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SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Commission: Give Livonia politicians a raise

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pay raises might be in the future for Livonia's elected officials.

At its Nov. 19 meeting, the Livonia Local Officers Compensation Commission voted to raise the salaries of the mayor, city council president, city council

members, clerk and treasurer by 4.5 percent over the next two years.

The commission meets every two years to recommend pay for the city's elected officials. The commission's recommendations are then approved or denied by the Livonia City Council.

The 4.5 percent proposed raise across the board would keep officials in

lockstep with the raises city employees are set to receive over the next two years. A 2 percent raise would come in 2020, with a 2.5 percent bump in 2021.

For Mayor-elect Maureen Miller Brosnan, the proposed raise would provide \$127,500 in 2020 and about \$130,688 in 2021. Right now, Mayor Dennis Wright makes \$125,000 annually.

Commission member Michael Mari-hugh suggested a one-time 6 percent raise for the mayor. But Brosnan, who was present at the meeting, said she and Wright thought the mayor shouldn't receive a higher raise than anyone else, so funds can go toward other things.

See **RAISES**, Page 3A



This year is the 26th anniversary of the Wayne County Lightfest, open daily through Dec. 31, except on Christmas Day.  
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## Wayne County Lightfest kicks off holiday season

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thanksgiving has passed. It's full-speed Christmas from here until the new year.

Families from all over Michigan will get into the holiday spirit with the Wayne County Lightfest this year, which runs through Dec. 31. The only night the show won't be up and running is Christmas Day itself.

"It's a tradition for families all over the metro Detroit area," said Kim Healy, events manager for Wayne County. "We have people that come up from Ohio for it."

Setup for the five-mile course, which starts at Merriman Hollow Park in Westland and ends at Warrendale Park, begins in early October and takes about six weeks to complete.

The course costs \$5 in cash per vehicle, and there's a Santa Shelter, open until Dec. 23, at the end where people can take a photo with the big guy.

See **LIGHTFEST**, Page 2A



The Time Tunnel display runs underneath a bridge along Hines Drive.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## P-CEP marching band shines at Grand Nationals

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was sweet dreams for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park marching band at the Bands of America Grand National Championships earlier this month in Indianapolis.

Performing the program "Amid Surreal Nights' Dreams," the highly-acclaimed unit, which has multiple national championships and a multitude of state titles in its trophy case, earned semifinalist stature at the 2019 national competition.

Battling against 91 of the country's most elite high school marching bands at Lucas Oil Stadium, P-CEP finished 22nd in Class AAAA and 28th overall in the preliminary round.

The local performers tallied a high score of 84.150 to earn a place in the Nov. 16 semis.

P-CEP earned a semifinal-round

See **BAND**, Page 3A

## Son: Man tricked dad in larceny at Kendallwood subdivision

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills police are investigating a possible lawn work scam and larceny in the Kendallwood neighborhood over the weekend.

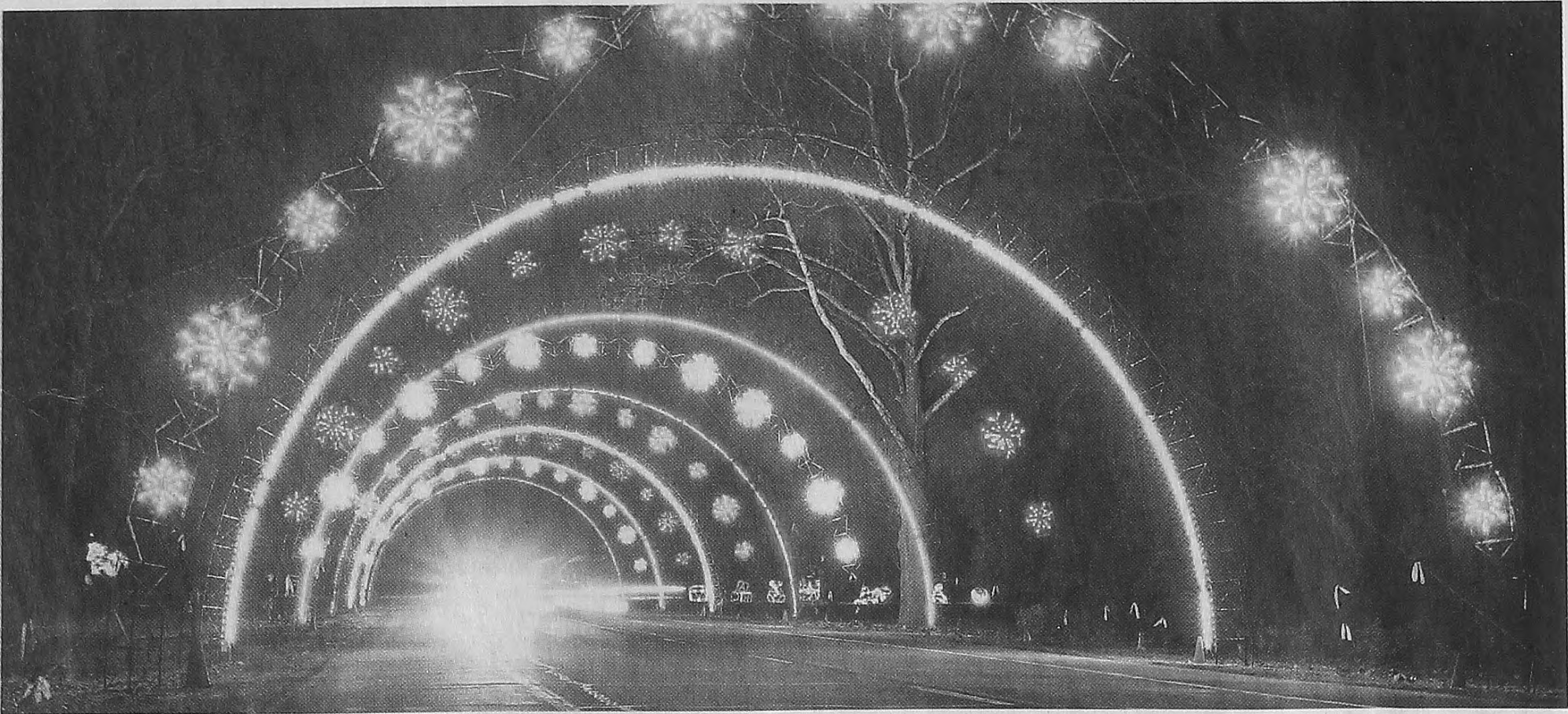
The police department's records staff would only confirm the open larceny investigation, but a relative of the victims wants others to be on the lookout. The son contacted Hometown Life to share his elderly father's story.

A white man in his 40s, about 6 feet tall with a slender build and with a well-trimmed dark goatee, managed to steal an unknown amount of money from his parents' home early the afternoon of Nov. 23.

See **LARCENY**, Page 3A







A tunnel of multicolored snowflakes greets drivers on Hines Drive as part of the Wayne County Lightfest.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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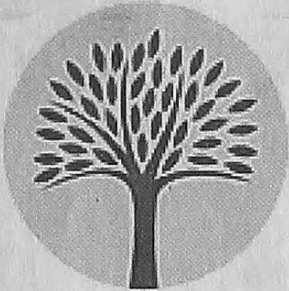
**Lightfest**

Continued from Page 1A

"You can get out of your car, take some photos with Santa and have some refreshments," Healy said.  
For people who don't like braving the cold, Healy said there's no need to get out of your car when taking in the lights.  
"The nice thing about our light show is that you stay in your car the whole time," she said. "So, if you're cold you just stay in your car and drive through Hines Drive. There's displays on both sides of the road."  
In celebration of Wayne County Parks' 100th birthday, a few new displays were thrown into the mix this year.  
For anyone wanting to brighten the holidays for someone else, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 are Toy Night Tuesdays, where drivers can bring an unwrapped toy instead of paying the \$5 entrance fee.  
The light show's hours are 7-10 p.m. weekdays and 6-10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call 734-261-1990.  
Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



Multicolored snowflakes line the route along Hines Drive. Drivers are encouraged to stay in their vehicles, but can pull over to the side of the road.



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## Band

Continued from Page 1A

score of 83.100, putting it in 20th place in its class and 24th overall. Only the top 12 bands overall advanced to the finals.

Under the direction of first-year director Mike Wells, P-CEP was one of four Michigan marching bands to advance to Indianapolis, joining Rockford, Lakeland, Jenison and Mount Pleasant.

Rockford and Jenison advanced to the semifinal round with P-CEP.

### 'Once-in-a-lifetime experience'

"Participating at Grand Nationals is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for band members and is no easy task," Wells said. "Our students begin preparing the first week of summer break, and put in countless hours over six months memorizing the music, and learning and rehearsing the show."

"This preparation not only helps our marching band members strive for excellence on the field and in the classroom, but also creates lifelong friend-

ships and teaches them lessons of dedication, leadership and teamwork that are necessary for achieving excellence in the performance field and in life.

"We are so proud of all of our marching band members this year because of their commitment, work ethic and consistent pursuit of excellence."

On Nov. 3, P-CEP competed at the MCBA State Championship at Ford Field and placed third in its flight with a score of 90.225, only 2.325 points behind second-place Lake Orion High School and 4.1 points behind first-place Rockford High School.

The band programs are accepting P-CEP students for the winter percussion and winter guard programs. The winter guard is looking for dancers and gymnasts to enhance their team.

### Winter programs starting

Interested students for winter guard can email Mr. Istratie at pcepcolor-guard@pccsk12.com, and students interested in winter percussion can email Mr. Rodriguez at oliver.rodriguez@pccsk12.com for more information. [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com)



The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park marching band was a national semifinalist at the national finals earlier this month. COURTESY OF PCEP MARCHING BAND

## Raises

Continued from Page 1A

"Right now, we understand that we're suffering a large shortage of police officers and firefighters," Brosnan said. "Until we get that issue resolved, I don't think that anybody ought to be stepping out, even in the slightest bit, ahead of what we're currently offering to our collective bargaining units. I think it potentially sends the wrong message."

The 4.5 percent raise for Council President-elect Kathleen McIntyre would give her about \$18,889 in 2020 and \$19,362 in 2021. Council President Laura Toy earns \$18,519 annually.

As for the rest of council, which will be made up of Toy, Scott Bahr, Jim Jolly, Cathy White, Brandon McCullough and Rob Donovic for the next two years, raises would give about \$17,615 in 2020 and \$18,055 in 2021. Right now, council members make \$17,270 annually.

In 2017, council and the council president voted to not receive any raises in

2018 or 2019 so funds could go toward other things.

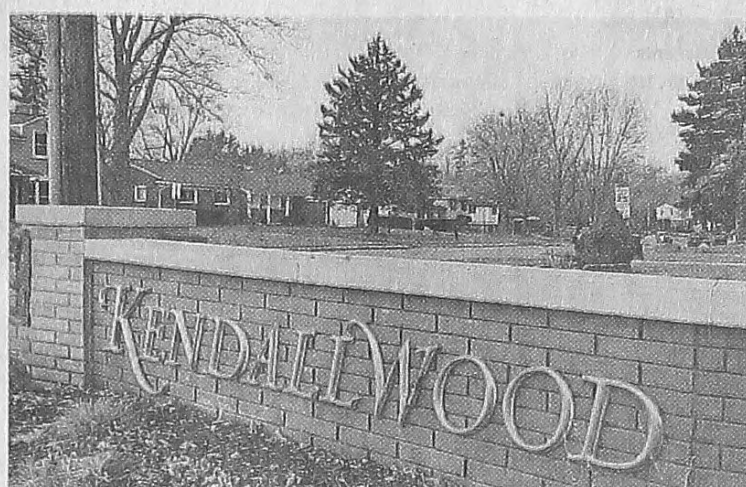
As for Clerk Susan Nash and Treasurer Lynda Scheel, a higher option than the 4.5 percent pay raise was discussed but ultimately decided against by the commission. Both officials are paid \$86,029, a figure they said lags behind nearby, similar-sized communities.

"Obviously, there's a lot to consider here," said chairman Glen Long Jr. "These positions are maybe light compared to some of the surrounding communities. At the same time, we have the police and fire shortage. All things worthy of consideration."

The raises would give Nash and Scheel about \$87,450 in 2020 and \$89,943 in 2021. The commission made note to further an effort to make the treasurer and clerk salaries more competitive in the coming years.

Council likely will vote on the commission's recommendations before the new year.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).



A possible lawn work scam and larceny was recently reported in the Kendallwood neighborhood in Farmington Hills.

SUSAN VELA/  
HOMETOWN  
LIFE.COM

## Larceny

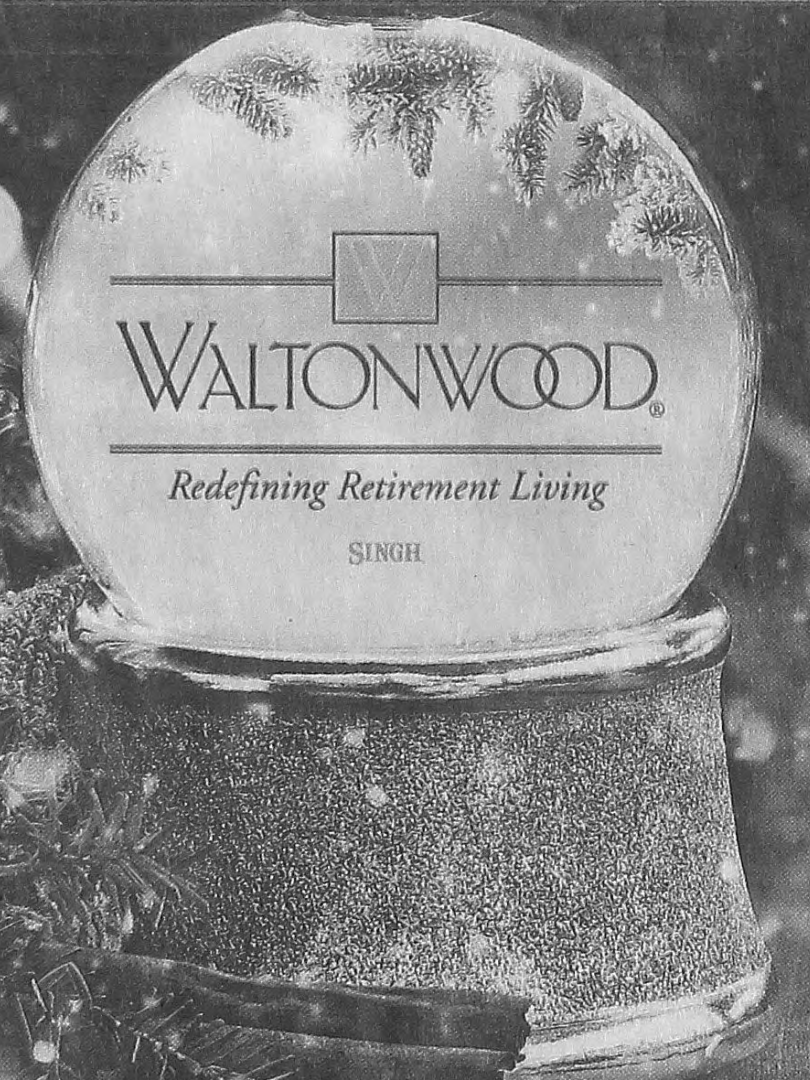
Continued from Page 1A

The suspect apparently was driving a large dark blue truck with a bumper sticker on the driver's side bearing the ichthys symbol in the Kendallwood subdivision off Twelve Mile and Far-

mington roads. He approached the man's father, offering to do some work.

The alleged victim showed some interest and the suspect asked him to break \$100. They entered the home, allowing the suspect to discern where the money was kept.

The homeowners later checked where they keep money and realized it was gone.



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Lauran Bryan, member of the board of directors of the Thistle Rose Academy of Arts, and Dwayne Hayes, executive director for the KickstArt Foundation Farmington, look at art on exhibit at the KickstArt Foundation's new, permanent art gallery location in downtown Farmington on Nov. 21. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# New art gallery opens in Farmington

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's been a long search for the KickstART Foundation to locate a place for a permanent art gallery. After a casual cup of coffee earlier in the year with a building owner, the foundation's executive director, Dwayne Hayes, finally found just the right space.

In the building that formerly housed Grace Insurance at 33304 Grand River in downtown Farmington, all it took was a test run this summer before he knew it was the perfect spot.

"We were having coffee and we were just talking about KickstART's desire to have a space," he said. "He mentioned

he had bought this ... and he invited us to do some sort of pop-up during Founders Fest. We did it and we loved it."

The gallery, Farmington's first, opened in mid-October and will highlight different artists throughout the year. The open space will allow for special events such as open mic nights and receptions for new artists.

A classical brunch series is expected to kick off in December, as well as a reading series. It's a perfect place for intimate performances, Hayes said.

"We can get easily 30-40 people in here comfortably," he said.

Having the space will allow for other partnerships to flourish as well. Lauran Bryan, a member of the board of direc-

tors of Farmington Hills-based Thistle Rose Academy of Arts, said she's hoping to see small dance shows, recitals and other performance-based artwork.

"This would be a nice space for that," she said.

Artwork in the gallery is available for purchase, and the space even has a room in the back that contains various pieces of work for sale. Pieces that range in price from \$5 to \$1,000 was an important part of making the gallery accessible to all, Hayes said.

"We want everybody to be able to come in and find something that they want to take home," he said.

Some of the pieces on display in the main room have already sold, Hayes

said.

Artists looking to have their work showcased in the downtown Farmington gallery can contact KickstART at [info@kickstartfarmington.org](mailto:info@kickstartfarmington.org). More information on the gallery can be found on its website, [kickstartfarmington.org](http://kickstartfarmington.org).

Having the gallery in downtown Farmington was always the organization's goal, Hayes said, as he felt it connected better downtown than somewhere else.

"We wanted a space downtown," he said. "I like the walkability of being down here. The visibility of being in this spot is really important to us."

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

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[www.westlandgoodfellows.org](http://www.westlandgoodfellows.org)  
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Cast members of "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley" celebrate the season.  
COURTESY OF THE FARMINGTON PLAYERS

## Farmington Players present 'Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley'

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's no place like home, especially around the holidays.

The Farmington Players' latest production, "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," takes the well-known characters of "Pride and Prejudice" and gives their stories a holiday twist, set two years after the events of Jane Austen's novel.

"I think it's a fantastic Christmas production," said Autumn Bryson, who plays Mary Bennet. "It covers family, love, it covers people having different opinions about things. It's just a very well-written production that people can come into the theater and just enjoy."

The play follows Mary, the middle Bennet sister, and Lord Arthur de Bourgh as they find themselves falling for each other.

"She thinks that she will never meet a man who will understand her," Bryson

said of Mary. "So in this story, she is almost just OK with the fact that she will always have her piano and her books. And then Arthur de Bourgh comes along and sweeps her off her feet."

DJ Terry, who plays Arthur, said the character doesn't know what to do with his newfound wealth.

"He's recently inherited the title of lord and his family's estate, and he really has no idea what to do about it because he's not at all planning to be the head of the household," Terry said.

Aside from the romantic themes, director Stacey Nellis said the play is about family and the cast really makes it feel like they've all known each other for years.

"Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley" is playing Fridays through Sundays Dec. 6-21. Tickets are \$16 for students and seniors and \$18 for adults. Tickets can be bought by phone at 248-553-2955 or by emailing boxoffice@farmingtonplayers.org.

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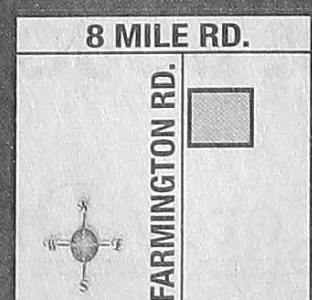
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# Seasonal events abound in Hometown Life area

**From Staff Reports** [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Time to get in the festive spirit. There are plenty of opportunities to celebrate the season for young and old alike throughout the region.

Here are some of the events:

**Farmington Hills Holiday Lights Ceremony** takes place at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at Farmington Hills City Hall the southwest corner of Orchard Lake Road and Eleven Mile Road. Trees at City Hall will be illuminated along with a 20-foot-tall candle. Singers from the Farmington High School Vocal Harmonics will provide entertainment. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served inside Fire Department Headquarters on the City Hall Campus at 31455 Eleven Mile Road, and there will be a visit from Santa.

**Canton Tree Lighting Celebration** returns 6-8:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Santa and his reindeer make a special stop. Carols, Santa's arrival, and a countdown to the official lighting of the tree are all part of the event. Seasonal crafts, photo opportunities and more. Canton Goodfellows will accept donations for its "No Child without a Christmas" campaign. Kiwanis Club of Canton will sell cut live trees as a fundraiser. [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org)

**Northville City Lights Chorus Festival of City Lights** will show the season is full of song. Northville's award-winning City Light Chorus will perform its holiday show at 8 p.m. Dec. 6 at Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Road in Northville. \$15. [www.citylightschorus.com](http://www.citylightschorus.com).

**Birmingham Holiday Greens, Décor & Tree Lighting** at Birmingham Winter Markt runs Dec. 6-8 at Shain Park. The park will be illuminated with more than 65 booths featuring gift items. Lighting of the tree, carols and a visit from Santa starts at 6 p.m. Friday. Market attendees can enjoy European food and drinks, gift items, holiday greens, crafts, ice sculptures, live reindeer, warming stations, marshmallow roasting stations, a Kinderhaus children's activity area, the Santa House, and live entertainment. New this year, about 300 random shoppers will be the lucky recipients of ornaments with a voucher for a free gift attached.



The Birmingham Winter Markt has plenty of activities for all ages Dec. 6-8 at Shain Park. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Throughout the weekend, local school choirs will perform live. The Scottish Highland Dance School and The Community House Dance Academy are also set to perform. The Village Youth Theater's cast of "Frozen Junior," Four Stories, Collision Six and the Birmingham Concert Band will also take the stage. Topping off the magic, board a free horse-drawn carriage for an illuminated tour through the decorated downtown area all throughout the holiday season. Event hours run 4-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. [www.allin-birmingham.com/wintermarkt](http://www.allin-birmingham.com/wintermarkt).

**Huron Valley Community Theatre** will perform "Jingle All the Way" at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 and at 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7. Combine six adults looking for peace and quiet, an isolated cabin and a large

group of lost teenagers, and you have the mix for a fun adventure to officially kick off the holiday season, complete with "name that tune," holiday-style, in this original musical. Canned goods donations are accepted for Highland Community Sharing Outreach Center. Bring letters to Santa and get a picture, too. Reserved seating tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at [hvcommunitytheater.org](http://hvcommunitytheater.org) or at the door.

**Merry & Bright: Livonia's Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting** is at 4 p.m. Dec. 8 and will feature floats, high school bands, honor guards, entertainers, cheer teams, scout groups, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and more. The parade runs from Frost Middle School to Livonia City Hall. Enjoy music, hot cocoa, cookies, entertainment and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

**Deck the City Hall in Westland** starts at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9. Sing carols and welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Westland. After lighting the official Christmas tree and city hall grounds, come inside for cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, a chance to write and mail a letter to Santa and more. There will also be interactive dance activities to promote Westland's Healthy City initiative.

**Farmington Musicales Winter Holiday** celebrates the season with a holiday concert at 1 p.m. Dec. 10 at St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. The concert features vocalists, a clarinet choir with percussion and pianists. All are welcome to enjoy an afternoon of lovely music.

Send your holiday event listing to [liveoanewstip@hometownlife.com](mailto:liveoanewstip@hometownlife.com) for consideration.

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# Training teaches what to do if someone overdoses

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills emergency responders recently shared snapshots of the opioid overdoses they've witnessed in the past year:

■ A mother and son overdosing on opioids in a retail establishment's bathroom;

■ A husband and wife overdosing in a vehicle that veered off Interstate 696; and

■ An opioid user getting resuscitated by family members at least two dozen times.

"That's a family within our community," Farmington Hills EMS Coordinator James Etzin told more than 50 people gathered for a naloxone training session Nov. 21. "This young person who fortunately is alive today was in and out of treatment on numerous occasions (and) is still with us."

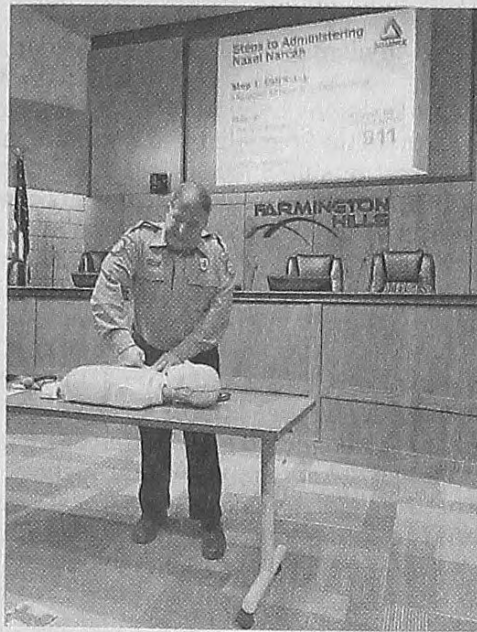
"How? I don't know. These are just some of the things our emergency responders are seeing."

The city's police and fire departments partnered with the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities to help teach others how to prevent opioid overdoses over the holidays.

"We want you to feel educated, equipped and empowered to save lives," said Tracy Chirikas, an alliance representative.

Community members were told to look for symptoms like pinpoint pupils, shallow breathing and pale, blue or cold skin. Participants 18 and over received free "Save A Life" kits including two 4-milligram doses of naloxone, a nasal spray commonly known as Narcan, which is known to reverse the symptoms of opioid overdoses.

Participants also were told to follow these steps if they have to administer naloxone: Call 9-1-1 (a dispatcher can help walk the person through the steps); check the user's consciousness by placing a fist in the center of his or her chest and rubbing the fist in circles with as much pressure as possible; administer, if there's no response, one of the 4-milligram Narcan doses; perform chest compressions; and administer, if needed, the second dose in the other nostril.



Farmington Hills Emergency Medical Services Coordinator James Etzin demonstrates how to check whether a person is consciousness during Narcan training Nov. 21 at Farmington Hills City Hall. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Once the user is conscious, watch for withdrawal signs. If the person starts throwing up, put them on their side so their airway stays open.

Across the nation, more than 130 people die daily after overdosing on opioids like heroin, prescription pain relievers, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

"Overdose rates sharply increase at the holidays," Farmington Hills Police Commander Bonnie Unruh warned in a news release. "People need to know this information to be able to potentially save a loved one's life."

Farmington Hills residents Paul and Susan Szymusiak were glad they attended the training session.

"It was very informative," Susan Szymusiak said. "It's a serious problem that I think we all have to be willing to face and be prepared to deal with if the situation arises."

For more information or to register for free Narcan training, contact Tracy Chirikas, the alliance's community relations manager, at 248-221-7101.

## ATTENTION BACK PAIN AND SCIATICA SUFFERERS!

Back Pain and Sciatic Workshop Reveals How to Naturally Heal Back Pain and Sciatica For Good.

- Do you suffer from back pain or leg pain when you stand or walk?
- Do you have pain when you drive or sit for long periods of time?
- Do you experience pain, numbness, or tingling into your butt, groin or down your leg?
- Does your back ever "go out" if you move the wrong way?
- Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don't do anything about it?

If you've answered **YES** to any of the above questions (or have a stubborn spouse who is in denial) – the Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop may be a life-changing event for you...

### Testimonial

*Debra Says: I was in tremendous pain in my back until I came to Mehul for treatment, I was having a hard time getting in and out of the car, waking up with pain and stiffness, and cannot walk longer than 30 minutes. Everything seems to be getting back to normal after treatment. I started feeling whole again and I'm grateful for this place.*

### Hello, Back Pain and Sciatica can **completely ruin your life**... I've seen it many times.

- It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store (how embarrassing)...
- It can take your focus away from enjoying your life...like spending time with your children or grandchildren.
- It can mess up your work, or force you to do a job you don't want to do...
- It can ruin your travel plans.
- And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others...or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.

Less movement and enjoyment of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting and not moving much), which leads to larger health problems...and life problems.

We are Sciatica and Lower Back Specialists at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY. We've helped 100's of people from right here in Livonia, MI, and the rest of Wayne County, who have suffered needlessly with Lower Back Pain and Sciatica - it's our specialty.

So, by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop here at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY on THURSDAY, DEC. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at our Livonia location: 32858 Five Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48154

- The biggest, #1 mistake Back Pain and Sciatica sufferers make which actually STOPS them from healing.
- The 3 most common causes of Lower Back • A sure-fire way to pick the right treatment for the cause of your pain (and save you a ton of time and money).
- How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in your leg.
- What successful treatment and permanent relief can look like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

### How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop?

Call our office at 734-525-3000 to talk with Jessica or Nancy and reserve your spot today! When you register, we will mail you the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet to bring with you to the event. **We only have 15 seats available** for the event, with this information being shared in our Newsletter and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ally-PhysicalTherapy>) as well.

If you would like to attend, be sure to register **NOW**. Call: 734-525- 3000 .

### How Much Is It to Attend?

The event is **FREE** to attend. As a special bonus...the first **10 people** to call, register and attend the event will receive 15 minutes of one-on-one time to discuss their Low Back Pain with a Physical Therapist (to be scheduled on a different day).

All 15 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will be provided light refreshments, and will also receive a special report: "The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica".

  
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Dr. Mehul Vaidya, PT, DPT and Founder.  
Ally Physical Therapy - Livonia: 32858 Five Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48154

Looking forward to seeing you on  
**Thursday, December 19th, 2019**  
in Livonia at 6:00 PM!

# Using your MRD for charitable contributions



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

### Dear Rick:

I read one of your recent columns where you talked about converting money into a Roth IRA, and using your required minimum distributions for charitable contributions. I have a couple of questions.

Am I allowed to convert my minimum required distribution for this year? I am in my early 70s, and have not taken my minimum required distribution for this year; am I still required to take it?

If I am required to take a minimum required distribution this year, is that eligible to be donated to a charity even though I'm doing the Roth conversion? Also, when you donate your minimum required distribution to charity, are you limited to one charity or can you donate to multiple ones?

Thank you, Jeffrey

Dear Jeffrey:

First, I think it is great that you've done a Roth conversion. I believe more people ought to take advantage of it, as it allows you to turn tax-deferred money into tax-free money. That being said, you're not allowed to convert your minimum required distribution. Your minimum required distribution is determined by the balance of your account as of Dec. 31 of the previous year. If based upon that number you have to withdraw \$10,000, that \$10,000 cannot be converted into a Roth. You can convert anything above your minimum required distribution.

With regard to donating your minimum required distribution, you can donate to as many charities as you choose. In addition, you can donate any portion of it that you choose.

With regard to both Roth conversions and charitable contributions from your IRA, these transactions must be completed by the end of the year.

Unfortunately, too many seniors do

not take advantage of the opportunity to donate their minimum required distribution to a charity. It is not that these seniors are not making charitable contributions; however, they're not doing it in the most tax-efficient manner.

When you use your minimum required distribution and donate that to a charity, you are not paying tax on the distribution which you normally would have. That is where the tax savings are coming from.

I certainly am not telling people that they should donate their minimum required distributions to a charity. However, for people who are charitable in nature, who make charitable contributions, and who are no longer itemizing their deductions, it is a strategy to consider. Not only will this save you on income taxes, but it could also have a positive impact on determining whether your Social Security benefits are subject to tax, and how much you will pay in Medicare premiums.

When it comes to our tax laws, it is important to dot the I's and cross the T's. Therefore, if you decide to donate your minimum required distribution to a charity, you must make sure you follow the rules. Basically, you have to have the money directly transferred from your IRA into the charity. If the money is directly distributed to you and then you transfer it to the charity, unfortunately, you won't get the tax breaks.

One last note, whether it is doing a Roth IRA conversion or using your minimum required distribution for a charitable contribution, it does require your IRA custodian to be involved. IRA custodians get extremely busy before the end of the year and therefore, to make sure that you don't miss out on the opportunity, don't delay in getting the process going.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email him at [Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:Rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).



# Census jobs pay \$19 an hour; some offer opportunity to work from home

**Micah Walker** Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It happens once every decade, with a huge impact on everything from congressional seats to federal funding: the decennial U.S. census.

And the federal government, along with communities throughout Michigan, already are gearing up.

The 2020 Census is creating thousands of well-paying jobs, from clerks to census takers to higher level positions.

## What jobs are available in metro Detroit?

### Census takers

**Location:** Wayne County, Oakland County, Macomb County

The bureau is hiring work-from-home census takers to help conduct interviews and verify addresses. Census takers will go door-to-door collecting information following a script and record the answers using electronic devices such as smartphones or laptops or on paper forms. Pay varies from \$19 to \$21 an hour, and mileage is reimbursed.

### Field representatives

**Location:** Livingston, Oakland, Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb, Wayne counties

Open to anyone in Michigan, this position requires workers to interview respondents to collect survey or census data for ongoing surveys, door-to-door surveys, one-time surveys, and special censuses. In addition, representatives are responsible for communicating with respondents, supervisors, and other people as needed. The worker may occasionally be required to lift boxes of survey materials or laptops weighing up to 30 pounds. Pay ranges from \$14.30 - \$20.54 per hour and mileage for travel is reimbursed.

Applicants will be considered for vacancies in their immediate area within specific geographic boundaries. Those interested should contact the Chicago regional office in order to receive an application package.

### Regional technician

**Location:** Wayne County

This at-home position requires applicants to live in Wayne County. The technician will be responsible for providing technical operational assistance to one of the three operations: decennial (including decennial tests); census coverage measurement and quality assurance operations.

In addition, the employee will:

- Provide training when required to staff, including on-site assistance as necessary.
- Responsible for providing administrative guidance to the accountable care organization managers in

order to assure timely, orderly and efficient conduct of decennial operations.

- Monitor the ACO recruiting operations by working closely with Government Partnership Specialists, Community Outreach and Media Partnership Specialists, maintaining contact with appropriate referral services in order to identify recruitment efforts and resolve recruitment and publicity problems.

- Serve as a technical problem-solver/troubleshooter involving daily telephone contact with the ACO and periodic travel.

Pay ranges from \$46,103 to \$106,318 per year, with the position expected to last until September 2020. However, the job may be extended or terminated early at management's discretion. The schedule is a mixed-tour, meaning it could change between full-time, part-time and intermittent depending on workloads.

### Census field manager

**Location:** Oakland County

The field manager is responsible for:

- Supervising 10 to 15 census field supervisors and 3 to 5 office support clerks.
- Provide group and individual training.
- Monitor daily assignments.
- Provide advice and guidance to subordinate staff.
- Maintain effective public relations with the community, such as the local news media, community leaders and organizations and local government.

- Establish an effective working relationship with traditionally hard-to-reach populations or with specific populations indigenous to the area within the office boundaries.

- Assure specific levels of quality and progress of field operations are being met through analysis of various computer generated reports and observation.

- Review and analyze cost, quality, and progress reports to assure operations are conducted within prescribed time/allocations and quality and cost efficient standards.

The field manager will work in the census office in Pontiac and must live in Oakland County. Five positions are available. Pay is \$24 an hour. Applicants must have at least a year of management experience.

### Complete count coordinator

**Location:** Oakland County

Oakland County government officials are looking for a coordinator to lead census efforts in the area. The employee will be responsible for:

- Assisting in the development of census activities
- Maintain contact with the census bureau, private and nonprofit organizations, associations, volunteers and citizen groups.
- Compose materials to promote current, ongoing and upcoming census events.

- Monitors media coverage, website and social material regarding the census and related activities.

- Coordinate committee meetings and support staff to ensure meeting success.

- Ensure all committee meetings, activities and projects comply with laws, public acts, local ordinances, policies and procedures.

- Coordinate communication with census committee including officials of local cities, villages and townships.

- Utilize current countywide and/or department specific software to complete assignments.

- Ensure the county and partners have a system to track census participation to ensure full participation throughout the county.

Salary ranges from \$48,672 to \$63,107 per year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in business, education, social sciences, life sciences, marketing, public relations or a related field. In addition, they must have at least two years of related work experience.

More census jobs can be found at [census.gov/usa-cares.org](http://census.gov/usa-cares.org) and [mitalent.org](http://mitalent.org).

## Why it matters

According to the Census Bureau, the data collected for the census help determine a number of factors in government, schools, and communities across the country including:

- The distribution of congressional seats to states.
- The apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Census data assists states and communities in allocating funds for:

- Neighborhood improvements
- Public health
- Education
- Transportation
- It provides age search information for:
- Qualifying for Social Security and other retirement benefits
- Passport applications
- Proving relationship in settling estates
- Researching family history or a historical topic

## How to apply

According to the bureau's 2020 Census page, the general qualifications for a census position include:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a valid email address.
- Complete an application and answer assessment questions. (Some assessment questions are available in Spanish. However, an English proficiency test may also be required.)
- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.
- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.
- Commit to completing training.
- Be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

Most jobs require employees to have a reliable source of transportation, access to a computer with Internet and an email account to complete training.

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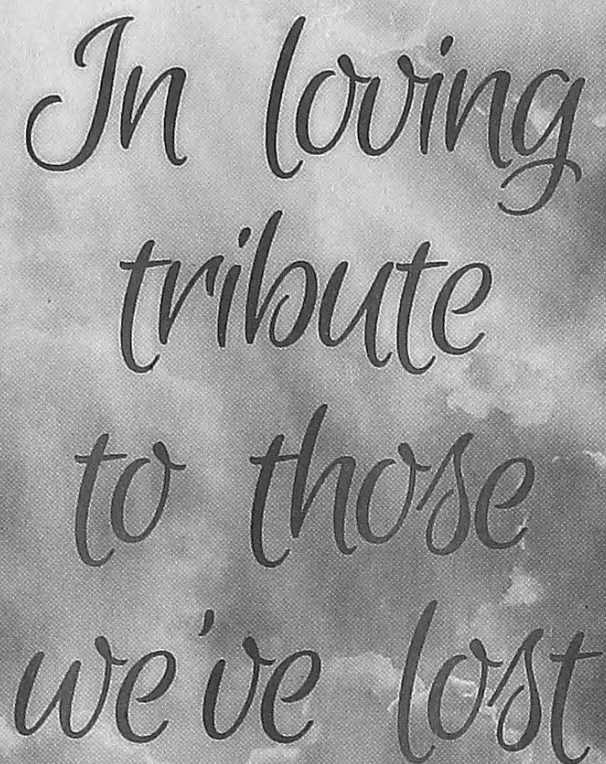


# Obituaries


To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit [mideathnotices.com/place.php](http://mideathnotices.com/place.php)

## Robert W. Bonser

**LIVONIA** - Robert W. Bonser, 77, of Livonia, passed away Sunday, November 17, 2019. Beloved husband of Carol for 55 years. Cherished father of Michael (Robyn), Randall (Benita), Sheryl (Brad), and Renea (Russell). Dear grandfather of Luke, Joel, Sophia, Zachary, Madeleine, Elijah, Mairi, Isaiah, Samantha, Mitchell, and Kaitlyn. Loving brother of Carol (Ed) and Jan (John). Son of the late Wayne and Lily Bonser. A memorial celebration, followed by informal fellowship, will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 at Dearborn Christian Fellowship (21360 Donaldson St, Dearborn, MI 48124). In lieu of flowers, feel free to make a donation to Angela Hospice Center in Livonia, or World Vision International.



*In loving  
tribute  
to those  
we've lost*



*May you  
find peace  
in this time  
of sorrow.*



*May you find comfort  
in your time of sorrow.*

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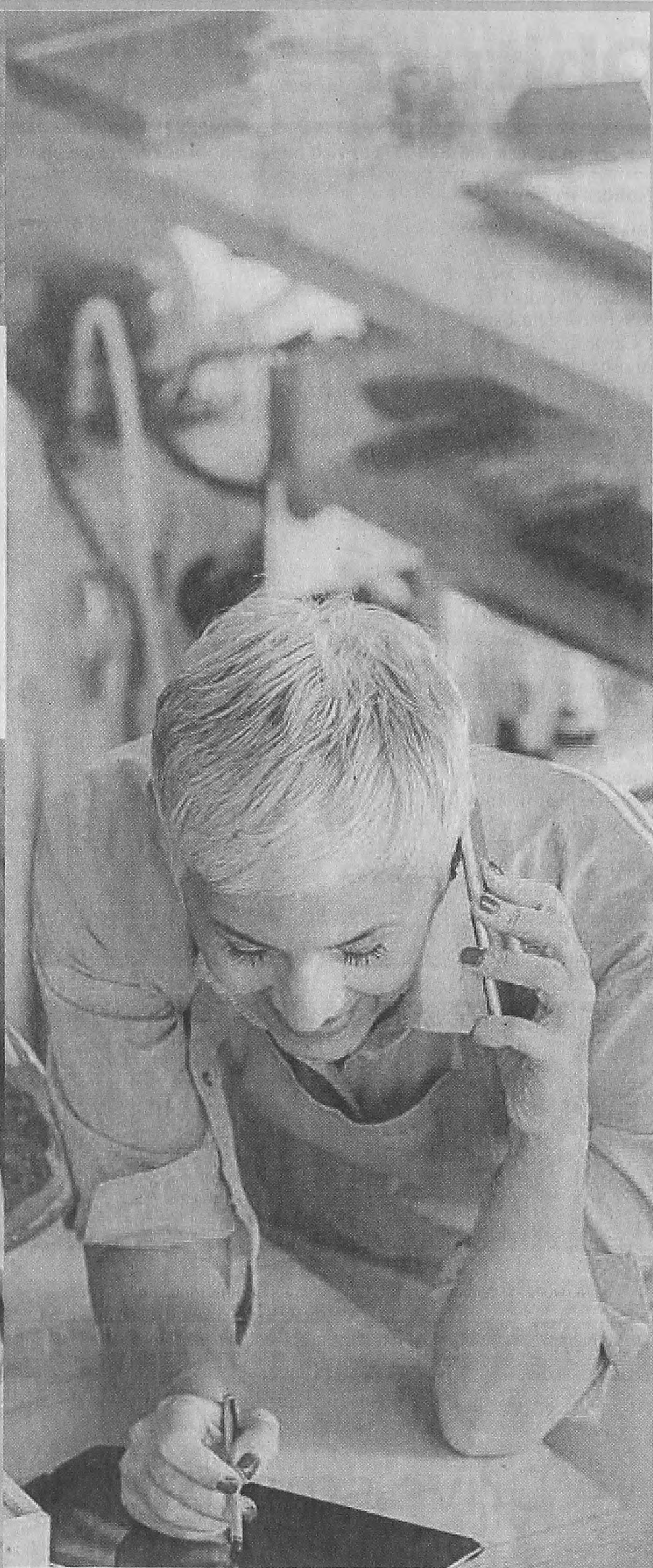
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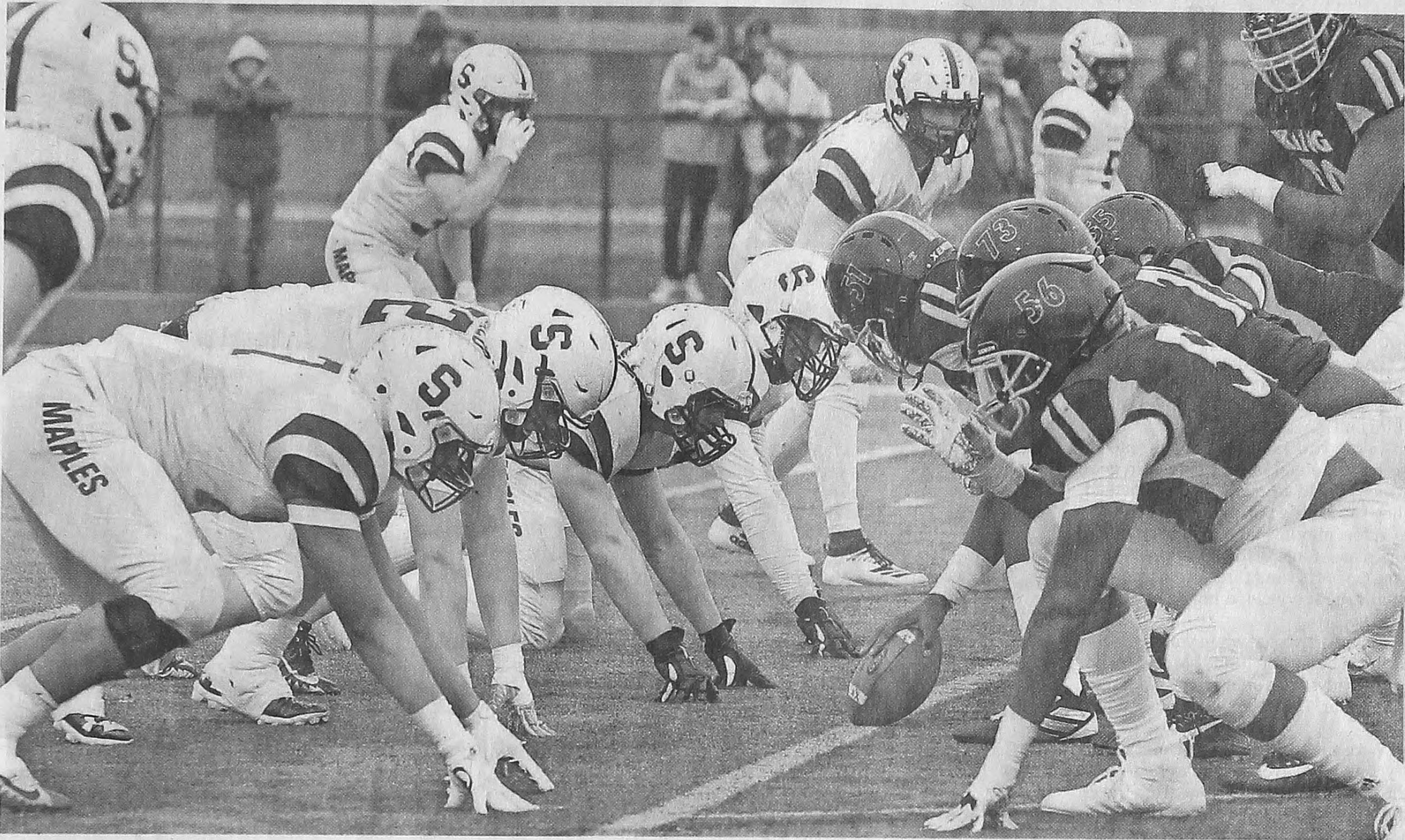
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# Sports

PREP FOOTBALL DIVISION 2 STATE SEMIFINAL

## Birmingham Seaholm falls short



The Birmingham Seaholm defense, left, lines up against Detroit King. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Birmingham Seaholm head coach Jim DeWald knew what his team was going to face in the Division 2 state semifinal. He watched film of Detroit Martin Luther King all week with his players, watched as senior running back Peny Boone trucked over opponents. He saw things the Maples had to prepare against, but also saw things he felt Sea-

holm could exploit. As Seaholm took the field Nov. 23 at Novi High School, the expectation was to make it to Ford Field, to earn the first state title in school history. But after 48 minutes, the Maples did not find a lot to exploit. King recorded 562 yards of offense, scoring five first-half touchdowns to beat Seaholm, 60-17, in the Division 2 state semifinal. Here are three takeaways from the Division 2 state semifinal:

### King’s overwhelming offense

After beginning its first offensive drive with a false start, Boone set the tone for the King offense right away, taking the ball 83 yards for a touchdown 13 seconds into the game. Boone proved to be a common problem for the Maple defense throughout the game. The senior, who is committed to Maryland, recorded 170 of the Crusaders’ 266 total rushing yards, averaging 12.1 yards per carry and scoring four

touchdowns. After Boone’s two first-quarter touchdowns, DeWald said the Seaholm defense “got hit in the mouth early,” which proved to be difficult to overcome. While Boone established the run game, freshman quarterback Dante Moore took advantage of the Seaholm defensive backs. After finding wide receiver

See **SHORT**, Page 3B

PREP SWIMMING LP DIVISION 1

## Mercy wins D1 swim state title, nine local teams place top 30

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Farmington Hills Mercy swim and dive team captured the 2019 Division 1 state championship last weekend, fighting off Ann Arbor Pioneer by just half a point to secure the trophy. It’s the third consecutive year that Mercy has been crowned champions. Pioneer and Mercy finished far ahead of the rest of the field, with Mercy performing especially well in diving. Northville freshman Emily Roden was the state champion in the 100 fly. Nine Hometown Life area teams placed in the top 30.

### Division 1 state championship results

- 1. Farmington Hills Mercy 298
- 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer 297.5
- 3. Saline High School 197.5
- 4. Rockford 179.5
- 5. Novi 132.5
- 6. Rochester Adams 132
- 7. Grand Haven High School 117
- 8. Northville High School 115
- 9. Brighton High School 108
- 10. Hudsonville High School 98
- 11. Ann Arbor Skyline 89
- 12. Zeeland High School 84
- 13. Rochester Stoney Creek 80
- 14. Plymouth High School 54

See **MERCY**, Page 4B

PREP SWIMMING LP DIVISION 2

## Seaholm swim wins Division 2 state title

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Birmingham Seaholm girls swim and dive team dominated the Division 2 state swim championship to take home the 2019 state title. It’s the Maples first state title since 2016 and comes a year after finishing as the Division 2 runner-up in 2018. Seaholm didn’t win any individual events, but did place first in two different relays: the 200 free and 200 medley. Sophomores Isabella Vaughan, Lauren Louwers, Katherine Stanley and Eliza Dixon made up the medley relay, and Dixon, sophomore Samantha Clifford and juniors Chloe Blake and Megan Clifford made up the freestyle relay team. Five local teams placed in the top 12 while eight total teams qualified and placed in the top 33.

### Division 2 state championship results

- 1. Birmingham Seaholm 304
- 2. Grosse Pointe South 222
- 3. Birmingham Groves 198
- 4. Dexter 178
- 5. Midland Dow 151
- 6. Farmington 143
- 7. Portage Central 124
- 8. Fenton III
- 9. Byron Center 100
- 10. Portage Northern 94
- 11. South Lyon 87
- 12. GR Forest Hills Central 70
- 12. South Lyon East 70
- 14. DeWitt 60
- 15. Northview 57
- 16. Holland 42
- 17. Jenison 39
- 18. Saint Clair Shores Lakeview 37

See **SEAHOLM**, Page 4B



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PREP FOOTBALL

# Country Day stays perfect, reaches title game

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The perfect season continued. Detroit Country Day blasted Flint Powers Catholic, 21-0, last week at Howell Parker Middle School to secure a spot in the division four state championship game Friday at Ford Field (find results online at hometownlife.com). The semifinal victory kept the Yellowjackets undefeated with a 13-0 record. Country Day has never finished a season without a loss.

Flint Powers Catholic fell to 10-3 to end its season.

“I give a lot of credit to our kids, and credit to Powers for a hard fought game, that’s what you expect at this time of year,” Country Day coach Dan McLean said. “Hats off to our kids, they did a good job of shutting them down.”

Here are three takeaways from the game:

**Fourth down advantage**

In the first half, each team was faced with big plays on fourth down. Powers Catholic drove deep into Country Day territory twice in the first quarter, both times after converting on third and longs. On fourth and goal from the nine-yard line, the Chargers opted to go for it instead of kicking a field goal, which would’ve made it 3-0. Instead, they turned the ball over on downs.

A few minutes later, Powers Catholic again had it inside the 20, at the 19-yard line. On fourth and three, it was stopped after it again decided not to attempt a field goal.

“I think it’s huge when your team answers in those situations,” McLean said. “These guys have shown a lot of character all year. They stepped up and played hard.”

With the game still scoreless, Country Day took over and marched down the field. On fourth and one from the 19, the Yellowjackets converted, setting up a six-yard touchdown run by senior running back Chris Rea.

“It’s comforting, just knowing when the offense is struggling like we were today in the beginning, I can always rely on my defense to go make plays for me,” Country Day senior quarterback Ahlon Mitchell said. “We have a great defense.”

**Pulling away**

With just under three minutes left in the second quarter, Country Day added to its lead on a four-yard scoring run by senior Anthony Ammori. It took a 14-0 lead into the break and never looked back.

In the third quarter, it was Mitchell breaking free for a 56-yard touchdown run to make it 21-0.

“I saw Caleb Tiernan, my tackle, made a great block for me and I saw I had one guy to beat and I made a dash for the goal line,” Mitchell said.

The Yellowjacket defense took care of business the rest of the way, securing the shutout.

“The guys that come and play defense have a lot of pride in it,” McLean said. “I’m very proud of them.”

**Making history**

The last time the Yellowjackets and Chargers met in the playoffs was in 2015.



Country Day quarterback Ahlon Mitchell runs for a touchdown against Flint Powers Catholic.  
PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

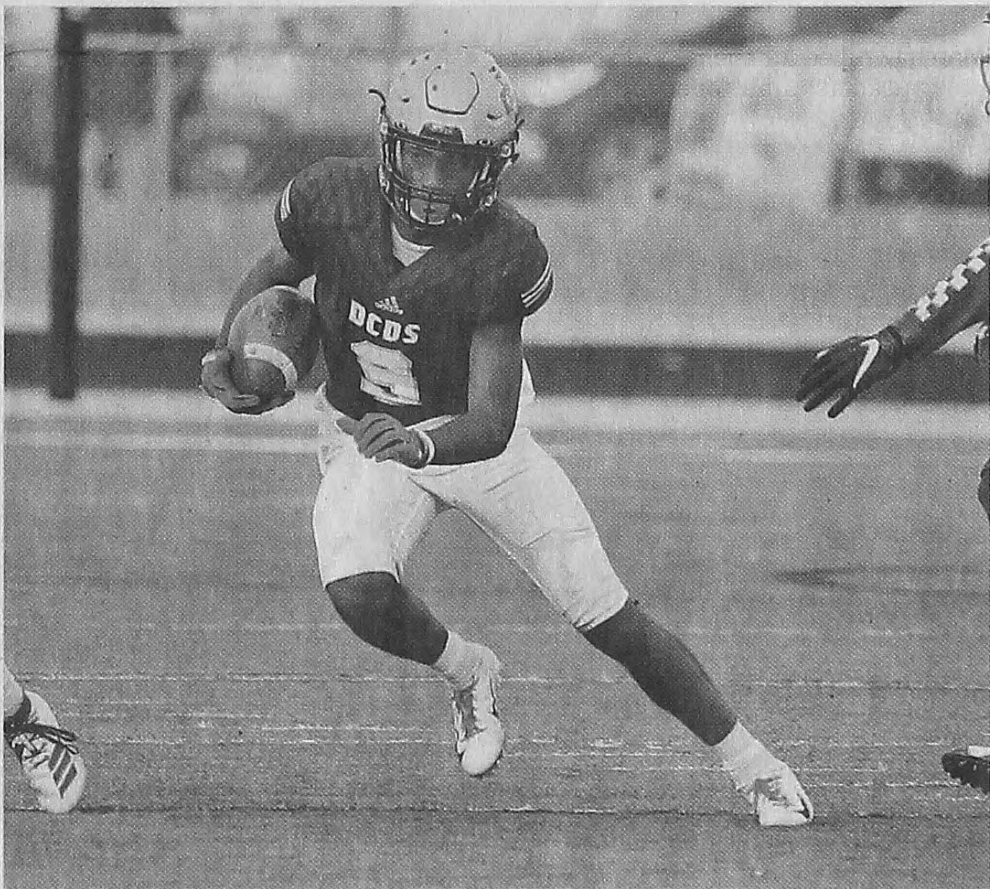
Powers Catholic won 21-14 and advanced to the state title game. It took four years, but Country Day got its revenge.

Country Day had an undefeated regular season in 2010, but lost early in the playoffs. It also went undefeated in 2016 and reached the state title game before losing to Grand Rapids Catholic Central and finishing with a 13-1 record.

The Yellowjackets will have another shot at Catholic Central, which defeated Hudsonville Unity Christian in the other division four semifinal.

“Our kids are doing a really good job of holding everyone accountable,” McLean said. “It’s hard sometimes as a coach when you’re the one having to do all that. These guys have really accepted that mantle, it’s not an easy thing to do to be constructively critical of your peers these days. Our team has done that.”

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



Country Day's Marcus Shephard runs against Flint Powers Catholic.

# ‘The Catch’ has been the talk of Brighton

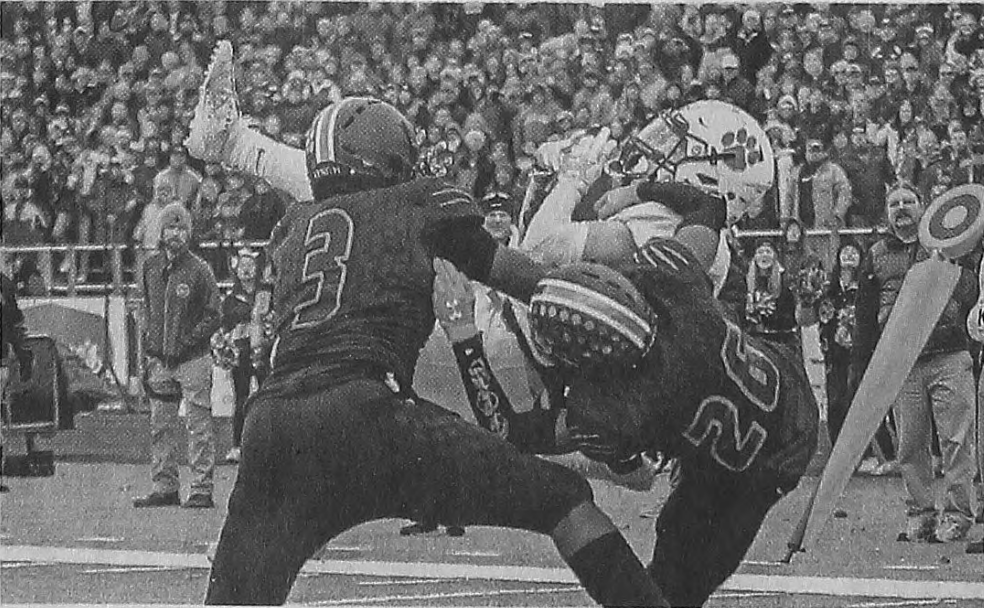
**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — They’re never going to hear the end of it.

Not that they’re complaining, considering “it” was the biggest touchdown in the history of Livingston County football.

Nick Nemecek’s 16-yard catch of a pass from Colby Newburg with 50.1 seconds left gave Brighton a 22-19 victory over Belleville Nov. 23 at Howell and a berth in the state Division 1 championship game (played Saturday against Davison at Ford Field.).

Brighton’s version of “The Catch” will become more legendary as the years pass, particularly if the Bulldogs complete their mission of winning the county’s first state football championship. Nemecek’s catch made Brighton the first county team to play in a state title game since playoffs were established in 1975. (Game results came after press time. Visit hometownlife.com for the latest coverage)



Brighton's Nick Nemecek clutches the game-winning touchdown pass between Belleville defenders in a state Division 1 semifinal on Saturday.  
TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

In the 48 hours following their memorable play, Nemecek and Newburg have been asked about it by nearly everyone who recognizes them at school or around town.

“Especially at school,” Newburg

said. “A ton of kids were talking about it, just that play. I actually went to Firehouse Subs and like four people came up to me and asked me about that play, told me congratulations and all that.”

Newburg has seen the play from different angles as people show it to him from cell phone footage they took from the stands.

“During class, I thought one of the teachers was going to show it, because he wouldn’t stop talking about it,” he said. “He didn’t end up showing it.”

“I’ve watched it a couple times, mostly from angles where you could see our fans erupt when he catches it.”

For Nemecek, who said Monday afternoon that he had watched the play at least 10 times, it’s been a surreal experience.

“It’s been pretty hectic,” said Nemecek, a junior running back who played receiver last season. “I’ve talked to a lot of people about it. I still can’t believe it happened.”

See BRIGHTON, Page 4B



## PREP HOCKEY

# Hartland wins clash between two-time defending state hockey champions

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HARTLAND — Hartland passed its first big test of the young hockey season Nov. 22 night with a 4-1 victory over Detroit Country Day at Hartland Sports Center.

The matchup featured the two-time defending state champions in Division 2 (Hartland) and Division 3 (Country Day).

"We know we're a whole lot different than we were the last couple years," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "I'm sure they are, too. With that being said, Country Day has been a solid program for years, especially the last couple. It was definitely a step up in competition."

Both teams graduated two-time all-state goalies, but Hartland appears to be strong in net once again. Ryan Piros, the starter for Hartland's junior varsity team last season, stopped 29 of 30 shots.

"He looked excellent tonight," Gadwa said. "If I was naming out stars, he would be the first star of the game. He kept us in it when we needed him. We got a lead and he got stronger and stronger as the game went on, because he was tested more and more, and he was there to answer."

"It's there. Now consistency plays a part. Is he going to be consistent? That's obviously what we want. It's one game; it's a short sample size."

Country Day returns six of its top seven scorers, while Hartland returns only three of its top 10.

The Eagles (2-0) jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period on goals by Kieran Carlile at the 5:00 mark, Adam Pietila at 8:40 and Andrew Larson at 14:16. Country Day scored its only goal on a shot by



Adam Pietila had two goals and one assist for Hartland in a 4-1 victory over Detroit Country Day Friday.  
BILL KHAN/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Dallas Hood with 1:49 left in the first.

"Something in the past we had trouble with was starting on time," said Gadwa, channeling his inner Mike Babcock. "It's been an emphasis of ours. We've done a good job the first couple games of doing that. Now it's about us continuing that momentum and building on it. At least tonight, a lot of credit to Country Day. Their top line is legit. They're good.

They kept coming, got better and better."

After a scoreless second period, Pietila capped the scoring on the power play with 3:10 left in the game. Pietila finished with two goals and one assist. Pietila has three goals and three assists through two games to lead Hartland.

"He's one of the guys prior to the season starting we looked to for contribu-

tions offensively," Gadwa said. "With the amount of guys we lost that were able to put the puck in the net, him and a handful of others are going to have to clean that up for us and put the puck in the net. He's taken that role early."

The Eagles killed four Country Day power plays.

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com).

## Short

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Marshawn Lee for the 5-yard score for the Crusaders' third touchdown of the day, Moore saw an opening in the middle of the field in the second quarter, hit Lee again on a 68-yard post route, who flew, untouched, into the end zone.

Moore finished the day with 274 passing yards, completing 83.3 percent of his pass attempts, with two touchdown passes.

With four touchdowns on the ground, Boone found a way into the pass offense as well. In Wildcat formation, the senior back took the snap, tossed the ball to junior running back Justin Whyte for the 22-yard touchdown.

Seaholm senior Chaz Strecker, who was the Maples' leading tackler at defensive back, said that the Maples could not continue the same trajectory they have had throughout the playoffs: seeing, meeting and exceeding expectation.

"We set the expectation high and every week we have been able to match it," Strecker said. "Obviously got down in the first half, got down on ourselves instead of trying to bring it back in the second half."

### Seaholm's offensive inconsistencies

After leaving the first half with only three points — a 36-yard field goal — Seaholm found some life early in the third quarter.

The Maples opened the second half with a five-play drive, scoring their first touchdown of the day on a 19-yard run by junior back William McBride. And while King answered with a 3-yard score by Boone, Seaholm junior quarterback Caleb Knoer found McBride on a 21-yard crossing route for a touchdown, seemingly creating some offensive momentum. However, it was too little, too late for the Seaholm offense, who recorded 286 yards of offense — 252 of which was on the ground.

While the run game was the main approach for Seaholm in every game this season, it was not enough against the Crusaders. The Maples averaged 4.8 yards per carry. Strecker, the leading rusher, recorded 169 yards on 29 carries.

However, with a five-score deficit, Knoer tried to get the pass game going at the end of the third quarter.

After a 4-yard run by Strecker, the junior quarterback aired one out, landing in the hands of King linebacker Jaylen Reid for the interception, who took it for the score.



Seaholm Maple Miles Mentag, left, tries to get a block on Detroit King's Jaylen Reed during a running play.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### 'One play at a time'

No matter the opponent, DeWald said his team's approach remains the same: one play at a time.

"Good play, bad play, next play," DeWald said. "Doesn't matter the color of the uniform, the color of the helmet. We fight one play at a time together for our brothers and for our community."

That is the mentality that brought Seaholm to where it was. After overcoming a three-loss regular season, the Maples began to come into their own in the playoffs, defeating rival Birmingham Groves in the district final.

To DeWald, that represents a level of grittiness, a level of toughness he has seen out of his kids all season. The resiliency, he said, allows the team, as a whole, to not understand the big picture, but to understand the micro level: the next play.

He said the seniors from this past

year's team set the standard, and it was defined by the seniors this season.

Now, moving forward, he said the younger players have seen what this mentality can achieve.

"The juniors have seen the footprint," DeWald said. "One play at a time. I know it's so cheesy guys, and I'm sorry, but that is our message."

Seaholm's first semifinal bid since 1997 not only set the expectation for the future, but brought together a fan base that was in only its second playoff appearance since 2014.

"That's why football is so great," DeWald said. "High school football: it brings a community together. Football brings pride to school, high school or college. In this case, it brought pride to Birmingham Seaholm."

Strecker was not looking at the macro. He was not remembering what the team did as a whole, what they had accomplished that Seaholm teams of old

had not come close to.

After shaking the hands of the state-bound Crusaders, he crouched with his head down, with senior linebacker James DeWald bringing his teammate up before head coach Jim DeWald addressed his team.

Even though this entire season will likely be remembered as a successful one, Strecker could only focus on what had just happened: disappointment.

However, he said a light for the program, the pendulum swinging in the direction of the Maples. His advice as he left the field for the final time? Do what he always did.

"Have no regrets," Strecker said. "Leave it all on the field."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).





The Mercy swim and dive team captured the Division 1 state championship in 2019. COURTESY OF MHSAA

## Mercy

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- 15. Ann Arbor Huron 50
- 16. Holland West Ottawa 46
- 17. Grand Ledge High School 35
- 17. Canton 35
- 19. Salem High School 27
- 20. Oxford 25
- 21. White Lake Lakeland 15
- 21. Hartland High School 15
- 23. Macomb Dakota High School 14
- 24. Middletown Thornapple Kellogg 12
- 24. Forest Hills Northern Eastern 12
- 26. West Bloomfield High School 10

- 27. Livonia Stevenson 9
  - 28. Utica Eisenhower High School 7
  - 28. Grandville High School 7
  - 30. Bloomfield Hills 6
  - 31. Grand Blanc High School 5
  - 32. Rochester Hills 4
  - 33. Lake Orion 2
  - 33. Traverse City Central 2
  - 33. Troy Athens 2
  - 33. Macomb L'Anse Creuse North 2
  - 37. Clarkston High School 1
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The Birmingham Seaholm Maples swim and dive team won the Division 2 state championship in 2019. COURTESY OF MHSAA

## Seaholm

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- 19. Okemos 35
- 19. Temperance - Bedford 35
- 21. Grosse Pointe North 31
- 22. Walled Lake Western 28
- 23. Battle Creek Lakeview 25
- 24. Bay City Western 18
- 24. Pinckney 18
- 26. Milford 11
- 26. Warren Woods Tower 11
- 28. North Farmington 6
- 29. Loy Norrix 5
- 30. Warren Mott 4
- 30. Mt Pleasant 4
- 30. Walled Lake Northern 4
- 33. Livonia Churchill 2
- 34. St Joseph 1

South Lyon East, which finished three spots ahead of where it placed last year and placed in four events, setting four new personal bests. Those finishes are:

- 50 Free - Lindsay Boals, senior, with a time of 24.23
  - 1M Diving - Sophia Ohland with her 11 dive score of 335.50
  - 100 Free - Lindsay Boals with a time of 52.62
  - 200 Free Relay - Maria Mayorga (junior), Abby Seybert (junior), Lindsay Boals (senior), Melanie Cosens (senior) with a time of 1:39.83
- "Overall I thought we had an outstanding meet," South Lyon East coach John Burch said. "We overcame adversity with the medley relay disqualification and ended with an amazing meet. I am proud of what all the girls were able to accomplish this year. 12th in the state was a big improvement over last season."
- Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Brighton

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It's a play that could have gone sideways numerous times before the ball wound up safely secured in Nemecek's hands.

It began with Nemecek coming in motion from the right side of the formation on first down from the Belleville 16-yard line. Newburg faked a

"I actually went to Firehouse Subs and like four people came up to me and asked me about that play, told me congratulations and all that."

**Colby Newburg**  
On his game-winning TD pass in the state semifinals

handoff to Nemecek, then rolled right, only to face pressure from linemen Damon Payne and Hunter Little.

Newburg reversed field and headed to his left, tucking the ball briefly as he thought about running, then quickly bringing it back out and throwing a pass to Nemecek in the end zone. Nemecek was double-covered by Jalen Williams and Deshaun Lee, but won a jump ball to give Brighton a 20-19 lead. Nemecek then ran in a 2-point conversion.

"I was trying to make something happen," Newburg said. "I was getting pressure. I was going to my right, so I turned around and went left. I saw

Nick in the end zone, so I untucked it, threw it off balance and hoped for the best."

Ironically, it was Williams who caught a 6-yard touchdown pass with 12.1 seconds left to beat Brighton, 40-35, in the 2018 season opener.

Talk about closure.

"It was a perfect ball that was thrown," Nemecek said. "Everything went our way on that play."

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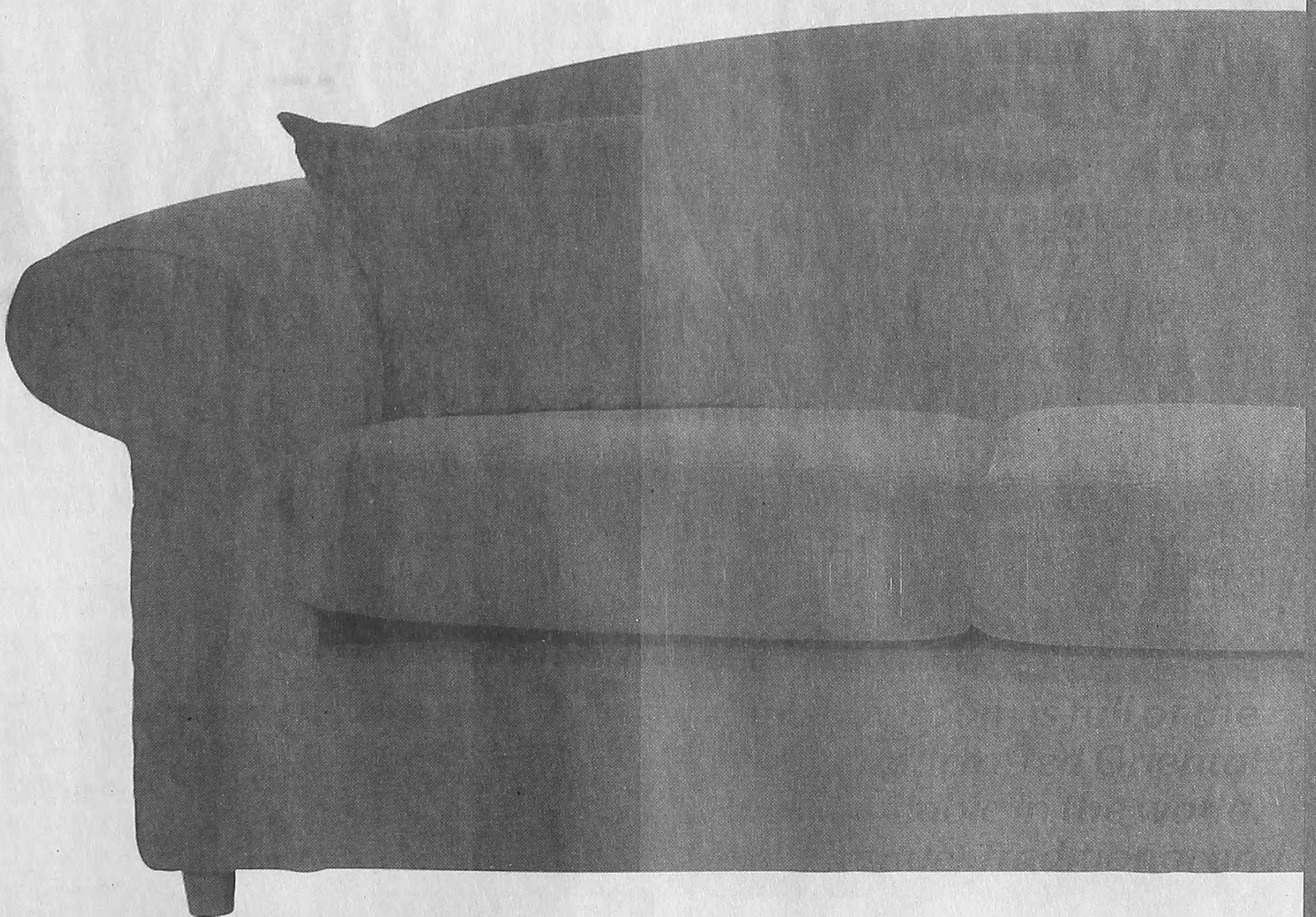
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### How to relate to your younger coworkers in the office

**Eric Titner**
[thejobnetwork.com](http://thejobnetwork.com)

For those of us who have been employed for more than a little while — including all of you seasoned veterans out there with many years of on-the-job experience — navigating the work world these days can be a bit of a challenge. We often have to fight against some of the misperceptions that come with being older in the workplace: that we're out of date or technophobic, unable to relate to a younger demographic, devoid of energy, and unable to think innovatively. The list is long and has remained unfortunately persistent over the years.

The workplace can be a challenging environment when you're on the wrong side of a noticeable age gap. Feeling like everything from clothes to conversations highlights the differences between you and your colleagues can make your professional life more uncomfortable and less satisfying than it could be.

Being judged based solely on your age can also have a negative effect on your career and opportunities and can make it hard to form satisfying and productive professional relationships with younger coworkers. It can also affect your health and well-being. According to a recent study reported in the Journal of Vocational Behavior, "Older workers tend to feel more stress than younger workers when their employers don't provide them with the support and resources needed to do their jobs well."

Thankfully, not all is lost. There are strategies that older workers can utilize to help them relate more effectively to their younger colleagues — and hopefully reduce or eliminate any false negative misperceptions based solely on their age. Consider the following tips if



GETTY IMAGES

you find yourself surrounded by younger coworkers and are eager to bridge the gap.

#### Be open-minded

Chances are, your younger work cohorts are going to do things differently than you do — everything from how they talk and dress to the tools, processes, and systems they use for attacking tasks and staying organized. You may feel an impulse to write these differences off as not worth your time to consider adopting, or simply things that are merely passing fads or emblematic of their lack of experience and seasoning. Bad move! The truth is, staying open-minded to new ways of doing things is

among the best ways to give off the impression that you're not too old or incapable of embracing change — and can really help bridge any age-related divides and help you relate to younger colleagues. If you're an older worker, it's up to you to convince the younger folks that you indeed can teach an old dog new tricks — and you just may doubly benefit by picking up some new and improved ways of doing things along the way.

#### Show your value

Now that we've established that staying open-minded to the notion that you can learn a thing or two from your younger coworkers is a smart move,

don't forget to show that you have a lifetime of valuable experience to offer them in return. It may be unavoidable for some younger folks to immediately try to dismiss older employers as ineffective dinosaurs, but your best counterargument to this unfortunate impression is by proving to them exactly how wrong they are. Keep the lines of communication open and mutually respectful and do what you can to impart your hard-earned wisdom. Many of us have had the opportunity to learn and grow with a mentor, so don't be afraid to pay it forward.

#### Don't sell yourself short

Too often, older employees try to deal with age differences by joking about it in a self-deprecating way. Not only is it a terrible way to try and relate to your coworkers, but it's also only going to make relating to younger coworkers even more challenging by reinforcing any negative biases they may have. That's like coming to work with a stain on your shirt and dealing with it by using a neon highlighter. Instead, avoid the "I'm just a dinosaur" jokes and focus on being the best and most effective employee possible, and someone who's easy and enjoyable to talk to and work with. It's a formula sure to win over younger colleagues.

Are you a seasoned veteran of the work world and searching for ways to improve your relationships with younger coworkers? Keep your head up and your mind open and use the strategies presented here to help make your work-life successful and enjoyable.

*Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics.*

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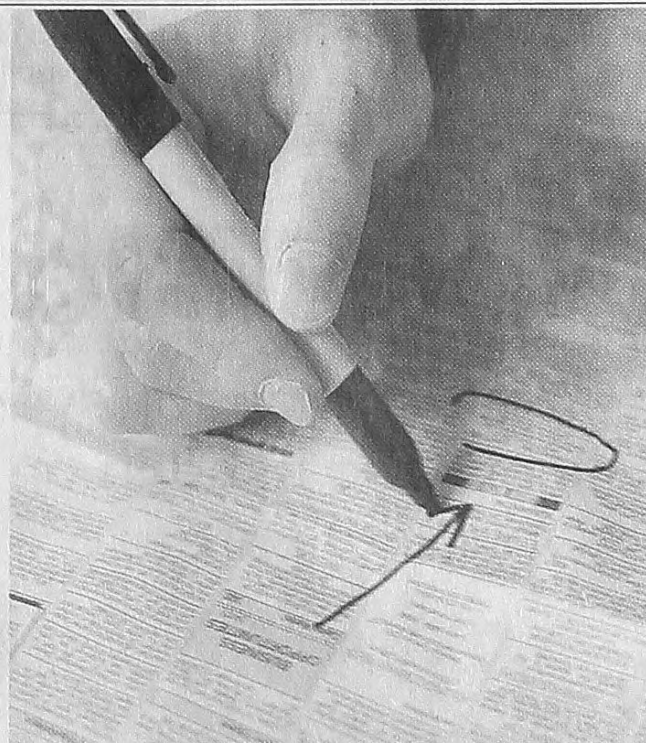
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54 Cordon — (veal dish)

55 Stuck in

57 Ill-bred fellow

59 "Rambo" site, in brief

61 Tiny biting midge

63 EMMA

67 Sun block?

70 Mel whose "4" was retired

71 Make a face

72 Sternward

76 De-wrinkle

77 Suffix with Motor

79 Huge bird of legend

81 One + two, in German

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84 Amer. soldiers

85 JANE

89 Walk showily

91 Feast on
- 92 It may be stainless

93 Soothe

94 Tiny charged bit

95 Oktoberfest "Oh!"

96 Driver's 180

97 Gillis in an old sitcom

98 KATE

102 Amaze the audience

103 NATO, e.g.

104 Sleep

105 Bric-a- — acronym

107 Ignited, as a match

109 Would have, given the chance

110 GRACE

113 Stable troughs

114 Sidestepped

115 Information tech mag

116 What "+" may mean

117 Grain staple

118 Rainy

119 Mag workers

120 Pee Wee whose "1" was retired
- 3 Lea

4 Make a goof

5 Balanced condition

6 Simple skills

7 Old brand of grape soda

8 Stein filler

9 Wedding-related

10 Clearheaded

11 Chinese philosopher Lao- —

12 Charge with an offense

13 Munch (on)

14 Area at the top of a PC window

15 Amount the insured must first pay

16 Abrade

17 Less adorned

20 Military division

22 More spiteful

24 — Tin Tin (TV dog)

29 Shout

31 Queen's onetime rock genre

32 Crime film genre

33 Inauguration Day highlight

34 Actress Bow
- 35 How an extremist acts

36 Online user's self-image

40 Emerald, e.g.

41 Happy as —

42 "So am I"

43 In — of (rather than)

44 "One" on a U.S. penny

46 Ice cream drinks

47 One with a six-year term

48 Color related to emerald or pistachio

54 Telly network, with "the"

56 Oomph

58 Indigo Girls, e.g.

60 "So tasty!"

62 Sluggish type

64 Actress Deschanel

65 Parade walk

66 Soap opera, informally

67 Boars, e.g.

68 Opera highlight

69 Locale of Mount Erebus

73 Title girl of a Poe poem
- 74 Exact copies

75 Little laugh

78 Comic actor Don

80 Client

82 Pipe fitter's elbow

85 City in west California

86 Locale of Waikiki

87 Flabbergast

88 "That hurts!"

90 Swindling, slangily

95 For neither profit nor loss

96 System of online newsgroups

97 Stevedore

98 "— mial"

99 Brand of fat substitute

100 Prefix with cellular

101 Was behind the wheel

102 Female WWII server

105 Needed suturing, say

106 Frees oneself (of)

108 Little fella

110 Mandible or maxilla

111 Honored Fr. woman

112 Female with a fleece

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)

## SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## RESTAURANT WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- BAR
- BUSBOY
- CHARGE
- CHECK
- CHEF
- COUNTER
- DELIVERY
- DINING
- DISHWASHING
- GRATUITY
- GUEST
- HOUSE
- MEAL
- MENU
- PARTY
- PLATING
- PREP
- RECIPES
- RESTAURANT
- SECTIONS
- SERVER
- SERVICE
- TABLE
- TAKEOUT
- TURNOVER

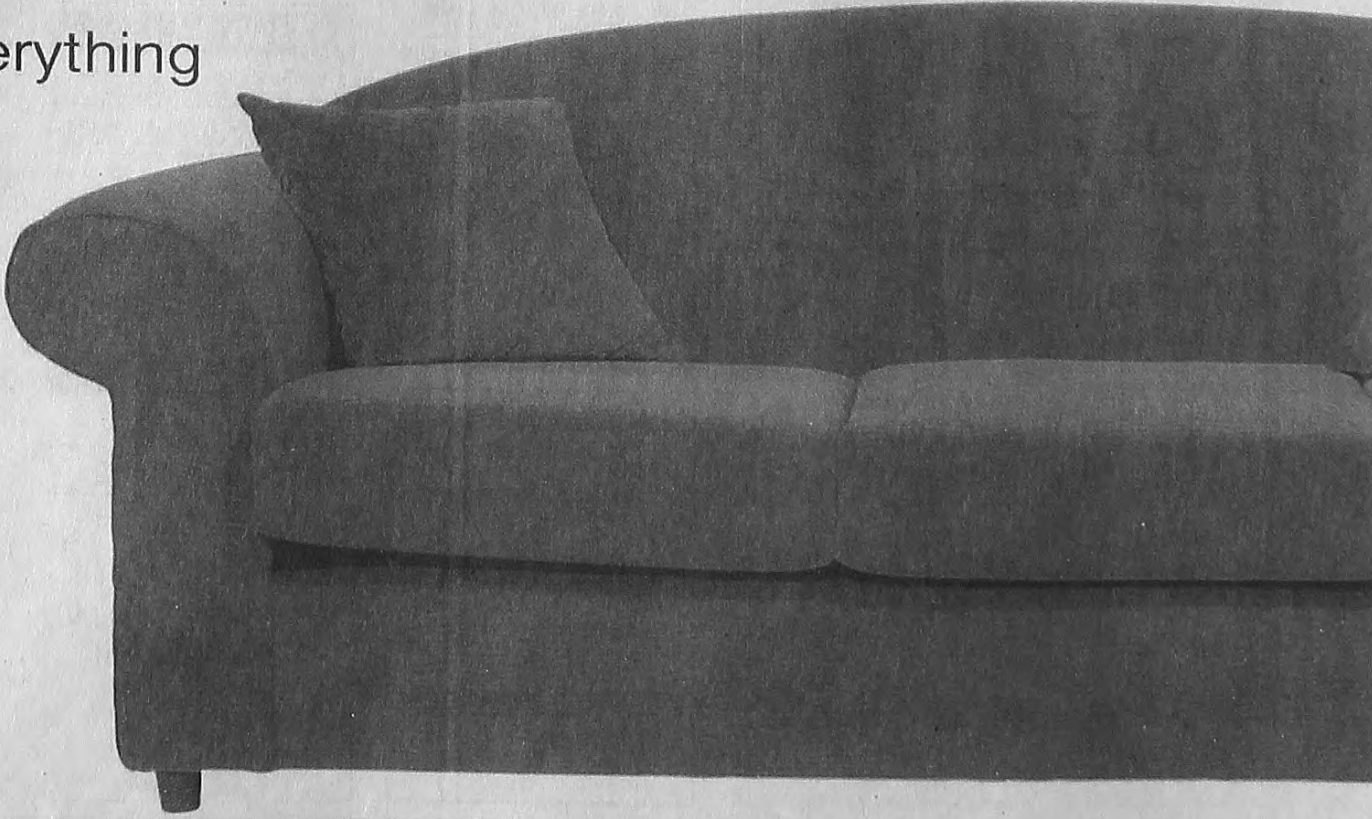
### ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
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1	4	9	7	8	3	5	2	9
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3	2	7	8	4	9	5	1	6
9	1	2	3	6	2	8	5	7
6	8	2	1	5	4	2	9	3
4	3	5	9	2	8	2	1	6
2	6	1	8	3	2	9	7	5
7	5	4	6	2	9	3	8	1
8	9	3	5	4	1	6	2	2

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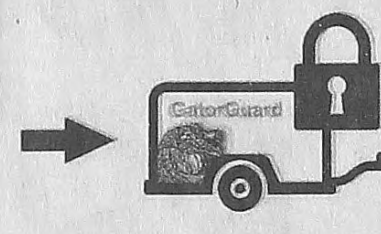
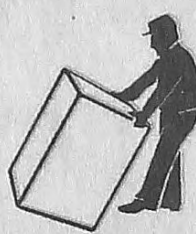
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## December is FREE WINDOWS MONTH at Renewal by Andersen.<sup>1</sup>

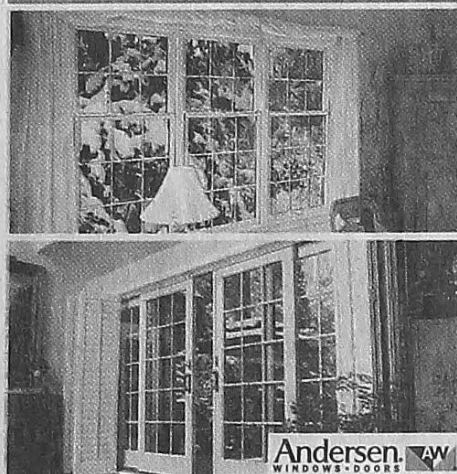


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**FOR 1 YEAR<sup>1</sup>**

Plus

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**ON EVERY WINDOW<sup>1</sup>**  
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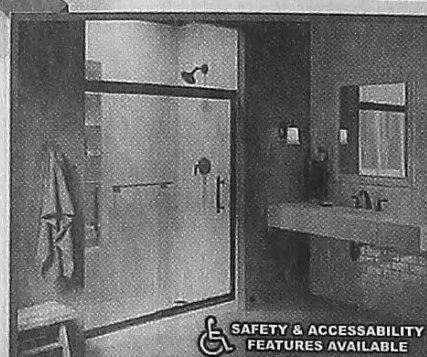
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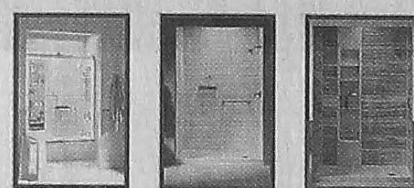
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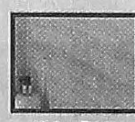
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