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CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



The sanctuary in Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township. PHOTOS BY SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Peek inside some of metro Detroit's prettiest churches

Shelby Tankersley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The holiday season is here, and that means your mom wants you to go to church with her.

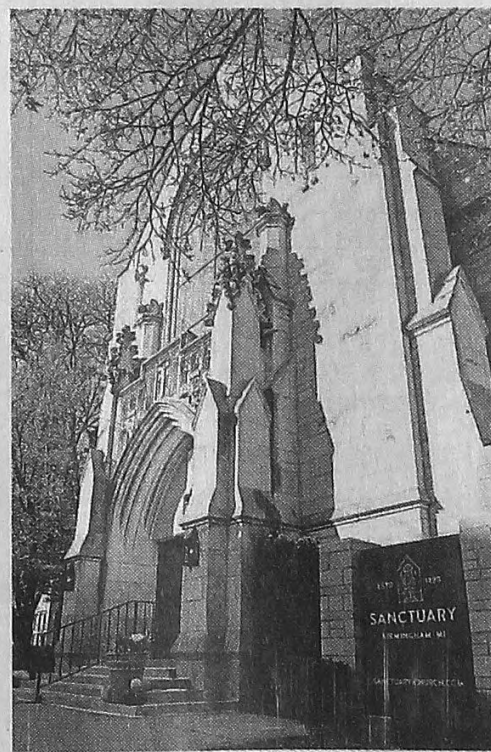
It's an old cliché that Americans are more likely to visit a Christian church around holidays like Christmas and Easter. Metro Detroit happens to be home to many old churches that expect to see more people around the holidays.

So, if you're visiting church just because it's Christmas, why not check out a new place? Here's some of the most beautiful churches in the Hometown Life region, which includes western Wayne and Oakland counties.

Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township

The former estate of Colonel Edwin

See **CHURCHES**, Page 4A



Sanctuary Church in downtown Birmingham.

Canton considers license plate readers to curb thefts

Laura Colvin
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Police say the license plate reader cameras they're proposing at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road will help solve crimes in an area of the township hit hard by retail fraud.

Known as LPRs, the cameras take still photographs of passing vehicles, recording license plate numbers, date, time and the make, model and color of vehicle, along with GPS coordinates. Plates are cross-checked against a "hotlist" to identify vehicles associated with crime and alert police to wanted subjects, stolen vehicles, amber alerts, missing persons or someone on a terrorist watch list, for example.

The department was awarded a \$40,710 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, which would cover the cost and installation of four

See **READERS**, Page 5A

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

What recently opened, closed in metro Detroit

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lots has changed in the business landscape across metro Detroit the past few months.

Numerous stores have opened, closed or moved, all as they prepared for the end of the calendar year. Here's the list of what's happened this fall in the Hometown Life area, which includes the northwest suburbs of Detroit.

Did we miss one? Let us know by emailing dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 3A

CONTACT US: Call 866-887-2737. Press 1) for Classified, Death Notices; 2) Retail Advertising; 3) Billing, Subscription, Back Copies, Delivery Issues; 4) leave message for newsroom. Send press releases, calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com

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Dealing with taxes, mortgage on inherited or willed homes



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Dear Rick:

About 15 years ago I inherited my great aunt's home. For many years I had been renting the house out and the current tenant recently made an offer to purchase the house, which I accepted. When I inherited the house, it was valued at a little over \$50,000 and the sale price is \$125,000. I've been told I will not have to pay taxes because I owned the house for more than five years, and the gain is less than \$250,000. Do I need to reinvest the proceeds in real estate to qualify for this exception?

On another real estate topic, I am divorced and in my will I plan to give my home to my son. If this happens, what will happen to my mortgage? Is my son responsible for paying off my mortgage? Currently, my house is worth a little less than my mortgage.

Thank you, T.D.

Dear T.D.:

Whoever told you that you did not have to pay tax on the sale of the home you inherited has no idea what they are

talking about. The gain that you will have from the sale is taxable to you.

There is a provision under our tax laws where an individual who sells their home can exclude up to \$250,000 in gain. However, to qualify:

1 You must have owned the property for at least two years during the five years prior to the date of sale. This test you meet.

2 You must not have excluded the gain on the sale of another home within two years prior to this sale. Once again, it appears that you meet this test.

3 You must use the home you are selling as your primary residence for at least two of the five years prior to the date of sale. Unfortunately, you do not meet this test and as a result, you do not qualify for the \$250,000 exclusion.

With regards to your mortgage, typically, the person who inherits your home, in this case your son, will have the option to keep the property, and thus to continue paying the mortgage. If, on the other hand, the house is worth less than the mortgage, he does not have to take ownership of the home; he could disclaim his interest and turn the home to the mortgage company.

Plymouth couple sells overstock items at discount at Livonia store

David Veselenak
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN



Plymouth couple Sam and Natalie Blonski are part of the team that opened Honey Bins earlier this fall on Plymouth Road in Livonia. The store takes overstock items from bigger retailers and sells them at discounted prices. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Looking for a sweet deal? Sam and Natalie Blonski have just the place for you.

The Plymouth couple opened Honey Bins this fall in the former Dick Scott Freedom Powersports building on Plymouth Road west of Levan in Livonia. It's become a haven for those seeking items of all kinds at a heavily discounted rate.

"Part of the whole idea is the treasure hunt concept," Sam Blonski said. "People spend a couple hours here."

The idea behind the store is simple: they purchase truckloads of items from companies that acquire stock from companies, and then offer it to customers every week at heavily discounted rates.

"The companies that buy all their returns and overstock, they kind of mix them and we buy it from them," Sam Blonski said. "It's Amazon, it's Target, it's Kohl's, it's Macy's. It's a mix."

Those trucks deliver the goods to the store, where they end up in one of 16 wooden bins built across the store during the middle three days of the week the store is closed. Then on Friday, the doors open to customers, many lining up outside up to an hour before the store opens, hoping to score a great price on items.

What's in these bins? It varies week to week. Sometimes it's consumer electronics, sometimes its accessories, sometimes it's home items. It's literally randomized, with the Blonskis not knowing what will show up. Every item in a bin is the same price, though it's higher depending on when customers shop: items are \$9 on Fridays, \$7 on Saturdays, \$5 on Sundays and \$3 on Mondays.

After Monday, the store clears out its stock and gets ready for the next shipment of goods for the following weekend.

It's a concept that's popped up across the area, with another store opening a few miles away. Good Deal Bins recently opened in the shopping center at Joy and Merriman in Westland, offering a similar model with bins in the store.

Honey Bins opened first back in late September. It's one that attracts people from all over the region, and many of the customers are there every weekend searching for the hottest deals. Sam Blonski saw such a store else-

where and believed it would make a good second business for the couple here in metro Detroit, each of whom work other jobs.

Especially with the larger amounts of items stores have in stock they want to unload, especially with the amount of goods made during the COVID-19 pandemic, the couple saw opportunity to sell those items bigger stores didn't want.

"During the pandemic, we saw there was an uptick in the production of things," Natalie Blonski said. "So then, we kind of realized that a lot of these items that are there are being mass produced and are either being returned or they're just sitting there."

While the deals are hot, there are some conditions and rules: the store does not accept cash, and all sales are final with no returns are allowed, wvwn if if something is broken.

In addition to the bins, they have a handful of premium items on sale that are deeply discounted, though not at bin-pricing level. The most recent items, dubbed HB+ items, included a cookware set and Christmas wreaths. The store also began selling open-box appliances such as refrigerators, at a discounted price.

Customers of all kinds come to the store, from those looking to make a profit to those simply looking for a great deal for themselves or an organization they work with. That wide range, Natalie Blonski said, gives the two a great feeling.

More information, including links to the store's social media channels and hours, can be found at honeybinsco.com.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

hometownlife.com

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Observer ceases print production

The Sunday, Dec. 4, edition of the Observer is the final print edition of the Observer & Eccentric publications. That doesn't mean the staff is stopping coverage of western Wayne and Oakland counties. Hometown Life, part of the USA TODAY Network, will continue publishing digitally at HometownLife.com on metro Detroit stories that matter to readers. Thank you to our subscribers and advertisers for supporting local journalism.

Visit us daily at HometownLife.com to get the latest information on Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Westland and more.

You can follow us on Twitter @hometownlife or on Facebook at facebook.com/oehometown. Have a story idea? Email the news desk at liv-oenewstip@hometownlife.com.

1-800-Pack-Rat (MI-Plymouth-5514)

46201 5 Mile Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-774-1537
Notice of Sale

Tenant:	Unit #
Anderson, Leah	D61104
Collins, Vera	D50971
Lupton, Sarah	D02601
Rogers, Richard	803688
Williams, Cindy	D51478
Tim Karlsen (LDM)	706256
Tim Karlsen (LDM)	D59312

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Publish: December 4, 2022

LO-0008790274 3x3.5

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD**

Regular Meeting
December 20, 2022
7:30 P.M.

THE BOARD MEETING IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT; THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ELECTRONICALLY

Persons interested in attending electronically may access the Conference Call by dialing: 1 651 372 8299
Or Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84949591404>
Meeting ID: 849 4959 1404, Passcode: 99536543

Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org
The agenda will be posted by December 17, 2022

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Regular Meeting on December 20, 2022. The meeting will be offered in hybrid format.

The District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Shauna Anderson, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI at 734 453-0750 x 218.

Publish: December 4, 2022

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43rd Annual

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Roundup

Continued from Page 1A

Livonia

A longtime staple of the city closed its doors earlier this fall.

Wright's Hardware, formerly owned by former Livonia mayor Dennis Wright, closed its doors earlier this fall after its most recent owners, the Dorrs, decided to retire and could not find a buyer for the shop. Known for its long run serving the hardware needs of the community at Five Mile and Middlebelt, it was also a spot for repairs to snow blowers and other tools.

Another closure also took place in the city, albeit for a business that lasted much less than Wright's Hardware. Falafel and Company, a Middle Eastern restaurant that opened in spring on Eight Mile west of Farmington Road, closed its doors earlier this year after just a few months of operation. The restaurant served up plenty of Mediterranean dishes and even coffee. It's not been open for several months, and its sign has been taken down and a new business, Pita Way, appears to be taking over.

While one Middle Eastern restaurant closed, another opened. Hanadi's Kitchen and Grill launched in the Stamford Plaza, located on the south side of Seven Mile between Farmington and Gill roads. The takeout spot features many traditional dishes, including stuffed grape leaves, pita bread, shawarma and plenty more.

Also in the city's restaurant scene is Broasted Brothers, a new place to grab some chicken. The second restaurant to open in the brand, it serves up broasted chicken, wings, tenders and sides, along with milkshakes and other sweets. It can be found at 30983 Five Mile, east of Merriman.

Also open is a restaurant many have waited a long time for: Bad Brads BBQ finally opened its doors at the former Leather Bottle space on Farmington Road south of Eight Mile. A concept first proposed in 2020, the restaurant with locations elsewhere in the metro Detroit area appears to have much of its renovations done for months, only to sit vacant. The restaurant serves up ribs, chicken, pizza, salads and more.

On the retail side of things, a few new

openings have popped up in the city, including Gotham Night Comics at Five Mile and Newburgh. The shop's owner said earlier he aims to make it a "nerd haven," with plenty of goodies unique to the store.

Also popping up recently is The Honey Bin Company, a concept open on Plymouth Road just west of Levan. The liquidation store has bins throughout, offering deep discounts on products collected from other retailers and sold at a fraction of the price. The shop is open Friday through Monday, and closes during the week to restock.

Canton

It's hard not to miss one of Canton's newest businesses that opened.

Amazon opened its delivery station along Michigan Avenue, giving the massive online retailer a new presence in the region to help deliver all those packages that get ordered through its website. The center serves as the "last mile" for deliveries happening in the area, including in Canton, Belleville, Ypsilanti and more. Delivery trucks frequent the center before heading out to their final destination.

For those heading to Ford Road this holiday season seeking gifts, there's a new spot if you're looking to find that gift for someone you perhaps may not know as well. Buff City Soap opened in November in the space next to Planet Fitness on Ford Road west of Morton Taylor. With the majority of products made in the store, including some scents mixed specifically for that shop, it's the perfect place to grab a gift if you're looking for an idea.

Farmington/Farmington Hills

Downtown Farmington's a bit more caffeinated these days.

Two new coffee shops have opened: Apothecary Espresso and Coffee at 23366 Farmington Road, and Ground Control Coffee Roasters at 33319 Grand River. They join several others in the Farmington area offering up coffee, lattes and more.

If gas station coffee is more your thing, you've got a new option in town as well. The Amoco station on the northwest corner of Nine Mile and Farmington has also opened after months of construction. In addition to gas pumps, it has some electric vehicle charging

stations and a full convenience full of snacks and other items.

Looking for a sweet pastry to go with all this coffee? Check out Sweet Timez, a new Indian bakery that opened Labor Day weekend at 34767 Grand River. The shop sells a variety of goodies infused with Indian flavor.

One place that has halted serving coffee, as well as other food dishes, is the Farmington Grill. The restaurant originally opened earlier this spring in the former Panera Bread building on Grand River, but was only open a few months before closing. A sign on the building advertises a new Greek restaurant is planned for the building.

Finally, on Orchard Lake in northern Farmington Hills are new homes for a pair of big-name stores. Marshalls and Home Goods relocated across the street from their previous homes and are now open at 30830 Orchard Lake, in a revamped building where Best Buy was formerly located.

Plymouth

Get a sense of global travel at one of downtown Plymouth's newest boutiques.

Vida Voyager opened this summer along Ann Arbor Trail near Forest, selling a variety of clothing, jewelry, coffee table books and more. It's an homage to

the world its owner, Nasha Vida, has seen since moving back home from the west coast to be closer to family.

Just in time for getting the house clean for the holidays, another new shop will help get the supplies needed to make the mantle shine. BYOC Co., sells cleaning supplies in containers brought in by customers. It cuts down on new containers and allows customers to get as much or as little product as they need. It includes laundry detergent, hand soap and more.

Westland

Put that game controller down and suit up to really experience firsthand combat in Westland's newest attraction.

Battlefield CQB opened in the Westland Shopping Center at Wayne and Warren roads, inside the former Ulta. Allowing guests to suit up using laser tag weapons that feel like the real thing, players can take to the map and play a multitude of games with friends or strangers and rank up based on their abilities.

Another "bin store" has also opened up in the region: Good Deal Bins. The store, which sells wholesale items from other retailers, opened in late November at 31505 Joy on the southwest corner of Merriman Road.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Bid Package T5 Elementary Classroom AV

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is requesting proposals for Elementary Classroom AV systems. Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after November 28, 2022. To obtain documents go to:

Link to project: <http://links.pccsk12.com/BMbidopps>

Bid proposals will be received by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools through **BuildingConnected.com** by **December 20, 2022 at 1:00 PM** local time when they will be publicly opened and streamed at <http://links.pccsk12.com/BMbidopeningBPT5>. The District will not open, consider, or accept any bids received after the date and time specified.

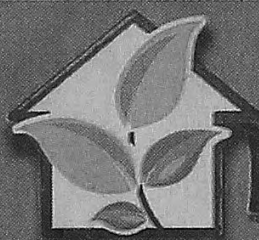
The Bid Proposal must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.127 disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the bidder, or any employee of the bidder, and any member of the Board of Education of the school district or the Superintendent of the school district. Bid proposals that do not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement will not be considered.

A virtual, non-mandatory, pre-bid meeting will be held on December 2, 2022 at 11:30AM at <http://links.pccsk12.com/BMprebidmtgBPT5>

The Board of Education reserves the right to: reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part; waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; accept bid alternates; and to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Board of Education, in its sole discretion, to be in their best interests.

Publish: December 1, 2022

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Churches

Continued from Page 1A

George in Bloomfield Township has served as a Presbyterian place of worship since 1958. The Gothic-style building at 1340 W. Long Lake Road is home to some of the most beautiful architecture and stained glass in the area. In the sanctuary, stained glass windows depict some of the most well-known Biblical figures like King David and the 12 Disciples.

The Kirk's Christmas Eve services include an 11 a.m. service for families with young kids, a 4 p.m. Christmas pageant, 6 p.m. service and candlelight services at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Sunday worship, which falls on Christmas Day this year, is happening at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia

The Basilica of St. Mary has been at 18200 Merriman Road in Livonia since 1977, but the congregation celebrated its 50th birthday earlier this year. The church hired a Grecian iconographer to paint and plaster the inside, which features various stories and significant figures from the Bible.

The Basilica is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

The church's Christmas nativity play is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11. Christmas Day service begins at 10 a.m.

Madonna University Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel in Livonia

Madonna University's chapel, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, has been in its current state since 1961. The cross-shaped sanctuary serves as a daily place of worship for the Felician Sisters who call Madonna University home.

Visitors to the chapel can check out the mosaic art, paintings and 30 stained glass windows around the sanctuary. Though Madonna is a private university, the chapel is open to the public for worship.

The chapel's Christmas Eve mass begins at 3:30 p.m. and Christmas Day mass begins at 9:30 a.m. Because the chapel is a home for the Sisters, services



The sanctuary inside the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia is full of hand-painted iconography.

SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

are subject to cancellation if COVID-19 numbers are too high.

First United Methodist Church in Farmington

First United Methodist, 33112 Grand River Avenue, is just one of the historic landmarks in downtown Farmington. The church was built in 1829 and was granted historical landmark status in 2007.

The church's sanctuary is currently undergoing its first major renovation, but the detailed stained glass window featuring historic figures like John Wesley and Biblical figures like John the Baptist remains untouched. The church plans to reopen its sanctuary in time for Christmas.

First United Methodist is planning to host a Christmas Eve service, and Christmas Day worship begins at 10 a.m.

Sanctuary Church in Birmingham

The building that houses Sanctuary, now a nondenominational church, was

built in 1891. The building at 300 Willits Street in downtown Birmingham doesn't have its own parking lot, but there is public parking nearby.

Though the outside of Sanctuary is clearly an old building, most of the inside looks like any other modern church. However, Sanctuary's sanctuary has maintained an older feel with large wooden beams, an organ and a few simple stained glass windows.

The church gathers at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Milford Presbyterian Church in Milford

The congregation at Milford Presbyterian Church has been gathering in the small community since 1899, and the church started building its facility at 238 N. Main Street that same year. According to the church, the building process was faithfully covered by the Milford Times, which is part of Hometown Life today.

The inside of the sanctuary has gone mostly unchanged since the 1980s, but

the rest of the building has seen plenty of updates over the years. The church is home to some of the most colorful stained glass in the area, complete with unique pinks and purples, and includes balcony seating.

The church's Christmas Eve service begins at 7 p.m. Milford Presbyterian is not holding any services Christmas Day.

First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth

The congregation at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth has been gathering since 1833. The church worshipers meet in today at 710 Church Street was built in 1937 after the original church burned down a year before.

Most of the stained glass visitors to the church see today is just as old as the current structure is.

First Presbyterian has Christmas Eve services at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Its Christmas Day gathering begins at 11:15 a.m.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

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Readers

Continued from Page 1A

Motorola LPR cameras mounted to poles at the intersection, which sees approximately 30,000 vehicles per day.

"That's an area where we can cover the entire intersection with cameras and hopefully address our highest (area of) retail frauds," said Canton Police Capt. Mike Kennedy during a Nov. 15 study session of the Canton Township Board of Trustees. "Home Depot, Walmart, Target: that whole strip mall there. In a small, concentrated area, there's a lot of stores that are impacted by crimes."

This past May, the department conducted a trial run with LPRs near Haggerty and Joy roads. In one case, officers said, police used the LPRs to locate a man wanted on charges of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct after he allegedly groped the breast of an 18-year-old woman at a gas station. In another case, a man was arrested on third-offense drunken driving charges after hitting a gas pump.

While helpful in solving crimes, Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh acknowledged the technology can be controversial due to privacy concerns. In Ypsilanti Township, for example, citizens recently protested a plan to install LPRs in that community.

But, Baugh said, his department is planning an un-hurried approach, starting with just four cameras.

"As much as we want to protect information, there are citizens that don't want to be the victim of a crime," Baugh said. "It goes both ways. We are a rigid organization and these (cameras) wouldn't be used by us in a manner they shouldn't be. We would be very measured in our approach."

"It would give us a way to measure how this would affect policing... with very intentional actions by our police department," he said. "We are finding theft-related crimes are an issue for our community, and



Canton Police are considering a plan to add license plate readers near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Beck, where they say a large volume of theft occurs at the nearby shopping plazas.

LAURA COLVIN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Michigan and Beck is a thoroughfare for people who use a vehicle to commit crime."

Baugh said his research shows LPRs are used by Michigan State Police, Warren, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Kalamazoo, Southfield, Flint, Jackson, Wyoming, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Troy, Sterling Heights, Chesterfield Township, Van Buren, Metro Airport, Livingston County, Grosse Ile, Grosse Pointe Park and Oakland County Sheriff.

While LPRs do not photograph the driver or vehicle occupants, or provide name, date of birth, address or other identifying information about the driver, that information is available to police through a secondary search, but only when warranted.

In Canton, police said, the LPRs will be used to enforce certain traffic laws, including drunken drivers,

leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and road rage where a crime was committed, but not speeding, red lights, stop signs or other civil infractions.

"That camera is... doing the same job an officer is allowed to do, running plates," said Canton Police Sgt. Adam Falk. "It doesn't get called away, doesn't take breaks and doesn't call off sick. That, in our eyes, is extremely important."

Information collected by the LPRs is stored in a secure cloud. Police, not Motorola, manage and control access to data, which can be shared with other police agencies.

Trustees brought up several questions, such as whether data collected by the LPRs would be subject to a Freedom of Information Act request, or whether any components of the LPR hardware or software could be traced to Russia or China.

Trustee Sommer Foster said she could see the value in the cameras as tools for combating crime but felt privacy was an issue to be discussed, as data would be collected even where no crimes were committed.

"I feel like it has to be a community conversation," Foster said. "We are the decision-makers, but it is it's a big deal for privacy, especially cyber security, (which is) on a lot of folks minds right now."

Clerk Michael Siegrist said he did not like "imagining a situation where there's one of these on every street corner" but felt a more targeted approach was beneficial.

"We know a substantial amount of our crime is retail fraud," he said. "We know a substantial amount of it happens in a specific area. We're trying to implement this in that targeted area, we're not surveilling neighborhoods. Is it reasonable to put it at Michigan and Beck? For sure. I think it's a useful tool."

Supervisor Ann Marie Graham Hudak said the issue will come back before the board in a public meeting before any further action is taken. A date has not yet been set.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php

Richard Grochan

MIAMI - Richard Val Grochan, age 67, passed away in Miami, Florida on September 4, 2022.

Richard was born in Tarrytown, NY and grew up in Decatur, GA and Farmington, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard Valentine and Louise Martinson Grochan and partner Enrico (Rick) Bastianelli.

Those surviving him are sisters Susan Grochan Bunder, Dorothy Grochan Duke (Steve), brother Donald Grochan (Mary) and nieces and nephews Thea Craft, Maxwell Williams, Anne McClure, Cheri Bunder Hampton, Barbara Bunder and Andrew, Katherine and John Grochan.

Richard was a graduate of University of Michigan and went onto graduate school there, obtaining his MBA. Long after leaving Richard remained a big football fan of his alma mater. Upon retiring from a career at General Motors, Richard moved to Miami and worked in real estate.

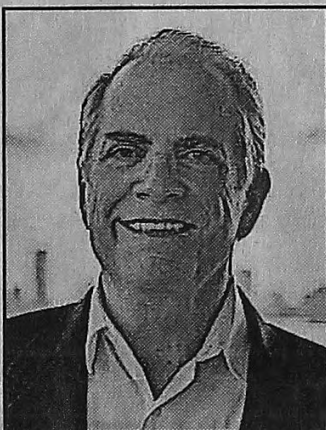
Richard was greatly loved and will be incredibly missed by both his family and friends. He had the best, most infectious laugh you ever heard and when he really got rolling you couldn't help but to laugh with him.

Richard was generous to a fault and was always the first to remember everyone's birthdays and loved to celebrate the important people in his life. When his nieces ripped the paper off their birthday presents and saw that shiny white Lord & Taylor box with the red rose... well they knew they'd be draped in vibrant velour and be the most fashionable kid on the block.

Richard's pets were also the world to him and were likely more loved and spoiled than any other pets in the world. They loved him too and never wanted to part from him as a couple of them lived to be twenty. There was definitely more than one of us who could only wish for the lifestyle he provided his beloved pets.

A memorial service to honor and celebrate Richard's life will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 211 Union Street, Cary, NC at 11:00am on December 9, 2022. Richard's ashes will be laid to rest next to his partner Rick at a burial service at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia, MI at a later date.

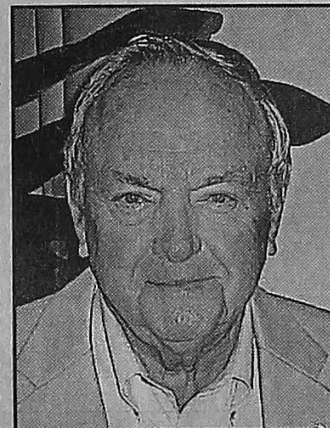
Donations in Richard's memory may be made to the ASPCA of Miami: <https://www.aspcami.com/miami-initiative>.



A.H. (Al) Maass

Age 95 - June 21, 1927 to November 12, 2022

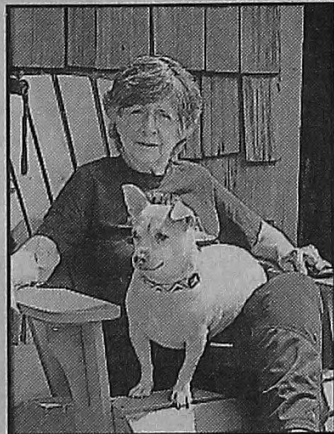
Al Maass, formerly of Birmingham (MI), went to his heavenly home from Stuart (FL). Raised in Defiance (OH) by parents Alvin and Emma, he lettered in three high school sports. He served in WW II aboard the USS Iowa (Pacific), earned his BS from BGSU and married Dorothy Amos of Portage (OH) in 1950, who predeceased him in 2020. They raised Peggy and Craig in Oak Park (MI), Ft. Wayne (IN), Greeneville (TN) and Birmingham (MI). Al actively supported his kid's sports & activities, coaching Franklin Village football 1969-72 and countless hours of driving & bleacher time. As a successful business owner and engineer (ACI) he invented environmentally friendly rapid fill systems for the automotive industry and rebuilt the Franklin Cider Mill candy apple red water wheel (2008). Both Dorothy & Al raised their children at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and enjoyed golf with many friends at OHCC. Al was Executive Director for the '96 US Open, exceeding revenue records for the club. An avid reader, he served on the Friends Board of the Bloomfield Township Library. Uncle Al was admired by Pepper Amos and his nieces & nephews for his fun snipe hunts, button games, and hand cranked ice cream. He was respected as a kind, compassionate & generous man in the community. Thankful for his caregivers Yvie & Carmen and Treasure Coast Hospice, he is survived by his children, Peggy (Tom) and Craig, grandkids Robin & Tim, Caroline & Kathryn and their mother, Laurie and five great granddaughters. Celebration of Life planned for early 2023. Info and/or donations in his memory: Redeemer Lutheran Church Youth Group, 1800 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009.



*Never
Forgotten*

Virginia Margaret Granata

BIRMINGHAM - Virginia Margaret Granata. She peacefully passed away in hospice, surrounded by her family on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2022, at age 84. She was a loving and devoted Mother to Lynn Granata and Peter Granata and Mother-In-Law to Karen Weaver Granata.



She was a fiercely devoted and protective Nana to Lauren DePorre, Nicholas DePorre, Max Granata and Ava Granata. Virginia was a force of nature all her life. She was a nail technician by trade, and she loved doing her clients nails and listening to their stories. She was brutally honest and direct while also being loving and supportive. Her family was ALWAYS her number one priority. We will be telling hilariously outrageous "Virginia/Mom/Nana" stories for the rest of our lives. We will miss our North Star so much, but we all know she is in Heaven looking out for us from up above. You were deeply loved Mom.





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SPORTS

Bloomfield Hills Marian wins 3rd-straight state title

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It definitely wasn't the rowdiest crowd the Bloomfield Hills Marian volleyball team has had to combat over the years.

At the start of the Division 1 state championship Nov. 19, Northville's student section had 20 present. Make that 22 if you count recent Michigan Miss Volleyball winner Harper Murray and Farmington Hills Mercy outside hitter Ella Shields, who were in the front row,

rooting on their Legacy Volleyball Club teammates who star for Northville.

But then a bus full of Kalamazoo Christian students unloaded and joined the Northville faithful in the bleachers, which were set up behind the team's service line. Suddenly, that modest group turned into about 100 strong.

And, coincidentally, chief among them was recent TikTok sensation Rocco D'Angelo, a 14-year-old K-Christian student, who had gone viral after showcasing his "King Rizz" talents to 800,000

See **MARIAN**, Page 2B



The Bloomfield Hills Marian volleyball team celebrates winning the Division 1 state final Nov. 19 at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

TOM BEAUDOIN/
SPECIAL TO
HOMETOWN
LIFE.COM



Detroit Country Day's Clay Spencer looks to pass during a holiday tournament Nov. 25 at Wallace Ice Arena.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Two baseball stars leading Detroit Country Day on ice

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you're going to talk the talk, you better walk the walk as well.

Clay Spencer, one of the top baseball players in Michigan, has big dreams. But not on the diamond. The Detroit Country Day junior wants to play hockey at the next level.

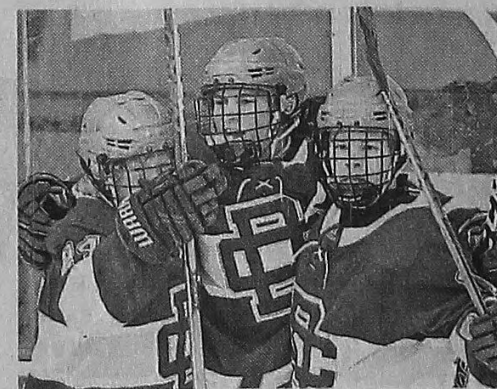
Whether that's in juniors or for a college, it doesn't matter. But that's where the forward wants to end up.

There's just one problem.

Spencer wasn't playing like a juniors draft pick for the Yellowjackets in Week 1. Yeah, he had five points, including four assists and a goal in their first two games.

But he didn't play like the best player on the ice. And if you look around metro Detroit, you never question who the future juniors players are when you see them scooting up and down the rink. Peter Rosa, anyone?

See **ICE**, Page 2B



Detroit Country Day's Clay Hartje celebrates a goal.

Bloomfield Hills QB taking his recruitment prospects to new heights

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If "Star Wars" was a football movie, there'd definitely be a scene where Princess Leia takes a jab at CJ Jackson by asking the Bloomfield Hills senior, "Aren't you a little short for a college quarterback?"

It's true.

The souvenir program for Legacy Senior All-Star football game Nov. 27 had him listed as 5-foot-10, but there's a chance they borrowed the same measuring tape most guys use for their online dating profiles.

But it doesn't matter if he's 5-10 or 10-5, you can't hand-wave his career behind center for the Black Hawks.

He was a two-year starter at the position, which included him leading Bloomfield Hills to a perfect regular-season record and an Oakland Activities Association-Blue championship as a junior.

He's a consummate leader, one many of his teammates would run through a brick wall for if asked to do so. And he's always been that way, even when he was the sixth man on last year's boys basketball team.

This past fall, he completed 103 passes for 1,780 yards and 13 touchdowns. He averaged almost 18 yards per attempt and just under 200 yards per game. He also had 156 yards and six TDs on the ground.

So when Legacy Football Organization announced Jackson would be suiting up for its all-star game a few weeks ago, naturally, it made sense to

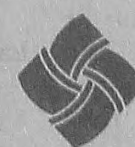
See **QB**, Page 2B

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QB

Continued from Page 1B

expect he'd be backing up Dearborn Divine Child QB Robert Lalain.

Except he didn't.

"One of the Legacy directors hit me up, and they saw my sophomore year of film, and they remembered I played a little bit of DB (defensive back), and a lot of college coaches have been asking me about playing DB," said Jackson after his East squad lost to the West team, 35-27. "They (Legacy) knew I needed some tape, so they hit me up and asked if I wanted to play in the game. One of the big parts was I needed some tape to play DB in college."

That's right.

Jackson was actually an All-OAA and All-Region cornerback as a sophomore. But when coach Dan Loria needed a

starting QB in 2021, that was the end of Jackson's career on defense.

In fact, Jackson played defensive back for only two plays this past season.

But he wants to play college football, and it's unrealistic for him to play QB at the next level with his height disadvantage, despite him being one of the most athletic dual-threats in all of Oakland County. So he had no problem when he was asked to play cornerback against a handful of the top receivers in the state during the all-star game.

And he made the most out of his opportunity.

He totaled eight tackles, broke up one pass and even intercepted a two-point conversion attempt.

"No, no," said Jackson when asked if he was surprised by his performance. "I know what I can do at DB. It just felt good to be back at cornerback, get a pick and make some tackles. It felt good."

"I've actually always played DB. I

knew a lot of college coaches have wanted me to play DB, and I knew I wanted to play at the next level, so I've stayed training and stayed ready to play DB whenever."

Jackson has never stopped training with the defensive backs in practice, despite being the starting QB. So his footwork, technique and ability to read the eyes of opposing QBs has always stayed sharp.

"Yeah, I expected this from him today," said Bloomfield Hills receiver Aaron Zekman, who had a catch for 33 yards in the first quarter. "I've gone against him in practice a couple of times, he's pretty good. It's pretty cool to see that his athleticism can transfer to DB. After seeing all the runs he had during the season, it's just cool to see him playing on defense."

Perhaps the biggest eye-opener about Jackson's day was his knack for lowering his shoulder and laying the

boom.

Getting eight tackles in an exhibition is something you'd expect out of a linebacker or defensive end. It's not something you normally see from cornerbacks.

And that was true at Legacy Center Sports Complex. There were a few DBs who shied away from making tackles.

"I mean, I gave him a few tips on how to wrap up and tackle," joked Bloomfield Hills teammate Ahmad Taylor, who had a monster day himself. The defensive end had 4.5 tackles, three sacks and five QB hurries, good enough for Legacy to name him the Defensive MVP for the East team. "But, yeah, it was pretty crazy (seeing Jackson lined up at cornerback), but it felt good that I had someone I knew who could take care of business out there."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Marian

Continued from Page 1B

viewers on the app just two days earlier.

Marian had come back from deficits all year long.

But now it was tied one game apiece, and it was trailing, 16-8, with Northville's crowd getting louder and louder.

"Let's go Northville! Let's go Northville!" the K-Christian-inspired Northville crowd chanted.

Louder and louder and LOUDER. All because K-Christian's fans showed up about an hour early to its D-3 state final matchup against Pewamo-Westphalia.

But guess what happened?

Marian, the two-time defending state champion, ratcheted up its intensity.

It used that crowd noise as motivation.

"We've been here, now, our third year in a row," fifth-year Marian coach Maysa Cook said. "This is our home court, and I knew we had the advantage. We had the experience of playing on this stage, in this gym. We know the way it smells, the way it feels and all of that stuff. In one of those last huddles, before we made the total turnaround, I was thinking, 'They're (Northville) going to fold under pressure. We love pressure. We thrive for it. We crave for it. We want it.' With something like that, I feel like it was a spark."

"I saw the fire in their eyes, and I knew that they were going to get it done."

Lauren Heming's serving got Marian going.

And then Wofford College signee Ella

Schomer smashed back-to-back kills to knot that third set at 20 apiece.

Northville tied it with an Avry Nelson kill, but then Izzy Busignani rocketed home a kill. And then Molly Banta sailed in two well-placed aces.

"In the net! In the net!" the K-Christian-Northville cooperative shouted as Banta toed the service line again.

Nelson got one more kill on Marian, but then Busignani slammed another for herself.

And then Banta, somehow, somehow, got one arm under a tough dig to set up Busignani with the set-winner.

Marian had come back from an eight-point deficit to take that third set, 25-22. And it just kept going.

It continued to feed off the crowd energy, especially once Pewamo-Westphalia's fans started shuffling into Kellogg Arena and filled in behind Marian's student section.

And, what's more, Marian looked unstoppable. It jumped out to a 17-6 lead in the fourth set, and then Busignani threw up the winning kill to secure the three-peat for Marian.

Marian's Mustangs defeated the Mustangs from Northville, 3-1.

But, hey, most importantly, Marian defended its home arena.

"I thought that Marian students did a really good job of being loud, but adding that student section on both sides upped the amount of momentum that I think each team had," said setter Ava Sarafa, who's signed with Kentucky. "It didn't increase the pressure, but it also just lightens the vibe, lightens the mood and makes you really pumped up, and I think that also really fueled us a lot, having that extra support on our side."

Not that Marian needed any more fu-

eling.

Surprisingly, the winners of the past two state champions — err, make that three now — entered as an underdog.

Northville is chalked full of Division I college players. From Miss Volleyball nominee Abby Reck (Northeastern) to libero Taryn Rice (Northern Iowa) as well as a bunch of sophomores and juniors who will be garnering college scholarships over the next two travel seasons.

Marian had just graduated Miss Volleyball winner Ava Brizard (NC State), Sarah Sylvester (TCU) and Sophia Tredler (Brown University). And middle blocker Janiah Jones could've played in college but chose not to sign with a team.

How on earth was it going to three-peat with two or three new starters?

"This year we had a new team, we were missing a few people and we really had to battle," said Heming, the team's returning libero. "We really had to work for it. Nothing was handed to us. We have been practicing every single day, training, watching film and scouting like we wanted this. And we had to prove it to everyone else and ourselves, too. We knew that it was going to be harder, and we knew we could do it if we tried our best."

Marian still had some heavy hitters returning, including a couple of up-and-comers Cook has been keeping a secret.

Obviously, Sarafa and Schomer, the Mustangs' two Miss Volleyball nominees this year, were atop opposing teams' scouting reports. But they got Banta back after she sat out because of the transfer rule. Eevey Oegema has been a top-notch serving specialist for a while. Heming is about as tough as you

can get defensively. And Regan Sass was good enough to sign with Denison University.

Sprinkle in Busignani, one of the top sophomores in the state, outside hitter Dani Mertz and middle blocker Mckenzie Swanson, a top basketball recruit, and the Mustangs were ready to prove the haters wrong in 2022.

"With the past few years of having such power hitters, there have been a lot of doubt on us this year, and I think that fueled every single senior on this team that we know we can win this again," Schomer said. "So that was a big part of our fire in this game."

That, and the fact that Schomer estimated 80% of the prognosticators out there picked Northville to win the title.

But let's not forget that girls such as Sarafa and Schomer have been integral to the past two championships. Cook hasn't forgotten just how important those two were to sending out past seniors with state titles.

"More than any year, this was about a true team effort," Cook said of their underdog tale. "It was beautiful to watch."

And, so, too, was how K-Christian and P-W's student sections stepped up. It was a random happenstance that K-Christian was thrown to Northville's end, and P-W ended up with Marian.

But it worked out, and Marian thrived off that last-minute home-court environment.

The championship is over. Marian secured its fifth title. But, hey, someone load up Busignani's state finals highlights on TikTok. It's time for someone else other than Rocco D'Angelo to go viral around here.

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Ice

Continued from Page 1B

"Our first two games, he had some points," Yellowjackets coach Frank Novock told Hometown Life this past weekend. "They weren't in a dominant fashion."

Novock would know.

He's been at Country Day for 11 seasons.

Before that, he had that juniors experience. And then he played for Western Michigan University, even graduating as the Broncos' captain. And then he played professionally for four seasons in the ECHL, finishing just two promotions shy of making the NHL.

If you're going to tell Novock you want to play in the North American Hockey League, you better be serious about it.

That's why, before the Nov. 25 matchup at rival Cranbrook, a premier Division 3 program just two seasons removed from its most-recent state championship, Novock pulled Spencer aside for a private conversation.

Just a little heart-to-heart chat ahead of their holiday tournament game inside Wallace Ice Arena.

"There's so many kids and parents who think their sons or daughters are going to play juniors, or, for that matter, college, and they're sadly mistaken," Novock said of the conversation with Spencer. "(I made) just a challenge to him about the next level and how hard it is (to get there), and (I said) it's time for him to take a stand and be one of the best players. If you're a juniors or college player, you better be one of the best players on the ice. ..."

"I said, 'This is a statement game for you. You need to show every game that you're one of the best players on the ice.' And he did. He responded very well. I'm very proud of him."

Spencer certainly did.

The forward recorded his first-career

hat trick, plus he assisted on another goal to ensure the Yellowjackets (3-1) an 8-1 victory over the Cranes.

Statement made.

"I was so pumped up for this game," Spencer said. "We knew we had something to prove, and I didn't want to let our coach down. Before the game, he pulled me aside to tell me I need to do more. To get to the next level, I need to stand out more. It really motivated me to work harder every shift and battle. And it worked."

If you take a quick scroll through Spencer's Twitter timeline, you'll see nothing but baseball highlights and praise by scouting accounts, happily championing the prowess as a lefty pitcher/outfielder.

He's nationally ranked. He has interest from colleges to play at the next level.

He's played for the prestigious Detroit Metro Stars travel program. And he was even picked up to play for the 17-U Team Elite Premier Midwest squad out of Flint.

This guy can definitely play.

"I don't know. I just go back and forth with whatever season I'm in," said Spencer after being asked which sport he loves to play more. "I want to play at the next level, but it's all about hockey right now."

But there's nothing like screaming down the ice on a breakaway, as Spencer did for all three of his goals against the Cranes. And there's no replacing the atmosphere inside a hockey dressing room.

Especially the one the Yellowjackets' have.

"I just love working hard for the boys," Spencer added. "It's really just about the person next to you in the locker room and working hard for them. It's no better feeling than coming out with a win for them. Baseball is more of an individual sport, and I like the team sport (aspect of hockey)."

Spencer has never hit for the cycle. He was just a home run away from get-

ting it done a while back. But four points, including a hat trick against your rival, is definitely the equivalent of hitting for the cycle in hockey.

Coincidentally, Spencer isn't the only star baseball player on Country Day's hockey team. Heck, he isn't even the only star baseball player named Clay on Country Day's hockey team.

The Yellowjackets' other Clay, Clay Hartje, is, in fact, going to play college baseball.

The senior is one of the top catchers in the state. And that can be easily verified considering he's already signed to play the position for Johns Hopkins University.

Hartje scored a pair of goals vs. Cranbrook, including a tone-setter late in the opening period. From the left faceoff circle, the senior buried a snipe to give the Yellowjackets a 1-0 lead.

He added a power-play goal with just 1:29 left.

Not bad for a defenseman.

"Clay Hartje was a very good player for us last year, and he's our captain and, obviously, when he goes, we go," Novock said.

You've got the catcher as a captain? Really?!

Yeah, Novock said he realizes he doesn't have a team chalked full of future hockey stars. In fact, there are very few players on this team who will play sports at the next level.

But the one thing they have in common is their hard work ethic.

And Hartje is always the first to throw on his hard hat.

"Baseball is my first love, but ever since I was young, I've been playing hockey, and, even though I don't play it as much as baseball, it's awesome being out here with the team and getting big wins," the captain said. "Just the atmosphere in the locker room, you can't really replace that. The team aspect of hockey is just different."

It's easy to imagine Johns Hopkins coach Bob Babb doesn't want his future catcher laying down checks against the

boards and throwing his body into forwards trying to screen Country Day goalie Talon Garn.

But that's not an accurate assumption.

"They love the multi-sport athletes, and they think it's great to diversify and improve your body, your skills," Hartje said. "They can see the translation here. Hockey, it's just hand-eye coordination, with possessing the puck or going up to the plate. So they're very supportive of it. My coach always texts me when he sees a good run for my team or a good win or a good result for myself, too, so he's very supportive of it."

Not only is Hartje a captain, but he's also helping the team on the score sheet.

And that's saying something considering he's splitting his nights between hockey games and batting practice.

If hockey practice wraps up early, he's headed to Wixom to take B.P. with his baseball teammates.

"You've got to stay sharp in the winter with baseball, too," said Hartje, who went all-in on baseball just before his freshman year. "Just playing both right now, it's a lot of time that it consumes, but it's fun switching from the ice to the diamond. I think I'll be ready come springtime, too. It's tough to get from hockey practice to over there, but it's super fun. Practicing with my baseball team and getting to see them for the first time since the summer, it's awesome having two different sets of brothers, really."

Country Day entered the week ranked No. 10 in Michigan Hockey Hub's D-3 poll.

But after upsetting fourth-ranked Cranbrook, you can bet it'll be shooting up the rankings, despite its close-call 5-4 loss to Clarkston in the Cranbrook Thanksgiving weekend tournament championship Saturday.

It's safe to say having two baseball stars has been a home run for the Yellowjackets on the ice.

Follow Brandon Folsom on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

Freshman should help Yellowjackets win state title

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

You've got to see this freshman at Detroit Country Day.

No, not *that* one.

Not Jayla Jackson, arguably the top freshman girls basketball recruit in Michigan. Besides she isn't even available to play right now. She's expected to miss the next 4-6 weeks with a cast on her left arm.

She hasn't even made her high school debut yet and she already holds six Division I offers. And she even received offers from Syracuse, Ohio State and Eastern Michigan when she was still in middle school.

The best the point guard could do during the Yellowjackets' 66-34 season-opening victory Tuesday night at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest was cheer on her teammates from the bench.

And that was a bummer for first-year coach Amber Deane.

Country Day (1-0) has gone to back-to-back Division 2 state semifinals the past two seasons.

Last year's team didn't have a single senior, but it had plenty of talent. Except it seemed like it was missing one more piece, or one presence, that could've gotten them a step closer to their first state championship since 2018.

Deane inherited essentially the same core of players. And with each of them a year older, they should be poised to take that next step, especially if Jackson ends up being that missing presence last year's squad lacked.

But, wait, what about this *other* freshman?

Oh yeah, that's right.

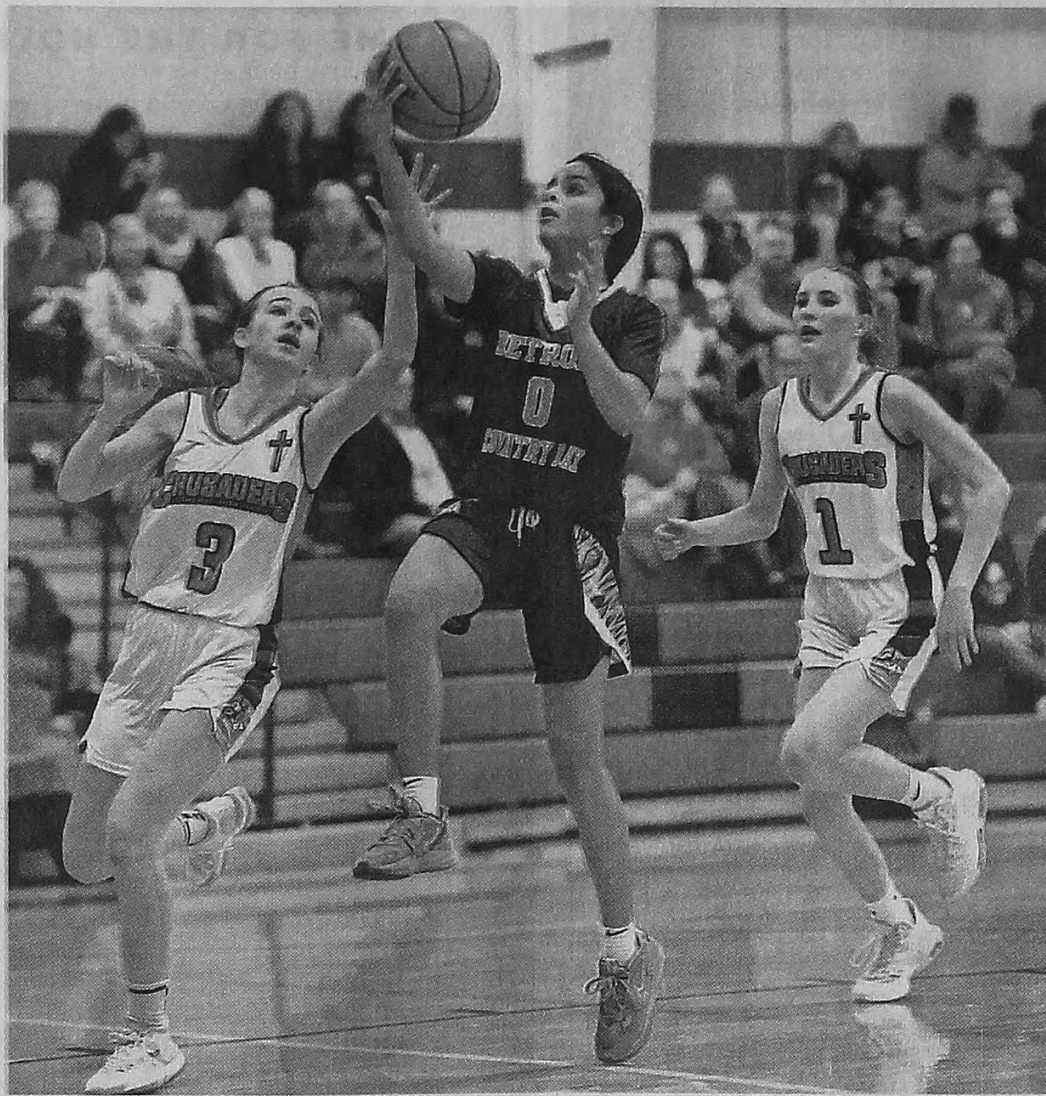
That would be Naiya Krispin, who had quite the breakout performance.

While the shooting guard totaled just nine points, she was hard to miss.

Time after time, she poked free loose balls, corralled steals and ignited fast-breaks.

She has sprinter's speed, fancy ball-handling skills and all the swagger you could ask for.

"Naiya Krispin is great. She's just great," Deane said. "She's just an excellent kid, really smart and understands



Detroit Country Day's Naiya Krispin attempts a layup Nov. 29 at Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the game. She handles the ball really well, and she's really crafty. She's just a great person to be around, and she brings so much skill to our team. And on the defensive end, too. She's a sneaky, really good defender."

That's definitely true.

She showed that halfway through the third quarter.

A Lutheran Northwest turnover was rolling out of bounds when Krispin made a play for it. There was no way she was going to catch up to the ball, so she was going to have to dive to try and save it. Floorburns were imminent.

Except that's not what happened. Somehow, some way, Krispin, who also holds an offer from EMU, raced to the ball before it hit the boundary line. Instead of reaching for it with both hands,

she... just... started... dribbling it.

Like, seriously?!

Once she regained control, she dribbled it between her legs, evaded a steal from Crusaders junior Aliyah Ozlas and then whipped a pass to a streaking Aysia Yokely, who finished at the rim with a jaw-dropping, hard-fought layup.

"I had heard so many great things about her (Krispin)," said Deane, who took over the program from former Yellowjackets coach Jerica Williams in June. "But to actually get in the gym with her, it was — dang — it was great."

Krispin, who attended Auburn Hills Avondale for middle school, split her summer training by playing for the Nike Lady Gymrats EYBL travel team and working with Deane at open gyms at DCDS.

She's already made an instant impact.

"I'm excited," Krispin said. "We're definitely going to go for a state championship. We just have to keep working."

Outside of Krispin, the Yellowjackets looked like a different team compared to last year's final-four squad.

Obviously, they weren't facing defending state champion Ypsilanti Arbor Prep or another elite D-2 squad, but you could just tell they have improved.

Yokely (18 points), Country Day's sharpshooter, looked more athletic than ever and proved she still was a threat to bury any shot from behind the 3-point line.

Ari'Yanna Wiggins (15 points) appeared to be in better shape than last year, which is saying something because she was already entering 2022-23 as one of the top sophomores in the state.

Emma Barnes Arico (nine points), the daughter of Michigan women's basketball coach Kim Barnes Arico, just oozed with confidence as the main ball-handler. A year ago, Emma was a solid player but was often timid in big moments. Now she's the vocal leader of the team, and a leader like that was missing last season. She might end up being the team's X-factor from that standpoint alone.

And Jaidyn Elam (eight points) looked bigger, stronger and faster. That should make the small forward a scoring machine when she mixes it up in the post because, well, she already has a knack for hitting big shots outside of the paint.

"We really believe in ourselves," Deane said. "We believe in our talent. We believe in our chemistry. We believe the sky is the limit for this group. We believe that we are really special, and it's because we put a lot of time and work into it. We don't just walk in and expect to be great. We work at it every single day, and that helps increase their confidence because we put the time and effort and the reps up every single day we go for it."

The Yellowjackets should be a state champion contender now that they've finally found their missing piece — or pieces, you could say.

Twitter: @folsombrandonj

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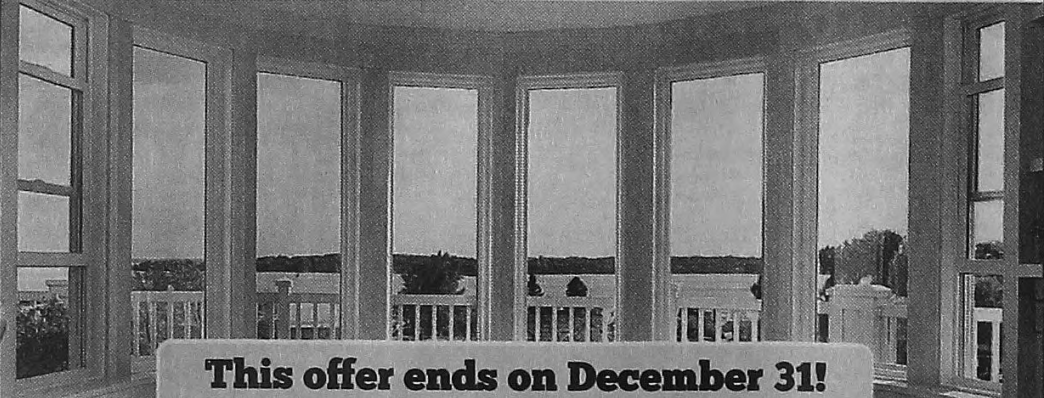
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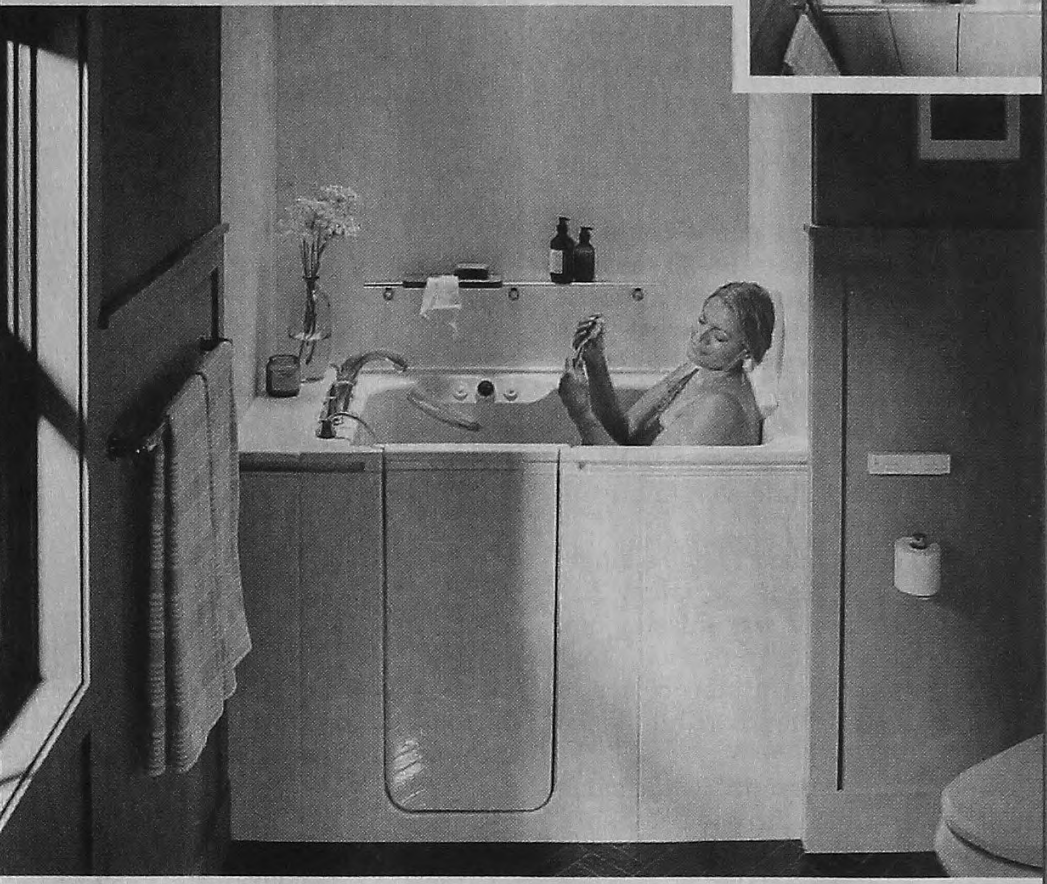
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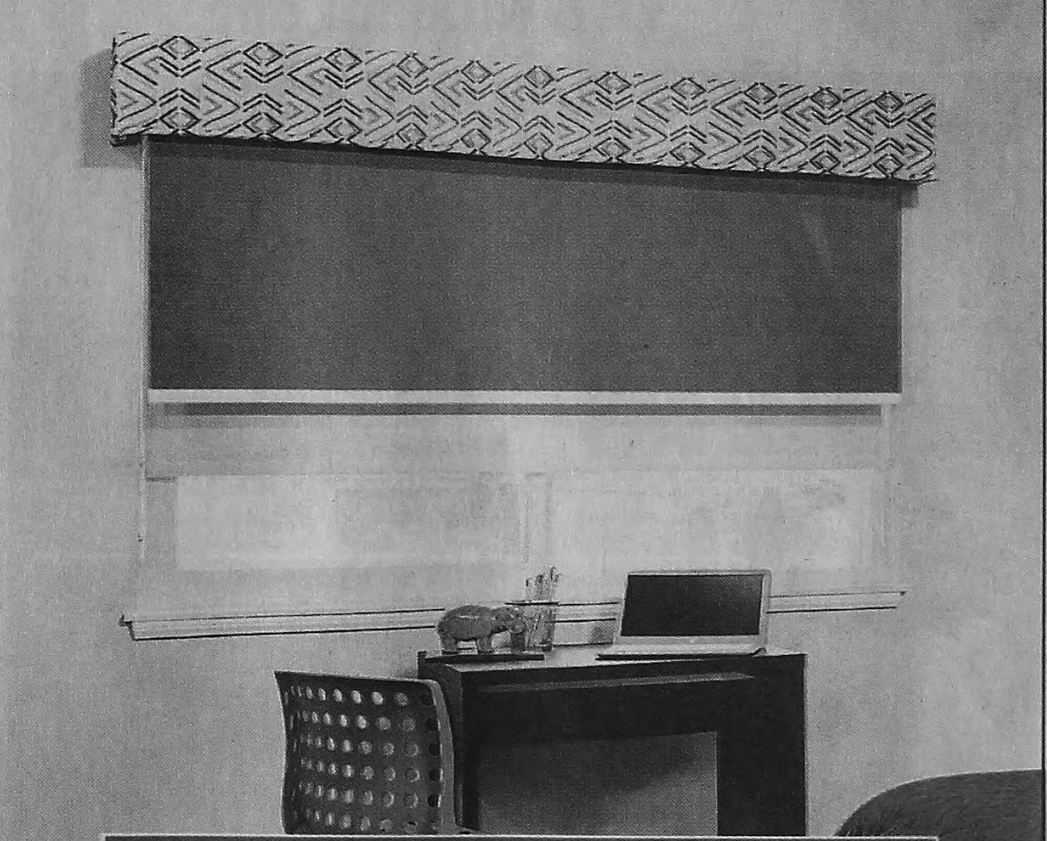
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FIND THE WORDS

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Acacia | Cherry | Kauri | Plum |
| Alder | Chop | Koda | Pollen |
| Antarctic | Coachwood | Lilly pilly | Poplar |
| beech | Cone | Lime | Python |
| Apple | Elms | Mature | Root |
| Banksia | Fell | Murrogun | Seed |
| Bark | Flame | Myrtle | Soil |
| Birds | Fruit | Nests | Teak |
| Blackbutt | Geebung | Nuts | Trunk |
| tree | Guioa | Orange | |
| Buds | Hovea | Palm | |
| Cedar | Karri | Pear | |

TODAY'S ANSWER

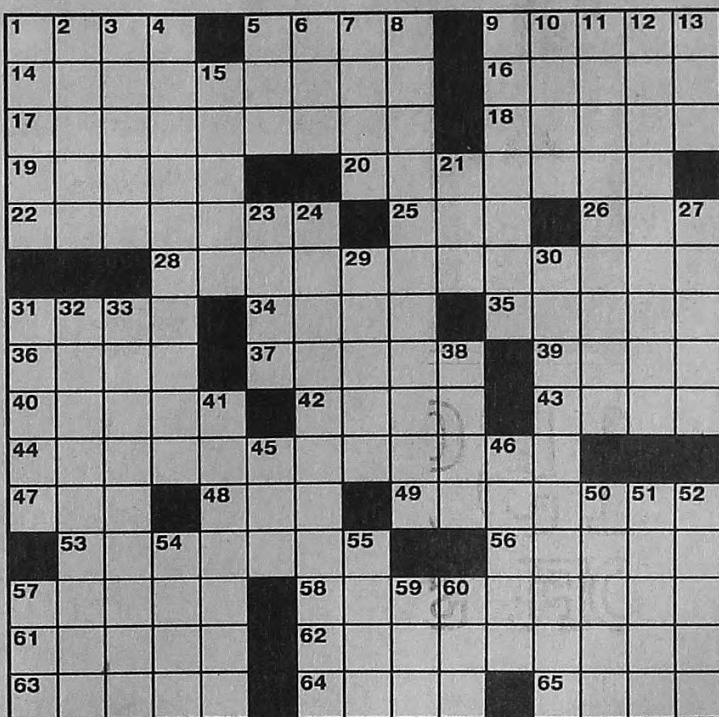
Keeping our air clean

Tree hugging

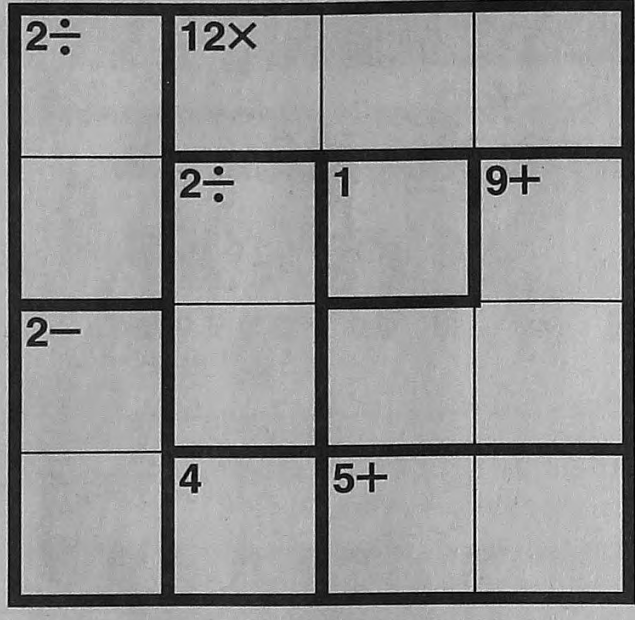
H A P K H O V E A K A U R I F
 C D P O H C T E N A P P L E E
 E O E E L O C O L E S S L N E
 E K L I O L H D K T T L A O R
 B G M R P T E A U S M I C C T
 C E S A Y R R N E I S L O N T
 I E S P T R R N G K D L A G T
 T B O O I U Y U N R R Y C P U
 C U M T I R R A A A I P H D B
 R N Y I A L B E R E B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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Problems for young pupils
 - 5 Surprise inspiration
 - 9 Nobody you know, these days
 - 14 What follows a collaboration conclusion
 - 16 Harder to navigate, perhaps
 - 17 Many a worker on water
 - 18 Conventions, for instance
 - 19 Admitted
 - 20 Most 35 Across
 - 22 Civic alternative
 - 25 Fishy symbol of good fortune
 - 26 *Asian Favorites* chef since 2018
 - 28 Unfond farewell
 - 31 Lasting effect
 - 34 "Edible" synonym of "noodle"
 - 35 Privileged
 - 36 Common casserole contents
 - 37 More than minimally reasoned
 - 39 Included electronically
 - 40 Another '70s nickname for "Schwartz"
 - 42 Overgrown
 - 43 Film star name in the Inventors Hall of Fame
 - 44 Early artistic leaf
 - 47 Qualified
 - 48 Annual ABC awards show
 - 49 Do something fatherly
 - 53 Where the current goes out
 - 56 Successor of GM in the DJJA (2009)
- DOWN**
- 1 Hulking, these days
 - 2 Divine colleague of Gabriel
 - 3 Land due north of Libya
 - 4 Seasonal refresher
 - 5 Crack that might break you up
 - 6 It's just below ANT in the IOC country code list
 - 7 Allow to stand
 - 8 Firestarter skill
 - 9 Where the current goes out
 - 10 Palm product
 - 11 Overly ingratiating
 - 12 Took away (from)
 - 13 Interns' assignment
 - 15 It's spotted in corals and kitchens
 - 21 Protective housing
 - 23 Takes away (from)
 - 24 Reply to a would-be reneger
 - 27 High-maintenance
 - 29 Amassed
 - 30 St. Michael's, after renovation
 - 31 Crook or crew
 - 32 All the courses everywhere
 - 33 With a markup
 - 38 Parent of Poseidon
 - 41 Artists in a Works on Paper department
 - 45 Qualification for a comment
 - 46 Life
 - 50 What kiwifruit is, ultimately
 - 51 Work for a movie
 - 52 What it's not good to be out of
 - 54 Not mock
 - 55 Big show, briefly
 - 57 Racetrack announcer's adjective
 - 59 Expert in attestation and internal controls
 - 60 Fantasy game archer, often



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/3/22

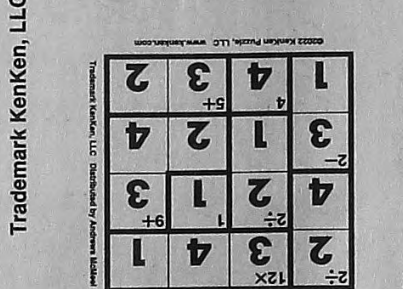


KENKEN

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.

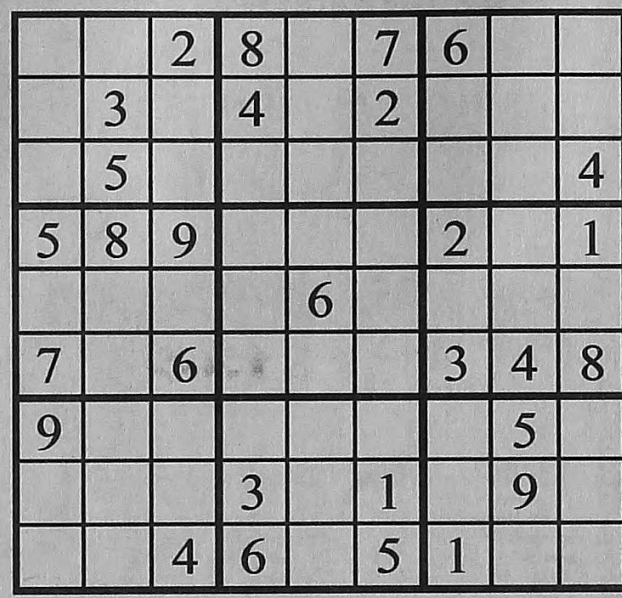
3. Freebies: fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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SUDOKU | CREATORS

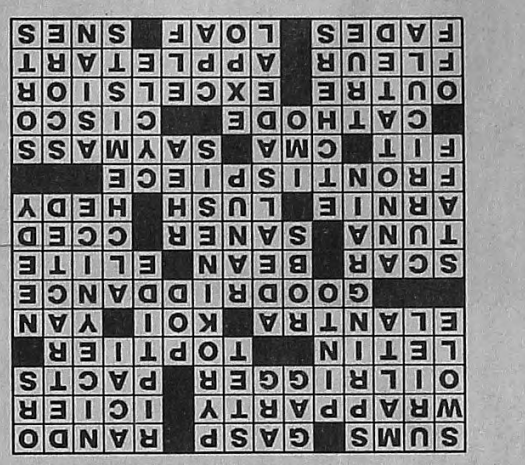
Insert numbers 1-9 in each box with every row, column and 3x3 box containing the digits just once. Difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest) **RATING: GOLD**



TODAY'S ANSWER

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

TODAY'S ANSWER



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