

## Stevenson blanks Franklin in hunt for KLAA-East title

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Comerica leases Farmington Hills offices

### Company plans to consolidate Livonia, Auburn Hills workers

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Comerica Inc. will soon have a big banking presence in Farmington Hills.

The Dallas-based company recently signed a lease for two buildings that make up 340,000 square feet of

office space in the Farmington Hills Corporate Campus near 12 Mile and Halsted roads. The company plans to move 2,000 employees currently working in Auburn Hills and Livonia to the two buildings.

"This new space will be a vibrant, high-energy location with advanced technology and amenities to help make it a destination of choice," a spokesperson from the company said. "Our intent is to create inspiring and collaborative workspaces that our colleagues want to work in, and customers want to visit, both now and in the future. We want Comerica to be the employ-

er of choice in southeast Michigan and are creating a workplace to reflect that for both today and tomorrow's work force."

Comerica plans to start renovating the buildings, which will include connecting them and creating a welcome center, in early 2023 with the goal of opening later that year.

The company will continue to headquarter its Michigan operations in Detroit.

See **COMERICA**, Page 2A



The new Blossom Children's Center in Canton will include amenities similar to those at the company's Brighton location, shown here. COURTESY OF BLOSSOM CHILDREN'S CENTER

## Blossom Children's Center to open new facility in Canton

Laura Colvin Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If everything goes according to plan, Blossom Children's Center will open a location in Canton next summer, bringing new life to a vacant space.

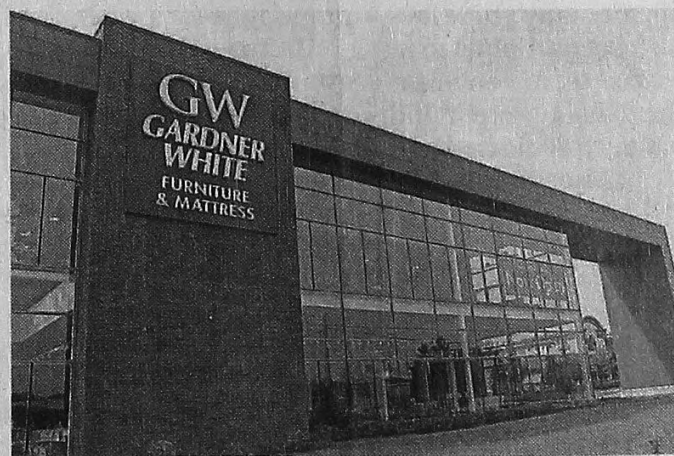
The center, which specializes in early intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs, plans to open at the 26,000-square-foot former Gardner White Furniture location at 39415 Ford Road, east of Lotz.

It will be the third center in the area, with locations already operating in a former furniture store in Novi and a former Circuit City in Brighton.

Anna Holmes, president of clinical operations for Blossom Children's Center, said she is looking forward to expanding into Canton.

"We've turned those spaces around and they've become really beautiful therapy spaces that our kids and families love," Holmes told Canton Township planning commissioners at a Sept. 12 meeting. "With Canton being such a busy, densely populated area, I'm sure there are many children who could benefit from our services."

The organization, previously called Blossom Be-



The space, originally built for Art Van Furniture in 2018, also previously housed Loves Furniture and Gardner White. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

havioral Wellness Center, provides services like applied behavior analysis, speech-language therapy, physical and occupational therapy, art therapy and more to children from 18 months to 8 years old.

See **BLOSSOM**, Page 2A

### ELECTION COVERAGE

## Two running for 2-year term on Farmington school board

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On Nov. 8, voters in the Farmington Public Schools district will choose one person to serve on the school board for two years. Voters will also choose three candidates for six-year terms.

School board members oversee the district and is the body Superintendent Christopher Delgado reports to.

The school board does not run day-to-day operations; that is the role of the superintendent.

Hometown Life sent each candidate a questionnaire on their ideas and the state of the district today. Particularly long answers were shortened, which is indicated with an ellipsis.

See **SCHOOL BOARD**, Page 2A

### Election coverage

Hometown Life reached out to all local candidates appearing on the November ballot for school board, city council, state house and state senate elections. Their responses can be found at [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com) and in print in upcoming editions.

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## ELECTION COVERAGE

# What to know about Farmington Public Schools' tax request

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

Farmington Public Schools is asking voters to restore its non-homestead operations millage in the Nov. 8 election.

If approved, the district would go back to levying 18 mills from non-homestead properties like businesses. The district is asking to levy an additional 0.6152 mills immediately with an extra 1-mill cushion to deploy in future years if more rollbacks occur. A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 in taxable value on a property.

The millage does not affect taxpayers' primary home. It would affect second homes or rental units.

Farmington's millage has lessened in recent years due to Headlee Amendment rollbacks, which lower mills levied when property taxes rise.

In the post-pandemic era with increased property values, many school districts are facing the same issue as Farmington.

"This is when taxable values rise higher than the rate of inflation," explained Jennifer Kaminski, the district's assistant superintendent of business



Farmington Public Schools is asking voters to restore a non-homestead millage. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

services. "So, if you think about the market over the last couple of years,

homes have sold over asking price. People are paying huge amounts for proper-

ty. But, inflation has been very low. That's really what's driving this."

With the current rolled back millage rate, the district could expect to lose \$878,000 this year. Kaminski projected Farmington could lose as much as \$10 million over the next three years if rollbacks continue at the rate they're at now.

When allocating funds to local school districts, the state assumes the district is collecting the full 18-mill non-homestead tax and adjusts payments accordingly.

The operating millage funds day-to-day costs like programming, staff wages and classroom supplies.

If voters were to deny the restoration proposal, Superintendent Christopher Delgado said it would have a direct impact on classrooms.

"Whenever you have less money, you have more difficult decisions to make," he said. "Some of the most immediate impacts are that potentially we could lose teachers and increase class sizes. ...

"This would disproportionately impact students in our lower grades because they're learning those foundational skills."

## Blossom

Continued from Page 1A

Services are also available for family members.

"There are unique challenges that go along with being the sibling and caregiver to someone with developmental disabilities," Holmes said. "So we have sibling support groups, caregiver sup-

port groups, and we do a lot of events to provide additional outlets.

"Families really love being able to come together with other parents and families in a similar situation."

The new center will bring about 100 new jobs to the area, Holmes said. Positions would range from those needing only a high school diploma to work as a behavior technician, all the way to a master's or doctorate-level clinician.

Holmes appeared before the plan-

ning commission to request special land use for the property.

Because the site is zoned as a corporate park overlay district, commercial land uses and non-residential land uses are classified as special land use.

"Whenever there's a proposed use of an existing facility, unless it has been granted a special land use in the past, it has to come before the planning commission and the township board for consideration," said Patrick Sloan, Can-

ton Township community planner.

Commissioners were quick to unanimously approve the request, with most noting they were happy to see the vacant building repurposed. The request will now go to the township board for approval.

Holmes said she is hopeful the center will open in summer 2023.

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

## Comerica

Continued from Page 1A

"As we continue our commitment to a deliver an exceptional experience to our customers, we recognize the importance of investing in our colleagues on our overall success, and we will do so by ensuring a workplace environment that aligns with our mission of raising expectations, enhances collaboration, and builds on our culture," a spokesperson said. "It will also be reflective of both our proud history and our bold vision for the future."

Other large companies that have a major presence in Farmington Hills include Bosch and Mercedes-Benz.

Comerica will sell the office building in Livonia and two of the three buildings it has in Auburn Hills when the new office opens. Comerica's Livonia operations center is located at 39200 Six Mile Road and is one of the city's top 20 employers.

Dan West, president and CEO of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said he's disappointed to see the Comerica operations center leave Livonia. But, he's optimistic the building it leaves behind won't be empty for long.

"There's been a lot of redevelopment along that stretch, and we think that will be an attractive site in the future," he said.

The two Comerica Bank branches in Livonia are members of the Chamber. [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com)

## School board

Continued from Page 1A

**Michelle Bushey** is a teacher and first time candidate. Her volunteer experience includes work with her church and the Wood-Brooke Hills Swim and Tennis Board.



Bushey

**Claudia Heinrich** is running for a second two-year term on the board. She is retired, but spent her career as a math teacher. Heinrich has also been active in community groups like the PTA, Jaycee Women and Girl Scouts.



Heinrich

The district also has one person running as a write-in candidate: **Carl Mintz**. Mintz was also sent Hometown Life's questionnaire, but did not return answers.

**What makes you qualified to be a school board member and why do you want to hold that position? What do you see as the role of a school board member?**

**Bushey:** I hold a BS in elementary education and a Masters Degree in Special Education. I have been in the field of education for over 20 years as a teacher in many grade levels. I spent considerable time reviewing and selecting curriculum for many grade levels and subjects. I have participated in many collaborative team environments in both the school system and other boards. I am very dedicated and invested in serving the community of Farmington Hills. I am also a parent of three school aged children. ...

**Heinrich:** I have served on the school board since January 2020. In June of 2022 I received a Certified Board Member Award and an Award of Merit from the Michigan Association of Schools Boards. The role of a school board member is to work as a team member composed of 7 board members and 1 superintendent. The board hires and evaluates the superintendent. The board sets policy for the operation of the school district. The board works with the Superintendent in setting goals and monitoring the progress.

**Are you happy with the overall direction of the district? Why or why not?**

**Heinrich:** Yes. We hired an excellent superintendent. We are in year 2 of a Strategic Planning Process. The Profile of a Lifelong Learner was devel-

oped in 2021 and will be used in updating the districts vision and mission. The district is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion to make sure that every student has the opportunities and support to reach their full potential.

**Bushey:** Farmington Public Schools have amazing potential, with wonderful teachers, administrators and support staff. Our students have fallen behind over the last several years in reading and math. The Covid lockdowns and keeping kids at home for such an extended period of time have left a large percentage of students below grade level in reading and math. I think our district can do better to prepare our students to meet their grade level expectations. All while accelerating and pushing the students who are successfully at or above their grade level.

**What should the school district's priorities be coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how it spends ARPA funds?**

**Bushey:** The district should be solidly focused on improving reading and math capabilities in our students. It should be focused on finding and implementing solid research curriculum with a focus on intervention. Reading is fundamental to all subject areas and student success academically. Math is also an essential skill that needs to be focused on and improved upon in our 60% of students who are below grade level. A student who is struggling academically typically also struggles with self confidence. We need to make sure we're properly reaching all of our students.

**Heinrich:** The priorities should be in evaluating learning loss, gaps in achievement and providing the support and resources to every student to move them forward. Some use of funds would be for tutoring opportunities for all students. Also looking into providing transportation for students that would otherwise not be able to stay after school for additional tutoring.

**Issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion are a recurring conversation among students, staff and the community at large. What's one tangible action local districts can make to address diversity, equity and inclusion?**

**Heinrich:** FPS completed an equity audit in 2020 and has been using the results in working with every building to identify and take corrective steps. The results of the equity audit have also been included in the strategic planning process.

**Bushey:** Our district needs to make sure all students are treated equally and met right where they are at academically and socially. Districts should be supportive of offering every student the

chance to excel in curriculum, sports, and other extracurricular opportunities. Studies show that strong relationships between teachers and students have better academic output. Diversity training for staff is very important for understanding our students and meeting their needs.

**School districts saw student enrollment drop dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic to private-, charter-, home- or non-school options. With school funding tied directly to enrollment, what are your thoughts on schools of choice policies, and how would you attract new, returning students to the district?**

**Bushey:** We need to figure out why our students are leaving. The district has lost over 500 students over the last 2 years. That's over 4.5 million dollars that our district can't afford to give up. FPS needs to be brought back to a place where people desire to move so that their kids can be in the public school system there. We need to be interviewing or surveying families that have pulled their children, find out why and use this data to implement improvement plans. FPS need to be offering programs to assist with the learning loss that happened during Covid. We need to be focused on curriculum that best suits our diverse learners.

**Heinrich:** The district must focus on sound teaching and learning practices that impact student achievement. Use marketing strategies that highlight the strengths of the district, use of data to report on student growth and achievement. The current schools of choice policies provide a benefit to both the families and the district.

**What is an issue facing the district that isn't on residents' radar that should be? What steps would you take to address that issue?**

**Heinrich:** The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) graduation requirements. As a current board member I am involved in setting goals. One of our goals under Exploring Innovation is to explore the MMC options that would allow FPS to pilot programs that assign with our Profile of a Lifelong Learner district goals for student growth, learning, achievement, and career readiness.

**Bushey:** Our district has pulled away from the use of texts. Our students need to be reading academically and for entertainment. Our curriculum should be promoting reading across all academic areas.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

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### Newsroom Contacts:

**Phil Allmen, Content Strategist**  
Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: [pallmen@hometownlife.com](mailto:pallmen@hometownlife.com)

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Hillel Day School students pose for a photo with Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King and officers Nick West and Steve Syoen after the school honored officers for their efforts in the community. COURTESY OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND-USA

## BJ's Wholesale Club planning gas station at Canton location

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

The newly-opened BJ's Wholesale Club on Ford Road in Canton Township could soon see the addition of a gas station.

The Canton Township Planning Commission unanimously approved amendments to the shopping center's 2007 site plan that will pave the way for developers to submit a detailed site plan for the fueling station. Preliminary plans include a fueling station with six fuel pumps - 12 fueling positions.

The fueling station, available to BJ's members only, would not offer retail sales, but would allow customers to purchase reduced-cost gasoline based on points earned through purchases at the membership-based wholesale club.

The concept is similar to that offered at gas stations owned by Kroger and some other grocers. For example: In the store, items are earmarked each month to allow customers to accrue additional savings on gasoline. For each item purchased, customers save 10 cents per gallon on the next fill-up. The program has a \$99 or 30-gallon limit, and points expire at the end of each month.

"I live in Canton and I'm excited about the prospect of not having to drive to another community to get gas that is less expensive, that is affiliated with retail," said Bryan Amann, who spoke on behalf of BJ's Wholesale Club. "Between Costco and Kroger ... I have to drive somewhere: Livonia, Northville, Plymouth or something like that."

Amann noted some 700 BJ's members who live in Canton signed a petition in support of the fueling station.

The proposed amendment will go to the Canton Township Board of Trustees for approval. If approved, BJ's will return to the commission with a detailed site plan for review.

[lcolvin@hometownlife.com](mailto:lcolvin@hometownlife.com)

## Students honor first responders during 9/11 commemoration

Courtesy of Jewish National Fund-USA

In recognition of the 21st anniversary of 9/11, students from Hillel Day School honored Farmington Hills police and fire department members, Hillel's security team, and parents as part of nationwide ceremonies organized by Jewish National Fund-USA.

The middle school students were addressed by Farmington Hills Police Chief Jeff King, who highlighted the sacrifices made by emergency services professionals and the ongoing need to recognize their contributions while also noting the ultimate sacrifice made by hundreds of first responders 21 years ago on 9/11.

"My colleagues and I are blessed with the ability to protect (our community) on a daily basis," King said. "It is our calling, and we feel honored to serve, whether we are police, fire, or EMS responders."

"One of our first responder community's biggest responsibilities is to remember those who have fallen in the past, including on 9/11."

"Every year, we do that, and as the events of that day worsened, it was the first responders who never flinched, never rested, and showed up for work every day, even with the fears they had for their families and communities."

Jewish National Fund-USA Professional Sunny Cohen joined with stu-

dents to present a plaque to the first responders in attendance. The plaque acknowledged the immense impact made by first responders while highlighting the organization's 9/11 memorial in Jerusalem, Israel.

Eighth-grader Daniel Shapiro, who attended the ceremony, shared how the gathering provided an important forum for remembering the tragic events of 9/11.

"For me, today felt like a time to be serious," Shapiro said. "We are showing that we are not going to forget the lives lost, nor will we forget the contribution that first responders have made, and continue to make, to keep our families and us safe."

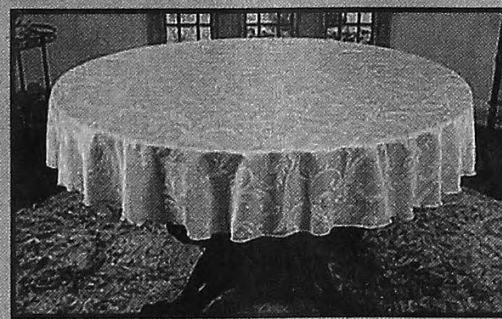
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# Seeing more spiders in your home lately? They're just looking for love

Jordan Mendoza  
USA TODAY

This fall, some unannounced, startling guests might make their way into living rooms across the country: spiders.

Even though you're bound to see spiders in your home throughout the year, the chances of seeing one crawl around the house heighten in the fall. But it's not to scare you for Halloween – it's to look for love. Or, in more proper terms, it's when the eight-legged creatures begin to mate.

And if you do happen to spot a spider in your home, experts caution you not to kill it – they're mostly harmless and could help get rid of other pesky bugs.

Here is what to know about spider season.

## Why am I seeing more spiders?

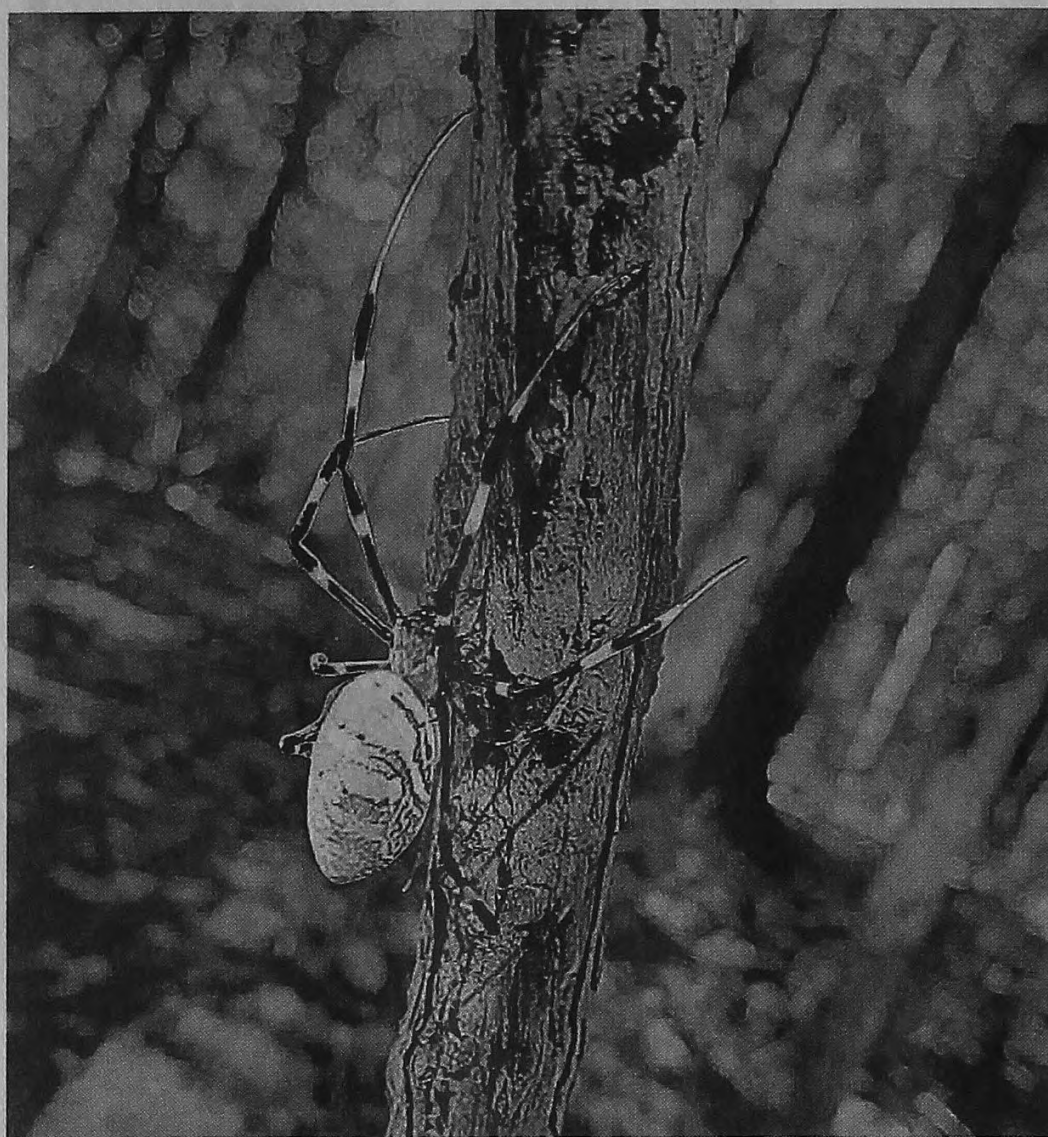
Spiders typically mature in the spring or summer, said Jason Dunlop, a researcher from the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. When it gets closer to fall, mature male spiders that typically live only for a year leave their webs in search of a female.

"Females give off a chemical called a pheromone, a kind of perfume, which the males can sense with special hairs on their legs. The wandering males are basically sniffing around for a mature female," Dunlop told USA TODAY.

Meanwhile, females stay by their webs and conserve the energy needed to lay eggs, said Rod Crawford, curator of arachnids at The Burke Museum at the University of Washington.

Female spiders can be found pretty much anywhere, inside or outside a home, which can be a rather daunting journey for a male trying to slide into their DMs, so to speak. That's why if you happen to find one inside your home, it's most likely a male just looking for a female.

"There's this misguided perception that all of a sudden there are many more spiders than there used to be. But, you



A Joro spider. Aside from roaming around in homes, spiders also will be in areas people don't frequently visit, so places like attics, basements and garages is where they will camp out. JOSE ROMERO/UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA/AFP

know, that's not the case. They're just more noticeable because the males are moving around," said Anne Danielson-Francois, associate professor of biological sciences at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. "They're not interested in setting up shop in the house."

Aside from mating reasons, Emma Grace Crumbley, entomologist at Mosquito Squad, says seasonal changes like cooler temperatures and rain mean spiders could be looking for a more secure residence.

## What kind of spiders could I see?

Crumbley said web-spinning and hunting spiders are commonly spotted in the fall.

Examples include the American spider, also known as the common house spider, and cobweb spiders.

If you're in the Southeast, you may see a spider that has rapidly spread in the U.S. in recent years: the Joro spider.

"It's everywhere right now," Crumbley said.

## Should you kill spiders?

Natural instinct may be to kill a spider when you see one, but experts discourage people from doing so.

Crawford said people shouldn't worry because nearly all house spiders are harmless, and Dunlop pointed out that spiders get rid of many insects, including mosquitoes.

Dunlop said the worst thing that most spiders can do to you is give a "nasty surprise," and Crawford said spider bites "are vanishingly rare in the life of any individual person."

Crumbley said there are only three types of spiders to be concerned about: the black widow, brown recluse and tarantulas.

"With those three in particular, proceeding with caution is necessary. Trying to eliminate those from your house is key; just make sure you're not getting bitten and you're not experiencing any kind of pain or any of the medical side effects," she said.

## What should I do if I see a spider in my home?

Experts say you should do your best to move spiders if it's too much to have them inside.

"If you can muster up the courage, the best thing to do is either catching it with a cup or something and trying to release it outside away from the house," Crumbley said.

Aside from roaming around in homes, Crumbley said, spiders also will be in areas people don't frequently visit, so places like attics, basements and garages is where they will camp out. Those are also good places to move them, Danielson-Francois said.

"I advocate for people getting to know them, and becoming less afraid of them and keeping them around, but I realize that's a stretch," she said.

*Editor's note: A version of this story was first published in 2021.*






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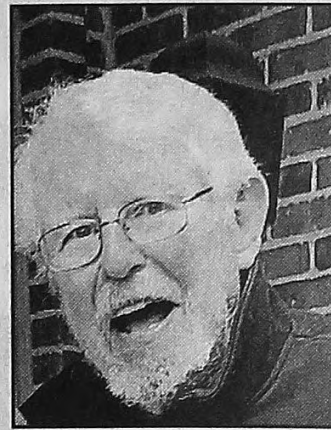
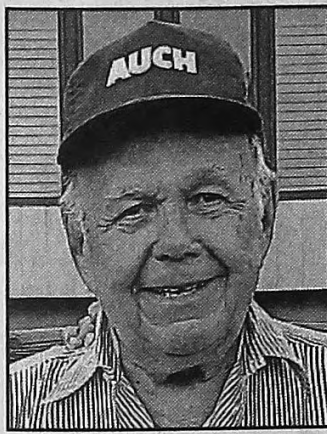
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## Fred Auch

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS** - On Sept 12th, 2022 Frederick John Auch Jr passed away peacefully in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Born in 1928, and raised in Grosse Pointe, he attended Grosse Pointe High School and excelled in many sports, especially softball. In 1946 he attended Univ. of Mich. Engineering School and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity with his brother Bill. Graduating in 1950, he joined the US Navy. He never saw action, but quickly ascended to the rank of lieutenant during the Korean war on the Naval ship, USS PCE(C) 873. Soon after military service, he joined the Geo W Auch Construction Company, and met the love of his life, Shirley Jean Cotter, a graduate from Michigan State. Despite a heated football rivalry, their loving relationship was consummated July 14th 1956. She was a school teacher and a beautiful woman. They moved to Royal Oak, MI where they had a boy named Tom, then to Huntley subdivision in Beverly Hills, MI and had a second child, David. It was there on Pickwick Lane that the family blossomed for the next 18 years. During this time, Fred also became a key executive of G W Auch Co, ascending to Co-President. Fred's tenure at Auch was marked by significant growth. A few of their major projects included expansion of Harper and Providence Hospitals, Blue Cross Mich. headquarters, k-12 schools, theaters, restaurants, expansion of Detroit Metro Airport and more. G W Auch Co became a leading builder and was consistently named one of the top firms to work for in Detroit. Fred worked tireless hours, and engendered extraordinary relationships with clients, colleagues, subcontractors and suppliers. After retiring and turning over the reigns of Auch Construction to exceptional new leaders, Fred was a lover of the outdoors and especially of Frankfort Mi area, Crystal Lake and Crystal Downs Country Club. He was a witty and intelligent man, quick at crossword puzzles and excellent at word games. He was a good golfer, scratch that, a "decent" golfer, but would always end up laughing and loving the game. He was the consummate father, husband, friend and businessman, and will be greatly missed. Fred is pre-deceased by his wife "Jean", his brothers Wally, Bill & Tom, and his beloved twin sister Betty. He is survived by his son Tom and his wife Jacquie, their son Julian and fiancé Megan, Fred's son David and his husband Scott Flax, his sister-in-law Sue Auch (Bill), his sister-in-law Patricia (Wally), many loved nieces and nephews, dear friends from Detroit and "Up North" and his invaluable caregiver and loving friend, Renata Ryczak. Services were held. In lieu of flowers, a donation can please be sent to the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Mich., which he proudly served for many years: [www.bgscm.org](http://www.bgscm.org). AJ. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500



## Nevius Minot Curtis

Nevius Minot Curtis, August 23, 2022. Age 93. Proud Navy veteran, Korean War. Dear brother of Phoebe Reynolds. Loving grandfather of Stephen Curtis (Susan), Alicia Curtis Barber (Blake), Sam Clark, and Benjamin Clark. Beloved partner of Shay Pendray for 19 years. Also survived by many loved extended family. Preceded in death by his wife, Muriel, son, Jeffrey, daughter, Janet Curtis Clark, brother, Mike, and sister, Anne Wood. Services were held. In lieu of flowers, donations to Tunnel for Towers and Wounded Warrior Project.

View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

## Mary "Judy" Grinnell

**LAKE CITY** - Mary "Judy" Grinnell, 86, of Lake City, formally of Wayne, MI passed away Monday, September 5, 2022 at the Lake City Care Center in Lake City, MN. She was born June 14, 1936 in Wayne, MI to Milton and Margaret Arthur. She grew up in Wayne and later moved to Bay City, MI. She graduated from Hillsdale College where she studied teaching. She taught nursery school in Bay City and then later in Lake City when her family moved to Frontenac. Judy later taught at the Red Wing Technical College. In the mid-nineties she moved back to Wayne to care for her father. Judy enjoyed attending church at First Congregational Church in Wayne where she was the "punch lady" helping serve punch at any and all church functions. She also helped organize the churches rummage sale, which was one of their biggest fundraisers. Judy had a determined spirit with a great sense of humor. As her health began to decline, she moved to Lake City to be closer to family.

She is survived by her daughter, Gail Cole; grandsons, Jacob and Jedidiah (Holly Denzer) Adler all of Lake City and many special friends including Ron, Marleen, her church family and her neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Caroline Spence; brother, Murray; sister, Sheila Arthur and her son-in-law, Ray Cole.



## Joyce Rolf

**BINGHAM FARMS** - Joyce Wilder Rolf, 85 years, of Bingham Farms, passed away on September 16, 2022, after a series of ailments. Born in Melrose, MA, in 1936, Joyce graduated from Melrose High School and received her Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University in 1958. She performed editorial work for the William and Mary Quarterly in Virginia. Joyce then moved to Michigan after marrying A. William (Bill) Rolf, subsequently working for Houghton Mifflin Publishing. She later worked in public relations for Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester, Michigan. Joyce was a docent for the Cranbrook Art Museum and The Detroit Zoo for many years. She actively participated in the choir at Redeemer Lutheran Church for 50 years. Her hobbies included Gilbert and Sullivan, mysteries, and animals of all kinds. She is survived by her children, Tim (fiancé Stacy Bohlen), Eric (Stacey), and Kristen; and grandchildren, Natalie, Lydia, and Scott. Visitation at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1800 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009 on Friday, September 30, from 4PM to 7PM. A memorial service will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 1, at 11AM with a visitation prior at 10AM. A funeral luncheon will follow at the church. The family appreciates donations to either the Howard B. Wilder Memorial Scholarship at Melrose High School or the Detroit Zoological Society.

View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)



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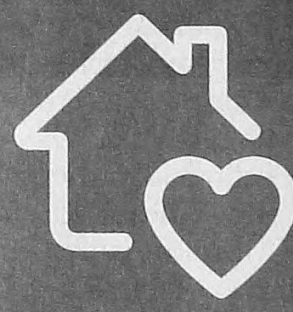


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# SPORTS

## No. 1 recruit in Mich. commits to Louisville

Brother Rice's Curtis Williams gets emotional announcing college pick

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Curtis Williams got to Brother Rice as a freshman, he never imagined entering his senior season as the No. 1-ranked recruit in Michigan.

But the truth is he never wasted much time worrying about his recruiting rankings and star ratings either. His one focus was earning a free edu-

cation at a top-flight college. The 6-foot-6 small forward reiterated that fact three separate times after announcing his commitment to Louisville during a special ceremony Monday at the high school. The consensus four-star picked the Cardinals over Alabama, Florida State, Providence College and Xavier, which were the other four schools to make his final five over the summer.

"When I first got here, I wasn't really worried about the rankings," said Williams, who was flanked by his sister, Alexis, and his mother, Rhea Rogers, at the announcement. "Now, since I've been through my 4 years here, the rankings is really just a number. To be able to go to a university for free, that's really what I'm just thankful for."

See RECRUIT, Page 3B



**Brother Rice boys basketball star Curtis Williams verbally committed to Louisville on Sept. 19.**  
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

## Week 4's top performers in HS football

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Week 4 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 22, Detroit U-D Jesuit 6**  
RB Jaden Pydyn rushed for a 70-yard score for the Shamrocks (3-1). Evan Haeger and Skyler Hunter also scored TDs, while Jake Matigian made a 35-yard field goal. Stone Chaney recorded a game-ending strip sack.  
**Brother Rice 43, Warren De La Salle 42 (F/OT) (CHSL-Central)**  
Tight end Henry Garrity caught three TDs, including an 86-yarder, for the Warriors (2-2, 1-0). Blake Marrogy and Cashton Papadelis each rushed for TDs, while Marrogy punched in the winning two-point conversion.  
**Madison Heights Bishop Foley 33, Cranbrook 6 (CHSL-Intersection 1)**  
QB Preston Washer was 11 of 29 passing for 110 yards and one TD for the Cranes (1-3, 0-1). Alex Yolles caught five passes for 41 yards, including a 17-yard TD. John Kersh led the defense with 25 tackles, while Cooper Gurman pulled down an interception.

### Independent

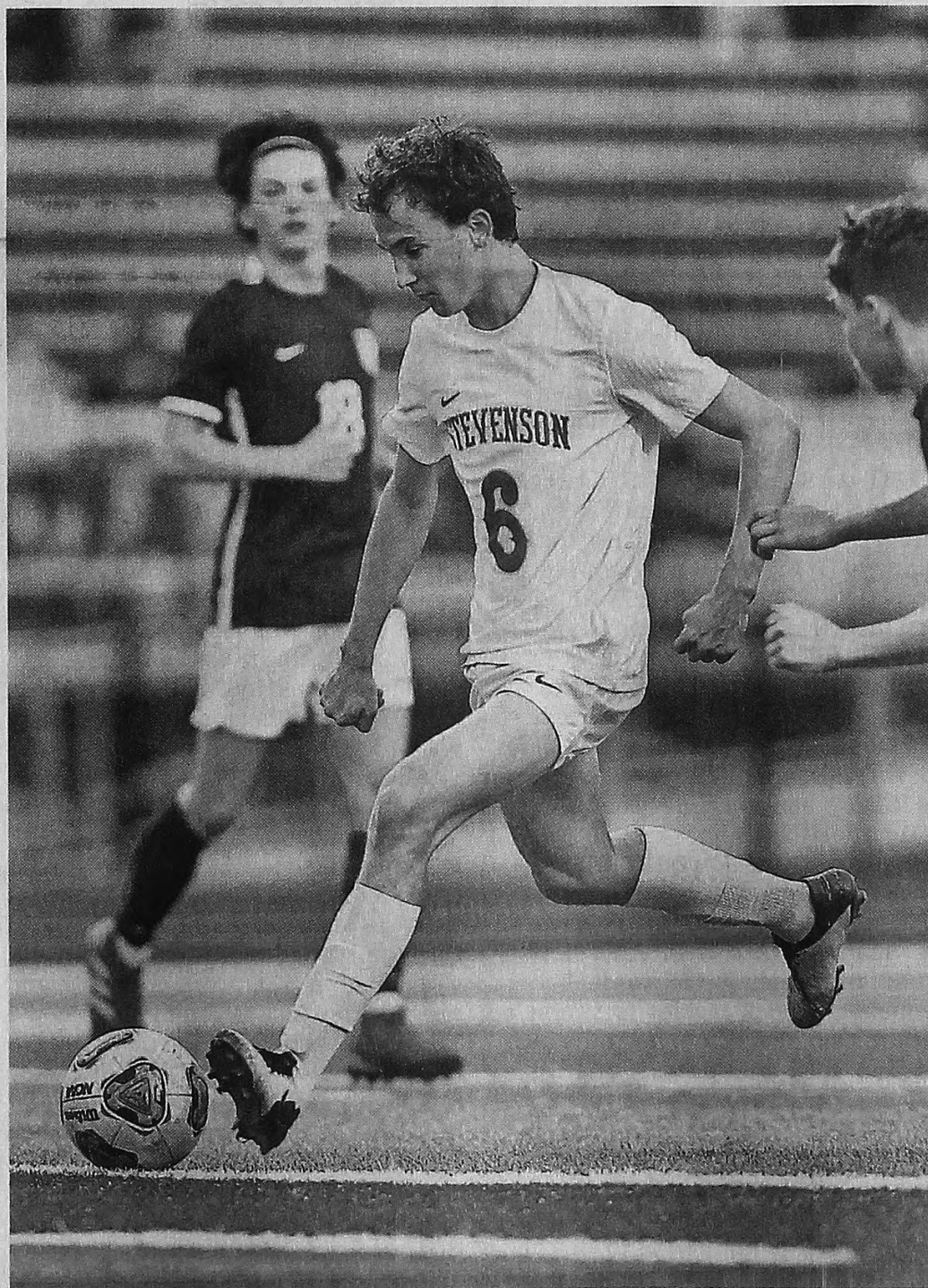
**Livonia Clarenceville 44, Macomb Lutheran North 34**  
The Trojans improved to 3-1 overall.

### Kensington Lakes Activities Association

**Brighton 41, Novi 6 (KLAA-West)**  
RB Lance Gailliard rushed eight times for 66 yards and a TD for the

See WEEK 4, Page 2B

## Stevenson blanks Franklin in hunt for KLAA-East title



Livonia Stevenson's Carter Mroz scores during the Spartans' 5-0 win Sept. 15 at Livonia Franklin. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**Brandon Folsom** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Besides senior Carter Mroz snapping post-game selfies with his buddies from rival Livonia Franklin, the Livonia Stevenson boys soccer team was all business Sept. 15 in its 5-0 victory.

That focus usually comes after taking a tough loss.

The Spartans (6-2, 6-1) want to win their fourth-straight Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East championship. But they're a half-game behind Dearborn Fordson in the league standings right now.

That 2-0 loss to the 12th-ranked Tractors (11-0-1, 7-0-1) 2 weeks ago was an eye-opener. They struggled to pass effectively. Instead of finding feet, there was some selfish play on the ball. Sometimes they were booting passes down-field instead of setting up the attack.

Stevenson wasted no time in learning from its mistakes. It has won four straight since losing to Fordson, conceding just one goal as its outscored opponents 24-1 in that stretch.

And the secret to that success? "We're just passing a lot more and moving the ball a lot better," said Mroz, who scored twice at Franklin. "That's been our main focus, keeping control of the ball."

Mroz found Mitchell Kirm for the game's first goal on a perfectly-placed pass near the net.

About 5 minutes later, Mroz smashed in a rebound after Adam Alaouieh's shot was blocked.


And then Stevenson's lone returning all-stater buried a laser from 20 yards away.

Ezra Knezek and Griffin Browning

See STEVENSON, Page 5B

**"If we can beat Fordson, we can put ourselves in a good spot. But you've got to take care of your business, and that's all we can control at this point, winning the games in front of us."**

Ken Shingledecker Stevenson boys soccer coach



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# Recruit

Continued from Page 1B

Of course, this was a basketball decision first and foremost for the senior.

Louisville offered Williams a scholarship in April. He said its coaching staff has kept in touch with him at least two or three times per week since.

He took an official visit there over the weekend before making his decision final.

The Cardinals are coming off a 13-19 season in 2021-22, but they've also hired a new coach in Kenny Payne.

"The deciding factor was really just what kind of player I want to be and what program I thought would help me the most," he added. "... When I visited the program this weekend, it is a new coaching staff. But the vision was there, and you could tell that they're ready to come in and win. When I went there, they showed a lot of film. When I watched the film, they like to push the ball up and down the floor. That's what I like most about the program."

Williams is the third Brother Rice player to commit to a Division I program in 2022.

Three-star point guard John Blackwell committed to Wisconsin in April, while two-star small forward Xavier Thomas committed to Toledo in June.

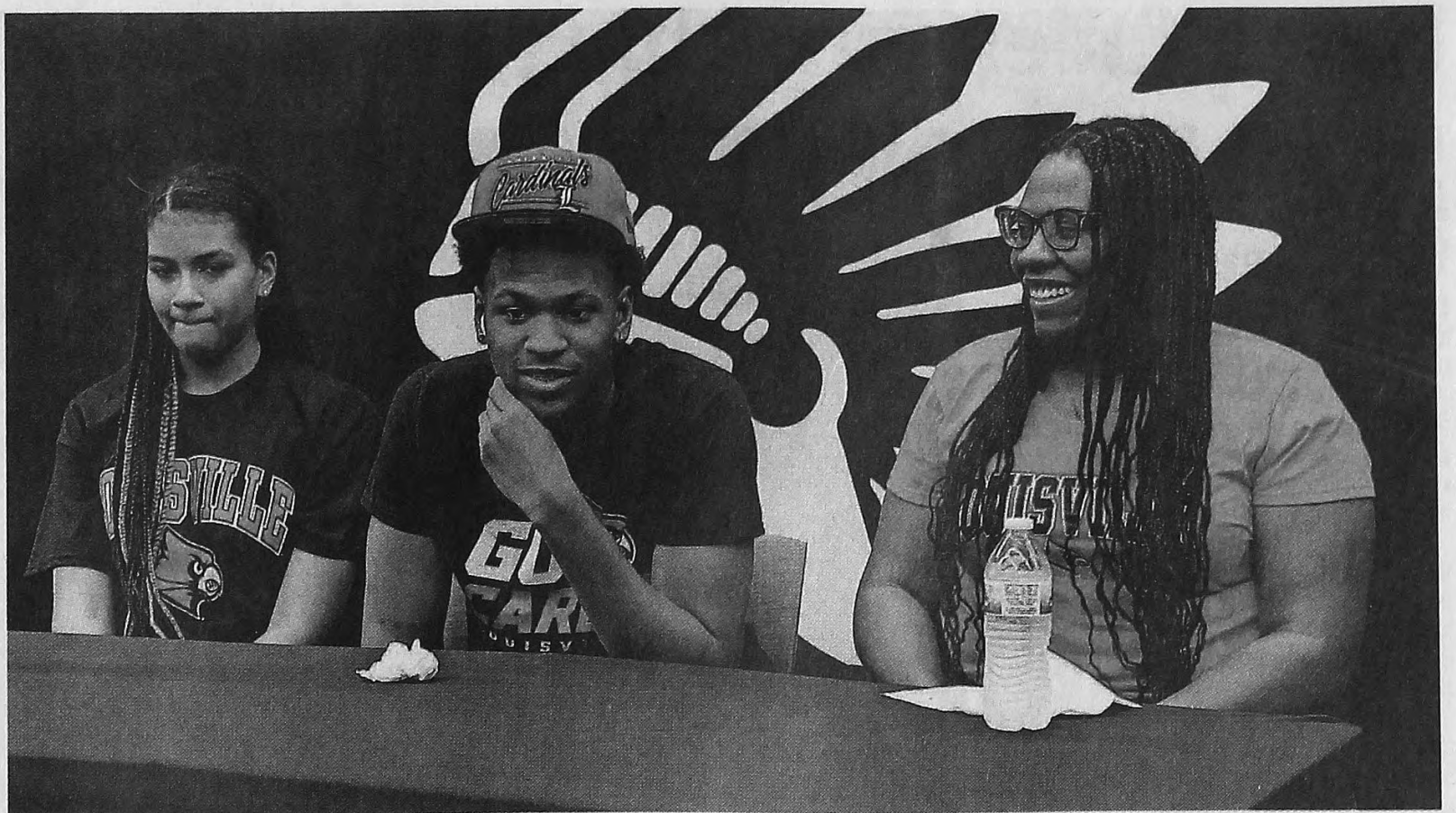
Shooting guard Henry Garrity, the son of Detroit Pistons assistant general manager Pat Garrity, has offers to play college football. That includes a preferred walk-on opportunity at Notre Dame, where his father played basketball before enjoying a 10-year career in the NBA with the Phoenix Suns and Orlando Magic.

And junior guard Warren Marshall is already receiving D-II interest, despite playing most of his sophomore season in a reserve role for the Warriors.

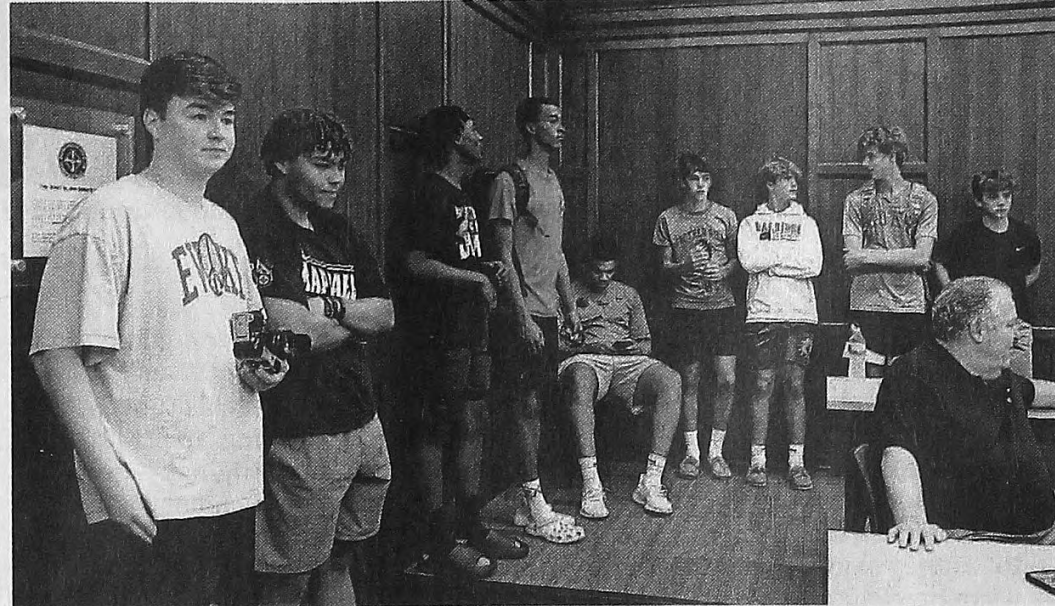
Much of Williams' nationwide notoriety comes from playing for the Detroit-based AAU program The Family, which travels the country to compete in the best tournaments.

But Williams said it was playing with his teammates at Brother Rice that made him the type of star he is today.

"Them two guys (Blackwell and Thomas), I'd say they probably helped me the most out of everybody," Williams said. "Outside of my family, I can call them about anything. To ask a question,



Brother Rice boys basketball star Curtis Williams, center, takes questions from the media after committing to Louisville on Sept. 19. His sister, Alexis Jones, and mother, Rhea Rogers, sit with him. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Williams' teammates and classmates were present for the announcement.



Williams dribbles during the Derrick Coleman Elite showcase at Birmingham Groves in June. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

to ask them about anything about a school or their opinion about where I could fit in. And I can just gather information from them."

Williams won't be leaving for the state of Kentucky any time soon. He still has unfinished business at Brother Rice. The Warriors, 15-7 a year ago, enter

the 2022-23 season with one of the deepest rosters in Michigan. They're also one of the favorites to contend for a Division 1 state championship.

And where he's going to play at the next level won't be on his mind while they make their title run. His free education is taken care of, which is something

that's clearly important to him.

It took everything he had not to cry while mentioning the free schooling part about joining the Cardinals. And he even had his mother crying alongside him.

Good thing there were plenty of tissues available.

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# Bates faces gun charges, suspended by EMU

## Police say firearm found in car driven by basketball star

**Tony Garcia** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ypsilanti native and Eastern Michigan basketball star Emoni Bates was arrested Sunday night and faces two felony gun charges.

Bates was pulled over by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office at 10:43 p.m. when an officer saw Bates failed to stop at the intersection of Nottingham and Clark Rd. in Superior Township, according to the sheriff's office.

According to police, a firearm was discovered in the car upon investigation and Bates, 18, was taken into custody and held in jail overnight.

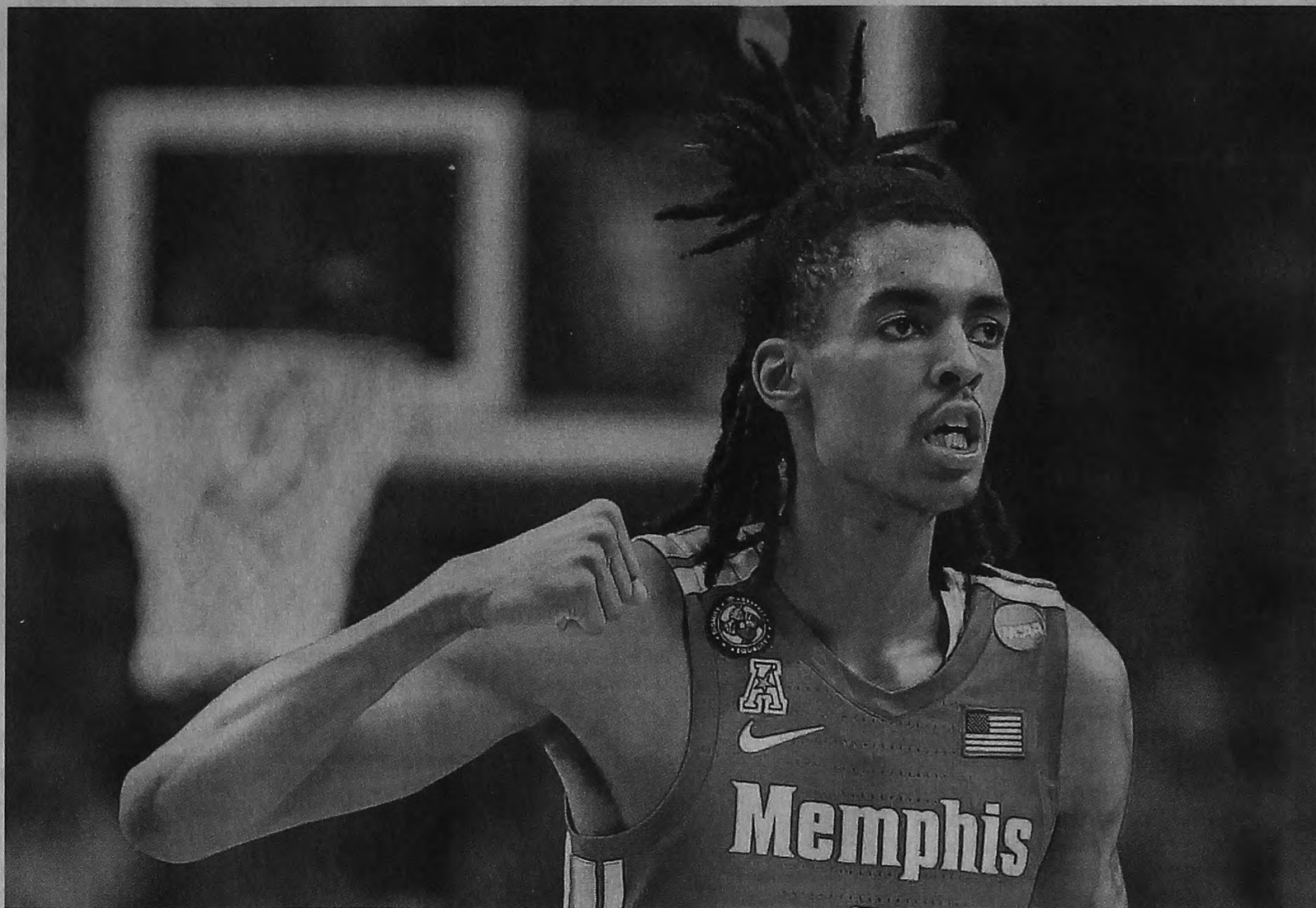
Bates was arraigned Monday at 14A District Court, wearing a jean jacket in a beige colored room. He only said his name, "yes ma'am," and his preferred address that court send his paperwork. Bates was released on personal bond. His next court hearing for probable cause is scheduled for Oct. 6.

Bates is charged with carrying a concealed weapon and altering the identification marks on a firearm.

"Your honor, we'd like to waive any formal reading of the charges before Mr. Bates (and) ask that the court enter a not-guilty plea," Bates' attorney, Steve Haney, said during Monday's hearing. "Mr. Bates, Emoni, has been a lifelong member of the community. He's currently a full-time student at Eastern Michigan University.

"This is his first brush with the law, he has no prior criminal history at all, I would submit to the court he poses no threat or risk to society and that he would certainly be responding and be appearing at future court dates."

Magistrate Elisha Fink responded, "I don't have a problem with the personal bond; I disagree that there's no threat, the nature of these particular charges are inherently dangerous. That's why we have laws regulating this kind of thing, so people have training, licensing and proper knowledge so there is not a



EMU's Emoni Bates is charged with carrying a concealed weapon and altering the identification marks on a firearm.

ABBIE PARR/GETTY IMAGES

danger to the community."

Haney later told the Free Press that Bates was borrowing a friend's car at the time of the arrest.

"All we ask if that people reserve judgment and grant him the presumption of innocence that everyone is entitled to," Haney said Monday afternoon. "He wasn't trying to hide anything. Let the facts come out."

Per Eastern Michigan athletic department policy, Bates has been suspended from all playing and practice privileges until the matter is resolved.

"We are aware of a situation involving men's basketball student-athlete Emoni Bates," EMU athletics said in a statement Monday. "Eastern Michigan University takes all allegations of this nature very seriously.

"Because this is an on-going legal matter, the University will have no further comment at this time."

Prior to transferring to EMU this summer, Bates, who originally committed to Michigan State, spent his freshman year at Memphis. The 6-foot-9, 190-pound wing averaged 9.7 points and 3.3 rebounds on 38.6% shooting in 18 games.

"I love my city and coming home to do something special was big for me," Bates said in a statement last month after his transfer was complete. "I've known several of the guys on the team from playing together and competing. Having a strong relationship and bond with my teammates and coaching staff was important to me."

Before his time in college, Bates

starred in high school for three years, first at Ypsilanti Lincoln where he led the Railsplitters to the program's first Division I state championship as a freshman in 2019 and was named the Division I Player of the Year in Michigan by The Associated Press.

After the 2019-20 season was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bates played at Ypsilanti Prep Academy, a basketball program started by his father, E.J. Bates.

Bates graduating from high school in three years and entered college as the No. 1 ranked player in the nation in the class of 2021.

According to EMU, Bates is the first former five-star prospect on a roster in the Mid-American Conference.

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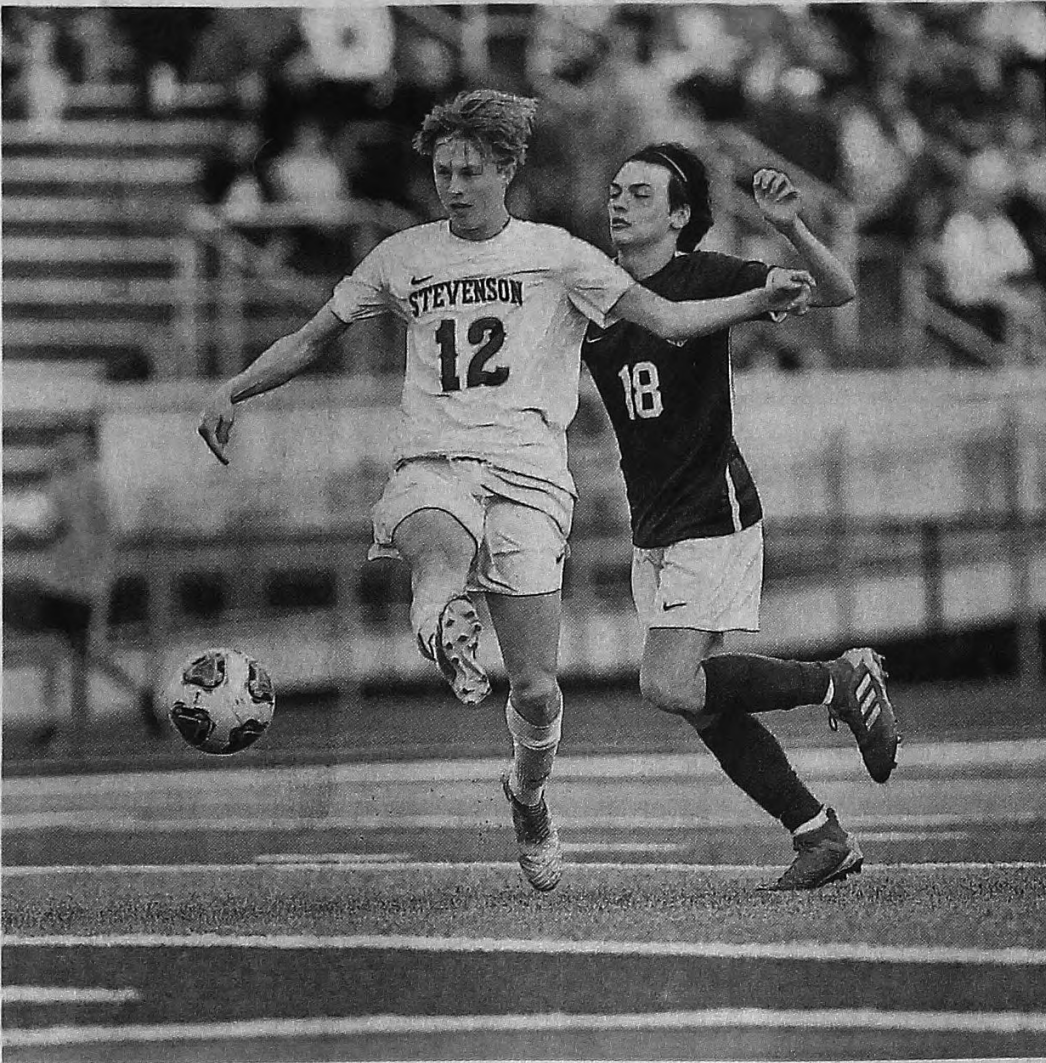
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Livonia Stevenson's Mitchell Kirn scores Sept. 15 at Livonia Franklin.  
BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Stevenson

Continued from Page 1B

added goals in the second half.

It was clear by Mroz's effort in the first half he was hellbent on ensuring the Spartans wouldn't slip up against their rivals. Especially with them still chasing Fordson in the standings.

"He's definitely gifted," 11th-year Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker said. "He's an elite ball striker. In front of the goal, he's as good as they come. He's been an impact guy for us since his sophomore year. He can get around pretty much anyone. He's a good passer of the ball. ... He's got a lot of things in his game that makes our team much better."

Mroz, who played for the Michigan Jaguars FC leading up to this season, is still uncommitted, but he's receiving

recruiting interest from small Division I schools and a few D-II's.

Should he help the Spartans complete the bounce back, ensure they upset Fordson on Sept. 30 and earn another berth into the KLAA championship game, that should boost his recruiting interest.

Colleges certainly love winners.

But Stevenson isn't overlooking its upcoming slate of games. League opponents such as Westland John Glenn, Dearborn and rival Livonia Churchill are all ahead of that Fordson match.

"If we can beat Fordson, we can put ourselves in a good spot," Shingledecker said. "But you've got to take care of your business, and that's all we can control at this point, winning the games in front of us."

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

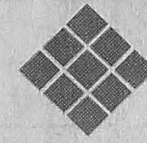
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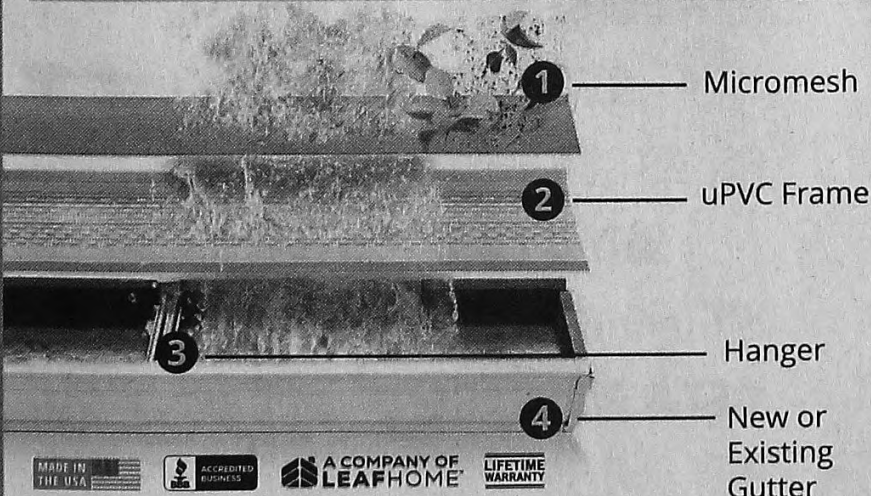
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**FIND THE WORDS**

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 12 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

- Alps
- Ceduna
- Gondola
- Maps
- Shop
- Apartment
- Charm
- Hike
- Maya
- Simpson
- Ascot
- City
- Hostels
- Miner
- Skating
- Axes
- Coach
- House
- Noosa
- Sunny
- Ballina
- Colo
- Idea
- North
- Theme
- Beat
- Crab
- Jetty
- Rare
- Town
- Bega
- Desert
- Laze
- Rest
- Treks
- Blyth
- Easel
- Leisure
- Roma
- Trip
- Bull
- Echuca
- Leura
- Sall
- Water
- Busy
- Eden
- Look
- Snowy
- Weir
- Cars
- Feed
- Lush
- Mountains
- Whales

**TODAY'S ANSWER**

Take your pick

**Aussie destinations**

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

**NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

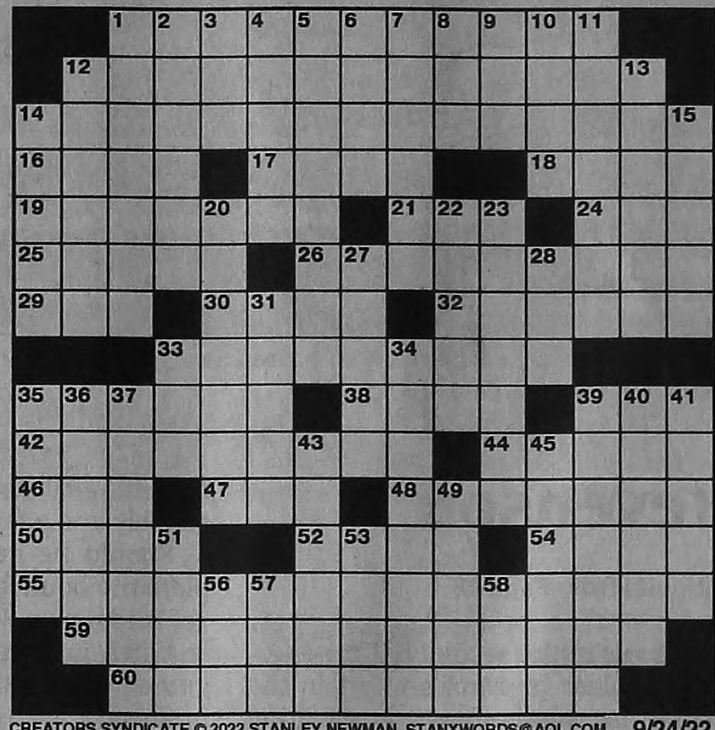
- 1 Mooch from
- 12 Dance without fancy costumes
- 14 One in hostile pursuit
- 16 Recital rendition
- 17 Sin that sounds like a shortened state
- 18 Genoa's Johnny
- 19 Convenient in the extreme
- 21 Name on Big Easy wines
- 24 Sponsor of Md.'s Cryptologic Museum
- 25 In shabby shape
- 26 Telltale sign
- 29 *Terre en la mer*
- 30 Twister game name
- 32 What M may stand for
- 33 Box
- 35 Not-so-small scraps
- 38 Run to
- 39 Android analog
- 42 Competitor carrying a compass
- 44 Set of presidents elected from Virginia
- 46 Tea
- 47 For which 574 once denoted AK
- 48 007 film theme performer 10 years before Adele
- 50 Rhineland region
- 52 Census Bureau drink category
- 54 He called Ike "The best clerk I ever had"
- 55 Fiancée, say?

**DOWN**

- 1 One after another
- 2 Backlash from abstract expressionism
- 3 Starter akin to auri-
- 4 Holes in your head
- 5 Philanthropic activity
- 6 Midrange picture quality designation
- 7 Didn't buck
- 8 Extreme
- 9 Hard Rock Cafe's HQ

- 10 Slightly more than mon-
- 11 Influenced
- 12 Owner of Vichy skincare products
- 13 Something stretched for workouts
- 14 Last words of the Best Song Oscar winner for 1939
- 15 Thunders
- 20 Pupil neighbor
- 22 Some things stretched for comfort
- 23 Beat the bushes for ballplayers
- 27 "Neat, please"
- 28 Any QB throw
- 31 Displays disuse
- 33 Make sure
- 34 They trouble you
- 35 \_\_\_ pad

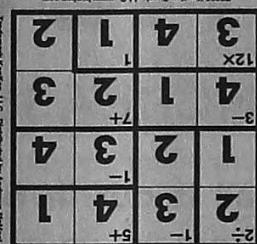
- 36 Word from Old English for "mission"
- 37 Mag space measures
- 39 Passes by
- 40 "Darn it!"
- 41 Not acting natural?
- 43 Hardest human tissue
- 45 I as in ores
- 49 Big leaguer cheered by a green alien mascot
- 51 Net star's nickname
- 53 Apt rhyme for "Brooklynese"
- 56 YWCA student's goal
- 57 Nearing the \_\_\_
- 58 What you may be up to



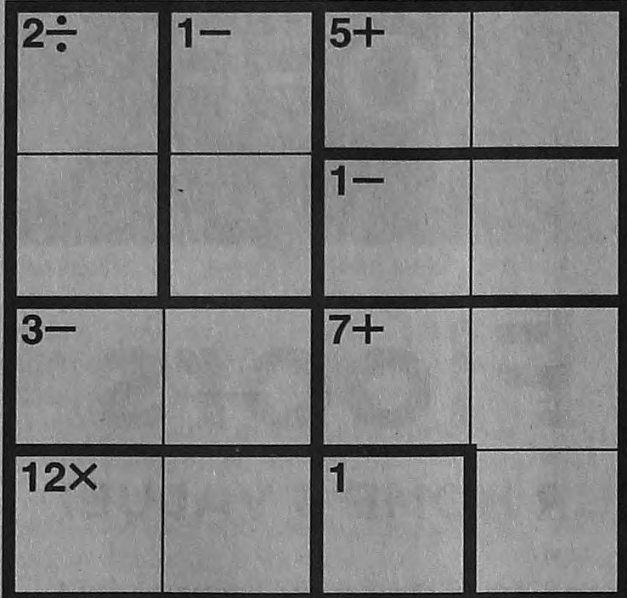
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**KENKEN**

- 1. Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



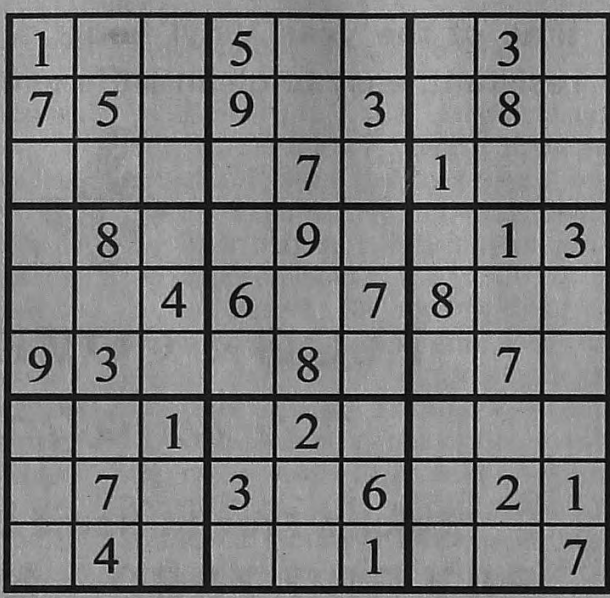
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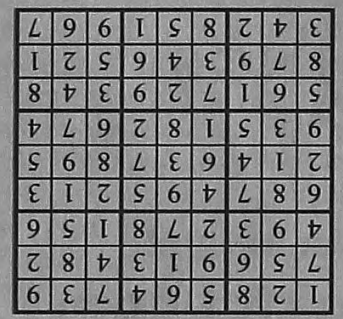
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**SUDOKU | CREATORS**

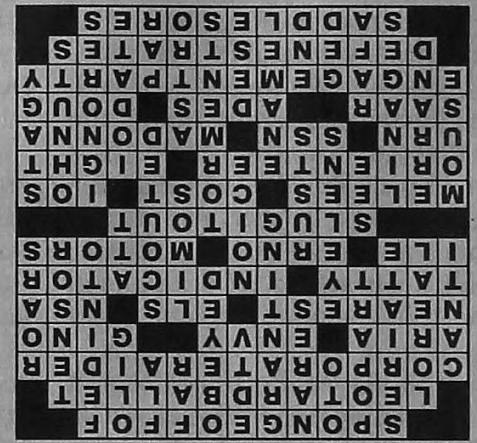
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: SILVER**



**TODAY'S ANSWER**



**TODAY'S ANSWER**



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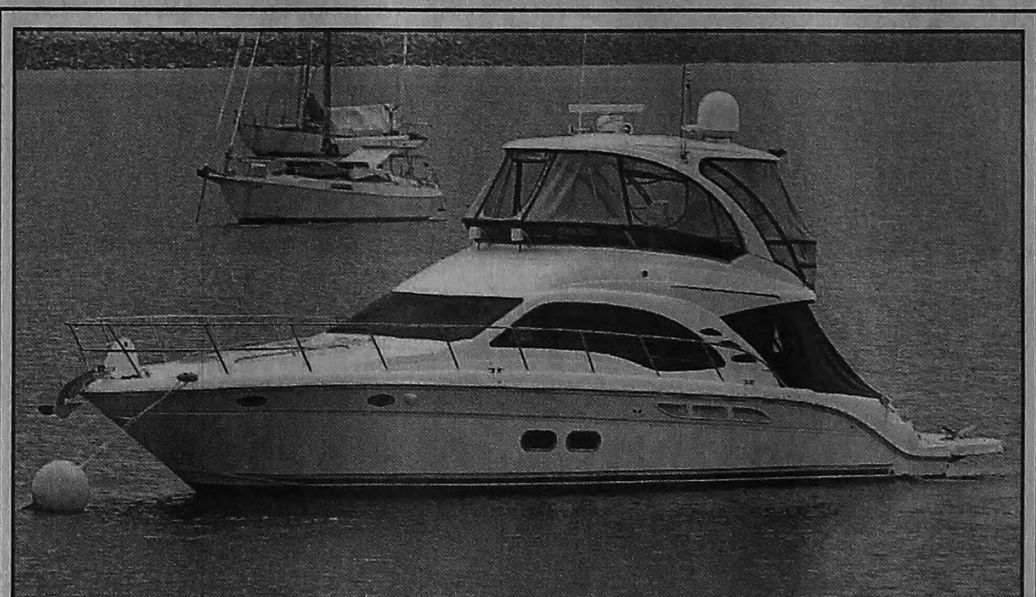
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