



## North Farmington girls hoops gets win despite Groves' surge

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Lawsuit: Dispatchers at fault in man's death

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For the second time in a two-week span, the Canton Township Board of Trustees agreed to hire an outside law firm, this time to handle a \$25 million lawsuit brought against the township by the estate of Stephen Greene.

Greene's death on March 1, 2018, was

alleged to have been the result of negligence on the part of township dispatchers Rachel Rowell and Joshua Choroba.

Greene died after suffering a massive heart attack at Canton's Heartland rehabilitation facility after as many as 13 calls to 9-1-1 went unanswered.

Attorney Jonathan Marko, who represents Greene's widow Dorothy, asserted Rowell knowingly muted the

volume on the township's 9-1-1 emergency line "because she was having a bad day."

Choroba was also cited in the lawsuit because Marko claims Choroba neglected to turn the volume up after he took over for Rowell during a shift change.

Like the pension-related lawsuit filed by Public Safety Director Joshua Meier on Nov. 7, any legal fees the township is

faced with will be paid out of the township's Police and Fire Fund budgets.

When asked if it is common practice for local governments to pay for outside attorneys using their police and fire funds, Canton's Corporation Counsel Kristin Bricker Kolb said, "based on the circumstances of these cases, the police

See LAWSUIT, Page 8A



Natalie Young, left, assists a customer at Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop & Cafe in Livonia on Dec. 2. The cafe will be partially staffed by and benefit young adults who have developmental disabilities. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Coffee shop aims to hire people with disabilities

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Marissa Marzec has worked plenty in her life, most recently at a local hotel. But when she stopped getting as many hours as she liked, she looked for a new place to work.

That's when Marzec found herself at Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop & Cafe, a place designed to accommodate people like her in the workplace.

"I felt comfortable. I felt excited," said Marzec, a 25-year-old Livonia resident who has fine motor deficiency. "I felt like I was part of the team and everything. It made me feel happy and excited."

The coffee shop at 19215 Merriman Road in Livonia in the Merriman Mall shopping center, has been in the works for over a year, said Kelly Rockwell, the president of the board for the nonprofit Mi Work Matters, a new organization

See COFFEE SHOP, Page 3A



Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop & Cafe sits at 19215 Merriman Road, Livonia.

### COLD CASES

## Mom prepares for missing daughter's 50th birthday

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The holidays are just around the corner and Kathleen Wilson is preparing to release more balloons into the sky for her daughter, Christina.

She started the tradition some years ago to say she loves and misses the child who sat on her bed the morning of Feb. 11, 2013, just as she typically did.

This time, "Chris" kept taking her shoes off and putting them on before finally going for a walk.

Balog, then 43, never returned.

"That was it," said Wilson, sitting in her Westland living room. "No purse. No phone. She didn't take anything with her. She walked around the corner there. She headed that way."

Wilson motioned toward Malvern Street, which runs along the Rouge River.

Wilson, 76, still remembers giving her daughter about an hour before heading into Hines Park to find her. She called police and checked hospitals. As the hours stretched into days, Wilson put up flyers.

She coped with her cognitively-impaired grandson missing his mother. They both gave DNA samples.

Wilson dealt with police who seemed to be accusing her of playing some role in her daughter's disappearance. She grew wary.

"Have you ever watched 'Criminal Minds,' (a TV show about an elite FBI unit)?" Wilson asked. "It was like they were profiling me. I never laid a hand on her ... ever. Every time they called me, I was a nervous wreck. I was like skin and bone. That was tough. That was really tough."

### 'I had to go on with my life'

Christina Balog is one of about 300 missing metro Detroit people identified in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) database.

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said Balog is treated as a missing person, which means her case is usually reviewed every six months. Every spring, he said, officers scour Hines Park looking specifically for some trace of her.

"Christina Balog was just a unique case where she walked away from her house and didn't really give any

See BIRTHDAY, Page 8A





# Plymouth-Canton schools' \$275 million bond proposal to appear on March ballot

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

A \$275 million bond proposal that, if passed, will dramatically shape the future of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will go before voters early next year.

The district's board of education approved placing the request on the March 10, 2020, presidential primary election ballot.

The bond proposal is the culmination of 12 month of work by district officials, members of the community and several consultants. If passed, the list of projects are slated to be completed over the next 10 years.

Superintendent Monica Merritt said a successful bond would fund a multitude of enhancements to the district's

buildings, bring equity to all 24 schools and make the district competitive in terms of keeping in-boundary students from switching to charter or out-of-district schools.

Merritt made it crystal clear that if the bond passes, taxpayers will not see an increase to the district's current millage rate of 4.02 mills.

The district's most-recent bond request in 2013 passed by a comfortable margin and led to, among other district-improving projects, the construction of Liberty Middle School.

School Board Trustee John Lazarowicz cast the lone nay vote on the proposal, which was enthusiastically endorsed by other members of the board.

"When you think about the strengths of a community, we always say the cornerstone is a strong school system," Merritt said moments before the board voted. "There are few opportunities we have to finance these much-needed projects and this bond is one opportunity to do so. It's a responsible way for us to remain competitive and to give our students what they need and deserve in order to succeed."

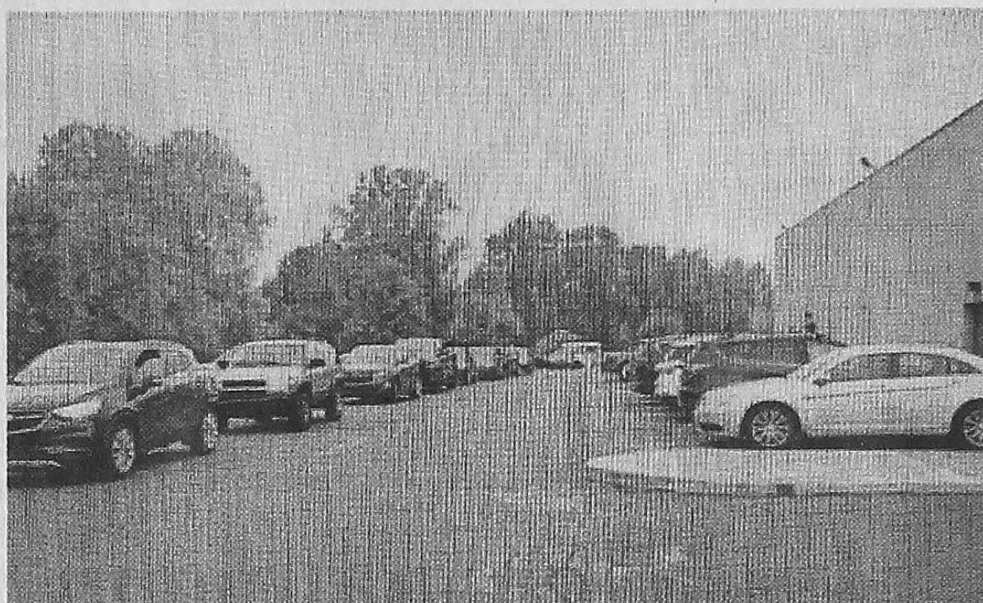
"It's a big ask, but in 2013 our community overwhelmingly supported the district's needs in terms of passing a bond."

Treasurer Patrick Kehoe said he was impressed by the collaboration displayed between administrators, teachers, students and community members to come up with a strong list of projects for the bond.

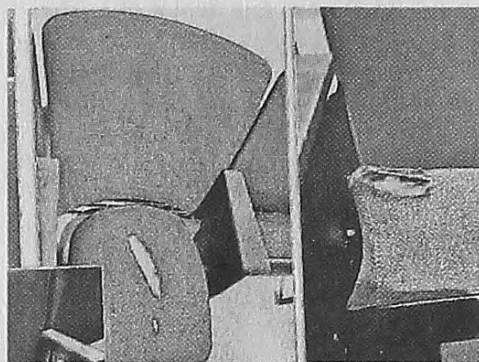
"One of the main things that keeps a community's property values high is a fantastic school district," said Kehoe. "We have to continue to make these kinds of investments ... just like we do in our homes."

Vice President Patti McCain emphasized how important a bond passage is to maintaining an optimal student population.

"We need to attract back the approximately 2,500 students who live within our boundaries who are choosing other schools," McCain noted. "We also have to retain the students we currently have



Crowded and unsafe parking situations like this one at Eriksson Elementary School would be alleviated by a successful bond. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PCCS



Salem's performing arts center would be receive many much-needed improvements if the bond passes.

the bond was passed.

Executive Director of Student Services Kurt Tyszkiewicz said the projects covered in the bond focus on equity throughout all of the district schools and "making sure our students are warm, dry and safe when they enter our buildings."

"Not one building won't be touched by this bond," he stressed.

Tyszkiewicz said a successful bond would help "refresh the district's technology" by adding an innovation hub that would cater to students interested in artificial intelligence, virtual reality, "offerings that will be essential during the next 10 years so that students are left behind."

In addition to high-end projects like the construction of a third athletics stadium at PCEP, the addition of a natatorium to Plymouth High School and a complete renovation of the Salem High School performing arts center, the bond would provide separate gyms and cafeterias for the elementary schools that currently have shared spaces and more expansive parking/pick up areas for schools that struggle with unsafe congestion.

and the way to do that is to offer them the best choices possible."

More than one board member suggested that the district's current facilities are bursting at the seams and need essential upgrades to keep up with growth.

"My daughter did Winter Guard and they had to practice in the cafeteria because there was no other space available," McCain said, offering an example of the needed turf practice fields that would be added to the PCEP campus if

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# New Smoothie King opens this week in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It appears the Seven Mile and Middlebelt intersection is the place to be for a blended strawberry banana drink.

Another Smoothie King is coming to Livonia, just months after one opened in the Wonderland Village shopping center. This new shop will open Tuesday at 29605 W. Seven Mile in the new strip center in the northeast lot near the LA Fitness.

Christopher Klebba, owner of Smoothie King franchise holder Northern Blends, said they wanted to bring a second location to Livonia.

"We love that community," he said. "We want to be everywhere in metro Detroit."

Smoothie King entered the Michigan market this year with shops in Livonia, Chesterfield Township, Flint and Mount Pleasant. The menu at the new location will be the same as the one at Wonderland Village. A full menu can be found at

smoothieking.com.

A grand opening event will take place Dec. 14 and will feature a chance for visitors to win smoothies for a year, among other giveaways.

Klebba said Northern Blends hopes to open 50 Smoothie King locations in the Lower Peninsula, as well as several around Columbus, Ohio. He said the company is working to inform the Michigan public about the product since it's new to the state.

"We're confident and we're all super

proud of the product," he said.

The new smoothie spot joins a multitude in that area of Livonia. Tropical Smoothie Cafe operates across the street in the Livonia Marketplace, and Everyday Nutrition serves smoothies on Middlebelt south of Seven Mile. Bulk Food and Smoothies will begin serving smoothies in the shopping center on the southwest corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt when it opens this winter.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com).

## Coffee shop

Continued from Page 1A

designed to help individuals who have developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome grow in a regular working environment.

"We're aiming to have an inclusive workforce, so (we'll hire) people with and without disabilities," she said.

The organization began looking for a spot and settled on the vacant space at the shopping center.

Rockwell said the landlord was willing to work with Mi Work Matters on bringing the idea to life. Many of the employees come from the surrounding areas.

The cafe joins several other businesses opening across Michigan that have been openly advocating for the hiring of people who have developmental disabilities.

Mod Market, which opened earlier this fall in downtown Northville, sells works created by artists who have developmental disabilities and aims to employ people who have developmental disabilities. A coffee shop opened earlier this fall in Ada in west Michigan that uses a similar model to Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop & Cafe.

It's a trend Rockwell hopes continues, both in specially-designed employment places and at more established companies across metro Detroit.

"There really isn't a lot of opportunity out there," she said. "That's sort of our main goal, is to be able to increase op-



Kelly Rockwell, president of the board for Mi Work Matters, talks about the nonprofit's new coffee shop.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

portunities, whether it's here in the coffee shop or – and this is our long-term vision for Mi Work Matters – to partner with other companies, that we can help them hire people with disabilities."

The intimate cafe is no different than any other, serving a variety of coffee, lattes and tea, as well as breakfast foods such as bagels and avocado toast.

For lunch, the cafe serves several sandwiches and a soup of the day. Rockwell said they are looking to add salads to the menu, though those will most likely come in 2020.

Anastasia and Katie's opened this week and has space for small groups to gather around a table and enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation.

Marzec works at the shop completing



The cafe joins several other businesses opening across Michigan that have been openly advocating for the hiring of people who have developmental disabilities.

various tasks, including making sandwiches.

She's happy to be doing meaningful work in the community. She said her skill set works well in the coffee shop, but she's ready to apply it to any job she may have in the future.

"I'm always on time and I'm always able to do whatever needs to be done," she said. "I'm just a very happy person

and I'm flexible to work any position."

The coffee shop is open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays and is closed Sundays. A full menu can be found on the shop's website, [miworkmatters.org/anastasiaandkatie](http://miworkmatters.org/anastasiaandkatie).

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



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# Check out these upcoming holiday events

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Christmas season is in full swing and there's plenty of fun to be had in the metro Detroit area.

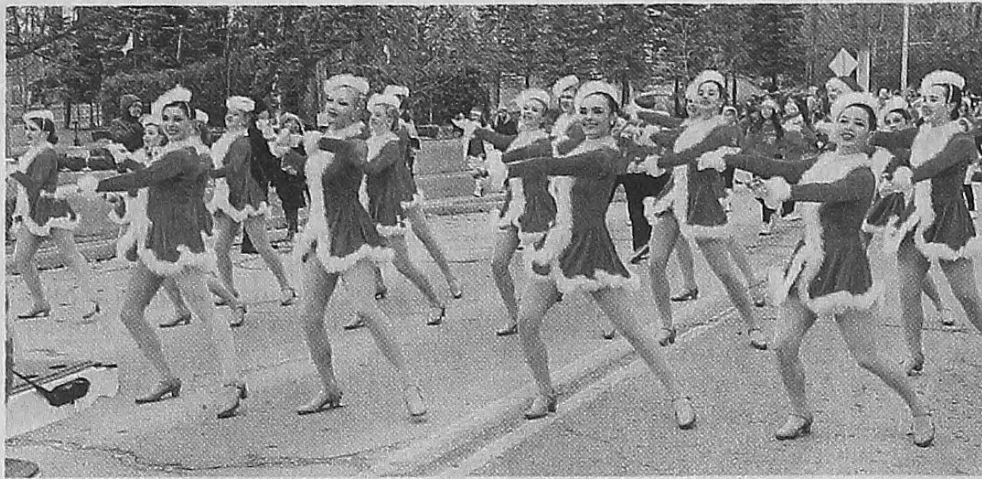
Here are some of the holiday-themed events coming up:

**Birmingham Holiday Greens, Décor & Tree Lighting** at Birmingham Winter Markt runs Dec. 6-8 at Shain Park. Talented vendors will display traditional holiday crafts and décor, art from local artisans, holiday greenery, jewelry, home décor and more. Market attendees will 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 popular Santa House, and live entertainment. Board a free horse-drawn carriage in Shain Park for a tour through the decorated downtown area all throughout the holiday season. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. [www.allinbirmingham.com/wintermarkt](http://www.allinbirmingham.com/wintermarkt).

**Santa visits Maybury Farm in Northville Township**, 50165 W. Eight Mile. Santa will be at the farm starting at 10 a.m. Dec. 8, 14 and 15. An outdoor holiday market will sell unique Christmas gifts. \$5 a person, with children under 2 free. [www.mayburyfarm.org/santa](http://www.mayburyfarm.org/santa).

**Merry & Bright: Livonia's Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting** is at 4 p.m. Sunday 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.

**The Whoville 5K at Northville High School** at 1 p.m. Sunday is an untimed, themed, family-friendly fun run/walk and holiday celebration, where participants come dressed to impress as favorite Dr. Seuss characters. Separate kids mini fun run. Costume prizes, photos with Santa and holiday treats for all. All participants receive a Whoville T-shirt and finisher medal. Register at [whoville5k.com](http://whoville5k.com). \$40 for the 5K, \$15 for the kids mini fun run. Proceeds benefit Northville High School Track & Field



The dancers from Main Street Dance Centre entertained the crowd during the Milford Christmas Parade last weekend. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

and the Gazelle Sports Foundation.

**Novi Concert Band performs** the first of several holiday concerts free at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Novi Civic Center. A concert at 7 p.m. Friday at the Finnish Cultural Center is \$5. Dinner and concert starts at 5 p.m. and costs \$12. The band performs a free concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Novi Public Library. Learn more about the band on its Facebook page.

**Deck the City Hall in Westland** at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Sing Christmas 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, Santa letter writing and more. There will also be interactive dance activities in order to promote Westland's Healthy City initiative.

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

**Twelfth Night Singers concert in Northville** will happen at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main. An a cappella ensemble will perform traditional and little-known carols to help kick off the holiday season, performing in complete Renaissance costumes. Free.

248-477-7375

**Canton Library Snow Spree** will be Dec. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Outdoor activities include rides on the Canton Express train and pictures with a reindeer. To warm up, there will be hot chocolate and crafts inside. The Spree is sponsored by Primrose School of Canton.

**Holiday Funtastic Night in Northville** allows for some late-season festivities as Christmas gets closer. The event takes place from 6-7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main, and will feature holiday snacks, a classic holiday movie, holiday crafts and a visit from someone residing in the North Pole. Tickets are \$8 and registration ends Dec. 16. Register on the parks and recreation department's website.

**Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center annual Holiday Shop** returns for its 39th year as a pop-up shopping experience where more than 3,000 square feet of gallery space is transformed into a boutique offering one-of-a-kind gift items created by more than 100 artists. All proceeds benefit the non-profit BBAC's ArtAccess and education programs, as well as working artists. The shop is open through Dec. 20: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. The art center is at 1516 Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. [www.bbartcenter.org](http://www.bbartcenter.org).

**A peek at Christmas past in Birmingham:** December visitors to the Birmingham Museum's 1822 Hunter House can glimpse holiday traditions and featured artifacts including sleigh bells, vintage holiday postcards and photos of decorations from the Victorian period and a World War I era Christmas tree, as well as displays with antique toys and ornaments. Another highlight is original and reproduction springerle cookie boards (molds) dating back almost 200 years. Exhibit hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and until 8 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Regular museum admission applies: \$7 adult, \$5 seniors and students, kids 5 and under and members free. To find out more, call 248-530-1928 or visit [www.bhamgov.org/museum](http://www.bhamgov.org/museum).

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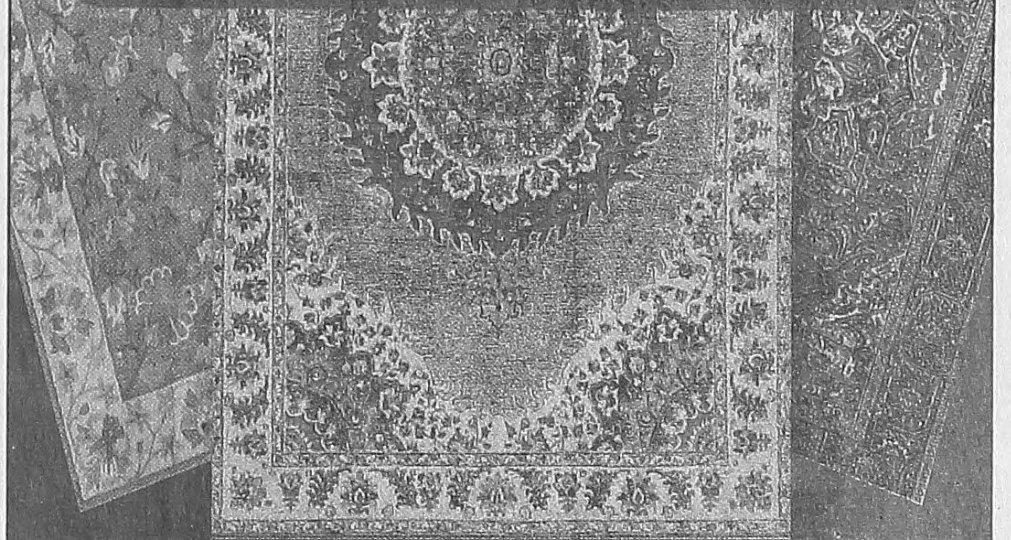
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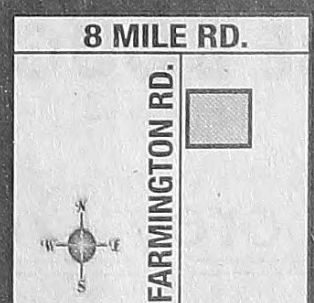
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# Preschooler-tested and approved toys revealed

Ed Wright [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Searching for experts' advice on what to buy your preschooler for Christmas?

Look no further than the results of The Goddard School's recently-released Top 10 list, which was crafted from feedback delivered by those who know best: actual pre-schoolers (oh, and their teachers chipped in, as well).

For the 12th consecutive year, The Goddard School, which has metro Detroit locations in Canton, Novi, Lake Orion, Macomb and Rochester Hills, asked their pre-school students to complete the enviable task of testing toys (observant teachers judged the toys on their students' interactivity, skill development and creative inspiration, among other criteria).

In September, students at 50 Goddard Schools throughout the country played with several toys — electronics were excluded — to determine the Top 10.

"Probably the hardest part of the project was hiding the toys so the students couldn't see them before the test," school owner Sandeep Chada said, smiling. "We didn't have any trouble finding volunteers for this assignment. The kids were really excited."

"With most of the toys, the kids were engaged right away, but others they ignored pretty quickly. It was a subjective test, but effective all the same."

The Goddard School asks toy manufacturers each year for toys they'd like included in the test. Most comply, Chada said.

"Once the results are in, we send them to the toy companies so they can use them as they wish," he added.

Chada said it's important for preschool toys to teach children social interaction skills.

"Without these skills, you're never going to make it to the board room," he said.

## Drum roll please ...

And the 2019 winner was: the Melissa & Doug Take-Along Town.

"This toy encouraged social interaction and was easy for kids to play with on a counter or table top," Chada said. "A

## Top 10

(listed in no particular order)

■ **Winner: Take-Along Town** (Melissa & Doug); suggested age range 3 to 5 years

■ **Crinkle Monkey** (The Manhattan Toy Company/Wimmer-Ferguson); 3 to 12 months

■ **Set of 3 Primary Color** (Playmonster Oibo) 0+ months

■ **Latches & Doors Busy Board** (VTech) 12-36 months

■ **Leapbuilders ABC Smart House** (Leapfrog) 18+ months

■ **Orangutwang** (Playmaster) 4+ years

■ **Smart Sizzlin' BBQ Grill** (Leapfrog) 2+ years

■ **Linkimals Smooth Move Sloth** (Mattel, Inc.) 9+ months

■ **Learn & Groove Dancing Panda** (Leapfrog) 9+ months

■ **Peg Brite** (Quercetti) 4+ years

lot of times, with kids of this age, sharing and taking turns is tough. The Take-Along Town scored well with this challenge. It's a well-constructed, well-thought-out toy."

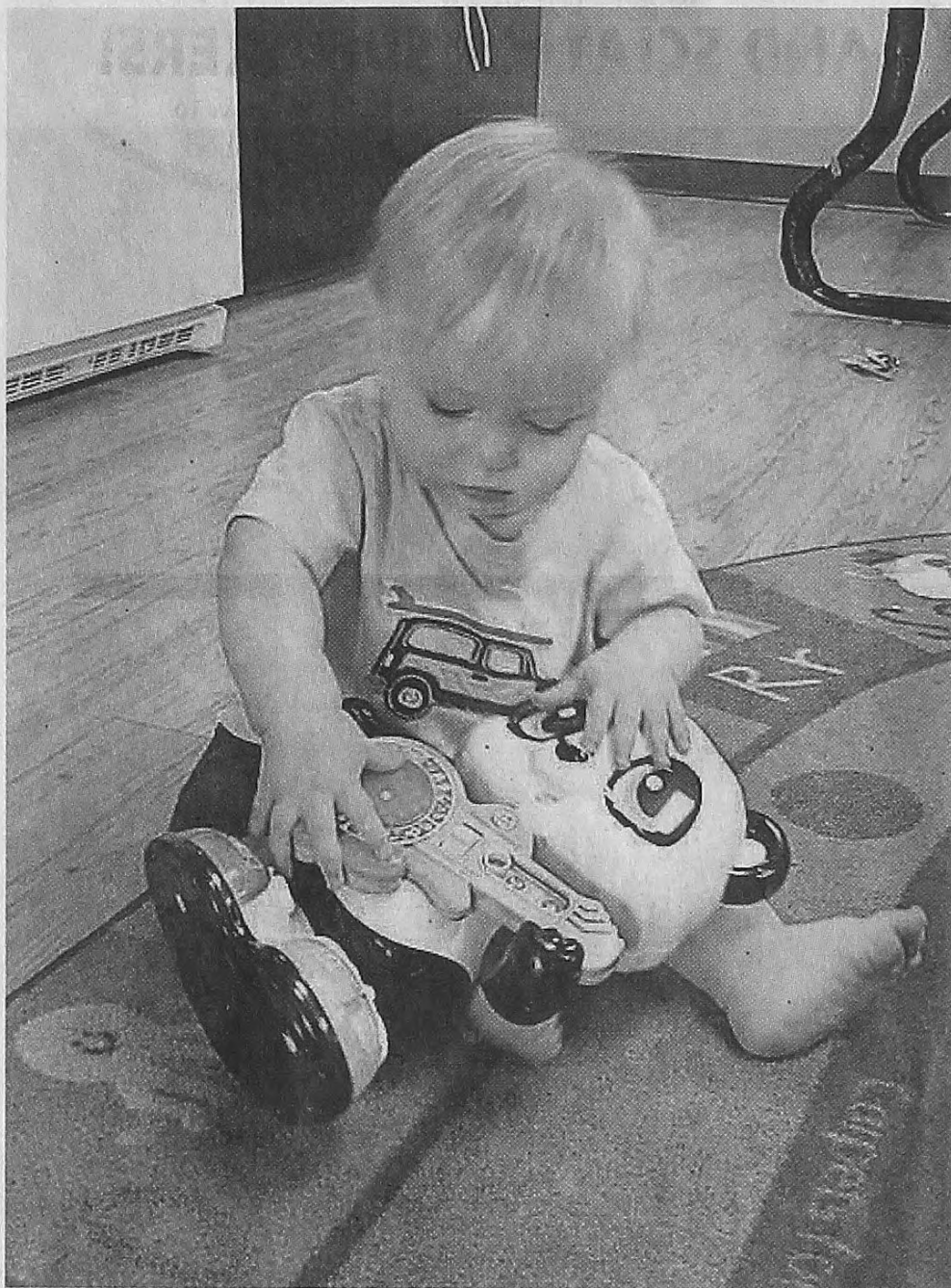
Chada, a longtime educator, urged parents of infants to withhold electronics from their children for a minimum of the first two years of life.

"And from the time they're 3 to 6 — or even later than 6 — kids should be limited to 15 or 20 minutes a day with electronics," he said.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, play is important for child development, but children learn best from adults.

"They get language skills, learn about how the world works and get feedback that can reinforce learning and positive behavior," the AAP says in its new guidelines for people buying toys for kids.

"We are inundated with all kinds of sensory-stimulating noise and light toys, and digital media-based platforms with child-oriented software and apps. Kids need to use their imaginations,



The Goddard School's Cameron tests out a toy. COURTESY OF THE GODDARD SCHOOL

they need to move both their hands and their bodies and they need to express creativity.

The AAP advised parents to "use caution when they see "educational" on the label.

"The truth is most tablets, computer games and apps advertised as educational aren't," the non-profit stated. "Most educational apps target memory skills, such as ABCs and shapes.

"These skills are only one part of school readiness. The skills young children really need to learn for success in school (and life) include impulse control, managing emotions, and creative, flexible thinking. These are best learned through unstructured and social play with family and friends."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

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## 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...

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*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".



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!



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CST27170\_H2247-001



## Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

and fire funds were determined to be the appropriate source to pay for the township's defense."

"In both cases, the township's liability provider declined to provide a defense," she said. "With respect to Mr. Meier's lawsuit, his salary and benefits are paid equally from the police and fire funds. If he is successful in his suit, any 'recovery' would be paid out of the police and fire funds, and so, after discussing with the township auditors, it was determined those funds should pay for the defense."

"Similarly with the Greene case, the estate has 'stepped into' the shoes of former dispatcher Rachel Rowell and is asserting a claim she purportedly has against Canton."

"Dispatchers' salary and benefits are paid equally from police and fire funds, and so again, after consulting with our auditors, it was determined that police and fire funds were, again the appropriate source."

Officials declined to comment as to why the liability provider declined to defend the cases.

In the Greene case, the law firm of O'Conner, Degraia, Tamm and O'Connor will represent the township at a fee of \$250 per hour.

In the case of Meier vs. Canton Township, Eric Pelton, the managing partner of Kienbaum, Hardy, Viviano, Pelton and Forrest, proposed the following rates for the township: \$335 per hour for his services; \$300 and \$295 per hour for certain other partners in the firm; and between \$225 and \$275 per hour for associate work.

Meier initially made his case at a Merit Commission meeting July 22, testifying that the township's current interpretation of the pension rules is wrong.

The Merit Commission conducted a second hearing Sept. 16, voting 2-1 to refer the issue to the Board of Trustees.

The board voted 6-1 on a resolution in support of the township position on Meier's pension and denying his request to have it restored.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.



A lawsuit alleges that Stephen Greene, left, died in 2018 because of the negligence of two Canton Township dispatchers. COURTESY OF THE GREENE FAMILY

## Birthday

Continued from Page 1A

direction to her family where she was going," he said. "We've searched the woods like crazy. We just haven't been able to locate her."

Wilson said an officer stopped by her home over the summer to say volunteers were searching for missing people in the park.

At this point, she would prefer her daughter dead than getting tortured and raped somewhere, she said.

"If somebody took her, they're not going to take care of her with no money for all this time," she said. "That's how I feel."

But she still looks for clues. She forges on despite the lack of closure.

"When Chris disappeared, I had to go on with my life for Cody," she said. "He's a really good person. He's a lot

### About this series

Crime statisticians warn of a cold case crisis. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the nation has about 250,000 unsolved murders, and the number rises by several thousand each year.

Hometown Life is talking with some of the investigators who are involved in various cold cases in metro Detroit and highlighting some of those files.

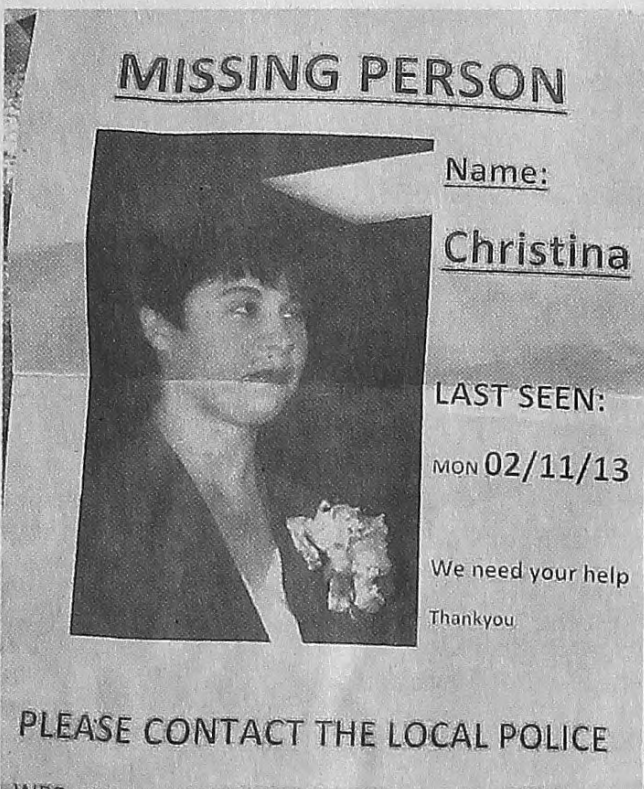
like Chris."

She finally gave away some of her daughter's belongings earlier this year.

"I kept hoping she'd come back," Wilson said.

### Forced to let go

There are the balloons to consider. Wilson releases them for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions for both her deceased husband and their



Kathleen Wilson shared a flyer with Hometown Life from when her daughter went missing in 2013.

SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

missing daughter. Cody is her companion.

"We say something, and let the balloons go

up," she said. "It makes me feel good to do something like that."

Christina Balog mar-

ried a man her parents considered domineering. They divorced, and she returned to live in her parents' home.

Balog had bipolar disorder. For those last few years, she never lost the agitation that came along when her father, Robert Wilson, died from cancer.

"The man, even when he was sick, always had a smile," Wilson said. "He'd give you the shirt off his back. That's the way Chris was. She was a lot like her father. It really hurt her bad when he died, even though we knew it was coming."

Because of kidney issues, her daughter could no longer take medications that had helped her in the past. Wilson remembered Chris growing afraid to take showers and seeking behavioral care.

Days after being released from a facility, Wilson said her daughter sat at the end of her bed. She asked questions

about their plans for the day.

"She kept it up and kept it up," Wilson said. "I was a wreck."

Christina Balog told her mother that someone was coming to get her.

"I said, 'Nobody is coming to get you.' She said, 'Yep, there's a guy right there with a suitcase.' I said, 'He lives next door. Nobody is coming to get you.'"

"She put her shoes on. 'I'm going for a walk.' I said, 'OK.' Then she took her shoes off. She must have done that about five times. She finally said, 'Well, I'm going for a walk.'"

### Missing mom

Cody was at school when his mother disappeared.

Wilson now has custody of the man, now 22.

"He hopes she comes home," Wilson said. "He still thinks she's going to come home."

Cody did not want to comment for this story. He said he doesn't have much to say and doesn't remember a lot about his mother.

"All I know is I miss her," he said. "I just know that she's a good person."

Their planned balloon date is Dec. 16, Balog's 50th birthday.

"It's going to be a sad one," Wilson said. "It's not as though I don't think about her every day, because we do. But it is what it is until we get closure."

"After seven years and nothing ... Cody thinks she's going to come back but I don't think so. If I found her on my porch, I'd be excited."

"Thank God, I've got Cody."

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

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# Obituaries

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## James A. Hogan, Sr.

**STUART, FL** - James A. Hogan, Sr., of Stuart, FL, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, MI, passed away on November 21 at the age of 87. Jim was born in Detroit, on January 25, 1932. He grew up in Birmingham, MI, graduating from Birmingham Baldwin High School in 1950. He attended the University of Michigan, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration and Accounting from the School of Business in 1954 and 1955. He then passed the CPA exam and joined his father's accounting firm, Hogan, Juengel & Harding in Detroit. The firm merged with Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers), where Jim became a partner and served until his retirement in 1994. He was a Lieutenant jg in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1956 through 1966. In 1956, he married his college sweetheart, Janet, and they settled in Birmingham to raise four children: Jim Jr., Dan, Mary Jane (Thom Johnson) and Tim (Peggy). He coached Little League Baseball teams and enjoyed bowling at the Detroit Athletic Club, then later with the Stuart Yacht & Country Club team. He loved playing golf with his kids and friends, which they enjoyed at Orchard Lake Country Club and at the Stuart YCC. He served as president of the Stuart YCC in 1998-1999. Jim is survived by his wife Janet and four children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his two sisters, Alice Bring and Judy Hair, and their children. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be sent to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - Sacred Space Campaign, 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, MI 48009.



## Grace Kuhns

Grace Kuhns, age 76 on October 9, 2019 in Portland Oregon. Grace was born in Detroit on May 14, 1943 to Doris Bridges and the late Jack Wigley. Her mother later married Ted Kuhns. A graduate of Plymouth High School in 1961, she loved music and poetry all her life, contributing to many plays, choirs, and poetry groups throughout her life. She attended Albion College and majored in music; later attended Eastern Michigan University and became a licensed psychologist.

Grace is survived by her mother, Doris Kuhns, sisters, Victoria (Kevin) Wheeler of Portland OR and Cynthia Cox of Plymouth, brother Ted (Kim) Kuhns of Whitmore Lake, MI, many nieces and nephews and dear friends. She will be sorely missed. She will be remembered for her loving, compassionate nature, and sense of humor. An avid bird lover, memorial contributions can be made to the Audubon Society at [audubon.org](http://audubon.org).

## David Milton Powell

David Milton Powell, age 85, passed away on November 27, 2019 in Livonia, MI. Beloved husband of the late Mavis. Loving father of David A. (Tommye) Powell, Pamela (Chuck) Reidy, Patricia (Tony) Conso- lo, Peggy (Randy) Liepa, Mark Powell, and Penny (Jack) Slayton. Cherished grandfather of Rachel Powell; John, Meghan, Emily, and Kevin Reidy; Matthew and Shannon Conso- lo; Erin, Christopher, and the late Kelsey Liepa; Sean, Moya, and Emma Slayton. He is survived by his siblings Anne and Bill and predeceased by his sister Patricia. David worked for the Midland Public Schools starting as a teacher in 1960 at Chestnut Hill Elementary. He became a principal at Mills Elementary in 1967 and later retired as principal at Chippewassee-Windover Elementary Schools in 1994. Services were held by Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia at St. Aidan Catholic Church, Livonia, on Monday, December 2. He was laid to rest at New Calvary Cemetery, Midland.



Harry J Will Funeral Homes

## Mary Anne Van Meter

**WALLED LAKE** - Mary Anne, age 97, of Walled Lake, passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2019. Surviving are her children, Ward (Grace) Van Meter, Alan (Faye) Van Meter and Karen Niedziela; grandchildren, Brandy Van Meter, Bianca Van Meter, Shane (Rebecca) Van Meter, Corey Van Meter, Miles Van Meter, Giovanna Van Meter and Dan Niedziela; great grandchildren, Jordan Valdez, Mia Kanu, Danica Van Meter, Leia Dawson, Ariaiah Van Meter, Alayna Van Meter, Aireana Van Meter, Harley Jaxxon Grey and Justice Van Meter; sisters, Connie Garamone and Carol Ann Burak; brother-in-law John Hahn. Sadly, Mary Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Henry J. Van Meter (d. 1994) and sister, Kay Hahn. Funeral services were held December 2, 2019 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial tributes are suggested the the Alzheimer's Association. [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)



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~Natalie Standiford

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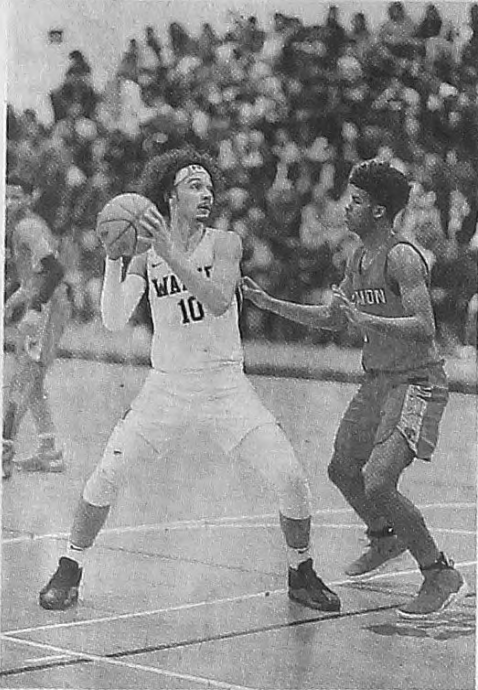
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Medical marijuana is not available to individuals under the age of 18

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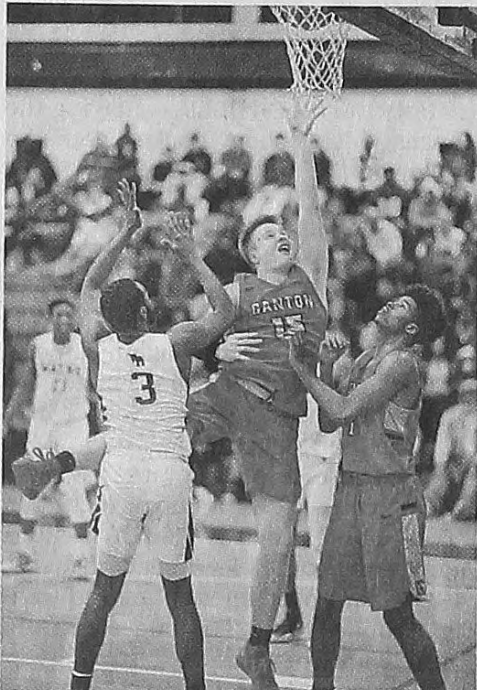


# Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Wayne's Riccardo Covin is guarded by Canton's Kendall Perkins.



Canton's Jake Vickers goes up for a shot. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Identities change ahead of 2019-20 season at Canton, Wayne Memorial

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton boys basketball head coach Jimmy Reddy does not view the Chiefs' loss to Wayne Memorial in the district final this past season as an "upset." Yes, Canton had won 21 straight games, using the offensively sound

guard combination of B. Artis White and Vinson Sigmon to score more than 70 points in a game nine times during the 2018-19 season. Yes, the Chiefs came into the game as the KLAA champions, defeating Salem soundly in the quarterfinal and John Glenn by six in the semifinal. But to Reddy, Wayne Memorial was

See PREVIEW, Page 3B

GIRLS BASKETBALL NORTH FARMINGTON 50, BIRMINGHAM GROVES 47

## Raiders hang on to take season opener

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The North Farmington girls basketball team needed a fresh start to the 2019-20 season. The Raiders took the court Tuesday for the first time, coming off a 2-17 season, falling to Bloomfield Hills in the district semifinals a season ago. Before the season, many thought North Farmington would be a lock for last place in the OAA White division. But head coach Jeff Simpson left the court in a way that the Raiders were not used to last season: victorious. North Farmington (1-0) pulled off the 50-47 victory against Birmingham Groves (0-1), a team it lost to twice in 2018-19. Holding an eight-point lead heading into the final quarter, the Falcons fought their way back, starting with an 11-5 run to bring Groves back to within four points. After allowing five straight points, Groves came back again, coming back to within three points after senior forward Ellie Ruprich grabbed an offensive board and put the ball up for the score. However, North Farmington senior guard Molly Simpson secured the vic-

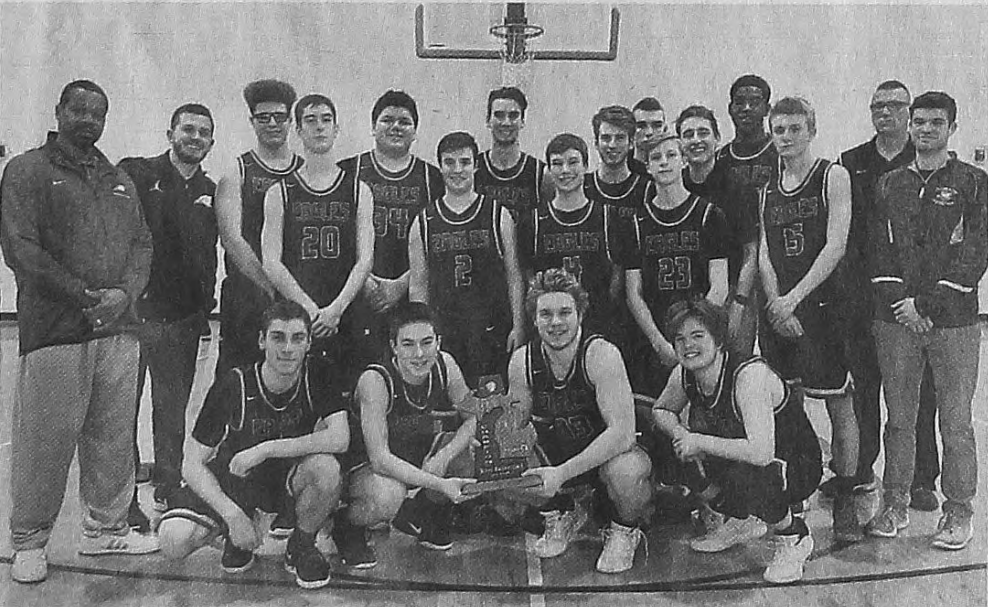
North Farmington, 2-17 last season, showed something it did not have a year ago: an ability to finish. tory late, connecting on three-of-four free-throw attempts in the final minute. "We held on," Jeff Simpson said. "It was a battle." Midway through the fourth quarter, Jeff Simpson turned toward his assistants, telling them, "We need to learn how to win." And even though Groves showed fight late in the game, the Raiders showed something they did not have a year ago: an ability to finish. "I think we did some things down the stretch where we did, we closed it out," Jeff Simpson said. "Could it be better? Yes, it's game one. I'm really happy with the effort." Trailing, 8-7, after the first quarter, the North Farmington offense came to life a little bit. Molly Simpson hit three of her four first-half 3-point tries in the

See RAIDERS, Page 2B



North Farmington's Maya Kelly tries to get a shot up to the hoop past Groves' Kaitlyn Quinn during the game Tuesday. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW



The Plymouth Christian basketball team celebrated its third consecutive district title last season. SUBMITTED

## Plymouth Christian aims to defend district title

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Plymouth Christian boys basketball team enters the 2019-20 season with high expectations after winning a third consecutive district title last season. The team returns a number of key players and should pose a threat to defending state champion Southfield Christian. For Plymouth Christian coach Matt Windle, the goal is to win a regional. "We are young but experienced with a lot of starters coming back," Windle said.

"I think we will be competing for the top of the Blue (Upper) division in our conference with Southfield Christian and Novi Christian. Southfield has not lost a conference game in eight years but I truly think we can change that this year. "We beat them this summer so that helped build some confidence in the kids. We are favored to be the top seed in our district and win it. I am anticipating us playing against Southfield Christian in the regional final this year. We have not won a regional for boys basketball, so that is the goal."

See EAGLES, Page 3B



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## GIRLS SWIMMING DIVISION 3 STATE FINALS



The Cranbrook-Kingswood girls swim team placed second in the state in the Division 3 meet. COURTESY OF CRANBROOK ATHLETICS

## Cranbrook takes second, Marian third

Andrew Vaillencourt

HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two Hometown Life-area teams placed in the top three at the recent Division 3 state swim finals at Oakland University.

Cranbrook-Kingswood and Marian finished second and third, respectively, at the state championships in late November. Neither school could catch East Grand Rapids, which took home the state championship.

East Grand Rapids finished with 317 points, Cranbrook-Kingswood ended with 306 and Marian placed third with 245, more than 110 points higher than the fourth place team, Chelsea.

Detroit Country Day, another team in the region, tied for 24th overall with 23 points.

Cranbrook-Kingswood's Gwenyth Woodbury was the state champion in the 200 free with a time of 1:49.07.

Cranbrook-Kingswood's Justine Murdock was the state champion in the 200 IM with a time of 2:05.62 and state champion in the 100 breaststroke with a 54.53.

The Cranes also took first place in the 200 free relay and the 400 free relay.

4. Chelsea 134
5. Hamilton 131
6. Bay City John Glenn 124
7. Plainwell 103
7. Tecumseh 103
9. Battle Creek Harper Creek 75
10. Grand Rapids Christian 71
11. Dundee 62
12. Milan 60
13. Spring Lake 56
14. Holland Christian 54
15. Allegan 53
15. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 53
17. Grosse Ile 38
18. Powers Catholic 36
18. GR Catholic Central 36
20. Williamston 32
21. Trenton 31
22. Otsego 27
23. South Haven 25
24. Detroit Country Day 23
24. Owosso 23
26. Standish-Sterling Central 22
27. Adrian 20
28. University Liggett 16
29. Saint Clair 13
30. St Johns II
31. Coldwater 9
32. Eaton Rapids 7
33. Ionia 4
34. Bishop Foley 3
35. Manistee 2

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).

### Complete Division 3 results

1. East Grand Rapids 317
2. Cranbrook Kingswood 306
3. Bloomfield Hills Marian 245

## BOYS HOCKEY

## Brighton wins longest game in county history

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Playing the longest high school hockey game in Livingston County history may have taken a toll on Brighton.

After beating Clarkston, 3-2, in four overtimes in the Nov. 29 semifinals of the Cranbrook-Kingswood Thanksgiving Tournament, the Bulldogs lost, 6-3, to Salem in the championship game.

Logan Mitchell-Petitta ended the Clarkston game by scoring 32 seconds into the fourth overtime.

The game lasted 75 minutes, 32 seconds, breaking the county record of 75:25 set on March 10, 2015, when Birmingham Brother Rice beat Hartland, 4-3, in four overtimes in a state Division 2 quarterfinal. The longest game in Brighton history was a 4-3 triple-overtime loss to Milford in the regional semifinals on March 2, 2000.

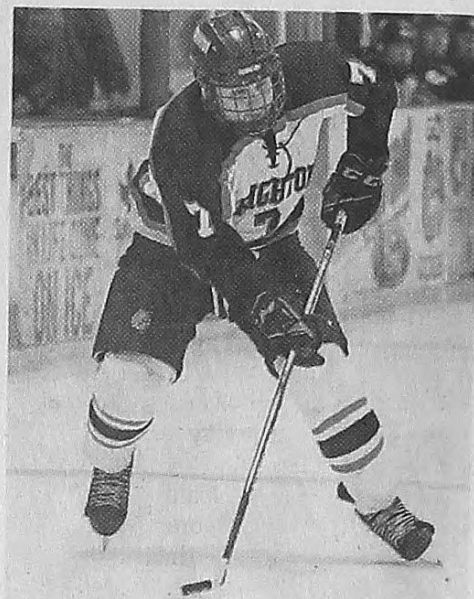
What set this game apart from most marathon hockey games is that it took place during the regular season. In most regular-season tournaments, a shootout is eventually used after three periods or one overtime to determine a winner. Because the game was played at Wallace Ice Arena, which is owned and operated by Cranbrook-Kingswood, there were no other teams waiting for ice time, so the game could continue until a winning goal was scored.

"The winner was going to the championship game, so they're trying to make it as fair as possible," Brighton coach Paul Moggach said. "Part of it is they own the rink, so they can do what they want."

"It's always fun when you win those. Going deep in overtime certainly takes a lot out of the players, but both teams were competing hard and we got a good result."

Will Jentz scored Brighton's first two goals, including one on the power play in the third period to force overtime. Landon MacDonald had two assists, while Chris Wozniak had 25 saves for the Bulldogs.

Brighton (3-2) has played three overtime games, beating Saginaw Heritage



Logan Mitchell-Petitta scored 32 seconds into the fourth overtime to give Brighton a 3-2 victory over Clarkston on Nov. 29. TIMOTHY ARRICK/ FOR USA TODAY NETWORK-MICHIGAN

and Clarkston and losing to Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Moggach hopes that this experience in extra time pays off in the state tournament if the Bulldogs play next-goal-wins hockey.

"This helps us build our resume, so when we get to another game at some point when it's really critical, we'll know what it takes and have the experience," he said.

The championship game pitted the No. 4 Bulldogs against No. 5 Salem. Salem scored three power-play goals to win a game in which Brighton had a 22-18 edge in shots on goal.

"We took penalties and Salem has a good power play," Moggach said. "They took advantage of it and scored three power-play goals. That was the difference there. Sometimes when you're tired, you take penalties. You're not mentally as sharp and you're a little bit slower. I don't want to use that as an excuse."

Brady MacDonald, Nate Przysiecki and Carter Jacobs scored for Brighton.

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



North Farmington's McKenna Galloway is introduced before the game Tuesday. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Raiders

Continued from Page 1B

second quarter, outscoring the Falcons, 17-12, to take a six-point lead at halftime.

The offensive success moved from Molly Goodwin to senior guard Maya Kelly in the third quarter, recording 7 of the team's 12 points.

With Kelly and Molly Simpson leading the way with 16 and 14 points, respectively, head coach Jeff Simpson has come to rely on his two senior captains for the majority of the offensive work.

"They were leaned on a lot last year to score, and they are going to be targets for a lot of people this year, and they handled it," he said.

Groves head coach Jessica Wieseler said the fourth quarter comeback, bringing the Falcons to within one score, was the kind of play she wanted to see from the tip.

"I think we dropped our first game jitters a little bit, and we finally started to get after them defensively, which was

the goal from the start," Wieseler said.

From the start, Ruprich proved to be a matchup problem for the Raiders in the post.

The senior led the Falcons with 13 points, consistently getting offensive rebounds and blocks against her opponent.

"She's going to give a lot of people fits," Jeff Simpson said of Ruprich.

With a win in the first game, Kelly said she and her teammates were extremely happy and excited about the prospects of the season. Instead of being satisfied, the senior guard said this will fuel the fire moving forward.

"We just have to keep that momentum going because if we quit now, that's the rest of the season thrown and we can't do that," Kelly said. "They have ranked us at the bottom of the White division, but I think we proved ourselves today."

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).



Groves senior Ellie Ruprich, left, blocks a shot by North Farmington's Sele Lefler. Ruprich led the Falcons with 13 points.



## Preview

Continued from Page 1B

the level of opponent he expected to see in the district final.

"People say upset, but Wayne had 18 wins," Reddy said. "We were playing in their gym, tough place to play, and we didn't play good enough. We didn't shoot it like we had been shooting it."

"They deserved to win, and we didn't."

For head coach Nkwane Young and Wayne Memorial, the 55-50 win against the Chiefs, despite falling in the regional semifinal to Detroit Catholic Central, is proving to be a springboard of confidence heading into the 2019-20 season.

For Reddy and the Chiefs, the loss to the Zebras is just one of many aspects Canton is using to fuel its fire heading into the upcoming year.

But both teams will look extremely different if they meet again in the playoffs.

### Zebras refine identity

With the loss of Isaiah Lewis and Dreyon O'Neal, the Zebras will have a new group of players that don't have much in-game experience.

"A lot of our guys, people have heard of them," Wayne Memorial senior center Riccardo Covin said. "A lot of guys in this gym have not played in a big time high school game."

For the older members of the team, including Covin and senior forward Tyler Smith-Whitlock, they know what it

takes to get as far as Wayne Memorial went this past season.

With that mindset, the seniors are leading the charge to not only get back to the regional semifinal, but past it, with a mindset on the state final in East Lansing.

"I feel like it set an example like, let's get farther than we did last year, especially for the people who were on the team last year," Smith-Whitlock said. "That's as far as we got then, let's push farther."

Young knows what he has in his arsenal on the court. He describes Covin as the 6-foot-8 center who will control the paint. He describes Smith-Whitlock as the glue guy that can do a bit of everything.

But if Wayne Memorial is going to find success, exceed the expectations a regional semifinal bid sets, Young will need to see his playmaker, who he describes as the best player of the team, shine.

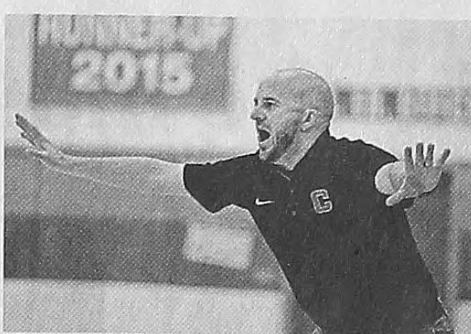
Junior guard Dante Foreman will need to perform.

"He's the engine that makes us go," Young said.

With the players to work with, Young said that he still doesn't know what the team's main approach will be on the court.

He said as practices continue and games happen, Wayne Memorial will start to define its style of play, which Young admits it does not have right now.

"We're looking for one, and that's the thing that we said about paying attention to detail and gelling together is, OK, do you want to play fast? Do you want to play slow?" Young said. "Right now, we



**For head coach Jimmy Reddy and his team, the loss to Wayne Memorial in last season's district final is just one of many aspects Canton is using to fuel its fire heading into the upcoming season.** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

haven't gotten there to what our identity is."

### Chiefs shift to defensive focus

After what Reddy described as a great year with a disappointing ending, Reddy said his team is motivated more by the outside perception that Canton will not be very good in 2019-20.

"It was over 50 points per game that we lost," Reddy said. "I just think our kids are motivated by the fact that they are going to try to prove people wrong this year."

Like Wayne Memorial on the other side of the KLAA, Canton is just changing its identity from an offensively-sound, guard-centric team to an inside-out, defensive-minded team this year.

Despite having six seniors on the ros-

ter, Ben Stesiak and Jake Vickers are the only two returning players that played meaningful minutes this past season.

"We both knew, coming into this year, losing great players like B. Artis and Vinson, that we had to step up this year," Vickers said. "We are going to have to make up a lot of points."

With Vickers and Stesiak leading the way as captains, Reddy said the focus in the first few practices has been on defense, preaching communication on the floor between players that have not spent much time on the floor.

"We are going to play to our strengths," Reddy said. "We have to rebound and defend and hold people under 50. That's our goal. We're just going to play a different style."

Along with Stesiak and Vickers, Reddy said Cole Vickers and Lake McIntosh will be integral for the success and depth for the team as a whole, and that they both need to step up and "learn in a hurry."

That is something Stesiak said he needs to help set the tone of. As a quarterback on the football team and the centerfielder on the baseball team, he knows how important leading by example is for the locker room.

"We have to build our chemistry throughout the season, work that bond together, get that brotherhood going that we have," Stesiak said. "As long as we get that, we will get rolling."

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).

## Eagles

Continued from Page 1B

Plymouth Christian plays in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division and is in Division 4.

Last year, the Eagles cruised to a district title by defeating Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 65-49. They lost to Southfield Christian handily in the regional semifinal.

Windle is hoping this year's team can build upon the success previous teams have had.

"I think it is just continue to challenge

our guys and keep pressing the culture of success," Windle said. "Practices are not easy. Playing Class A schools and other tough schedules are not easy. We do not care about having a good record with our non-conference. We want to play that tough schedule against bigger schools, so we can be prepared to battle in conference play and make a run in the state tournament."

"Success just helps our kids buy in to what we are expecting from them and what they are expecting from each other day in and day out."

**HEAD COACH:** Matt Windle, 5th season (57-39 career record)

**ASSISTANTS:** Troy Anger, Bill Miller, Evan

Horne

### KEY RETURNERS:

**#0 Mason Houk: 6-2 junior**

■ Returning starter

■ 4.3 ppg, 1.1 apg, 1.9 spg

**#1 Chibi Anwunah: 6-6 sophomore**

■ Returning starter

**#3 Nathan Etnyre: 5-10 junior**

■ 2-year returning starter

■ 2019 BCAM All-State

■ 1st-Team All-Conference

■ All-Conference "Dream Team"

■ 15.7 ppg, 4.0 apg, 3.0 spg

**#11 Nick Scott: 5-10 junior**

■ Returning starter

■ 6.6 ppg, 2.6 apg, 2.1 spg

**KEY GAMES IN 2019-20:**

■ Dec. 10 vs. Walled Lake Western

■ Dec. 13 vs. Livonia Franklin

■ Dec. 19 @ Livonia Churchill

■ Dec. 27 Northville Holiday Tournament (vs. Northville HS)

■ Dec. 28 Northville Holiday Tournament (vs. either South Lyon or AA Gabriel Richard)

■ Jan. 7 @ Southfield Christian (reigning state champs)

■ Jan. 14 vs. Inter-City (rival)

■ Feb. 7 vs. Trillium Academy (Homecoming)

■ Feb. 28 vs. Southfield Christian (reigning state champs)

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).

# A pro tip: Beware of the growth of automatic tipping



**On Travel**  
Christopher Elliott  
USA TODAY

Automatic tipping is everywhere, and it's time to do something about it.

I saw it at a pizza restaurant in Provo, Utah, recently. When I paid for my order, the electronic payment system asked if I wanted to tip 10% (cheap-skate!), 15% (better!) or the correct amount, 20%. No, the touchpad didn't actually comment on the choices, but the incorrect selection was clear: the "no tip" box that wasn't highlighted.

It was a takeout order, for goodness' sake.

Tipping is a confusing ritual for consumers. Coffee shops, hair salons and fast-food restaurants now actively solicit tips from their customers. But automatic tipping takes it to the next level. When a business either strongly suggests a tip or just adds a gratuity to your bill hoping you won't dispute it, that feels wrong.

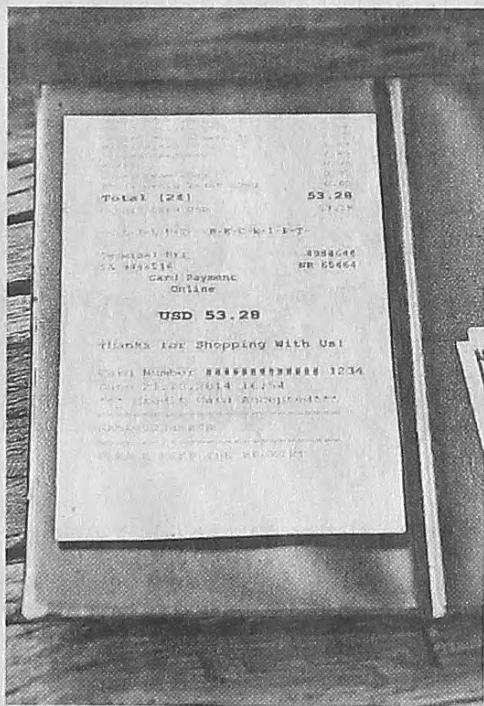
### Tipping at the next level

Consider what happened to Joshua Zweighaft, a New York-based travel consultant. When he ordered a beer at a poolside bar at an upscale hotel in San Jose, California, it added an 18% gratuity for his "convenience."

"I paid it," he says. "But did not leave an additional tip. I hope the gratuity went to the bartender."

Service charges for drinks are becoming common in resort towns, particularly Las Vegas. You can sometimes negotiate them off your bill, but do you really want to make a scene?

Even when a business doesn't automatically add a tip, it still feels as if you have no choice. Wade Eyerly, CEO of an insurance company based in New Canaan, Connecticut, is unhappy about the airport restaurants that solicit tips through a tablet-based payment system such as Square before



ANDREYPOPOV/GETTY IMAGES

### How to identify and eliminate an automatic tip

■ **Read before signing.** Automatic tips often hide in plain view. On a restaurant bill, they're rendered in small print just before your subtotal.

■ **Talk to a manager.** If you've inadvertently signed a bill that agrees to an automatic tip, or if a server or employee refuses to remove an automatic tip, politely ask for a manager. That person usually has the authority to override the gratuity.

■ **If all else fails, dispute the charge on your credit card.** Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, you have the right to remove charges such as an automatic tip, especially if it wasn't previously disclosed. It won't be easy, but it's worth a try.

you receive your food.

"It's like a Mob threat," he says. "Tip well, or who knows what happens, you know?"

The cruise industry may be the worst when it comes to auto-tipping. Cruise lines such as Carnival, Princess and Norwegian automatically add fees of up to \$23 per person, per day to your bill. You can remove these tips before you disembark, but once you're off the ship, there's nothing you can do.

### Should tipping even exist?

A lot of service employees believe tips ought to be mandatory. If you don't believe me, I'll show you the hate mail I'll get after this story appears. Before chewing me out, they'll inform me that a tip is part of their salary – and that by encouraging readers to withhold a tip, I'm an accessory to theft.

That's nonsense. Tips always have been optional. But the servers and tour guides are right about one thing: Gratuities are starting to feel like an undisclosed tax.

"I think you hit the nail on the head by calling it a tax," says Tanner Callais, editor of [Cruzely.com](http://Cruzely.com), a website about cruising. "These fees are all but mandatory, especially on a cruise."

### So what should you do?

If you see an automatic tip on your bill, do something about it quickly. No one should pay a tip before they receive the service.

Don't let a business tip shame you. Remember, a tip is for great service. It's not an entitlement.

What if it's too late? Elaine Thompson thought it might be after a conference dinner at a fancy restaurant. Thompson watched the dinner's host write out a \$200 tip.

"It dawned on me the next day that, as a party of more than eight, there was likely an automatic gratuity, so I called the (dinner) host to let her know," she says. "Sure enough, she had accidentally tipped the waiter about \$425 total. The restaurant was gracious enough to refund the additional tip."

Sometimes, that's all it takes.

### ASK THE CAPTAIN

## Updated training of pilots is essential

**John Cox**  
Special to USA TODAY

**Question: What aspect of commercial aviation do you feel currently needs the most review and reform? – Adam, North Carolina**

**Answer:** You ask a very difficult question – and a good one. It's very hard to pick a single issue.

Pilot training in the upcoming years is probably the most difficult issue facing commercial aviation. Having the men and women that enter the flight decks of tomorrow's airplanes properly trained is essential. We have to balance the necessary experience with high-quality training in both automation and manual flying. New aviators must be to adapt to increasingly complex airspace, in increasingly complex airplanes while maintaining the ability to fly and navigate manually if necessary. Properly diagnosing and responding to unexpected situations is a critical skill that comes from experience and training.

We have to move forward from the traditional training models and provide modern training for tomorrow's needs.

Efforts by training organizations, operators, and regulators are needed, with innovative solutions. Doing things as we have always done them will not suffice.

**Q: Is there a term for restarting stalled airline jet engines in flight? – Ron Hudson, Mississippi Gulf Coast**

**A:** If the engine has failed, pilots say the engine has flamed out. Restarting an engine from a flameout is known as a relight.



TRAVEL

# How to make the most of a Charleston trip

Morgan Hines  
USA TODAY

I arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, around 7 a.m. on Halloween. I was excited, ready for an adventure and a little bit lost.

The day before, I had booked tickets from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to Charleston and back through JetBlue's Monster Sale.

I hadn't had time to research. When I got to the Palmetto State, I had zero clue what to do.

The day before, I posted a sole tweet looking for help.

A friend connected me with a friend, and I got a restaurant recommendation for Millers All Day, an all-day breakfast joint.

I had a starting point, but how would I get there? I didn't know where the airport was relative to the restaurant.

Slightly groggy, I walked out of the terminal and was hit with a wave of humidity that didn't match my baggy jeans, boots and sweater ensemble. Thankfully, I had a pair of sandals in my backpack.

I took a bus from the airport downtown and pulled up Google Maps on my phone. Then I put it away. I just wanted to take it all in.

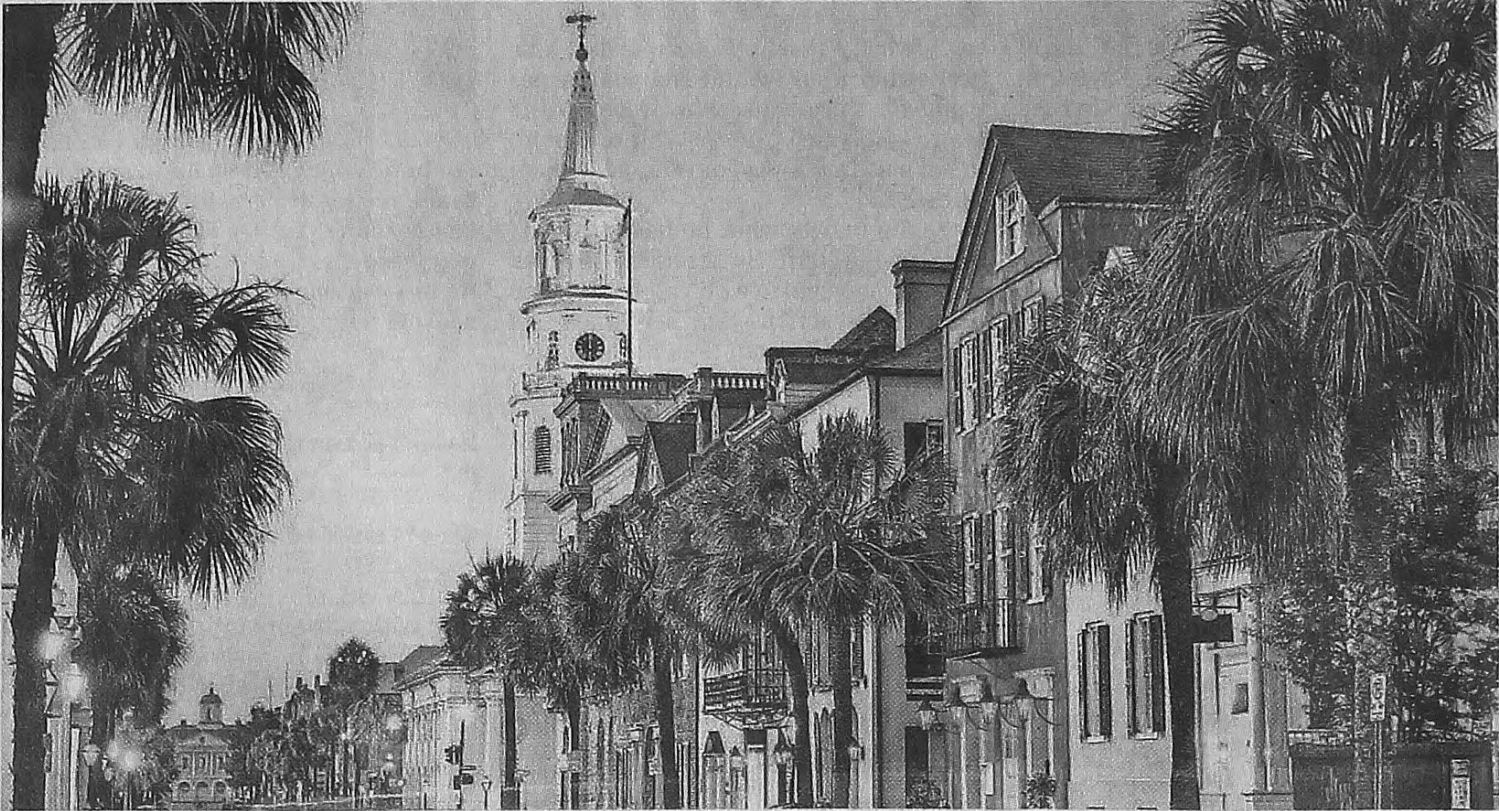
Sometimes the best way to get to know a place is to immerse yourself in it. The easiest way to start that, in my opinion, is by walking around.

To begin my day, I moseyed around the streets for a half-hour or so until I reached the restaurant. It didn't seem like much of the city was awake. I saw a few runners, parents walking with a stroller, a couple of tourists peering into windows of closed stores, bars and restaurants still mid-slumber.

The buildings were colorful, and the streets were lined with palm trees, which I definitely wasn't used to seeing in New York.

After a hearty breakfast at Millers that included unicorn grits, which are naturally pink, I asked Joseph McQueen, a server working behind the counter, where I should go next.

He told me to visit The Battery, a fortified seawall that offers a promenade



Charleston, S.C., is a treat for the senses, with colorful buildings and streets lined with palm trees. SEAN PAVONE/GETTY IMAGES

along the tip of the Charleston peninsula. Then, he said, I should walk Rainbow Row, a lineup of more than a dozen colored houses near the waterfront. He also suggested a stop at the Blind Tiger, a pub.

After paying, I made my way to The Battery, where I met a woman walking her two dogs. Naturally, I stopped to pet Sophie and Thomas and asked her what she thought I should add to my itinerary. She mentioned Charleston City Market, a "Greek revival" market built in 1841, according to its website.

I walked The Battery and Rainbow Row, where I enjoyed a nice sea breeze and snapped photos of the colorful homes. I returned to Rainbow Row and ran into some tour guides who provided a bit more of the area's history.

Later, I happened upon the market, which stretches for four blocks.

Everywhere I had been in Charleston, I saw signs for biscuits. I wasn't sure I'd find one to try myself because I'm gluten-free, but wandering City Market, I

found Callie's Hot Little Biscuit.

There, I learned about the importance of a biscuit from Carrie Morey, Callie's founder. She created Callie's, using her mother's recipe.

"Biscuits are the bread of the South," Morey explained, noting they bring the whole meal together. Morey said she had biscuits at every meal growing up.

"Southerners are known for entertaining. We take pride in our food," she said.

I ordered a gluten-free biscuit with blackberry jam and went into a souvenir shop across the street. From behind the counter, an employee told me to visit the Pineapple Fountain a popular tourist destination in Waterfront Park. Perfect, I thought, my next stop.

On my walk, I let myself get a bit lost and a bit hungry. I sat down to eat my biscuit. It was so good that someone came up to me and asked if I was enjoying it. I nodded, chipmunk-faced with a mouthful of biscuit and jam spread across my cheeks.

Eventually, I moved on and found a different fountain to kick my feet around in before arriving at the Pineapple Fountain. The pineapple motif is popular and can be found in different areas around the city. According to the SC Picture Project, the fountain is a good spot to make a wish or even splash around on a hot day.

After that, I explored the nearby City Gallery, which displays contemporary art exhibits and is free to the public.

Finally, I wound down at the Blind Tiger and chatted with the bartender, Heath Todd, about living in Charleston, some of the city's perks and the history of the pub.

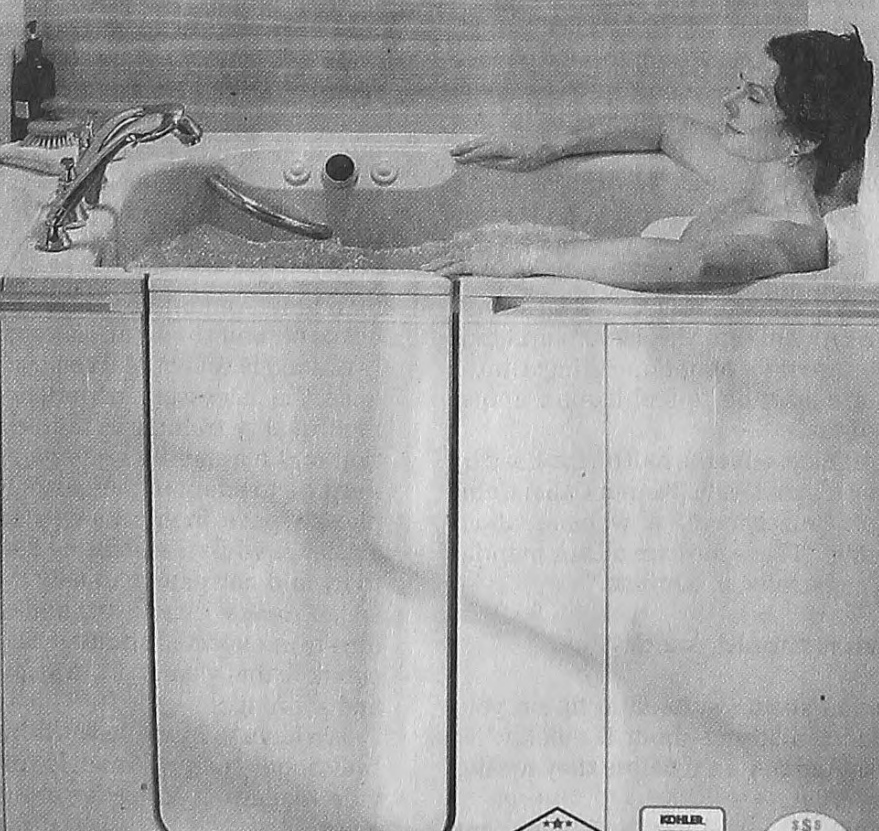
Without a plan, I managed to see a great deal of what Charleston has to offer by doing two simple things: walking and talking.

The day felt like picking flavors from a sampler box of candy. I tried different flavors – architecture, landscape, food, art – and now, I'll know what I want more of next time I go back.


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### Should you consider career change after turning 50?

 Kate Lopaze  
 thejobnetwork.com

These days, it may seem like every spotlight is on Millennial workers. What is their work style? How are they changing the workplace? Is avocado toast in the workplace a thing? Why do they change jobs so often? On the latter, the reality is that career mobility and changeability isn't just a Millennial thing — many workers of all ages find themselves ready for a new path. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average Baby Boomer holds 11.7 jobs throughout their career. The changes may be subtle (moving up a ladder or lateral moves to a different company), or more drastic (changing careers altogether).

If you're wondering about whether to make a mid- or late-career change of your own, here are some factors to consider.

#### Are you prepared to move 'backward'?

While a career change can sound good in theory (especially if you're feeling like you're in a professional rut), it's likely to involve some drastic shifts. Salary, benefits, seniority — all of those may be less than you're accustomed to if you're starting over in a totally new field. Are you prepared to accept less money or vacation time in exchange for getting a foot in the door?

#### What experience do you have?

Even if you must go back to the square one of an entry-level job in your new field, your years of experience don't just go away. You're bringing a history with you, no matter what. As you think



GETTY IMAGES

about what you'd like to be doing with your career change, it's important to take a step back and think about the history you've accumulated. It may not be directly applicable in a totally new field, but instead of thinking of your past job life, like "My responsibilities were X," try framing it as "When I worked on X, here's what I learned about leadership/management/teamwork/etc."

#### What are your skills?

Hard skills (like certifications or job-specific skills) may or may not make the jump to your next career. But like with your experience, you should be thinking of how to translate them into the kinds

of soft skills that will transfer over. For example, your specific coding knowledge may not be super-relevant to your next job as a teacher, but your coding skills help you think efficiently about how to organize and present information. So, as you prepare to write your new-you resume, think hard about the buckets of skills you already have and how they can be applied in unorthodox ways.

#### What education would you need?

And for any skills you don't yet have (or will need to build) in your new career, you'll need to consider what you'll need to do to a) break into your field, and

b) keep growing and developing once you're in it. This may mean taking classes online to brush up basics, or it could mean going back to school, full-stop, to get a certification. For example, many career-changers end up in the health-care field — an industry that often requires specific, detailed knowledge and certification before getting even an entry-level job. Are you prepared to balance your current job with classes, or to quit your job and spend the time and money to get the education you'd need to move forward?

#### What's your retirement plan?

If you're changing careers, then this is not your standard "work for The Man for 30 years, get a gold watch, and retire into the sunset" scenario. You're making a significant commitment to a new phase, potentially for the rest of your working life. But at some point, you'll still need to consider the retirement endpoint.

Finance is typically the crucial factor here — if you disrupt your career after 50, it might mean making changes to your long-term plan as well. Talking with a financial planner can help you figure out what future retirement scenarios look like.

If you're thinking about making a big career shift, don't let inertia or fear hold you back! If you put careful thought into the possibilities and likely realities of making big professional changes, you should be able to find the right path for yourself.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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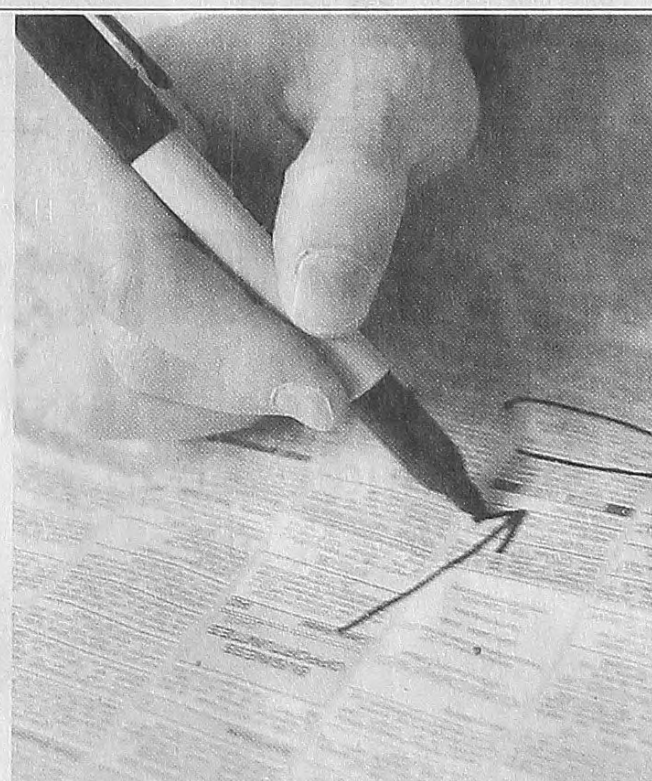
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
- 1 Ones with two feet

7 Side roads

13 Forcible dismissal

20 Huge fan

21 Baby's noise

22 Like many reference books, in the back matter

23 Kia steered in the wrong direction?

25 Given a nice smell

26 Wrinkle-reducing injection

27 Troop group

28 Chinese "way"

30 Jai —

31 "— all true"

32 Concorde, e.g., in brief

33 Toyota damaged by fire?

37 Spaceship Earth locale

40 Volvo rival, once

42 —'Pea (cartoon kid)

43 Caterpillar wheel part

44 Volkswagen full of Egyptian charms?

47 Seed case

48 "Don't look — that way!"

49 Sprayed (down)

50 News piece

51 Old Turkish title

52 Hunter in the sky

53 Revered figure

54 Superhelix material

55 Honda driven in anti-war protests?

58 Spanish for "tomorrow"

60 Collision

63 Busy crawler

64 Pro-learning gp.

65 Dodge made with no cables?

69 To a ship's back

72 Bicentennial baby, e.g.

73 Sleek fabric

74 Tennis' Edberg

78 Hyundai that transports

88-key instruments?

81 "The Addams Family" cousin

83 Cry weakly

84 Juan of Argentina

85 "Help!," asea

86 Ballerina's garment

88 "... but maybe I was wrong"

89 Work units, in physics

90 "Silent Fall" actress Tyler

91 Ford that's the favorite out of one's collection?

94 Master

95 Small inlet

96 Get over a hurdle

97 Savage

98 Nissan decorated with

101 Drink daintily

102 Hypothetical things

105 Animated "explorer"

106 With 35-Down, "Your wish is my command!"

107 Body wrap?

109 Italian "love"

111 Arise

114 Chevrolet only driven in April and May?

117 Changed genetically

118 USN clerks

119 Light wind

120 Of zero help

121 "— Song" (#1 John Denver hit)

122 Like finished wood

33 Checking acct. figure

34 24-month

35 See 106-Across

36 Task list

38 Attorney-to-be's study

39 Lout

40 Picture

41 \$ dispenser

44 Thin wedge

45 Opus ender

46 Online sales

48 Curve part

51 Use a tub

52 Band of eight

54 Challenges

55 Orzo, e.g.

56 Ovid's "Lol"

57 Self-turmoil

59 Presidential resignee

61 Cousins of plateaus

62 Exam for H.S. juniors

66 Causing wear

67 Writer Loos

68 Camera-ready proofs

69 Entreaty

70 Savage

71 Hoped-for finish time

75 Worked properly

76 Baseball's Moises

77 Goalies guard them

79 Calculator figs.

80 Many works of fiction

82 Wind farm spinner

86 — Maria (liqueur)

87 Sports arbiter, for short

88 Flip — coin

90 Tracks down

91 It "corrals" a baby

92 Sports arbiter, for short

93 "Darn tootin'"

95 Run an exhibit for

99 Of musical pitch

100 Walk-in-the-park class

101 Harbingers

103 Became ice

104 H.S. health class

107 — Valley, California

108 Midleg joint

109 Air about one

110 Air about one

111 Aussie ratite

112 Frat letters

113 Mag staff

115 Film director Howard

116 NFL passers

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									121							122				

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

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

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!

RETAIL WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- aisles
- anchor
- big box
- browsing
- cash
- clientele
- customers
- customization
- data
- demographic
- formula
- inventory
- loss leader
- mobile
- payments
- pricing
- retail
- returns
- sales
- shipping
- shopping
- stock
- supply
- wholesale

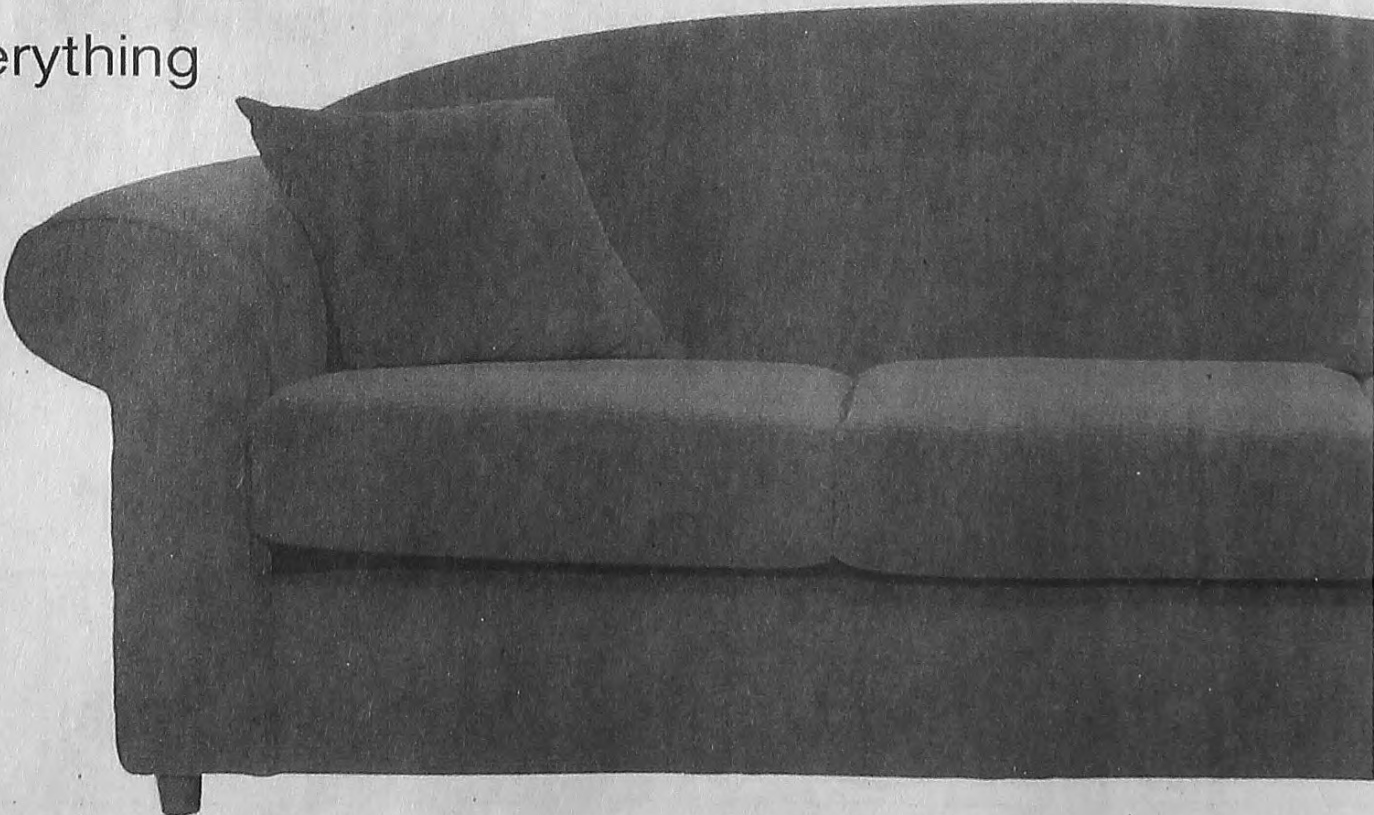
ANSWER KEY

0	E	O	N	Y	S		S	E	I	N	N	Y		S	S	E	T	E	S	N
E	Z	E	E	E	R		N	E	W	O	E	A		O	E	L	V	L	N	W
X	O	N	I	N	O		E	I	N	I	D	S		E	L	Y	N	W	E	
E	H	O	W		N	I	X	S		A	Y	S		V	H	O	O			
S	E	I																		
I	S	V	E	R																
S	N	O	O	A	Y	W	I	D												
L	O	N	O																	
E	T	N																		
N	Y	E	L	S																
H	E	G	H	V	H	O	S	S	E	T	E	S								
V	E	N																		
O	R	O	O	V	E	O	V	E												
N	O	I	R	O																
E	W	L	V																	
G	O	O																		
V	N	N	E	I	S	T	N	N	H	B										
I	V	L	V																	
D	E	D																		
E	X	E	D																	
O	H	E	A	V	E															

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

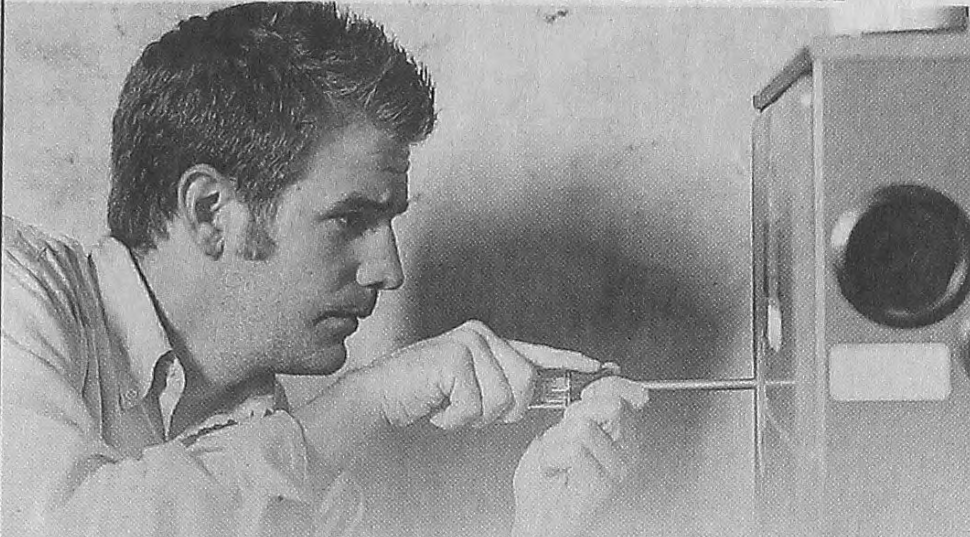
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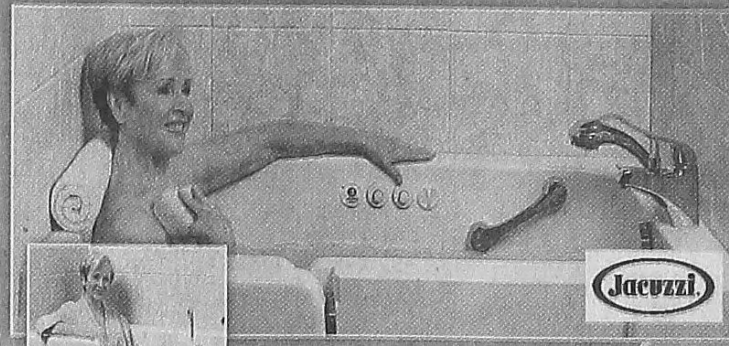
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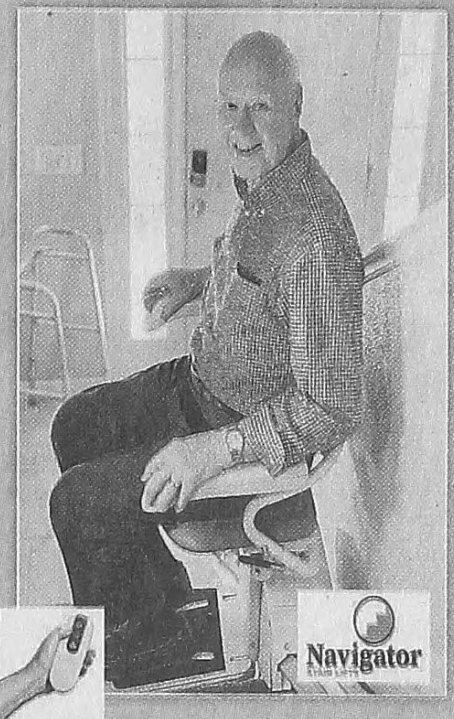
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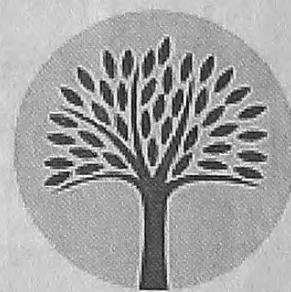
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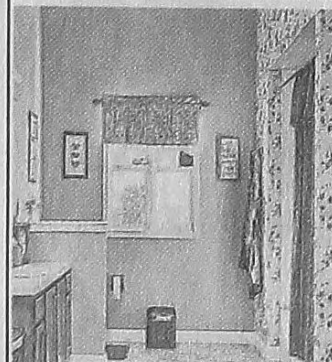
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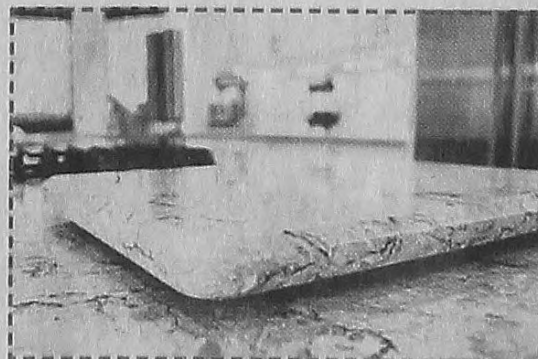
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