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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Health officials say alcohol abuse increased

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Maybe it's the pandemic isolation, or maybe it's the grief.

Perhaps it's all those virtual happy hours or the reality that drinking is simply cheaper when you stay home in-

stead of going to the bar.

Whatever the reason, St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and Growth Works, a social services provider that partners with the hospital, are seeing more people seeking out help for alcohol addiction.

"Sometimes, people come in thinking

they're having panic or anxiety attacks, and after talking to them we see some of these attacks they're feeling may actually be alcohol withdrawal," Dr. Patricia Paz Arabo, chair of emergency medicine at St. Mary Mercy, said.

National studies and surveys like those conducted by The Harris Poll and

Massachusetts General Hospital show more people reporting having recently participated in "heavy" or "binge" drinking during the pandemic.

A study by American Addiction Centers showed Livonia, Birmingham and

See **ALCOHOL**, Page 3A

New Westland cafe serving crepes, coffee close to home

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland's newest cafe is the fulfillment of a long journey that began in the Middle East.

Originally from Iraq, Dalya Aljhuri left the country with her family a few years after the war began, heading to Turkey. After 11 years in Turkey, her family moved to the United States, settling in Michigan in 2016.

The recent college graduate always had the idea of opening such a shop. But doing so proved difficult, including with limited resources coming to the country. The family bonded together, and eventually created Aroma Creperie and Cafe, which opened in late February at 6629 N. Wayne Road in the Westland Plaza shopping center.

"The idea of opening a creperie and cafe has been a dream for me for a very long time," Aljhuri said. "We faced incredibly hard times until we found this space."

The space, which formerly held Payless Shoesource, has been completely redone, including new flooring, paint and a brand-new look, a renovation that took roughly eight months. The space serves up both sweet and savory dishes, including mini pancakes, waffles, coffee and bubble teas. Crepe styles include sweet options such as strawberries and cream; apple cinnamon and bananas foster. Savory options include shrimp alfredo, beef stroganoff and huevos rancheros.

Drinks include a range of common finds like in other shops, including lattes, cappuccinos and more. That includes some international flavors, including a dalgona coffee, popular in places like Korea, and karak tea, com-



Aroma Creperie and Cafe manager Dalya Al-Jhuri prepares a peach and boba tea creation at the Westland location. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See **CAFE**, Page 3A

Cat with a career part of growing rescue trend

Eric D. Lawrence Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

When he isn't on the hunt, Wallace likes to lounge on the top of Kelly Vore's desk or scores of other spots in Vore's Downtown Home and Garden shop in Ann Arbor.

But these days, the orange feline's hunting tends to be as much for treats as the furry rodents that might find their way into the store.

Wallace still helps keep the mouse population under control at the more than century-old eclectic shop on Ashley Street known now for its spring bulb selection and mix of garden and other offerings rather than the barbed wire and dynamite that supplemented its array of farm supplies in its early days.

It's just that Wallace, who might be 17 years old although no one is quite sure, has mellowed a bit in the years he has been at the store. He still needs his space though, and he has the run of the place, including the barn and parking lot, thanks to an Invisible Fence setup.

Wallace spent two years at the Humane Society of Huron Valley before Vore adopted him for her store through its Barn Cat program. He'd not had much luck with prior adoption efforts, returning to the shelter three times before. But something about seeing Wallace at the humane society convinced Vore.

"He just struck me, tiny lion, you know," she said.

That Wallace has thrived at the shop shows how a cat that might not have been adopted in years past can

See **TREND**, Page 2A

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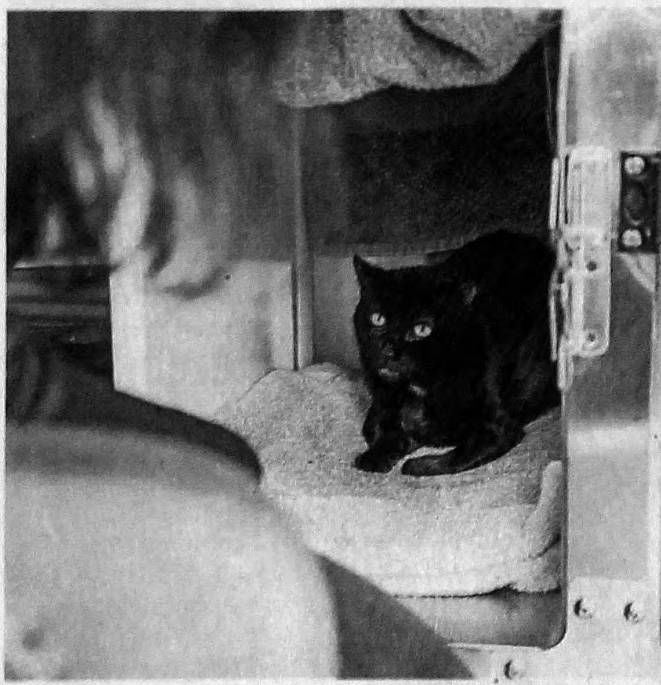
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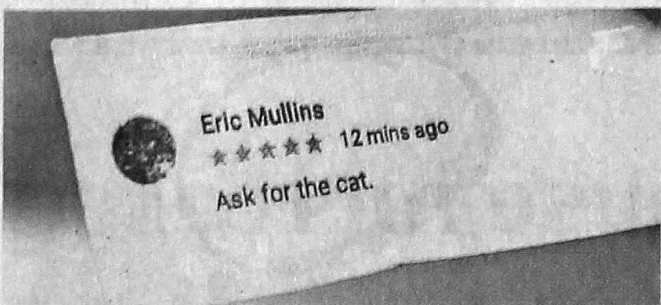
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Frostie looks around at the Michigan Humane Society in Westland on March 15. Working Whiskers helps home shy cats and ones that were not properly socialized before coming to the shelter.



Wallace, the store's cat, wanders through Downtown Home and Garden in Ann Arbor on March 22. Wallace came through a barn cat program at the local humane society. PHOTOS BY ANNIE BARKER, DETROIT FREE PRESS



A clipping of a review of the Downtown Home and Garden in Ann Arbor on March 22.

Trend

Continued from Page 1A

find a good home today. Many shelters provide similar types of adoption services through Barn Cat, Hard-working Cat or Working Whiskers programs.

"He's a barn cat. Not all of them are just content to be in an apartment," Vore said of the cat that's not just a solid mouser but one of the reasons customers will make a point of stopping in. "He needs room to move, and he's just, you know, a little beast."

Wallace did his best to keep the beast in check when a Free Press reporter and photographer stopped at the store last month. He eventually made his way off Vore's desk, but not before tolerating some petting around his furry head.

Signs of Wallace are scattered around the shop, from the carpeted cat tree to a sign with his picture marking his "spot" in an upper corner of the store.



Barn cats Cora (left) and Rory help keep the rodents at bay at Chris and Amy LeBlanc's Red Acres Farm in Livonia. PROVIDED BY CHRIS AND AMY LEBLANC



"He needs room to move, and he's just, you know, a little beast," store owner Kelly Vore said of Wallace.

Wallace isn't the first cat to make a home at the store. Lewis, another famous feline, made such an impression on the city that his passing in 2014 was memorialized in The Ann Arbor News.

"When I bought this business in 2015, I was like, 'I don't want to do this job without counsel of a cat,'" Vore said.

But Vore would tell you that Wallace is no second act, he's truly his own cat, and Lewis wasn't a goldfish to just be replaced.

Because shelters don't want price to be an impediment to adopting out cats like Wallace, the fees are kept minimal. At the Michigan Humane Society, the fee is \$20. Huron Valley doesn't charge. The cats are also spayed or neutered and get their vaccines.

Many of these cats weren't socialized at an early age and shy away from human contact.

Some do best with access to the outdoors while others aren't suitable for outdoor living because they were raised indoors but came from a difficult home situation. Barns and warehouses can work well for them, as long as the owners provide food, water, suitable shelter and medical care as needed, said Anna Chrisman, spokeswoman for the Michigan Humane Society.

On a recent Wednesday at the Michigan Humane Society's shelter in Westland, six cats were up for adoption through its Working Whiskers program. They'd come from a hoarding situation, where 70 cats were discovered in January, Chrisman said.

The names on the cages, representing different types of cereals — Oatbake, King Vitamin, Frostie, Reptar Crunch, Smorz and Puffed Wheat — showcased how the shelter staffers often pick a theme offering plenty of options when they get larger numbers of cats from one place.

A shelter can be a stressful place for felines who are used to having lots of places to hide, and the right kind of music can help calm them. As the soothing notes of a piano played over a speaker, Oatbake, a black domestic shorthair, sat in one corner of his cage. He wasn't interested in sniffing a reporter's hand when it was offered and quickly scampered to a covered area when given the chance.

Not all cats in hoarding situations will necessarily be so skittish, and some will tolerate being petted, but it's not possible for all of the cats to interact with an owner so that they become socialized to people when the numbers are so large, Chrisman said.

Years ago, a cat that arrived at a shelter and wasn't socialized would likely be euthanized, Chrisman said. The Working Whiskers program offers an alternative path.

"We love this program because it means that these cats now have an opportunity to find somebody who can be their caretaker, you know, if what you're looking for is not that cuddly lap cat, you just are looking for somebody who will hang out at your place of work and maybe come visit you while you're sitting at your desk forgetting to take lunch again, that sort of thing. These guys are ideal for that," Chrisman said. "These are cats who definitely are more independent. They are usually fine on their own so long as they have a caretaker who can keep an eye on them (and) make sure that they're taken care of."

That can mean outdoors, too. Wendy Welch, spokeswoman for the Humane Society of Huron Valley, said there's a misconception among some cat lovers that it's cruel to keep cats outside. Certainly, some cats prefer the indoors, but that's not always the case.

"Cats have lived outside for millennia," Welch said. "They're scrappy. They weren't domesticated the way that dogs were. Sometimes, they're not made for the

indoor life."

The barn cats that come through the humane society, which typically represent a fraction of the total number of cats up for adoption, often serve a needed niche, she said.

"They serve as very green pest control," she said. That's what brought Cora and Rory to Red Acres Farm in Livonia.

Chris and Amy LeBlanc had purchased the 1.6-acre property in 2019, later adding three goats and 21 chickens.

When it became clear the chicken feed was attracting rodents, the LeBlancs, who have five children, decided they'd better get some barn cats, so they turned to the Humane Society of Huron Valley and brought home the 12-week-old kittens in October.

The impact was almost immediate, with rodent remnants visible soon after the cats were released into the barn.

Chris, who works as a pharmaceutical inspector, had always wanted an "orange tiger cat," and he got one in Cora. Rory is a darker tabby.

"It's been fun watching them grow up together. They're playful," said Amy, who home-schools the couple's children.

Cora even plays with one of the chickens, following it around or running up to it quickly and stopping.

These are outdoor cats, Chris said, and they don't want to be held or touched. But there has been progress in getting the cats to warm up to their family. They'll accept treats from hands, and they no longer run from the LeBlancs when they approach.

Amy said a common misconception is that the family doesn't need to feed them, but that's not true. Cora and Rory get their cat food, and any rodents they might catch.

Finding homes for as many cats as possible is Beth Frank's mission.

Frank, of Saginaw, runs the Michigan Barn/Working Cat program page on Facebook. She's an activist pushing for humane treatment of feral or community cats, including through trap-neuter-release programs.

The barn cat Facebook group, which has more than 3,100 members, was formed in 2015. It acts as a network to connect those with feral cats to people with barns or other shelters, where cats at least 6 months of age can live and provide their mouse-catching services. Frank said the program has connected more than 2,000 cats with homes so far.

As with the other programs, those looking for a barn cat must be able to provide food and water and veterinary care along with shelter.

The cats also need time to acclimate to their new home before being released.

"It's not just take the cat to the barn and drop it off," Frank said, noting that barn cats can be great mousers for farmers and those with warehouses. "They really earn their keep."

Cats also need to be spayed or neutered. Frank said that last week someone wanted to post a listing for an "intact" male, but she wouldn't allow it. Instead, she provided a list of low-cost clinics. Cutting down on Michigan's excess population of dogs and especially cats humanely is a big part of Frank's focus. She's currently promoting a new group called the Michigan Coalition for Statewide Spay & Neuter.

There are too many homeless cats, and Frank would like to see that change.

"I've had cats all my life. They're just such unique creatures. I have a couple of dogs. I love dogs, but cats are individuals, and you're their slave," Frank said. "I love cats; they're the underdog. They don't get the attention they should."

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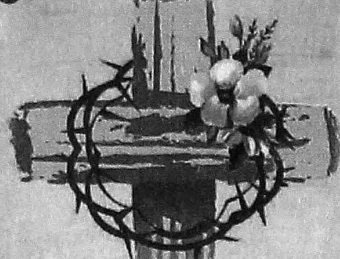
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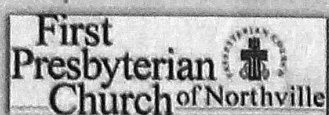
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Alcohol

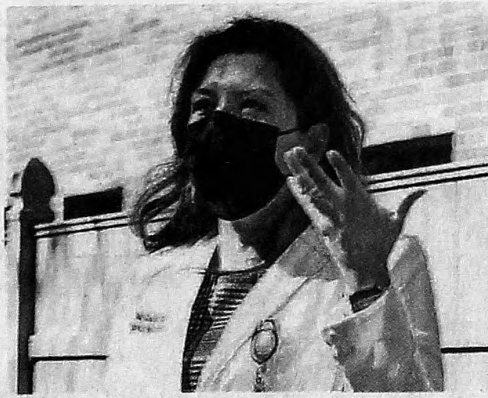
Continued from Page 1A

South Lyon among the top 20 cities in Michigan when it comes to volume of alcohol-related social media posts. A study by the Rand Corp. found the frequency of alcohol consumption in the U.S. rose 14% compared with before the pandemic. Women, in particular, increased heavy drinking days by 41%, according to the study.

"It's the prolonged pandemic, the solitude," Paz Arabo said. "Also, with some of the downtime and social meetings online, people were saying 'Let's meet online' contributed to it, too. People tried to make things fun and look for a recreational outlet.

"I think some people became dependent on substances unintentionally. I think it simply increased as a byproduct of what's going on."

St. Mary Mercy has a chemical dependency unit as well as an inpatient detox program. Paz Arabo suspects those services, along with the partnership with Growth Works, bring people to



St. Mary Mercy Hospital Emergency Dept. Chair Patricia Paz Arabo says her department is seeing more patients struggling with alcohol abuse.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the hospital when they decide to seek help.

Sarah Wiegand, a peer recovery coach for Growth Works, said that in her experience, alcohol has overtaken opioids as people's vice of choice during the pandemic. She said she thinks grief and lack of in-person interaction, especially for those already in recovery from substance abuse, led to the uptick.

"For a lot of people I know or have seen in hospitals, their number one reason was that they no longer had human connection they craved," she said.

Growth Works is a free social services program — substance abuse recovery is just one service it offers — that enables peer coaches like Wiegand to walk alongside people as they go through the recovery process. Wiegand said her job also includes things like patient advocacy and connecting her clients with programs like Alcoholics Anonymous or Celebrate Recovery.

Growth Works and St. Mary Mercy are seeing more cases emerge in the hospital's emergency department. Wiegand said for alcohol addiction recovery, a hospital is the best place to seek help.

"I would suggest going to the hospital purely from a safety standpoint," she said. "People don't realize how dangerous it is to get off alcohol. You can go through seizures, strokes, you could die. Alcohol can kill you, and that's the last thing you want. So going to a hospital and getting help there is a good step."

Paz Arabo said many of those ER cases are coming from people realizing they need help after becoming frequent

at-home drinkers. The Livonia Police Department's data appears to jive with that — February 2022 saw 18 drinking under the influence citations issued with February 2021 and 2020 each had 28.

The potential health impacts like increased enzyme levels, high blood pressure and cirrhosis of the liver lead Paz Arabo to recommend people follow her habit and drink as infrequently as possible. On the social side, Growth Works feels its partnership with St. Mary Mercy works so well because its staff is there to caution again the mental and social harms of too much drinking.

"It has effects on people's families, their jobs, their community, their friendships and their relationships," said Laura Reiners, the community relations director for Growth Works.

They say the first step to getting out of that cycle is to ask for help.

"It does so many things that I think people don't realize, especially young people," Wiegand said. "We think we're invincible ... I do this because I want to see you do better. I want this to get to the point where the client can look at me and say, 'I don't need you anymore.'"

Cafe

Continued from Page 1A

monly found in the Middle East.

Aljburi picked the space in Westland for many reasons. In addition to being close to home, she recognized there was nothing like her concept in that part of the city.

"In this area specifically there's not a lot of places for brunches, for just sitting, chilling, studying and having a good time," she said. "So we tried to create something different in this area specifically."

Ranya Rajaa, Aljburi's sister, said they want to keep building on the success they're seeing with repeat customers — they see plenty — and continue to reach new people.

"We have had very positive feedback, the people who came, they are coming again," she said. "The only thing we need at the moment is exposure."

Being a family business allows Aljburi to spend time with her siblings and

her mother, Rajaa Aljburi, the person she attributes much of the family's success to, especially when coming up with recipes.

They also are thankful for the opportunity to come to the U.S., a place that has provided them a shot at the American Dream.

"She's the best cook ever and I learned all of my skills from her," she said. "We're nothing without her. This dream specifically wouldn't come true without her."

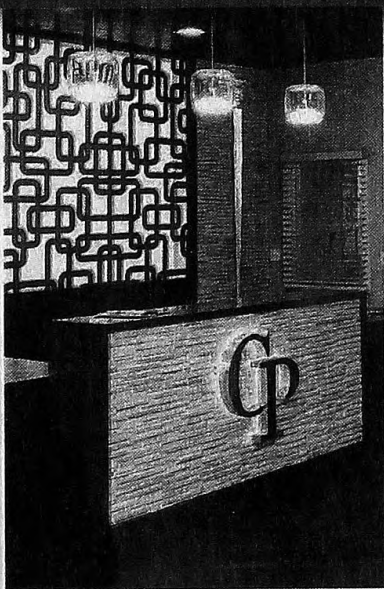
"We're very thankful for this country, because we consider this country our country. We'd fight for it, we'd protect it."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

Aroma Creperie and Cafe's interior at the former Payless ShoeSource in Westland. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Women's resale boutique opens in Livonia

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lynn Nailer wasn't sure what to expect when she decided to relocate her resale boutique shop from Ferndale to a storefront in Livonia. But the reception she's received since opening Get Styled Resale Boutique has her feeling comfortable in her shop's new home.

"Everybody was so welcoming here," she said. "That just made me feel good."

Nailer recently relocated her women's boutique to 33302 W. Seven Mile, just east of Farmington Road, from a space in downtown Ferndale this spring. The shop specializes in selling new and "pre-loved" items, including dresses, tops, shoes and even jewelry.

She began her business at the Gibraltar Trade Centers in both Taylor and Mount Clemens, selling items there more than 10 years ago. After seeing plenty of success at those spots, she began looking for a permanent space, eventually finding a suite in a building in downtown Ferndale. After some time there, she began looking for a more visible location for the business.

"I was there about a year-and-a-half and I just decided to go full-time, especially when I moved here," she said. "It's a very big step."

The Detroit resident discovered the space after routinely traveling to shop at the now-defunct Kmart at Seven Mile and Farmington, which has been vacant since the store closed five years ago. She opened in March.

"I wanted a storefront, and I had been looking for a storefront even before I moved (the business) to Ferndale," she said. "I'm always up and down here."

Occupying the space formerly held by The Video Service Center, Nailer signed the lease in late 2021. She has renovated the business, putting in new floors and opening the area up, as well as adding a space for a fitting area.

The jewelry — Nailer started her business focused on jewelry when she began selling at the Gibraltar Trade Center originally — is typically her best seller, she said.

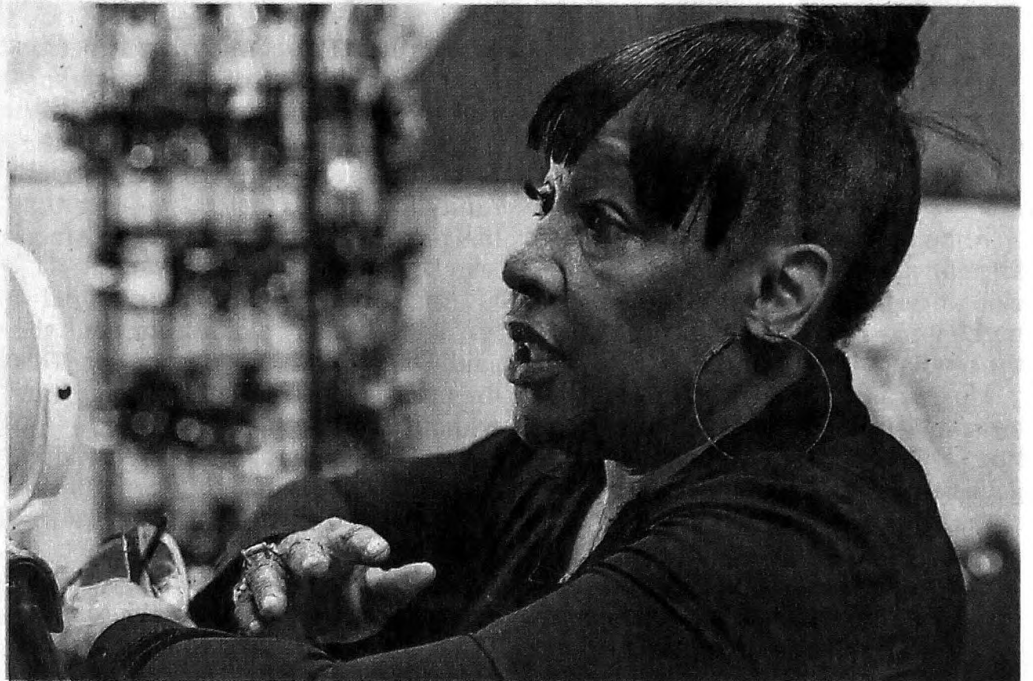
She said business has been picking up, especially with plenty of customers discovering her shop simply by driving by it and seeing the sign right along Sev-



Get Styled women's resale boutique at 33302 W. Seven Mile Road in Livonia. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



An outfit on display at Get Styled.



Get Styled owner Lynn Nailer talks about relocating from Ferndale to Livonia.

en Mile. Several customers have dropped in after doing a double-take and seeing the new sign up on the building.

"I'm loving Livonia and I'm loving the reaction that I'm getting when people come in," she said. "I absolutely love the place."

More information can be found on the shop's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/getstyledresaleboutique. dveselenak@hometownlife.com

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Morel mushroom hunting champion comes to South Lyon

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Anthony Williams has a talent for finding fickle fungi: he's a five-time morel mushroom hunting champion.

As the season for the delicacy arrives, he wants to help you find them, too, but not at the grocery, where the mushrooms can fetch a premium of up to \$65 per pound.

"If you want them to taste better, you have to pick them yourself," said Williams, who will share secrets and stories in "Morel Mushroom Pickin' with the Champ" 6-7:30 p.m., April 18, at the Salem-South Lyon District Library.

The 70-year-old Boyne City resident has a lot of tips to share. He has been traipsing into the northern Michigan woods since he was a toddler in search of the mushrooms.

It was great prep work for his 5-year run as the king of morel pickers in the 1980s, after which organizers asked him to retire to give someone else a turn and help them by being a spokesperson. For the past 20 years Williams has served as the "expert in residence" for that city's National Morel Festival, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year after a 2-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

The festival, he explains, got its start from a bar fight.

"A few guys were having too many beers and arguing over who the best morel picker was," Williams said. "They go to the woods the next morning, shoot a gun and said 90 minutes to pick the most morels. And it's the same rules today."

About 150-300 people join the hunt yearly the weekend after Mother's Day — May 12-14 this year — piling into buses and heading to secret locations chosen by and known only to Williams, where they are then let out and given 90 minutes to gather as many morels as they can.

Participants run off in all directions, and every minute they are late in return-

ing, they are docked 10 morels. Williams remembers the smallest winning run was about 225 morels. The biggest? 850 morels.

"That was just an exceptional year," he notes.

What is the secret to finding the mother lode of morels? Williams offers several tips:

- **Start with the weather.** Morel season goes about four weeks, but that can fall anywhere between April 1-June 1. What makes them sprout is a lot of rain and warmth, Williams explains.

- **Don't miss the trees for the forest.** Head for the woods, and when you're in there, look for poplar, ash, and/or aspen trees, which morels like to take root at the bases of.

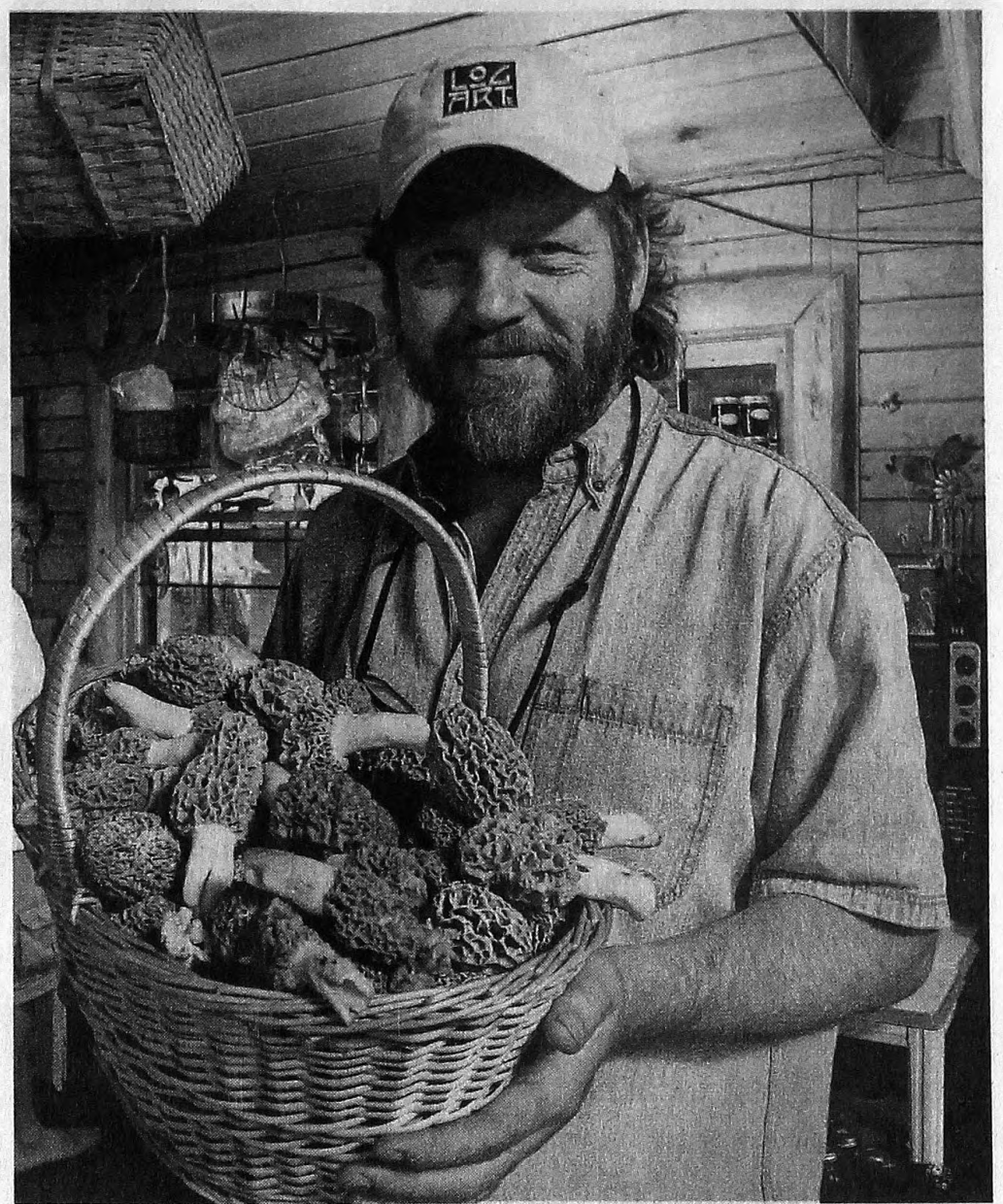
- **Keep moving, with your head up.** "It's a treasure hunt. The more ground you cover, the better," Williams said. "Look 50 to 60 feet in front of you... You can look down and find them, but I get my head on a swivel, looking left to right."

- **When you spot one, slow down.** Morels grow in groups, so when one is discovered, conduct a thorough search of the immediate area, and pinch them off at the base using your thumb and forefinger so you don't destroy the root system.

Morels can be hunted in less likely spots, too, Williams noted, including on beaches, in pine forests, in suburban lawns. But he maintains the most luck will be found with the above tips and also advocates for getting as close to the 45th parallel as possible, which in Michigan you would cross on Interstate 75 as you pass through Gaylord.

If you're not in the vicinity of the 45th, get out in the woods anyway and enjoy the fun in the hunt, even if you don't find the fungi, and take the kids with you.

"Anything that takes you back to nature," Williams said. "Respect for the planet comes from knowing the planet... You have to be dedicated. Just do it,



Anthony Williams, a five-time National Morel Mushroom Hunting champion and "expert in residence" for the National Morel Festival, with a basket of morels.
COURTESY OF ANTHONY WILLIAMS

and if you don't find them, it's ok. You're in the woods with baby foxes, baby porcupines, trillium, the woods are coming to life, and it's a beautiful time to be out there. You did a good thing today, you took a walk in the woods."

If you do strike it rich with the morels, they will keep for a week in the fridge, but keep them in a paper bag and change it out daily, Williams adds.

When it comes time to cook them, he keeps it simple — tossing the mushrooms into a pan, boiling the moisture out over medium to low heat, throwing in a chunk of butter, then turning the heat way up before putting on a plate to enjoy.

Avoid the frustration of trying to grow a garden of morels this spring.

"It's just about impossible to cultivate in our backyard, that's part of the mystery," he said, although one Novi man was lucky enough to find the mother lode in his after nearly a quarter century at his residence. "It's a nature thing that can't be replicated. You have to forage, you're going back 10,000 years to when we were hunters and gatherers. When you hunt, you're stepping back in time and finding treasure."

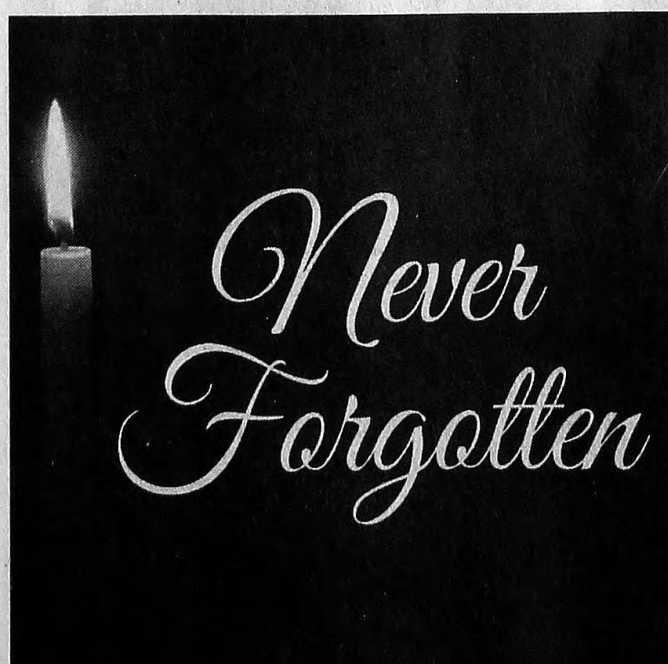
Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

Obituaries

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Mary Jane Andrews

Mary Jane Andrews was a beloved great grandmother, grandmother, mother, and wife during her incredible 92+ years of life. She passed away peacefully, surrounded lovingly by her son Chris and daughter-in-law Geri in the late hours of Thursday, March 31, 2022. She is survived by her sons Brian and Christopher Andrews and wife Geri. Mary Jane is additionally survived by her grandchildren Ryan Andrews & wife Chelsea Andrews, Kelsi Andrews, and extended family Steve & Cyrus DeSantis, Mike & Nikki DeSantis, and great Granddaughter Ellie DeSantis. Mary Jane was born on October 11, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan where she lived for 92 years before relocating to Fort Myers, Florida. The family is having a Celebration of Life event on April 16th from 1pm to 3:30pm at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville, and requests that if you feel compelled you can make a donation to Mary Jane's favorite charity, the St. Judes Children Hospital.



Kay Wood

GRAYLING - Kay (Chatterton) Wood, 84, of Grayling, formerly of Midland and Plymouth, passed away peacefully in her sleep April 1, 2022.

Kay was born April 20, 1937, in Clare to Ronald and Josephine Chatterton. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 62 years Ronald Wood and grandson Jamison Wood.

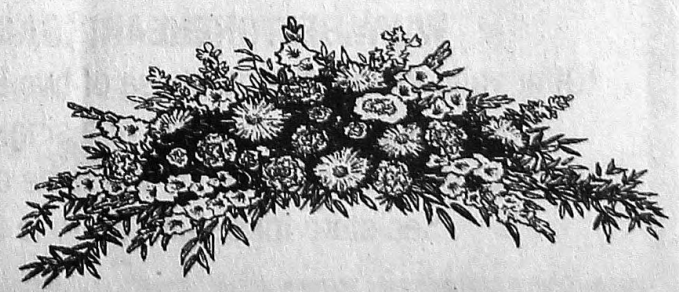
Kay spent her youth in Midland and graduated from Midland High School in 1955. She met her future husband, Ron, at a church in Midland and they ultimately married in 1958. After Ron graduated college they made their home in Plymouth where they raised their family. Kay was a long time member of the First United Methodist Church and a proud member of the Plymouth Community Chorus. After Ron retired, they moved to Grayling in 1995 where they built a new home on property owned by the family for over 115 years.

Kay is survived by her son Steve (Jennifer) Wood, daughter Julee Dean, grandson Nicholas Wood, granddaughter Kelsey Dean (Mitchell Thompson) and great-grandson Tatum Thompson, as well as several cousins. Later, Kay was blessed to have her friend Tom in her life.

A celebration of life for Ron and Kay will be held on a future date.

For those that wish to send condolences to family, go to www.sorensonlockwood.com
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A rendering of the Premier Academy proposed at the corner of Six Mile and Beck roads in Northville Township. The proposal would require special land use approval, as the property is zoned residential. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

Northville Township childcare center eyes second location

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Successful growth at the Premier Academy along Seven Mile in Northville Township prompted the childcare company to seek to add another school in northwest Wayne County.

But not everyone is happy about it. The company seeks to construct a new childcare facility on the mostly vacant parcel at the northwest corner of Beck and Six Mile roads, which would be its fifth such facility in southeast Michigan. The daycare, which would serve children as young as infants, would be constructed with brick and limestone to help fit into that part of Northville Township. Much of the surrounding area is residential.

"We're here to make sure we're blending in with our surrounding communities," said Angela Innaimo, a director with Premier Academy.

The township's planning commission discussed the proposal March 22.

Several neighbors spoke out against the project.

Dennis Pepino, who lives in the Hickory Creek neighborhood behind the property, said there were multiple concerns, including issues with the school being at a higher elevation and looking down on private homes, as well as the potential for their private road to be used as a cut-through for people leaving the school.

"The majority of the patrons of the academy will probably want to turn left. There's going to be a line up to turn left," he said. "They're going to turn right on Arbor Trail."

Commissioners also expressed concern over traffic, especially along Beck Road.

"It's a tough one for me because accidents happen there all the time," Commissioner Mindy Herrmann said. "To add a little bit more to it and to have little kids in the car is a struggle for me."

Premier Academy has locations in Oakland Township, Rochester Hills and

Northville Township. Another center is expected to open in Macomb Township.

The proposal would require special land use approval, as the property is zoned residential. The planning commission heard discussion from the public and the petitioner before it was proposed by the school's representatives to delay the vote since only five of the seven planning commissioners were at the meeting.

Jeff Schmitz, president of JS Capitol Group, which would build the facility, said the new facility would actually help slow down traffic. He said a majority of families who take their kids to the school typically live nearby and the parents would drive Beck and Six Mile roads regardless of get to work.

"It'll reduce the amount of accidents you will have because people will be getting in and getting out," he said. "We're talking about traffic that we have no control of. Wayne County has control and there's nothing we can do about it."

The public hearing was reminiscent of a similar proposal heard several weeks ago before the Novi planning commission. A childcare center was proposed in a former golf clubhouse on 14 Mile, against which many residents spoke. That daycare plan was ultimately recommended for denial by the city's planning commission and turned down by city council.

The Northville Township planning commission voted, 4-1, to delay the request to a future meeting yet to be determined. Schmitz said he would take the project and see what type of improvements could be made to better fit.

If such improvements are vastly different from the original plan, the application would need resubmitted, said Jennifer Frey, township planner. That would mean a new public notice, as well as a new public hearing at a future planning commission meeting.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



A childcare facility is proposed at this site at the northwest corner of Six and Beck roads. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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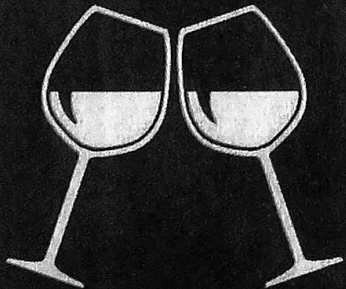
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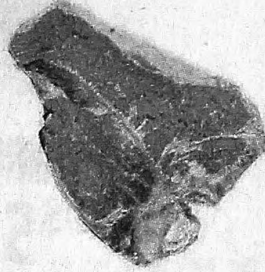
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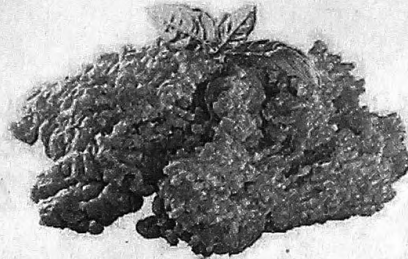
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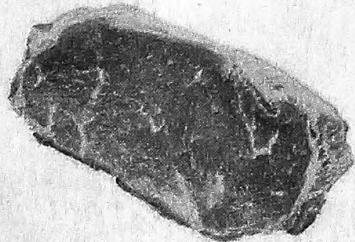
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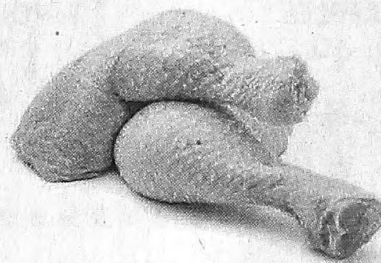
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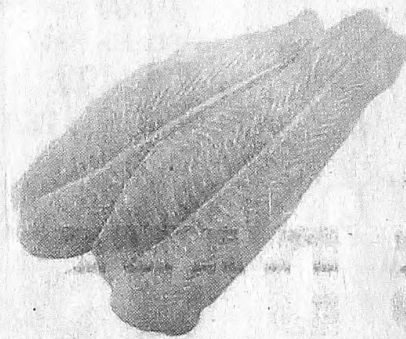


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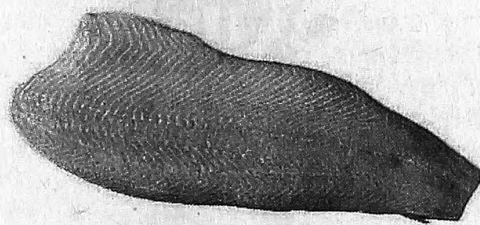
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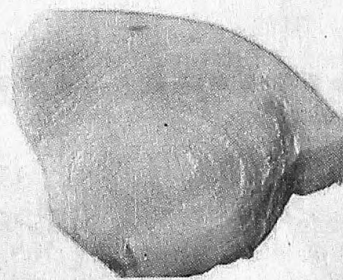
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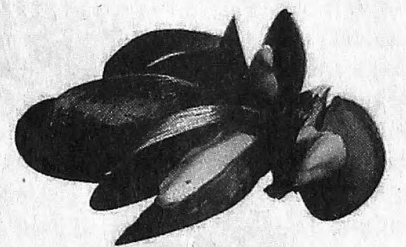
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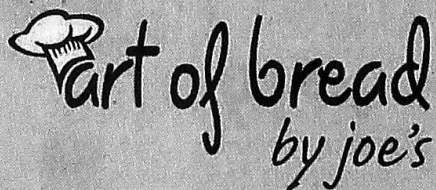
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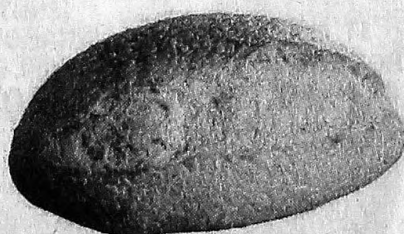


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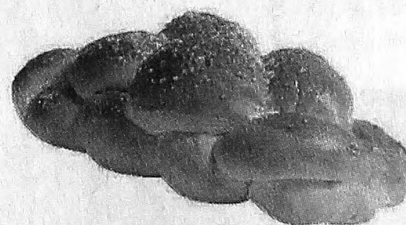


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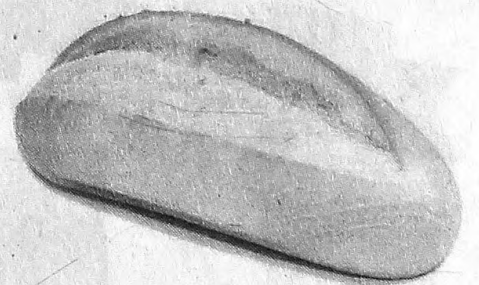
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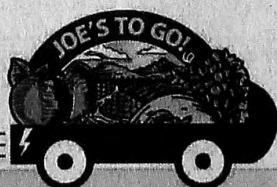
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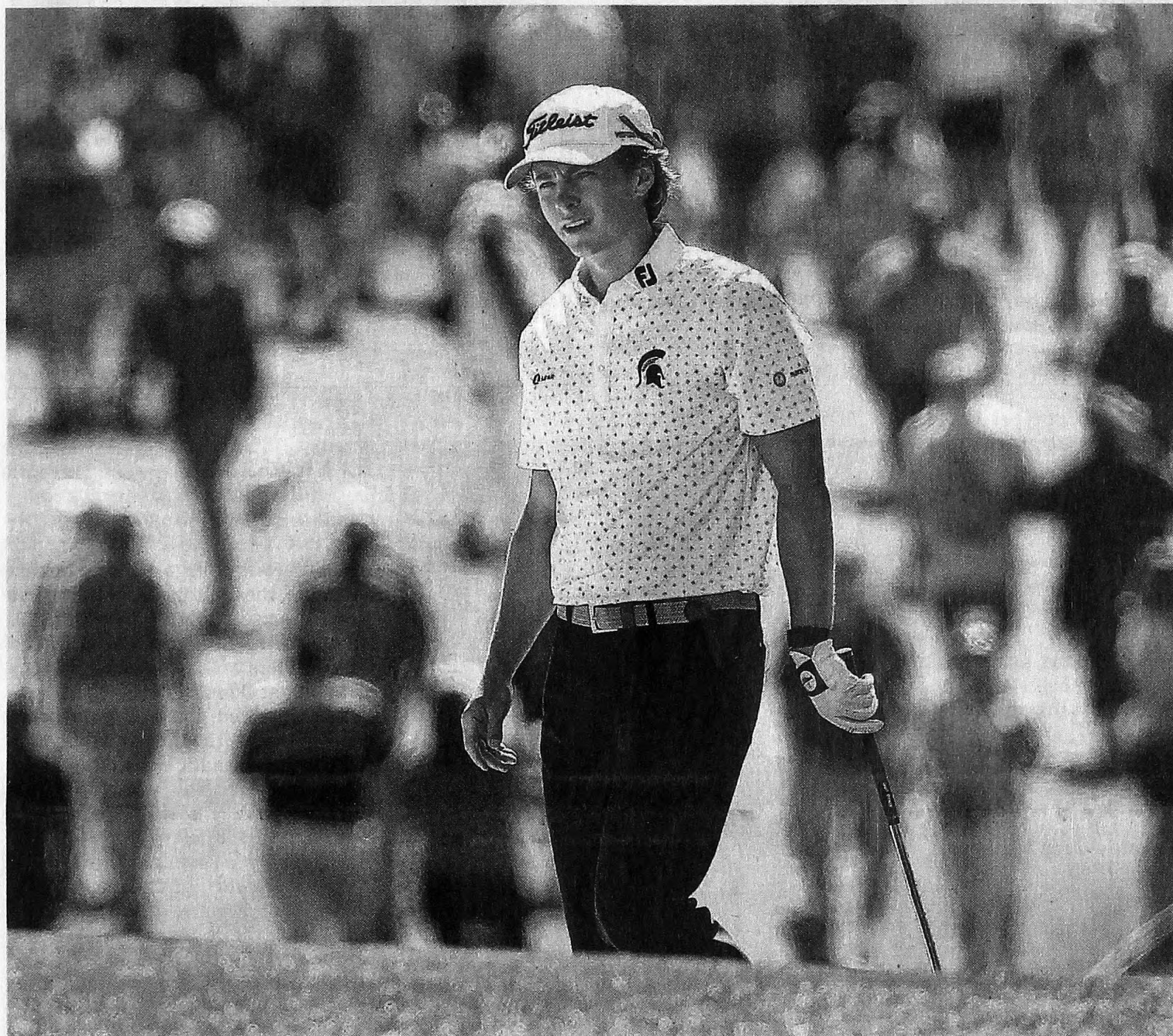
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SPORTS

‘It’s what you dream of’



James Piot looks to hit out of a sand trap on the No. 1 fairway during a practice round of the Masters golf tournament April 4 at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia. MICHAEL MADRID/USA TODAY SPORTS

CC grad from Canton has special moment ahead of Masters

Rodd Baxley Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

It didn't hit him the first time, but that second trip up Magnolia Lane brought the emotions for Glenn Piot.

Earlier this week, as he made that famous drive toward Augusta National's clubhouse with his son, James, Glenn fired up the Masters theme song, "Augusta."

"I put the Masters music on, if that's corny," Glenn said as he watched James, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion, go through a practice session Monday.

"James goes, 'What are you, nuts?' I had an emotional moment and I don't like to have those."

James, the 23-year-old set for his Masters debut, didn't mind.

"It's the coolest thing ever to share that with your dad. To kind of know that

you made it here to the Masters, it's what you dream of as a kid," James said.

"Sharing that with your dad is the coolest thing in the world. He wanted to play the music and I was like, 'Sure, yeah, whatever you need dad.' He started tearing up and he's not an emotional guy."

See **DREAM**, Page 2B

Bloomfield Hills boys basketball coach to step down

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Bloomfield Hills boys basketball coach Phil Kurajian didn't hold back his feelings when he broke the news.

"It sucks. There's no other way to put it," the fifth-year coach said. "It was an incredibly tough decision for me. It's been weighing on me for a while."

"I talked to the returners today, and it was emotional. Forget about basketball, they are great kids. They do great things off and on the court, and I'm excited to see what they do in the future."



Kurajian

And the decision Kurajian, 33, made was to step down from coaching the Black Hawks, who have won back-to-back Oakland Activities Association-White championships the past two seasons.

He tendered his resignation to athletic director Mike Cowdrey April 4.

Kurajian is assuming a bigger role within his family's food packaging business. He'll be traveling more and taking on bigger projects. Plus, he has a 1-year-old daughter and a wife at home.

Something had to take the back seat in his life. Unfortunately for Black Hawks fans, that something was coaching basketball.

"It's unfortunate," he said. "But you have to make those tough decisions sometimes. I knew I had a tough decision to make, but credit to my wife who told me to enjoy it during the season and that we'd figure it out together afterward."

"I had a great experience leading the team. Not even just record-wise. It was just a blast altogether."

See **COACH**, Page 2B

Seniors prove they're Division-I worthy in Mitten Classic

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kareem Aburashed felt overlooked. The almost 7-foot forward didn't receive the kind of interest he thought he deserved on the recruiting trail.

Yeah, some smaller schools wanted him, but he wanted interest from Division I programs.

It never really came for the Detroit Country Day senior.

So he gambled on himself. He signed with Macomb Community College, one of the best up-and-coming JUCOs in the country, and now he's out to prove that he can play at the highest level.

He wants to show everyone that he belongs on the floor with other D-I basketball recruits. He wants to earn a

scholarship to play at a big four-year school by the time he graduates from Roseville.

Well, he hasn't even suited up for the Monarchs yet, and he's already proven he can do it.

Aburashed competed in the sixth annual Mitten Classic boys basketball all-star game April 1 at Bradford Academy.

On the floor were the best seniors

from around the state. Western Michigan signee JaVaughn Hannah (Orchard Lake St. Mary's) threw down windmill dunks.

Future Belmont star Kyler Vanderjagt (Grand Rapids Northview) ran the floor and showed he was just as good as the metro Detroit kids.

See **SENIORS**, Page 2B

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Coach

Continued from Page 1B

Kurajian was promoted to head coach after former coach Michael Maryanski stepped down in 2017.

He took the team through a rebuild during his first three seasons on the bench, solidifying the program's foundation while it struggled to win games in the OAA-Red, one of the toughest divisions of basketball in the entire state.

What's more, the school was still relatively brand new when he took over the job. Bloomfield Hills School District merged both Andover and Lahser High Schools to make Bloomfield Hills High School in 2013.

After the rebuild, he coached them to an 8-5 overall record and a 6-2 mark in the White during 2020-21.

And this past winter, he pushed the Black Hawks to a 16-5 record, including another 6-2 finish in the division.

Kurajian leaves Bloomfield Hills with a 47-62 career record.

"Taking over the program was something I was really excited about," he said.

This year's squad graduates seven seniors, including Macomb Community College commit Ben Canty, power forward Carson Brodsky and guard Julian Manna, three of the team's top starters.

But they return a slew of talented players. That includes guard Noah Adamczyk, who should be one of the top shooters in Oakland County entering his senior season in 2022-23.

The Black Hawks also bring back small forward DJ Lee Jr., sixth-man CJ Jackson and backup Ahmad Taylor.

They should be pretty loaded, talent-wise, for whoever takes the coaching opening.



Bloomfield Hills boys basketball coach Phil Kurajian talks with CJ Jackson during the 2021 Motor City Roundball Classic. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Detroit Catholic Central's Kam Mayes and Detroit Country Day's Kareem Aburashed in action. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seniors

Continued from Page 1B

And recent Michigan Mr. Basketball winner Chansey Willis Jr. (Detroit King) passed dimes to all the other studs out there competing.

Everywhere you pointed, there was a swath of future D-I and D-II standouts. Even Ms. Basketball winner Ruby Whitehorn, a Detroit Edison senior signed with Clemson, was in the crowd.

And Aburashed was out there, too. "I know I have so much more to prove, even more than what I did today," Aburashed said after his Purple Team lost to the Green Team, 114-108. "I know I can play with this competition or with competition better than them. I can compete with the best. I know what I'm worth, so hopefully, it'll pay off going the JUCO route."

The south baseline was lined with college scouts.

And, right there, under the hoop, was Macomb CC recruiting coordinator Marko Maksimovski, the assistant who's hopefully going to get Aburashed to a D-I school in the next two seasons.

Maksimovski is one of the best recruiters in the area. He hasn't missed on identifying a recruit yet. He has a knack for finding talent and getting them to Roseville for head coach Hassan Nizam to turn into future four-year players.

Their staff just turned John Ukoma-du into an All-American and just last week, Ukoma-du committed to Eastern Kentucky. And they're hoping to do the same with recent Northwood University transfer Linden Holder.

Aburashed, who also competed in the 3-point shootout and dunk contest

"To come out here and play with the best players in Michigan, it feels pretty good. I'm going to play next year. I'm just reaching out to colleges, at this point now."

Kam Mayes

during the event, already has a strong relationship with Macomb CC's staff. He even played for Maksimovski's M&M Boyz travel team last summer.

Now Aburashed said they're preparing to win a national championship together.

"The funny thing is I was actually sitting right over there last year," Aburashed said, pointing to the west bleachers at Bradford Academy. "Marko was sitting there under the basket, and I didn't even know who Marko was at the time. And that's crazy because now he's like a father figure for me now. It's crazy what can happen in a year. He's always going to be sitting in that spot from what I know."

Aburashed buried a couple of 3-pointers and threw down a handful of dunks throughout the game.

He even slammed home a dunk off an alley-oop pass early in the third quarter.

The person throwing that pass to Aburashed? That was Detroit Catholic Central senior Kam Mayes.

He, too, is out to prove he should be playing D-I basketball next year.

The only problem is he isn't picking up much steam on the recruiting trail, despite competing in the biggest all-star

game the state has to offer and proving he's just as talented as the rest of them.

Right now, Mayes is getting looked at by JUCOs and D-III programs.

While most players have their schools secured and are just waiting to walk at graduation before starting their college careers, Mayes is still hammering the phones, hoping an interested coach picks up and listens to his sales pitch.

"To come out here and play with the best players in Michigan, it feels pretty good," said Mayes, who helped Oakland University signee Cooper Craggs lead the Shamrocks to a Division 1 quarterfinal this winter. "I'm going to play next year. I'm just reaching out to colleges, at this point now."

"To see people get offers and me not getting the same love, it's disappointing."

The deficiency of offers isn't from a lack of effort.

Shamrocks coach Brandon Sinawi, who was on hand at the Mitten Classic to watch the festivities, continues to hype up his star small forward on Twitter.

"Someone come get this kid!" Sinawi tweeted after watching Mayes play in the all-star game.

Mayes' message to teams in need of a 6-foot-5, 200-pound pure scorer from any range?

"I'm as good as everybody else getting signed by these D-I colleges," he said. "Just reach out to me."

Mere seconds after Mayes wrapped up his interview with the media, he was greeted by one of the college scouts there. Perhaps his college decision will be coming sooner than we expect.

Dream

Continued from Page 1B

A fifth-year college golfer at Michigan State, the Canton native is the first player from the state to win the U.S. Amateur. He earned his spot in the 86th Masters with a comeback victory at Oakmont Country Club.

Facing a three-hole deficit with nine holes to play at the U.S. Amateur, Piot rallied for a dramatic win in the championship match. This week will mark the first of three majors he's eligible to play in this year, along with the U.S. Open and Open Championship.

But, as he and his father continually said Monday, James believes it'll be hard to top the experience at Augusta National.

One perk of being an amateur is the standing invitation to stay in the Crow's Nest, which is located on the second floor of the clubhouse and houses the tournament's amateurs. James took advantage of that opportunity Sunday night.

"I woke up (Monday) in the Crow's Nest and had breakfast on the patio there," James said.

"You're looking out and you're like, 'Holy crap, there's a lot of people here.' Just the whole experience has been awesome. You're hitting putts next to (Dustin Johnson) and I have to keep carrying my credentials around because people think I'm a 13-year-old spectator this week. It's pretty funny."

Prior to sharing a green with Johnson, the 2020 Masters champion, James had a brush with five-time Masters champion Tiger Woods on Sunday.

Playing a practice round with fellow amateur Aaron Jarvis, James watched as Jarvis sprinted over to the 11th tee box and asked Woods if the two amateurs could practice with him.

"He had the courage to run over on 11 tee to ask him," James said. "(Woods) just smiled and said he was playing by himself ... It was awesome. That little interaction with Tiger was the coolest thing in the world."

James' mom, Judy, soaked up every "out-of-body" moment of Monday's practice session. She snapped picture after picture with her disposable camera in an attempt to capture all of the memories.

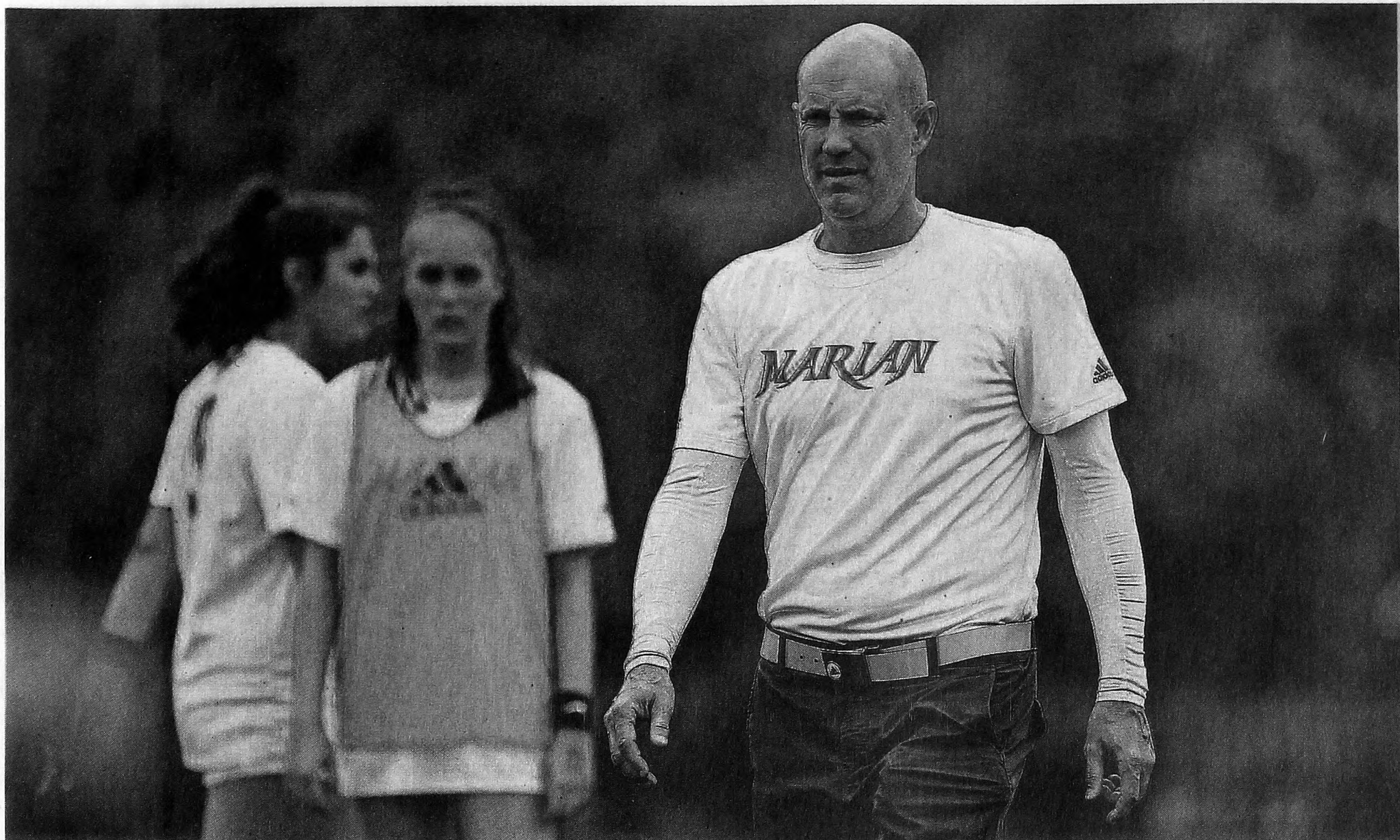
"I might cry," Judy said. "I'm gonna keep the sunglasses on."

Glenn added: "It's surreal. I don't want to compare it to a religious experience but you grow up watching this all your life."

"We thought maybe our son would be able to play pro golf, but you never envisioned him playing the Masters. ... You never think of Augusta, so it's amazing. It's like winning the lottery."

And James gladly welcomes the stresses of spring in Augusta.

"I'll soak it all in, because it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing - playing as an amateur in the Masters."



Bloomfield Hills Marian girls soccer announced March 17 it promoted assistant Reid Friedrichs to head coach. COURTESY OF LEON HALIP/BLOOMFIELD HILLS MARIAN ATHLETICS

Marian girls soccer promotes assistant coach

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Bloomfield Hills Marian girls soccer will look to win its fifth-straight state title this spring.

But the Mustangs will be doing so without longtime coach Barry Brodsky, who retired last school year after leading the program to nine state championships over 20 seasons.

The school announced March 17 that it has promoted assistant Reid Friedrichs as its new head coach.

"Reid has been a big part of our success in recent years," athletic director

Mike Watson said in a press release. "He has earned the trust of our student-athletes and families and has all the tools to make our outstanding soccer program even stronger in the future. My experience with Reid has shown me that he has very high expectations, yet is very patient and focused on constant performance improvement on the field and in the classroom."

Friedrichs spent the past four seasons helping the Mustangs.

Prior to coaching at Marian, he led both the boys and girls teams at Livonia Churchill and also coached at Warren DeLaSalle. He has club experience with

Liverpool FC and Vardar SC as well as experience with the Olympic Development Program, Alma College and the Flint City Bucks at the semi-pro level.

Friedrichs was an all-state goalkeeper at Ann Arbor Pioneer in high school. He went on to become a starter at Michigan State where he was named the Big Ten Player of the Year and the MSU Athlete of the Year in 1996.

What's more, Friedrichs' mother, Kathleen McPhail, graduated from Marian in 1965.

"I am honored and excited to continue the traditions and excellence that this school and program has shown not

only in the last four years since I have been here but in the previous 20 under Barry Brodsky and even back to when my mother was here in the third graduating class ever at Marian," the new coach said in a statement. "The amazing people before us created legacies and traditions of success on the field, in the classroom, and as great human beings in service. This has given us the platform to continue and honor all we can with our academic successes, high level of play and effort, and overall integrity as people. And we intend to do that."

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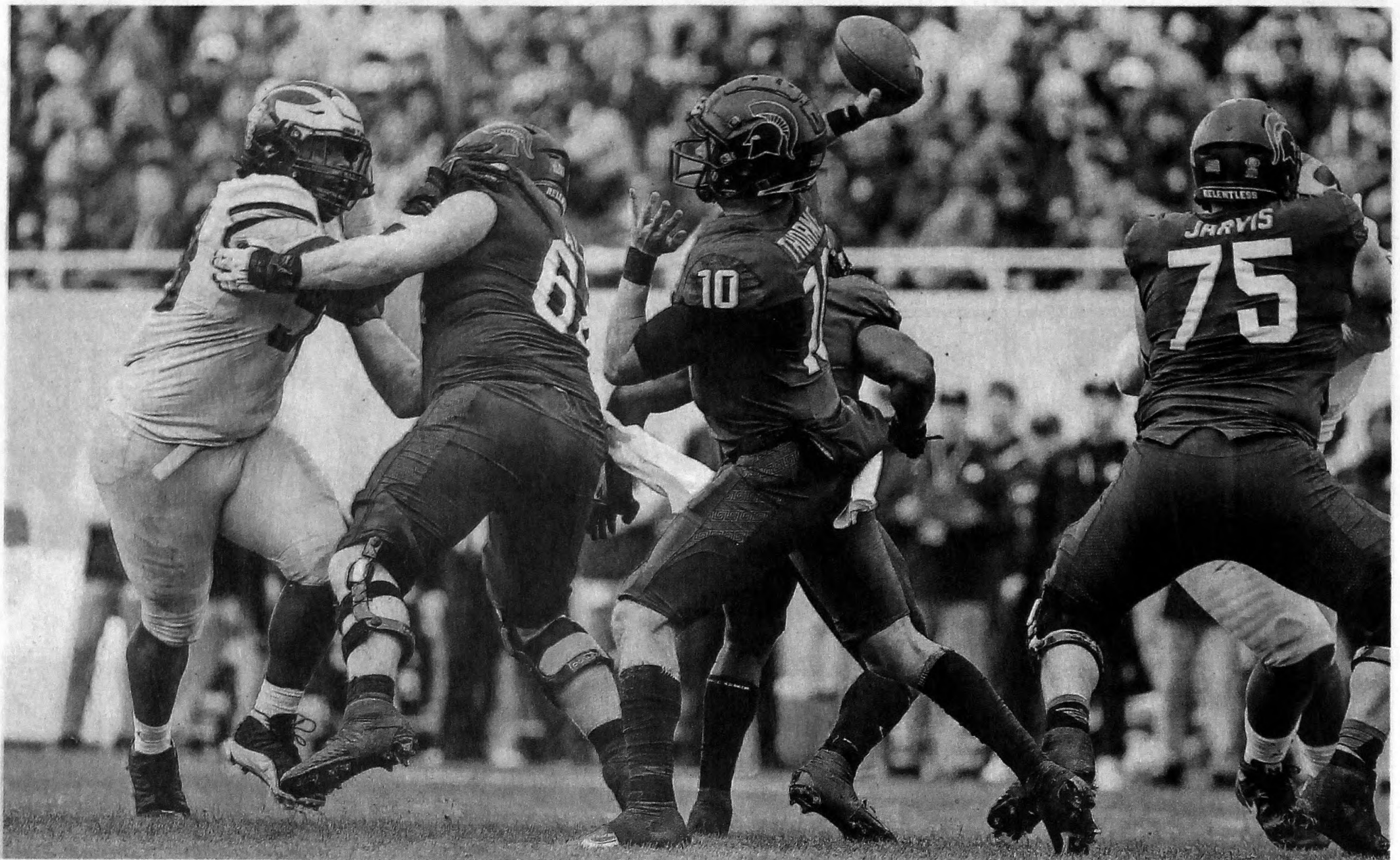
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Michigan State quarterback Payton Thorne (10) makes a pass against Michigan in the first half Oct. 30 at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

MSU QB looking for more after stellar year

Chris Solari Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

EAST LANSING — Kirk Cousins took the next step. So did Connor Cook. Brian Lewerke and Jeff Smoker, too. Yet Payton Thorne did a number of things as a first-year starter that none of those other Michigan State quarterbacks did.

So what can he do as a follow-up act to the third-best passing season in school history?

"I expect to be better (this fall) than I was last year," Thorne said as the Spartans march toward their April 16 spring

game. "And I expect us as an offense to be better than we were last year."

The redshirt junior from Naperville, Illinois, ranked fourth in the Big Ten (and 23rd nationally) last season with 3,233 yards passing. Thorne completed better than 60% of his passes and threw a single-season school-record 27 touchdown passes — tied for 18th in the Football Bowl Subdivision — along with 10 interceptions.

Only Smoker (3,395 yards in 2003) and Cousins (3,315 yards in 2011) have thrown for more yards in one season at MSU than Thorne did last fall. The key

difference: Thorne was a sophomore; the other two were seniors (and multi-year starters) when they reached those totals.

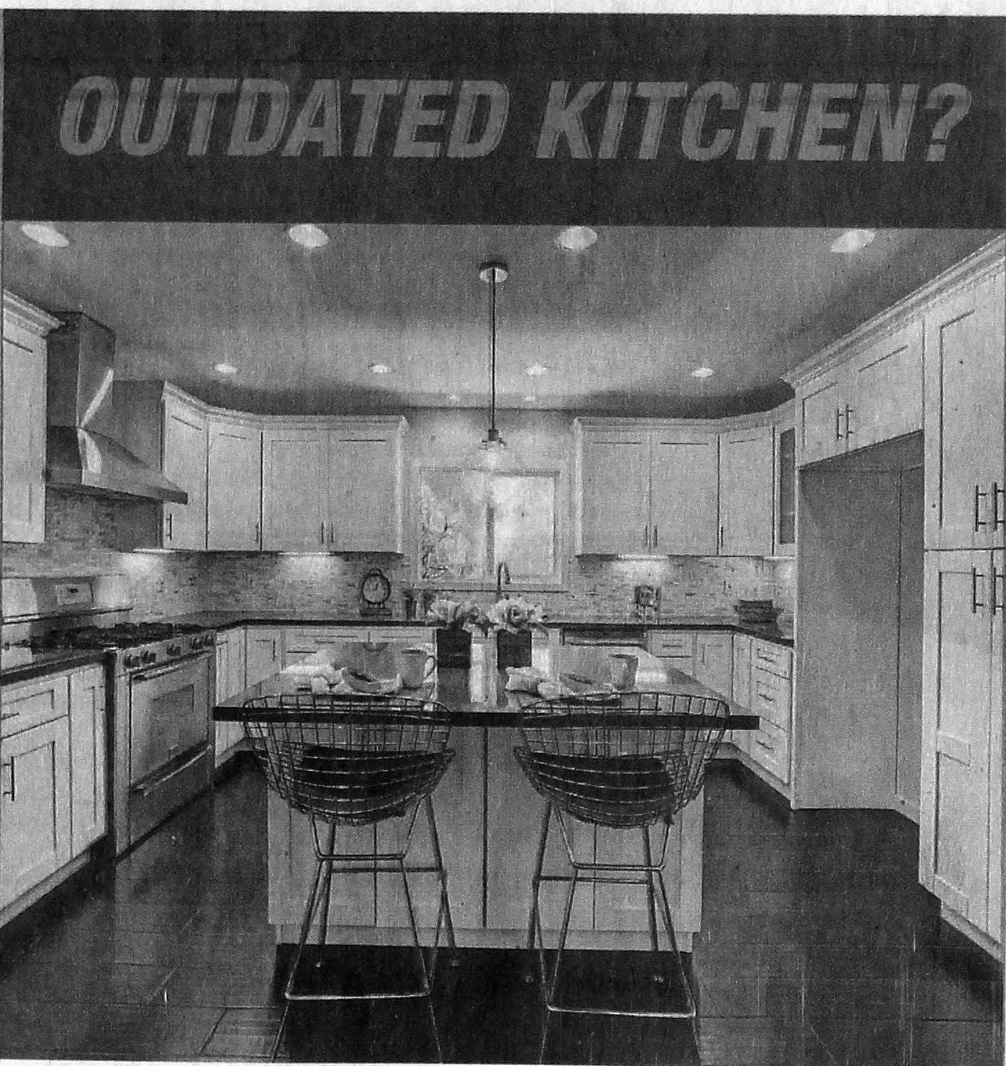
Cousins passed for 2,680 yards in 2009 in his first season as a starter; Smoker threw for 2,579 in 2001 in his first year. Lewerke finished with 2,793 yards as a sophomore and 3,079 as a senior.

Yet for Thorne, who studied his performances from last season during the winter, there is "definitely a lot of stuff to work on" going into his second season as the starter.

"I would like to protect the ball more than I did last year," he said. "I thought it started strong, but then I started to get a little loose (in a) couple games, so tighten that up. You obviously want your touchdown-to-interception ratio to be as big as it can be. That and be more accurate on different throws, decision-making, all that stuff. You can always find ways to get better."

Thorne also became just the sixth MSU quarterback to top 3,000 yards passing in a season. Cook is the only one

See MORE, Page 5B



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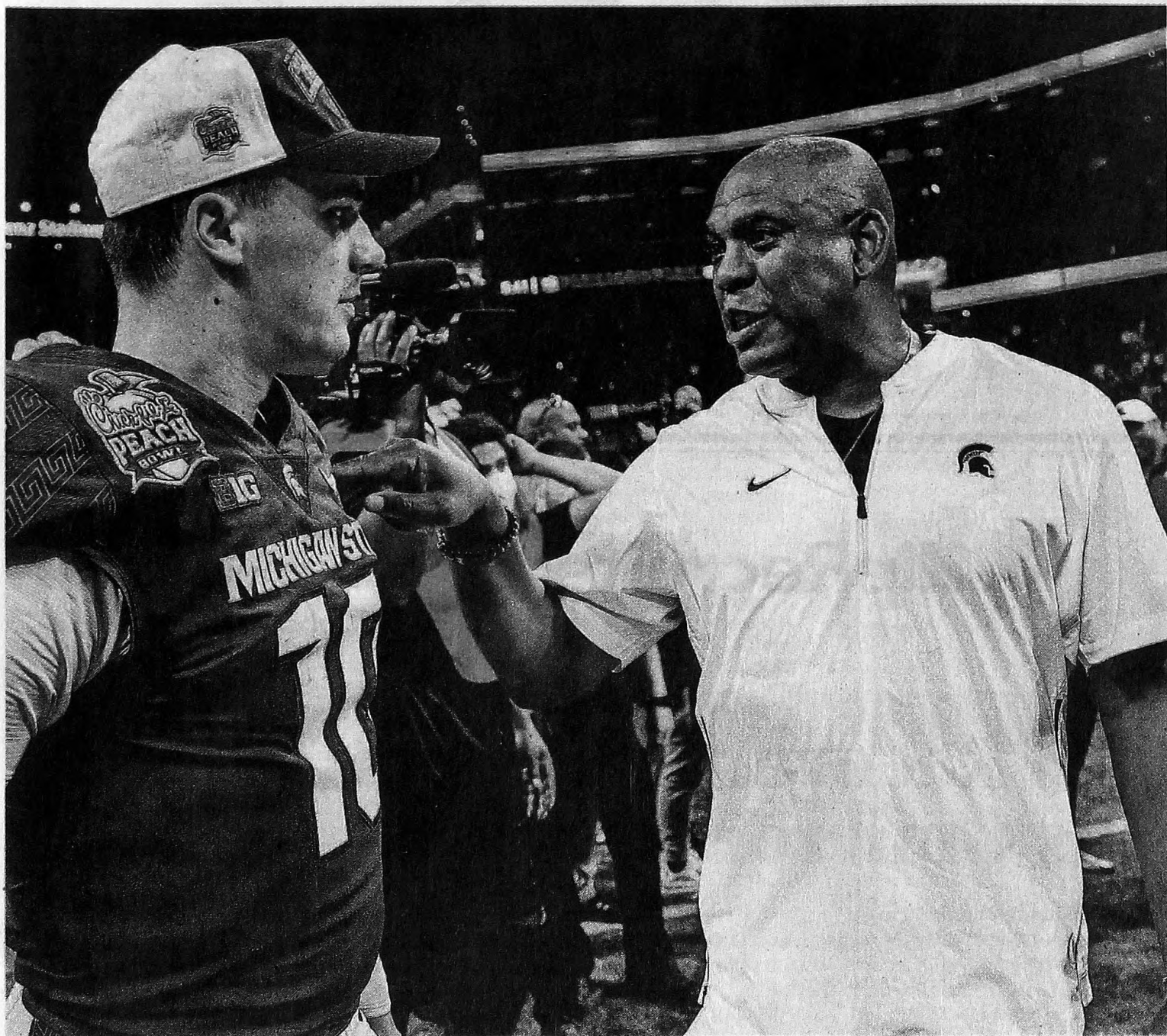
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Michigan State coach Mel Tucker talks to quarterback Payton Thorne after the 31-21 win over Pittsburgh in the Peach Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta last season. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

so much, he takes so much in. I think that you'll see improvements.

"Even this spring, I can see things are kind of in our quarterback world a little bit slower for him, which is what I want. I want everything around it to be chaotic and fast, but for our world, it needs to be slower. And I can just see the way he's handling the team, the way he leads the team, those things are coming."

Thorne's standout sophomore season is made even more impressive by Kenneth Walker III's performance, finishing with the fourth-best single-season rushing yard total in MSU history at 1,636 yards. The Spartans' only other season with a 3,000-yard passer and 1,000-yard rusher came in 2014, with Cook and Jeremy Langford (1,522 rushing yards) pacing the most prolific offense in school history.

Thorne's enigma though, could be complicated by MSU's offensive line, which is losing a significant number of blockers in front of him, and the running backs replacing Walker, who entered the NFL draft. That will require Thorne to reestablish a rapport with the new guys in front of him, particularly as a mobile QB. Walker's monster season — fourth-best in school history and second in the FBS — also forced opposing defenses to key on the run game, which helped lessen the burden on Thorne.

"Just the musical chairs and the guys that have been moving in and out this spring," offensive line coach Chris Kapi-lovic said this week, "there hasn't been a lot of cohesion and rhythm. ... And so really what you're trying to do with the spring is make sure everybody understands the playbook and what we're trying to accomplish, and then understand the techniques it's going to take, and then continue to build on it this summer."

They will need to jell quickly to build upon one of the Spartans' best offensive seasons in program history.

MSU's 428.8 yards per game and 253.2 passing yards in 2021 rank sixth-best all-time. The Spartans' 31.9 points is eighth in school history and was the highest average since the 2014 squad averaged 43 a game under Cook.

"Every area, we want to get better," Thorne said.

More

Continued from Page 4B

to do so twice (3,214 as a junior and 3,131 as a senior), while Drew Stanton's 3,077 yards as a senior in 2005 joins Smoker, Cousins, Thorne, Cook and Lewerke on

that short list.

Offensive coordinator Jay Johnson said Thorne is making the type of progress he hoped for. The 6-foot-2, 210-pounder competed for the starting job a year ago with since-departed graduate transfer Anthony Russo; he finished the year as an All-Big Ten honorable mention while the Spartans went 11-2 sea-

son.

"Payton's very cerebral. Coming from the football family, he really has a great grasp of things," Johnson said. "And sometimes as he and I have talked before, sometimes he's almost too good mentally that it gets him in trouble. And so even in spring ball, I say, 'Hey, come on, just run the play,' because he knows

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The Jobs Recovery Accelerated as Omicron Faded

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Quotes may be attributed to Julia Pollak, Chief Economist at ZipRecruiter, a leading online employment marketplace

The U.S. economy added 678k jobs in February as Omicron faded, soundly beating expectations. Totals for the prior two months were revised upwards by 92k. Job gains also broadened across the economy.

The number of workers out sick due to Covid dropped from 3.6 million to 1.6 million, 304k workers returned to the labor force, and the prime-age labor force participation rate rose from 82.0% to 82.2%. Paired with an uptick in weekly working hours, these numbers point to a substantial increase in labor market activity in February.

Job Growth Should Remain Strong in the Coming Months

The jobs report suggests we could see further growth in the months ahead. 4.2 million people reported that they were not able to work in February because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic. As Covid cases fall further, we could see more businesses come back online, raising employment and output.

The report also showed that the number of workers employed part-time for economic reasons because they couldn't find full-time work rose by 418k. Many of these workers should be able to find full-time work in the months ahead.

The number of workers not in the labor force who want a job now is 5.3 million, up from 5 million before the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of these workers could also return soon as business picks up.

Women's Employment Raises Concerns

Worryingly, the prime-age labor force participation rate for women dropped to 75.8% from 76.0%, even as it increased among men to 88.8% from 88.2%. The departure of women could reflect child-

care challenges that have dragged on throughout the pandemic. Employment in child daycare services ticked upwards from 922.8k to 930.7k, but is still down 11.7% from pre-Covid levels. Employment in public and private education also slowly improved, but is still down by 392k.

Overall, there are still 590k fewer people in the labor force than before the pandemic, and all of the missing workers are women. There are 1.2 million fewer women and 600k more men.

Below-Expectation Wage Growth Likely Reflects Composition Effects

Average hourly earnings hardly changed, despite tight labor market conditions and the fact that workers are increasingly requesting that their compensation keep pace with inflation. The average is likely being dragged down by the reentry of low-wage workers into the workforce. Other data sources point to accelerating wage growth.

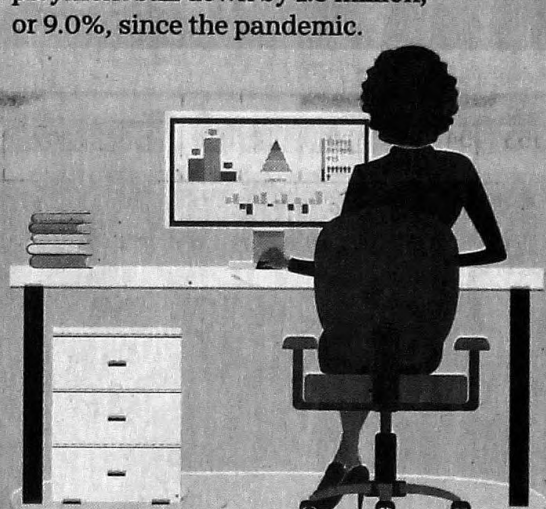
Certain industries are seeing more rapid wage growth than others. The leisure and hospitality sector is still leading the way, with average wages growing 11.2% over the year. Annual average wage growth also surged in

transportation and warehousing to 7.7%. These are the only two industries where average wage growth outpaces inflation.

Office Reopenings Fueled Recovery in Downtown Service Businesses

As Omicron waned, many workers came back to the office. 13.0% of employees teleworked because of the coronavirus pandemic, down from 15.4 percent in the prior month. As more workers return to office in March, we could see job gains in the businesses that serve office workers accelerate.

Already, employment in leisure and hospitality grew 179k in February. The sector still has tremendous room for recovery, with employment still down by 1.5 million, or 9.0%, since the pandemic.



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 - 106 Rep on the street
 - 107 Luxury writing implement
 - 110 Eye ring
 - 113 Rhinoplasty
 - 114 Nastase of tennis fame
 - 115 Halibut, sole and flounder
 - 120 Beatified Mlle.
 - 121 Madams' counterparts
 - 122 Eldest of the Musketeers
 - 123 1998 Masters champ Mark
 - 124 One of the Kennedys
 - 125 Hug's partner
 - 126 Century's 100
 - 127 All 12 of its symbols are featured in this puzzle
- DOWN**
- 1 Dollop
 - 2 Clean air org.
 - 3 Court divider
 - 4 Chants
 - 5 Actor Baldwin
 - 6 Vega's constellation
 - 7 Grill-marked sandwiches
 - 8 French forest region
 - 9 Brand of faucet filters
 - 10 Cry like —
 - 11 Bank bought by Chase, for short
 - 12 Govt. advances for mom-and-pops
 - 13 Opposite of destined
 - 14 "And When —" (1969 hit)
 - 15 Certain high-heel feature
 - 16 Go-Go's singer Carlisle
 - 17 Offspring producer
 - 18 Ones entrapping
 - 24 "Vidi," in English
 - 29 "Slow" primate
 - 30 Bonnie of blues rock
 - 31 Antis' votes
 - 32 Corrida cry
 - 33 Sailor's org.
 - 35 It runs on a
 - 52-Down
 - 81 Light snack
 - 82 Small rodents, jocularly
 - 83 Sore feeling
 - 84 Slumber
 - 86 Star of "I'm No Angel"
 - 87 Slower than allegretto
 - 88 Like booties
 - 90 Cream-filled pastries
 - 91 Big head
 - 92 Contributor
 - 94 Covered anew, as a book
 - 95 — Lingus
 - 96 Suffix with Senegal
 - 97 Guided
 - 99 In harm's way
 - 101 Transversely
 - 102 Those people
 - 105 100-buck bill
 - 108 Roman 1,052
 - 109 Auction website
 - 111 "The Wizard —"
 - 112 Celeb's ride
 - 116 Radio host Charlamagne — God
 - 117 "Bali —"
 - 118 Epoch
 - 119 Small pouch

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										81					
					82										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				111	112			
113						114							115	116					117	118	119
120						121													123		
124						125													127		

#2,085 Average time of solution: 67 minutes

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU

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

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!

APING ABOUT

Can you find all the words containing APE? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

- APERCU
- APERITIF
- APEX
- BUDAPEST
- CANAPÉ
- CAPER
- CHAPEAU
- CHAPEL
- CHAPERONE
- CHEAPEN
- CRAPES
- DRAPED
- DRAPERY
- ESCAPEE
- GAPE
- GRAPE
- HEAPED
- JAPE
- LAPEL
- LEAPED
- NAPE
- NOTEPAPER
- PAPERBACK
- PARAPET
- REAPER
- RICE-PAPER
- SCAPEGOAT
- SCRAPE
- SEASCAPE
- SHAPELY
- SOAPED
- TAPERED
- TAPES
- TAPEWORM
- TRAPEZE
- TRAPEZOID

APING ABOUT

Difficulty Level: ***

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

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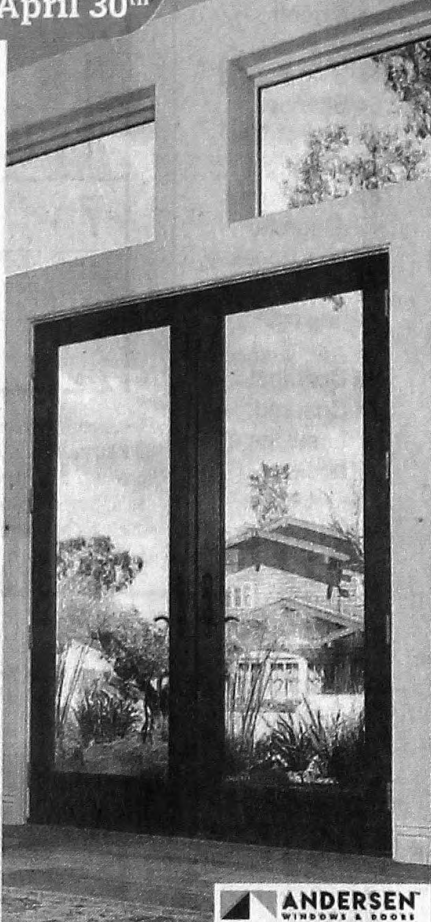
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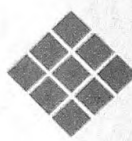
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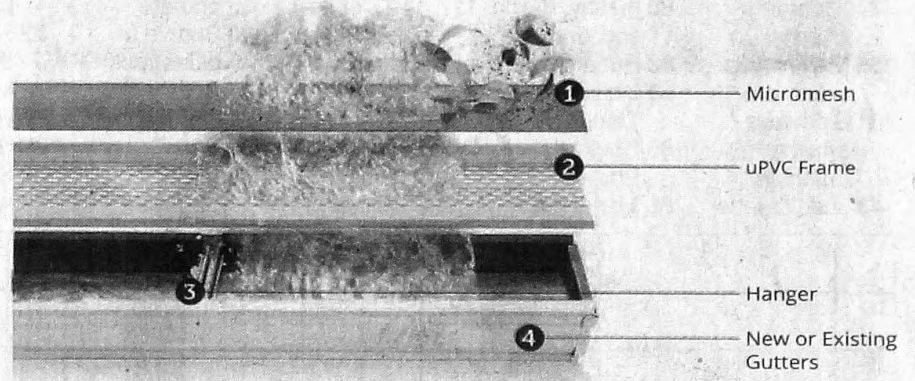
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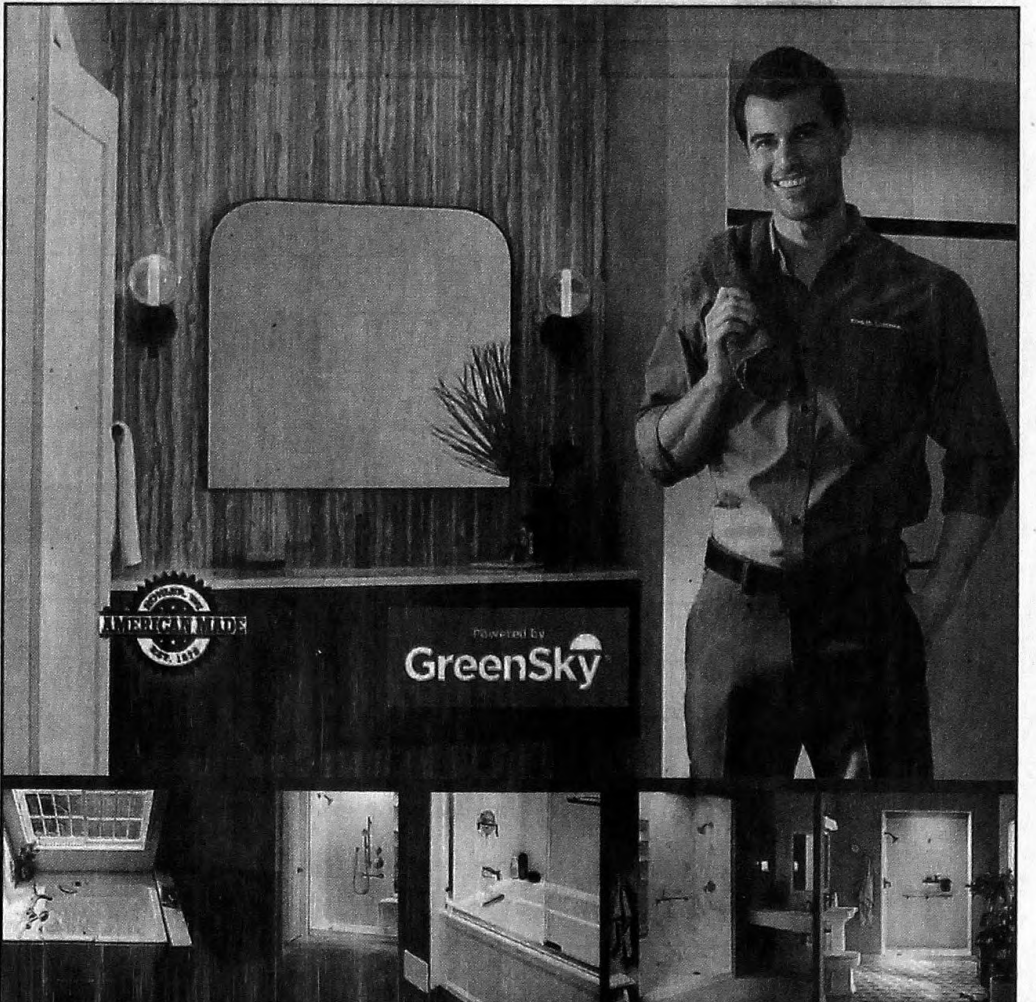
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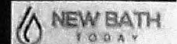
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