that now."

"I just know in a few years, we're going to be a winning program. Right now, we've just got to build on what we got."

The Rockets have a long way to go before it returns to Chuck Gordon form, an era when they won eight or more games in 16 of Gordon's 27 years. But the losing seasons will soon come to end, especially with the culture being established both on and off the field.

John Glenn is truly becoming a family.

While Mensing was being interviewed for this story, senior Carter Blair stepped outside of the locker room, saw his coach and interrupted his conversation with the media.

"Hey, I love you, coach," the running back said. "Have a good one."

Mensing turned his head and didn't hesitate with his response.

"Have a good one, too, Carter," he said with a smile. "I love you, too."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

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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.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Annuals | Dirt | Melt | Seeds |
| Ball | Exotics | Mess | Shed |
| Bamboo | Fern | Natives | Shoots |
| Basil | Fine | Neat | Skills |
| Bins | Flower | Nuts | Soak |
| Broccoli | Fork | Okra | Soil |
| Buds | Grubs | Onion | Sweetpea |
| Bulb | Hardy | Palm | Thaw |
| Chrysanthemum | Hoes | Peony | Tomato |
| Clean | Iris | Pond | Untidy |
| Clip | Lawn | Rake | Urea |
| Cool | Leek | Roses | Wild |
| Dahlia | Lily | Scent | |

TODAY'S ANSWER

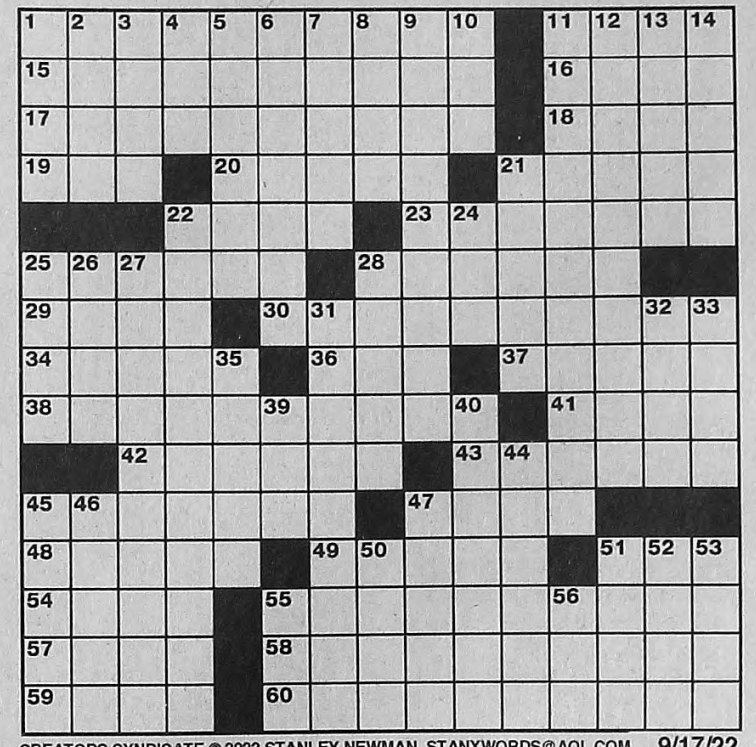
A growing interest

Green thumb

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Film with the most AFI top 100 quotes (6)
 - 11 Point of Gothic fiction
 - 15 Set aside
 - 16 Bring up
 - 17 Get on in the future
 - 18 Ranger employer
 - 19 Frost line
 - 20 Frost lines
 - 21 Sub
 - 22 Sports great from Trés Corações
 - 23 Decidedly
 - 25 Make sense out of
 - 28 Legal article
 - 29 One without an angle
 - 30 Goes on further
 - 34 Pumps (up)
 - 36 Vegetarian qualifier
 - 37 Driver's detour
 - 38 Words that add depth to a video game character
 - 41 Reminder to take it easier next time
 - 42 Word from the French for "rogue"
 - 43 Strongly favored
 - 45 Case workers
 - 47 Pair in space before John Glenn
 - 48 Gets to be too much
 - 49 Product of culinary cranks
 - 51 Individually
 - 54 Force detachment
 - 55 Big Apple's Pastrami Queen, e.g.
 - 57 Completely level
- DOWN**
- 10 So-so insertion
 - 11 Emeril makes them with yogurt and coconut
 - 12 Taste of philosophy
 - 13 Slavic female name that's an Irish male name reversed
 - 14 Concede
 - 21 Puts down
 - 22 One concerned with approach, take-off and landing
 - 24 Cuisine with sticky rice
 - 25 Lift to greet
 - 26 Not right at all
 - 27 Brown sugar
 - 28 Gave in
 - 31 Meditation configuration
 - 32 Off-the-wall call
 - 33 Regarded
 - 35 Stacks up, say
 - 39 One-third of insincere encouragement
 - 40 List grist
 - 44 Prized by
 - 45 Shoot out
 - 46 Florida home amenity
 - 47 "From the ___ a fire shall be woken": Tolkien
 - 50 ___ director
 - 51 Hit the roof
 - 52 Mag with Style Points and Glam Room sections
 - 53 Brown affiliate awarding MFAs
 - 55 Powder holder
 - 56 Prefix meaning "thoroughly"

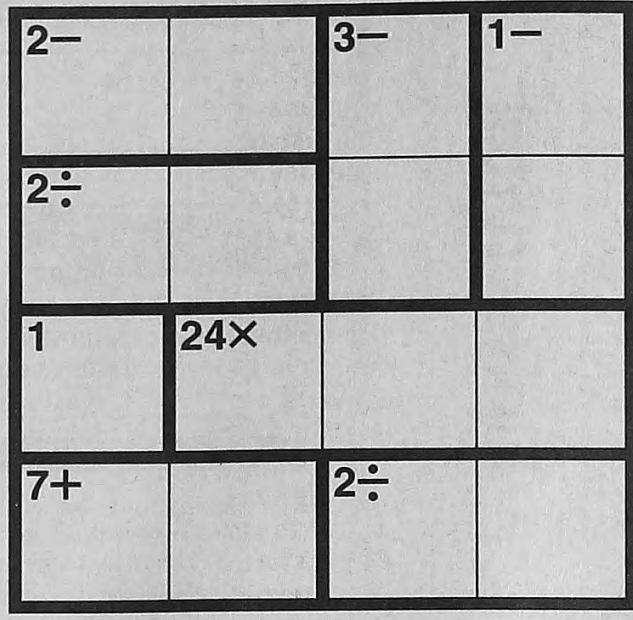
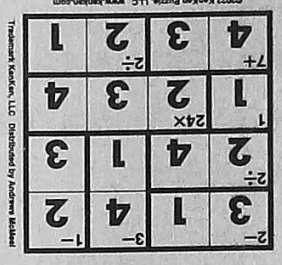


CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/17/22

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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SUDOKU | CREATORS

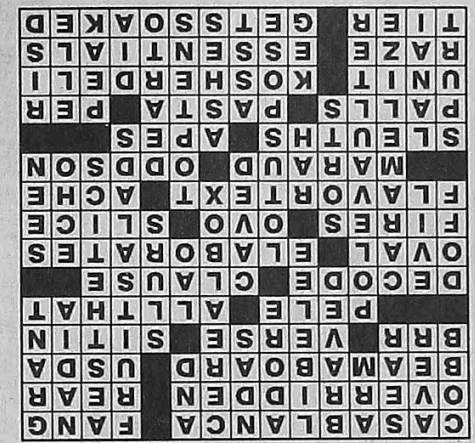
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: BRONZE**

TODAY'S ANSWER

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

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

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